Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors

Monday, June 8, 2026, 1:00 PM

Grassland Water District Board Room
200 W Willmott Ave, Los Banos, CA 93635
Meeting Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:
Board Directors
Chase Hurley, Central DM GSA
Jim Stilwell, Farmers GSA
Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Ken Swanson, Grassland Water District
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present
Amir Mani, EKI
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs Water District

Present Via Zoom/Phone
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Alma Antua, Westlands Water District
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Anona Dutton, EKI
Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Hailey Rowbatham, EKI
Jason Dean, Meyers Water Bank and Wildlife Project
Joel Kimmelshue, LandIQ
Kiti Campbell, Westlands Water District
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson
Maria Razo, Stanislaus County
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto WD

Michael Miller, California Association of Winegrape Growers
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Rob Kostlivy, Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources
Ryo Takanashi, Water One
Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group
Thomas Spankowski, City of Newman
Will Halligan, LSCE

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
Committee Chair Hurley called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Committee Chair Hurley led the pledge of allegiance.

3. **Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**
There were no corrections or additions to the agenda of items.

4. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
Chair Hurley opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments.

Consent Calendar

5. **Committee to Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar**
   - **a.** Minutes of the May 19, 2026 Special Meeting
   - **b.** Budget to Actual Report

Member Stilwell made a comment that he would like it noted on page 6 of the minutes that Farmers GSA Group disagrees with the interpretation of the MOA/ JPA Agreement statement regarding the 1/7th cost share allocation for all Subbasin-wide costs.

MOTION
Director Lucchesi made a motion to approve the consent calendar, with the amendments to the minutes as outlined above. Director Hopkins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Closed Session

6. **Conference with Legal Counsel –** Anticipated Litigation (Layne)
The Committee will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel on significant exposure to anticipated litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (1 case)
The Board entered closed session at 1:08 p.m.

Open Session

7. **Report from Closed Session**
The Board returned from closed session at 1:49 p.m. Legal counsel, Lauren Layne, stated that there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Consider Authorizing the Proposed Subbasin Model Calibration Cost Share

Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that Board feedback is needed on the model calibration cost share and USBR WaterSMART grant scope. Amir Mani (EKI) presented the proposed model budget with and without the USBR WaterSMART grant, which was provided in the Board packet. Chair Hurley recommended maintaining the original budget of ~$568,000, not to include budget items that add up to the $728,000 and EKI clarified that the grant administration and other items listed will be needed if the Subbasin receives the grant.

Director Swanson asked for further details on Subtask 3.2 and Anona Dutton (EKI) responded that under 3.2, they could compare metered use to Open ET or Land IQ data to help address the gaps between estimated water demand and on-the ground need. Member Swanson stated he does not consider that as an optional subtask, and recommended EKI perform that task regardless of grant funding from USBR.

Director Stilwell stated he thought the ground-truthing exercise was already included in the model calibration and Mr. Mani stated that 3.1 is that ground-truthing piece, which can be done with input from the GSA groups. Ms. Dutton clarified that the subtasks help facilitate water use data comparison at the GSA level. The Board agreed to proceed with the proposed model budget, including the $728,000 budget with optional subtasks for the USBR grant application.

The Board then discussed the cost share allocation for the model calibration, and the Board Chair asked each of the seven GSA Group representatives on the Board to provide their stance on the topic.

Director Hurley stated that the Central DM GSA Board gave him direction to approve of either option (option A is the current 1/7th cost share approach under the JPA Agreement and option B is the cost share allocation under Exhibit B of the special project agreement for the single GSP).

Director Hopkins stated that Aliso Water District GSA Group is comfortable with either cost share approach, preferably Exhibit B.

Director Martin stated that SJREC is willing to go with Exhibit B with all other efforts being split at 1/7th as stated in MOA and JPA Agreement. He suggested there could be a modified version of task 3.1 and 3.2 where the GSA Group works with EKI on specific data needs and pays through a subcontract budget.

