



Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 1:00 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees (Members):

Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
Joel Andrews, City of Patterson
Maria Encinas, City of Patterson – arrived at 1:05 p.m.
Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District

Other Attendees:

Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Larrisa Camara, City of Patterson
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto Water District

Online Attendees:

Anona Dutton, EKI
Debbie Gavaghan
Hailey Rowbatham, EKI
Jacqueline Harris, Hallmark Group
Lauren Layne, Baker Manock & Jensen
Michael Miller, WaterOne
Rachel Alstrom, Baker Manock & Jensen

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call**
Member Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm PST.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
Member Pierce 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 August 5, 2026 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

Motion:

Member Lucchesi made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which was seconded by Member Scheuber and passed unanimously (with Member Encinas absent).

Closed Session

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

The Committee entered closed session at 1:04 p.m.

Member Encinas joined in person at 1:05 pm.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Committee returned from closed session at 1:19 p.m. and there was no reportable action.

Action Items

8. Direction on Public Comment Letters on the DM Subbasin GSP

Liddy introduced this item and stated that four comment letters were received on the Delta-Mendota Subbasin 2024 GSP. Dutton explained that staff seeks Committee direction to their representative to allow EKI to utilize Task 4 funds to review the letters received. She stated that Task 4 budget of ~\$75,000 is currently set aside for EKI to review GSPs of neighboring Subbasins and added that if reallocated for the purpose of reviewing the comment letters, she does not anticipate using all the Task 4 budget. Chair Pierce asked how much would be needed for Task 4 otherwise, and Dutton stated that she would recommend prioritizing response to comment letters instead of review of adjacent Subbasin GSPs. Member Lucchesi stated that he feels the model calibration effort is more important and informative to the DM JPA than the review of adjacent Subbasin GSPs and stated that perhaps task 4 actions could be taken next year.

The Committee provided direction to the Northern DM representative to recommend the DM Subbasin JPA Board approve EKI repurposing Task 4 funds to read the comment letters and provide recommendations to the DM JPA Board regarding prioritization of responses.

9. Consider Authorization of Budget Amendment with Woodard & Curran for DWR Grant Administration

Liddy introduced this item and stated that it was presented to the DM JPA board in July, but they are seeking Committee direction on whether to approve the budget amendment. Liddy explained Woodard & Curran is seeking an additional \$10,000 to complete the grant administration due to unforeseen additional correspondences with the Department of Water Resources regarding grant completion reporting.

Motion:

Member Lucchesi made a motion to approve the budget amendment with Woodard & Curran in the amount of \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Member Scheuber and passed unanimously.

10. Consider Approval of a Reserve Policy for the Northern DM Region Management Committee

Liddy introduced this item and provided an overview of the Reserve Policy and asked for Committee feedback regarding whether or not to include an emergency reserve fund, the percent of the operational reserve fund to be collected, and how to handle year end cash balances. Members had a discussion on how year-end surpluses were handled in the past and provided the following direction to staff: do not include an emergency reserve fund, only collect for an operational reserve fund, with 20% of the operating budget, and keep the percentage flexible for future years. The Committee also directed staff to maintain the flexible language in the policy regarding the year end surplus, as they will determine if surpluses should be applied to the following fiscal year budget and cash call as the end of the fiscal year approaches. Lastly, in section 4 of the policy, the Committee directed staff to strike “and therefore are restricted in the way they can be used”.

Motion:

Member Lucchesi made a motion to approve the Reserve Policy with the Committee revisions incorporated. The motion was seconded by Member McKinnon and passed unanimously.

11. Direction on Grant Opportunities

Liddy introduced this item and provided an asked for Committee direction on the DM Subbasin JPA's role in applying for upcoming grant opportunities. First, The Committee directed staff to complete the grant project survey (due September 30th) and to monitor grant opportunities and present them on a case-by-case basis to the DM Subbasin JPA. Then, the DM Subbasin JPA Board will direct staff on which, if any, grants to apply for and at what level (Subbasin or GSA).

Regarding the topic of inter-basin competition to apply to grants, Member Scheuber stated that an option could be for a GSA to petition to the DM Subbasin JPA Board if a single GSA wants to apply for a grant opportunity and therefore would not want the DM Subbasin to apply.

