



Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 1:00 PM

Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA 95363

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees (Members):

Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District – *Call in from Noticed Location*

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District

Maria Encinas, City of Patterson

Joel Andrews, City of Patterson

Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County

Lacey McBride, County of Merced – *Joined in-person at 1:07pm*

Other Attendees:

Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County

Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group

Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District

Online Attendees:

Amir Mani, EKI

Chris Heppner, EKI

Debbie Gavaghan

Kathryn Dixon, Hallmark Group

Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen

Michael Miller, WaterOne

Rachel Alstrom, Baker Manock & Jensen

Wes Henson, EKI

Sarah Boogey, California Department of Water Resources

Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Member Lucchesi called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm PST.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Lucchesi led the Committee in the pledge of allegiance.

3. Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No corrections or additions were made.

4. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public at this time.

Consent Calendar

5. Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes of the July 1, 2026 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

Member McBride entered the meeting in person at 1:07 pm.

Motion:

Member Scheuber made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which was seconded by Member McKinnon and passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Closed Session

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Committee entered closed session at 1:09 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 1:27 p.m. with no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Direct the DM Subbasin JPA to Administer the Second Cash Call on Behalf of the Northern DM Committee

Karlee Liddy (Hallmark Group) provided background on this item, stating that staff conducted a cash flow analysis for both the Northern DM Committee and the DM Subbasin JPA to inform the timing of the second cash call for FY2026. She stated that based on the analysis provided in the meeting packet, staff recommended collecting funds by the end of September for the total amount of \$362,910. The cost share split for the Northern DM member agencies, pursuant to the Northern DM Special Project Agreement, was also provided in the packet for Committee reference. Liddy stated staff has three topics for which she seeks Committee feedback.

First, the Northern DM Budget for FY2026 includes a line item for “Annual Report- Data Collection” for the amount of \$75,000. When conducting the cash flow analysis for the Northern DM, staff assumed the Committee would collect for the full budgeted amount, including the \$75,000, but would not spend for that item since the annual report data is collected and drafted at the DM Subbasin JPA level. Blakslee added that he assumed the annual report budget item may have been carried over from when the Subbasin was operating under six separate GSPs. Since there is no current reserve policy, Blakslee recommended maintaining that item.

Second, if Northern DM Committee directs staff to collect the entire remaining amount of the Northern DM Budget, there will be a cash balance at end of Feb 2027 of ~\$92,000. Given there is

currently no reserve policy for the Northern DM Budget, staff asked the Committee if collecting the full amount of the remaining Northern DM budget for FY2026 (\$203,741) is appropriate.

Last, staff seeks direction regarding administering the cash call as a single invoice with two separate line items for Northern DM Committee budget and the Northern DM GSA Group contribution (1/7th cost share) to the DM Subbasin JPA Budget or two separate invoices.

Member Lucchesi asked the directors for their opinions on the Annual Report – Data Collection budget item for \$75,000. Amir Mani (EKI) confirmed that this amount is not an EKI budget item. As long as the item is not part of processing and uploading data for DWR, the Board approves removing the \$75,000 item, which would lead to a cash balance of ~\$17,000 at the end of FY2026 (Feb 28, 2026).

Member McBride asked if any money left over would be reimbursed or redistributed and recommended the Northern DM Group develop a long-standing policy for consistent procedure to either redistribute any surplus each fiscal year or to debit/credit GSAs against the next year's budget.

The Committee also directed staff to develop a reserve policy. Blakslee recommended a reserve policy to cover a minimum of 2 months of operational needs and that the Committee may consider an item in the reserve policy to cover potential emergencies.

Additionally, the Committee directed staff to administer a single invoice with two separate line items for Northern DM Committee budget and the Northern DM GSA Group contribution (1/7th cost share) to the DM Subbasin JPA Budget.

Lastly, the Committee provided direction to the Northern DM representative to the DM JPA Board to recommend the DM JPA Board collect funds for the full remaining budget amount of (\$1,061,350). Blakslee stated that staff will be recommending the DM JPA Board adopt a reserve policy (percent of budget or fixed amount), as well.