Director Swanson stated that for Grassland Water District GSA Group, he has the authority to approve the cost share under Exhibit B with the condition that the language in the motion includes that this cost share is not to be precedent-setting, and is a one-time agreement with a 1/7th cost share on Subbasin items moving forward.

Director Lucchesi stated that he received direction from the Northern DM Committee to approve Exhibit B with consideration for EKI to perform the model calibration without a phased approach. He added that the Northern DM GSA Group was okay with the model calibration phased approach, with the understanding that the DM JPA will operate under a 1/7th cost share moving forward.

Director Ramirez stated he can support Exhibit B, but that the condition to continue with the 1/7th moving forward would be difficult to agree to. He added that he would consider Director Martin's idea regarding GSA groups subcontracting with EKI but wants to better define future technical budget items.

Director Stilwell had not gone back to his Board for approval as requested, but stated that he would approve the Exhibit B cost share with the condition that future technical items are revisited, especially as subsidence studies may become more prevalent for the Subbasin.

Director Martin stated that in his mind, the costs associated with the pumping reduction plan (PRP) implementation would be at the GSA level, while the annual report and updates to DWR would all be split at the 1/7th cost share.

Director Lucchesi stated that PRP and domestic well mitigation technical implementation costs would be at the GSA level, and that other technical efforts could be completed under special project agreements (SPA) if needed and asked for input from legal counsel. Ms. Layne stated that a SPA could be completed, listing out the future technical costs that would be shared at a different percentage split than the 1/7th, but she noted the challenge in defining what future technical costs would be.

Director Martin asked if implementing DWR's best management practices (BMPs) on interconnected surface water (ISW) would be considered a Subbasin effort to be split at the current 1/7th cost share. He added that the 1/7th cost share default under the JPA Agreement does not preclude the Board from further discussion as technical issues come up. Director Lucchesi stated that he would consider the implementation of the ISW BMPs as a Subbasin-wide activity to be split at the 1/7th cost share, even though the Northern GSA Group has already invested in monitoring sites for ISW.

MOTION

Director Martin made a motion to authorize the one-time cost share allocation for the model calibration as outlined in Exhibit B, with the understanding that the 1/7th cost share under the MOA/JPA Agreement is the default for efforts moving forward, and with the agreement that unforeseen conditions may merit further Board discussion. Director Lucchesi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Consider Appointing a DM Subbasin JPA Representative to the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Technical Committee

Chair Hurley introduced this item and stated that Steve Chedester has been approached as a representative to the technical committee for SJREC. He added that he would follow up with Steve Chedester and Chris White for approval once he obtained direction from the DM JPA Board. Director Lucchesi stated that he is also on the Blueprint Board and added that Blueprint is working on the United Water Plan and highlighted the importance of the technical committee in promoting water access solutions for the San Joaquin Basin.

Director Hopkins asked if the DM Subbasin representative to the Blueprint Technical Committee could rotate and Chair Hurley agreed that could be an option. However, Director Martin stated that it should be a committed appointment, not a rotating position due to the intense time commitment required by the appointee.

MOTION

Director Martin made a motion to appoint Steve Chedester on the condition that Chris White with SJREC approves the appointment. Director Lucchesi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10. Direction on Continued Monitoring of San Joaquin River Restoration Program Subsidence Benchmarks

Ms. Layne stated that Director Hopkins cannot vote on this matter, as it is a contract with P&P, but the Board can discuss the item. This item is being brought to the Board in response to USBR no longer taking bi-annual monitoring measurements at the subsidence benchmark sites. P&P is proposing a fixed fee amount of $127,300 to continue the important work of monitoring the subsidence benchmark sites throughout this USBR benchmark monitoring area, which is the total that will be shared with five other subbasins. Chair Hurley stated that the Chowchilla Subbasin would likely approve the contract and proposed equal cost share across the six major Subbasins of the San Joaquin Valley Basin. Director Stilwell asked if this is an annual cost, and was informed it is a per-event cost estimate (biannual).

