



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

Monday, August 10, 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 *arrived at 1:11 p.m.*
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District – *Call in from noticed location.*
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present

Adan Ortiz, Fresno County
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Amir Mani, EKI
Anona Dutton, EKI
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Alma Antua, Westlands Water District
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water District
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Hailey Rowbatham, EKI
Kathryn Dixon, Hallmark Group
Kiti Campbell
Lacey McBride, County of Merced
Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Leslie Dumas, Woodard & Curran
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Maria Razo, Stanislaus County

Matt Garcia, Del Puerto WD
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Sarah Boogay, CA Department of Water Resources
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. Opportunity for Public Comment

Chair Hurley opened the floor for public comments, and there were none provided.

4. 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.

Consent Calendar

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

- a. Minutes of the July 13, 2026 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

Chair Hurley asked if Taylor Blakslee anticipates being over budget for the Program Management line item. Blakslee stated that the financial statement is through this period, and that there is still budget left for the remainder of the fiscal year. He does not anticipate staff going over budget, but he will include an overall budget balance in the subsequent financial statements.

MOTION

Director Ramirez made a motion to approve the complete consent calendar. Director Lucchesi 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 1:11 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session at 1:28 p.m. Legal counsel, Lauren Layne, stated that there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Authorize Second Cash Call to Fund Fiscal Year 2027 Activities for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin

Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the cash flow analysis and cash call information shared at the last meeting was simplified, but the Board requested a more detailed overview regarding the seemingly increased amount proposed to be collected for the second cash call of FY 2027.

He reminded the Board that \$536,350 was collected from the DM Subbasin JPA member agencies for the first cash call, which did not include the model calibration cost share. Blakslee asked for Board direction on collecting for the remainder of the full DM JPA budget (\$1,061,350) or for the anticipated need (\$996,506). He stated he would walk the Board through why the second cash call amount is not the expected \$526,350, plus model calibration costs.

Blakslee explained there was a mismatch between original FY 2027 budget and EKI contracted amounts that were approved on February 4, 2026, leading to a variance of \$71,300. Additionally, he stated that there were recent, Board-authorized, non-model unbudgeted tasks including the authorization of a \$30,000 contract for EKI to apply to the USBR WaterSmart Grant on behalf of the Subbasin, along with the approval of Provost & Pritchard to perform one monitoring event in 2026 (likely December) of the USBR subsidence benchmarks. Lastly, he stated that the new Woodard & Curran request for an additional \$10,000 to complete the grant Round 1 SGMA administration was not included in the original budget but would be covered if the remainder of the full DM JPA budget (\$1,061,350) is collected in the second cash call.

Director Lucchesi stated that the direction he received from the Northern DM Committee was to approve the collection for the remainder of the full DM Subbasin JPA budget, but that had not included the additional \$10,000 request from Woodard & Curran. He added that he would feel most comfortable bringing this back to the Northern Committee for full approval.

Director Stilwell stated that he had preferred the Board consider a budget amendment for the items discussed. He added that he views the \$71,300 as a Contractual adjustment with EKI. Director Ramirez iterated concern that the Board has not enacted a budget amendment process.

Director Stilwell asked if the model calibration costs of the second cash call would be shared in accordance with Exhibit B of the Special Project Agreement for the single GSP. Blakslee confirmed that the costs of the model calibration would be split up according to those cost share percentages and stated staff would send out a table listing those costs per GSA to the GSA representatives.

MOTION

Director Lucchesi made a motion to approve the collection of the remaining FY2027 DM Subbasin JPA budget in the amount of \$1,061,350 for the second cash call. Director Martin seconded the motion which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

9. Authorize Budget Amendment with Woodard & Curran for DWR for Grant Administration

Blakslee introduced this item and stated the Board originally approved a \$30,000 contract with Woodard & Curran (W&C) and approved a ~\$20,000 extension of the contract to work with DWR to extend the SGMA Round 1 grant. Blakslee stated W&C recently requested an additional

\$10,000 for reasons presented, including continual coordination with DWR on component completion reports, etc.

Director Lucchesi asked if Leslie Dumas (W&C) would stop work if it took another month to approve the additional \$10,000 and she stated that she would still try to wrap up the grant work. Anthea Hansen (Del Puerto Water District) iterated that she has witnessed the back and forth with DWR and understands the need.

The Board directed staff to agendize this item for an official decision to be made at the next meeting on September 21, 2026. The Board directed Dumas to continue work in the meantime.

