



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

Monday, September 21, 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
John Wiersma, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Vince Lucchesi, Northern DM Region

Others Present

Adan Ortiz, Fresno County
Karlee Liddy, Hallmark Group
Palmer McCoy, Mercy Springs Irrigation District
Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors

Present Via Zoom/Phone

Amir Mani, EKI
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District
Alma Antua, Westlands Water District
Andrew Francis, LSCE
Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water District
Antonio Solorio
Brittany Harker, Stanislaus County
Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County
Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District
Ethan Andrews, Provost & Pritchard
Gilbert Torres, Fresno County
Holly Stanitsas, Stantec
Jason Dean
Juan Cadena
Kathryn Dixon, Hallmark Group
Lauren Layne, Legal Counsel, Baker Manock & Jensen
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Maria Razo, Stanislaus County
Matt Garcia, Del Puerto WD

Michael Miller
Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District – *Call in from unnoticed location and unable to vote*
Sarah Boogay, CA Department of Water Resources
Steve Chedester, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District
Susan Xie, EKI
Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Hurley called the meeting to order at 1:01 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. However, the Board asked legal counsel to prepare a resolution for the next meeting that would allow for Board members to participate in meetings remotely due to an emergency, in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

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 August 10, 2026 Meeting
- b. Budget to Actual Report

MOTION

Director Wiersma made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Lucchesi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with one Director absent.

Closed Session

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Layne)

The Committee will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (1 case)
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748, Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-01691: (1 case)

The Board entered closed session at 1:06 p.m.

Open Session

7. Report from Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session at 1:12 p.m. Legal counsel, Lauren Layne, stated that there was no reportable action.

Action Items

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

Blakslee introduced this item and stated that there were four public comment letters received during the 75-day public comment period for the DM Subbasin GSP. Blakslee stated two questions staff are looking for Board feedback on. Susan Xie with EKI explained a more detailed summary of who submitted those comment letters and their main concerns. Amir added that on DWR's website six comment letters are shown, but two of those are duplicates. Board members discussed whether or not to direct EKI to respond to the comment letters. Member Martin suggested reaching out to DWR contacts regarding this item to gain insight before directing EKI to fully repurpose task 4 funds.

The Board directed EKI to provide a cost estimate of task 4 funds that would be needed to review the comment letters and to present the estimate and scope to the Board at the October 12, 2026 meeting.

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

Blakslee introduced this item and stated this request was brought to the Board at the last meeting but that it had not yet gone through approval at the Northern DM Committee and Central DM GSA level. Blakslee stated W&C recently requested an additional \$10,000 for reasons presented, including continual coordination with DWR on component completion reports. Blakslee added that since the last meeting, it has come to his attention that an additional invoice package will need to be authorized and submitted by W&C to complete the benchmark work. He stated that if even if a second invoicing package is authorized by the Board, there is a chance W&C may come back with an additional budget request but they have stated they are confident they can complete it within the \$10,000 budget amendment. If it is not authorized, roughly \$90,000 of work would not be reimbursable.

Since not all members were able to participate in a vote that would impact the budget (required by the DM Subbasin JPA Agreement), the Board provided direction to approve the budget amendment with Woodard & Curran for an additional \$10,000, which would be considered for ratification by a vote of the full Board at the October 12, 2026 meeting.

10. Direction on Grant Opportunities

Blakslee introduced this item and EKI provided an overview of the upcoming grant opportunities that have been introduced to the Board at the last meeting. Blakslee stated staff is looking for clear direction on how the Board would like staff to proceed with these grants. Amir Mani (EKI) gave a detailed summary of staff's proposed action plan and the three upcoming grant opportunities, including DWR SGM grant program, DOC MLRP, and DWR watershed resilience grant program.

Chair Hurley asked if only a few projects should be applied for by the DM JPA, and Mani stated that there could be multiple projects included as part of one grant application on behalf of the Subbasin. Blakslee stated that no potential projects have been received from the GSAs and suggested a meeting with a representative of every entity to come up with a list of potential projects. Chair Hurley asked Board members if anyone had any projects they would like to include in a grant application and Member Lucchesi stated the City of Patterson may have one.

The Board directed staff to collect a list of the projects and management actions outlined in the DM Subbasin GSP and any other projects received from GSAs, and to present a clean list of projects for Board consideration at the next meeting.