9. Direction on Well Registration and Metering Compliance

Liddy introduced this item and stated that staff seeks direction on how to ensure accountability to well registration and metering commitments that were made in the PRP and GSP. EKI developed a DM Subbasin well registration form and requests GSAs complete the well registration forms and submit resolutions for any policies regarding well registration and metering to EKI by November 30, 2026. The Committee provided direction to collect existing well registration and metering policies on a GSA level.

Member McBride stated that Merced County will be able to develop and adopt a policy by November 30 and asked how to best determine if a well is in the upper or lower aquifer. Mani stated he can work with Member McBride offline on determining the aquifer location and stated that EKI will distribute a ShareFolder link for GSAs to submit their information.

Member Scheuber asked if well metering information is to be collected on well-specific or GSA level and Mani confirmed that the by-meter information would be used only internally to inform the model, and that metering data at the GSA level would be used for Subbasin reports.

10. Direction on Soliciting Projects for Potential Grant Funding

Liddy introduced this item and stated that EKI developed a call for grant projects form that was provided in the meeting packet to ensure the Subbasin is ready to apply for grant opportunities to assist in the execution of priority projects. She added that the DM Subbasin JPA Board will consider the level at which the Subbasin would apply for projects (full JPA or individual GSA scale).

Blakslee added that the Water Authority is partnering with the Ferguson Group to provide technical assistance at a discounted rate for member agencies to apply for potential grant opportunities. Member Lucchesi stated that the level at which the Subbasin applies for grant opportunities would be on a case-by-case basis. Blakslee specified that the Subbasin may want to consider applying to upcoming Prop 4 funding.

Member McKinnon stated that the CA state preference to award grants may be at the Subbasin scale and expressed interest in securing funding to help meet demand reduction at the county level. She cited the Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program as a top interest. Member Encinas stated that City of Patterson is looking to apply for a water quality project through Prop 4 funding to address Chromium 6 and to improve drinking water. She expressed concern that she would be competing with the Subbasin for funding as there would be two separate applications.

Mani gave an outline of the upcoming grant opportunities and asked for feedback from the Committee regarding building out a potential projects database for the Subbasin. He stated that EKI can work with Member McKinnon regarding a potential application to the MLRP funding.

The Committee provided direction to the Northern DM representative to the DM JPA Board to support DM JPA applying to grant opportunities but participating GSAs cover the application and grant administration costs.

Report Items

11. Update on Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation, Q3 Monitoring Event and Exceedance Reporting

Mani provided a summary of the PRP implementation and exceedance reporting requirements and stated that the target month for water level and water quality monitoring for Q3 is August. He emphasized the importance of collecting the data and uploading it to the DMS by September 30, 2026, and reaching out to technical staff if GSAs have concerns regarding access to an RMW or regarding an anomalous measurement in Q3.

Mani provided an overview of the watchlist wells and provided a subsidence avoidance PRP reminder, and a reminder on well registration and overdraft reduction which were provided in the meeting packet.

12. Update on the Representative Monitoring Network

Blakslee introduced this item and highlighted that there are different lists of the monitoring network. EKI is working with the GSAs to reconcile the RMN and confirm all representative monitoring wells have the correct reference point elevation and ground surface elevation to ensure accurate and consistent reporting.

13. Program Management Report

Liddy provided a summary of the action items completed since the last Northern DM Region Management Committee meeting and stated she will continue to work with the GSAs to ensure data for Q3 is uploaded in a timely manner. There were no additional questions from the Committee.

14. Next Steps

Liddy outlined the following next steps to the Committee:

- Staff to develop a long-standing policy for a consistent procedure on handling end of fiscal year cash balances.
- Staff to develop a reserve policy to be presented at the next meeting.
- EKI to work with Member McBride on identifying wells in the upper and lower aquifer, and work with Member McKinnon on potential application to the MLRP funding.
- GSAs to fill out well registration form and send any existing policies/resolutions regarding well registration and metering to EKI and HG by November 30, 2026.
- Staff continue working with GSA representatives to upload Q3 data to the DMS and follow up on any exceedances.

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

Nothing to report.

16. Next Meeting(s):

The next meeting of the Northern DM Region Management Committee is scheduled for September 2, 2026, at 1 p.m. PST at Patterson City Council.

17. Adjournment

Member Lucchesi adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.