Second, Dutton outlined three upcoming grant opportunities (Prop 4 Sustainable Groundwater Management, Multi-Land Repurposing Program, Watershed Resilience). Member Lucchesi suggested the MLRP grant could be used for white areas and EKI stated they would follow up with Member McKinnon. The Committee direction was for entities to fill out the project solicitation form by September 30, 2026 and for Hallmark Group staff to provide a summary of those projects to the DM JPA Board. The Committee requested staff to see how these 3 opportunities work with other project ideas.

Lastly, staff sought direction on what level the Basin should participate in the SLDWMA regional grant program. Liddy provided background on the goals of the grant program, including advocacy for priority projects that could potentially be met by upcoming funding opportunities. On this topic, the Committee directed staff to share the DM Subbasin JPA grant project list with SLDMWA and to present any relevant grant opportunities being tracked by the Ferguson Group for DM Subbasin JPA Board consideration. Staff will continue to collaborate with SLDMWA to ensure potential DM JPA and SLDMWA grant efforts are coordinated.

Member Pierce left at 2:10 p.m. and Member Lucchesi took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

12. Water Blueprint

Liddy introduced this item and stated that Water Blueprint is planning to request \$10,000 from the DM Subbasin JPA and asked for Committee feedback on having a representative from the Water Blueprint attend the next DM JPA meeting.

Members generally recommended that contributions to the Water Blueprint occur at the GSA level but approved having a representative from the Water Blueprint present the potential funding request to the DM Subbasin JPA Board. Member McKinnon stated Stanislaus County may not approve contributing at this time and Member Scheuber stated it may still be a good opportunity for the DM Subbasin JPA Board to learn about the United Water Program. Member McKinnon added that the Blueprint representative could potentially present to the Water Advisory Committee at Stanislaus County to seek feedback.

Report Items

13. Update on DWR Review of WY 2025-26 Annual Report

Liddy provided a status update on the 20 wells that were flagged for missing data in the DWR review letter of the annual report.

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

Dutton provided an overview of the information needed from entities to submit into Egnite, including the well registration bulk form, well metering forms, policies adopted at the GSA entity level, along with pumping data for water year 2026 (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026). Liddy asked for Committee feedback on who would be the point of contact for uploading the information from the Northern DM group into Egnite and the Committee provided direction to have the Northern DM entities upload the information themselves, with assistance from Matt Garcia.

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

Dutton provided a summary of the PRP implementation and stated that Q3 sampling should have been conducted in August, with all groundwater level and water quality data due to the data management system (DMS) by September 30.

Member Scheuber asked what the process for water quality exceedance is, as Del Puerto resampled and the sample no longer exceeded. Dutton stated Del Puerto followed protocol because they had an exceedance in August and then water quality did not exceed in the subsequent measurement. Lastly, Dutton shared a subsidence cone model that EKI will distribute to all DM Subbasin JPA members, and to the Committee members.

16. Update on Q3 Monitoring Event

Liddy shared an update on the Q3 monitoring data that has already been submitted as well as the wells that do not yet have data submitted. She will continue to track data for DMS upload.

17. Program Management Report

Liddy provided a summary of the action items completed since the last Northern DM Region Management Committee meeting. Liddy also went over key deadlines for information needed from entities. There were no additional questions from the Committee.

18. Next Steps

Liddy outlined the following next steps to the Committee:

- Northern DM entities to submit all requested data to Egnyte by November 30, 2026.
- Northern DM entities to submit all Q3 groundwater monitoring data to DMS by September 30, 2026.
- EKI to share the subsidence cone model.
- Staff to provide a summary of projects on case-by-case basis to the board.
- Staff to incorporate feedback into the final version of the Reserve Policy.
- Invite a Water Blueprint representative to present at the DM JPA board meeting

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

Nothing to report.

20. Next Meeting(s):

The next meeting of the Northern DM Region Management Committee is scheduled for October 7, 2026, at 1 p.m. PST at Patterson City Council.

21. Adjournment

Member Lucchesi adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.