



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

Monday, July 13, 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
Roy Catania, Aliso Water District
Augustine Ramirez, Fresno County A&B – *Call in from noticed location.*
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District – *Call in from noticed location.*
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region – *Call in from noticed location.*

Others Present

Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs Water District

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Amir Mani, EKI
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Alma Antua, Westlands Water District
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Hailey Rowbatham, EKI
Jason Dean, Meyers Water Bank and Wildlife Project
Juan Cadena, Mercy Springs Water District
Joe Hopkins, Aliso Water District
John Davids
Kathryn Dixon, Hallmark Group
Lacey McBride, County of Merced
Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
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
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Steve Chedester, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group
Thomas Spankowski, City of Newman

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Hurley called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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, and there were none provided.

Consent Calendar

5. Committee to Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes of the June 8, 2026 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

MOTION

Director Wiersma made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Stilwell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

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 1:09 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session at 1:23 p.m. Legal counsel, Lauren Layne, stated that there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Review and Take Action to Enter Into Cost Sharing Arrangement with Other Subbasins on Continued Monitoring of USBR San Joaquin River Restoration Program Subsidence Benchmarks

Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that P&P confirmed the proposal is for a single benchmark monitoring event in 2026. He added that P&P would perform services in December 2026, and would likely invoice the Subbasins of the San Joaquin Valley Basin in December 2026 or January 2027.

MOTION

Director Wiersma made a motion to authorize the DM Subbasin cost share amount of (\$21,216) of the total \$127,300 for P&P to conduct the single monitoring event for the USBR subsidence benchmarks in 2026, subject to all the other Subbasins participating as proposed. In the case that the neighboring five Subbasins do not agree to their cost share, the DM JPA Board will reconsider. Director Catania seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

9. Authorize Second Cash Call to Fund Fiscal Year 2027 Activities

Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the Board approved the budget with the hold on model calibration in February.

Director Ramirez asked about the difference in the cash call amount compared to the approved budget. Blakslee provided context for the cost categories that differed from the budget that was developed by the Authority and that which was approved and executed through the EKI contract. Director Stillwell also expressed concern and Blakslee presented a few examples of where there were discrepancies in the budget. The Board directed staff to present more details regarding the budget item mismatch and recommended taking action on this item at the August 10, 2026 meeting.

10. Authorize Insurance Policy for the DM Subbasin JPA Board

Karlee Liddy (Hallmark Group) introduced this item and stated that the Board approved the budget for FY2027 in February, which included a line item for \$20,000 to cover Directors and Officers Insurance. She stated that staff received two quotes from HUB and GSRMA, and that staff recommends the Board approve the GSRMA policy for \$5,124, which includes D&O and general liability insurance. Director Catania asked about the minimum limit, and Blakslee stated the limit is \$1M.

MOTION

Director Wiersma made a motion to approve the D&O policy with GSRMA for \$5,124. Director Catania seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Report Items

11. Report on Model Phase 1 Schedule

Mr. Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the board approved a phased approach for the model calibration, and the cost methodology was approved on June 8th. The final model calibration phase scope of work and revised budget with and without the WaterSMART grant was provided for reference.

12. Update on PRP Implementation and Exceedance Reporting

a. Well and Meter Registration Requirement

Mr. Mani stated that staff is working with the GSA groups to ensure well registration and metering compliance in the DM Subbasin, in accordance with the goals laid out in the GSP and the PRP. He presented staff's recommendation to gather the well registration and meter information from the GSAs. He stated that EKI will distribute a DM Subbasin well registration form and requested GSAs fill out the form and send any resolutions adopting policies regarding well registration and metering by November 30, 2026.

b. Semiannual Data Upload to DWR Portal

Mr. Mani stated that the semiannual groundwater level data for the Subbasin were uploaded to the DWR Portal on June 30 but emphasized the need for better coordination in the future to collect data in a timely manner to allow for QA/QC. He also highlighted that any GSAs with access issues or other concerns regarding their representative monitoring wells (RMWs) must notify EKI before any potential changes to the RM Network take place.

c. Exceedance Reporting

Mr. Mani reported that GSAs should pay special attention to wells that had exceedances for Q1, and Mr. Blakslee stated that GSAs with exceedances have been contacted and will provide an initial report at the next meeting in August. Pursuant to the DM Subbasin MOA, following the initial report, at the subsequent meeting, GSAs will be required to provide an action plan to address these exceedances.

13. Update on DWR Subsidence and GSP Review Meetings

Mr. Blakslee and Mr. Mani provided an overview of the key takeaways from the DM Subbasin meetings with DWR regarding implementation of the Subsidence Best Management Practices along with the meeting to review the single GSP for the Subbasin. Mr. Blakslee stated that EKI will work with landowners to help identify potential subsidence monitoring stations.

Blakslee stated that a staff report for the GSP review may be expected to be distributed by DWR to DM Subbasin POCs early next year. He also noted that DWR confirmed the timeline for the 5-year update would not start until the Subbasin receives the GSP Review staff report.

Director Wiersma left at 2:19 p.m.

14. Update on Grant Opportunities

Mr. Blakslee and Mr. Mani provided an overview of the upcoming grant opportunities and EKI stated they could develop and distribute a potential projects form for GSAs to fill out with projects for potential future grant funding by September 30, 2026. The Board approved that approach for soliciting potential projects for future grant opportunities.

- 15. Program Management Report and Update on Action Items**
Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the action items that have been accomplished since the last DM Subbasin JPA Board meeting, along with updates on current action items. The Board did not have any questions regarding this report item.
- 16. Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities**
Lisa Beutler (Stantec) introduced this item and provided an update on the status of the interbasin coordination meetings. She provided an overview of the July 19 meeting with the Kings Subbasin. The next round of interbasin coordination meetings will be tied into DWR's release of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) on Interconnected Surface Water. Lastly, she stated that the communication ad hoc committees will review the updates to the DM Subbasin website, create a fall newsletter, and update the communications plan.
- 17. Water Blueprint**
Mr. Blakslee stated that the Board appointed Steve Chedester as the DM Subbasin representative to the Water Blueprint Technical Committee and Mr. Chedester accepted. Mr. Chedester stated there are no updates from the Blueprint and the next Blueprint board meeting is on July 15, 2026.
- 18. Next Steps**
Mr. Blakslee listed the following next steps:
- Staff develop and present a detailed breakdown of the budget item mismatch for the second cash call during the August 10, 2026 meeting.
 - EKI develop and distribute well registration and metering forms for the GSAs to fill out, and provide resolutions for policies adopted by November 30, 2026.
- 19. Member Reports**
There were no member reports.
- 20. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**
Nothing to report.
- 21. Next Meeting(s):**
a. August 10, 2026, 1 p.m. PST, Grassland Water District Board Room
- 22. Adjournment**
Chair Hurley adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.



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

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