The Board directed staff to ask John Davids if a yearly subsidence benchmark monitoring event could be sufficient and confirm with P&P if this was an annual or per event cost. Staff was also directed to agendize the decision to approve the cost sharing agreement for next month, where Aliso's alternate could attend to vote, as it would impact the budget and therefore requires unanimous approval by the full Board.

Report Items

11. Update on the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy Briefing

Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the briefing will take place on June 5, 2026, and will be recorded and posted online for public access. The Board did not have any questions or comments. Ms. Beutler stated that there were 38 attendees including attendees from other Subbasins (Tracy, Vina). She stated that while Spanish translation services were available, they were not utilized by any attendees. However, she added that translation services will continue to be provided in future public workshops.

12. Program Management Report and Update on Action Items

Mr. Blakslee sought feedback from the Board regarding DM Subbasin attendees for the GSP review meeting with DWR. Chair Hurley stated that he, and Director Stilwell, Alternate Martin and Director Wiersma would attend, with Director Ortega as an alternate if needed.

13. Update on PRP Implementation and Exceedance Reporting

a. Update on Q1 and Q2 Data Submittal to the DMS

Mr. Mani reported that there are several GSAs with missing data for Q1 and Q2 and highlighted new TDS and nitrate triggers that require more frequent sampling. Staff stated that they will follow up with GSAs with missing Q1 GWQ missing data. Director Stilwell asked if GSAs experiencing potential subsidence triggers have notices from the technical staff and Mr. Mani confirmed that the notice information is on the PRP dashboard. He added that technical staff reaches out to those with potential triggers and provides that information in a quarterly report to the GSAs.

Director Lucchesi left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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14. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

Lisa Beutler (Stantec) introduced this item and stated that the Kings meeting is scheduled for June 19. Layne stated it is managers meeting, and stated June 19 is a holiday. In order to avoid any quorum issues, the Board confirmed the following attendees for the meeting: Director Martin, Hopkins, Stilwell, and Will Halligan. Mr. Blakslee reviewed the key topics that would be discussed during the meeting, including coordinating on SMCs and boundary conditions and specific large projects around Mendota pool.

15. Next Steps

Blakslee listed the following next steps:

- Correction to the May minutes.
- EKI to complete the USBR grant application with the budget as presented.
- Staff to perform cash flow analysis and determine the timing of the second cash call, invoice GSA Groups of the DM JPA in accordance with the cost share percentages outlined in Exhibit B.
- Chair to follow up with Steve Chedester and Chris White for approval to the Blueprint Technical Committee.
- Staff work with GSA representatives to provide an update on the status of compliance with registration and metering policies.
- Staff work with John Davids to understand cadence of the monitoring events and total costs.
- Agendize P&P cost sharing agreement for USBR subsidence benchmark monitoring.
- Schedule GSP Review meeting with DWR and ad hoc.
- Schedule internal preparation meeting for Kings interbasin meeting.
- Biannual data upload due to DWR on June 30.
- Staff follow up with GSAs regarding exceedance reports.

16. Member Reports

There were no member reports.

17. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

Nothing to report.

18. Next Meeting(s):

a. June 8, 2026, 1 p.m. PST, Grassland Water District Board Room

19. Adjournment

Chair Hurley adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

2026 DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN GSAs JPA BOARD MEETING DATES *(2nd Monday, unless otherwise listed)* - Grassland Water District Board Room

July 13, 2026
August 10, 2026
September 21, 2026
October 12, 2026
November 16, 2026
December 14, 2026

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
DMS	Data Management System
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FSS	Facilitation Support Services
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
ISW	Interconnected Surface Water
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Minimum Threshold
PRP	Pumping Reduction Plan
RMW	Representative Monitoring Wells
SLDMWA	San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority)
SMC	Sustainable Management Criteria
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board