Report Items

10. Update on Model Phase 1 Schedule and Status of GSA Data Reporting

Mani introduced this item and stated that GSA representatives should have received an email to access the shared folders for uploading information throughout the year, including data to inform the model calibration.

11. Update on DWR Review of Water Year 2025 Annual Report

Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the DM Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year 2025 was submitted to DWR by the April 1, 2026 deadline. On July 29, 2026 DWR staff provided their review of the annual report and noted that they could not fully assess the Basin's sustainability goals as they are still reviewing the Basin's GSP. Notably, DWR stated there were 20 wells in the monitoring network missing seasonal low measurements and reminded the basin of the requirement to measure all wells. Blakslee stated staff is coordinating with DWR to reconcile any discrepancies in the monitoring network and to provide the most up-to-date well information.

The Board directed staff to provide an update on those 20 wells with missing information at the next meeting.

12. Update on PRP Implementation

a. Well and Meter Registration Requirement

Anona Dutton (EKI) stated that a DM Subbasin well registration form was sent out and is in the ShareFolder for GSA representatives to upload by November 30, 2026.

Rick Iger (P&P) asked how to address one well servicing multiple parcels. Steve Haze (Tranquillity Resource Conservation District) also asked about wells that pump water into the canal and Dutton stated you can annotate the form with what makes the most sense for your area.

b. Update on Representative Monitoring Network

Dutton stated that there were a few wells that still need to confirm their reference point elevations and asked that EKI be apprised on any potential access issues or changes to RMN.

c. Q2 Exceedance Reporting by GSA

Dutton reported that 5 wells had an MT exceedance, 2 in the upper aquifer and 3 in the lower aquifer. She also stated there was 1 missing Q2 water level measurement.

Blakslee noted that the GSAs with those exceedances provided an initial report included in the packet and will be required to present how they plan to address those exceedances at the next meeting.

d. Q3 Monitoring Event

Dutton reminded GSA representatives that August is the Q3 monitoring event target month for collecting samples and flagged that it was a scramble to upload the Q2 data in time and requested samples to be taken and uploaded in a timely manner. Dutton also provided reminders on PRP components including subsidence avoidance and overdraft reduction.

13. Update on SLDMWA Regional Grant Program and Status of DM Subbasin Grant Projects

Mr. Blakslee stated that there are grant opportunities coming up, and provided an update on the SLDMWA Regional Grant, outlining the goals and purpose of the grant. Dutton provided an overview on three upcoming grant opportunities including the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant program, DOC Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP), and DWR Watershed Resilience grant program. Dutton stressed the importance of these three grants specifically to help fund projects within the DM JPA Subbasin. Dutton also provided an overview of the proposed action plan, and reminded GSA representatives to fill out the solicitation for potential projects by September 30, 2026.

14. 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.

15. Update on Water Blueprint Activities

Steve Chedester (San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors) provided an update on the Water Blueprint Technical Committee meeting on July 31, 2026. He stated the committee is drafting a final work plan to guide the Committee's work to support the implementation of the Unified Water Plan. He stated that the Unified Water Plan should be available to the public by the end of the month and the work plan may be presented to the Water Blueprint Board at their September meeting for consideration of approval.

Director Hurley asked if adjacent subbasins that agreed to participate in the Blueprint are being represented on the technical committee as well. Chedester stated other entities represented on the committee are Kern County, Friant Water Authority, Westlands Water District, and the Kings Subbasin.

16. Next Steps

Mr. Blakslee listed the following next steps:

- Add the total budget column on financial statements for subsequent Board meetings.
- Issue the 2nd cash call for the remaining full FY2027 DM Subbasin JPA budget in the amount of \$1,061,350.
- Send out member cost split spreadsheet.
- Board to take action on the W&C budget request for additional funds at next meeting.
- Follow up on GSA data requests for model calibration by November 30.

- Report the status of 20 wells missing data in the annual report at next meeting.
- Continue to reach out to GSAs on well registration and metering requests.
- Require status reports of GSAs with Q2 exceedances at next meeting.
- GSAs to fill out project solicitation forms by September 30, 2026 and Board discuss next steps at October meeting.
- Staff work with legal counsel to draft a basic reserve policy for the Subbasin and present for Board consideration of approval in October.

17. Member Reports

There were no member reports.

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

Nothing to report.

19. Next Meeting(s):

- a. September 21, 2026, 1 p.m. PST, Grassland Water District Board Room

20. Adjournment

Chair Hurley adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.



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

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