Report Items

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

Blakslee introduced this item and gave an update on information requested from GSA entities. GSAs should have received an email to access the shared folders for uploading information throughout the year, including data to inform the model calibration. EKI reminded the GSA representatives to upload well registration and pumping data for model calibration into Egnyte by November 30, 2026. Member Stilwell stated they have submitted information into the PRP dashboard and asked if EKI can pull that information into the Egnyte shared folder, so they do not need to submit it twice. Mani stated he will confirm if the information is there and will pull it into Egnyte. Andrew Francis also stated he uploaded information into the dashboard.

Member Hopkins stated that he will likely aggregate data and asked about data sharing confidentiality. EKI and legal counsel can work with Aliso WD offline to ensure granularity is appropriate for the PRP and model calibration efforts.

12. 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, 2025 deadline. On July 29, 2026 DWR staff provided their review of the annual report and 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 has coordinated with DWR to reconcile any discrepancies in the monitoring network and has provided updates regarding those wells for DWR's awareness.

13. Update on PRP Implementation

a. Q2 Exceedance Reporting by GSA

Blakslee stated the action plans from the GSA entities with Q2 exceedances are provided in the packet and asked if there are any questions, to which there were none.

b. Q3 Monitoring Event

Mani provided a reminder of the wells with Q2 exceedances and those to watch for future exceedances. He reminded Members that Q3 sampling was to be conducted in August with results due to the DMS by September 30, 2026. Liddy provided a summary of the data that has been received from each member agency, and stated she is aware and tracking that many are waiting for water quality results to come back from the respective labs. Member Martin asked if edits can be more readily made in the DMS and flagged that there are cities with Title XXII efforts on water quality. Liddy stated she is urging Houston Engineering to make those overhaul changes after the Q3 upload event.

14. Program Management Report and Update on Action Items

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. Additionally, Blakslee stated he would

recommend engaging the budget ad hoc to receive direction on upcoming budget development for fiscal year 2027, and Chair Hurley stated that members Hopkins, Stilwell, and Ramirez were on the budget ad hoc in the past, and he stated that if they are available to participate, that staff can schedule a budget ad hoc meeting. Lastly, Liddy provided an update regarding the cost share amongst the 5 remaining Subbasins for P&P's past proposal to monitor the USBR subsidence benchmark sites, as Westside Subbasin is conducting their own monitoring and does not want to duplicate efforts. Member Hopkins stated that to maintain the same cost share to the Subbasin (\$21,217), P&P reduced the number of monitored sites in the DM Subbasin from 25 to 18. Chair Hurley asked if the other Subbasins are comfortable with the modification to the benchmark locations and asked that Member Hopkins distribute the map of the original 25 locations, highlighting which sites would not be monitored to reduce costs. Then, Members can present any concerns to Member Hopkins if there are any.

15. Update on Facilitation Support Services Outreach Activities

Lisa Beutler (Stantec) was unable to attend the meeting, and Blakslee introduced this item and asked if there were any questions from the Board. There were none.

16. Update on Water Blueprint Activities

Blakslee introduced this item and stated that there may be a request from the Water Blueprint for the DM Subbasin to contribute up to \$10,000, and would like Board direction on what level the Subbasin should contribute. Member Lucchesi stated that Strategic Plan meeting of the Water Blueprint was on Wednesday and he understood that they may end up pushing off the ask for funding, knowing that there are several DM GSAs already contributing and SLDMWA contributing as well. The Board provided direction for staff to work with Steve Chedester (San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors) on scheduling an educational presentation once the Strategic Plan is completed. The Board also directed staff to work with the budget ad hoc to discuss if this contribution to the Water Blueprint should be part of the budgeting process, if the Board decides that the DM Subbasin would contribute as a whole, instead of individual DM GSAs contributing.

17. Next Steps

Mr. Blakslee listed the following next steps:

- Member Martin talk to DWR representative regarding the comment letters on the GSP.
- EKI to provide scope and estimated cost to review and provide recommendations for responding to comment letters.
- Present grant projects for Board consideration at the next meeting.
- Houston Engineering to make overhaul DMS changes.
- EKI include the San Joaquin River and DM Canal to the model and distribute.
- Staff schedule a budget ad hoc in October to inform the Fiscal Year 2028 budget development process.
- Member Hopkins distribute map of changes to the P&P subsidence benchmark monitoring sites.
- Schedule educational overview of the Unified Water Plan

18. Member Reports

Chair Hurley stated that Merced Subbasin technical consultants read through the DM Subbasin GSP and had questions regarding the 2 feet acceptable value for subsidence. Hurley stated he

wanted to follow protocol to inform the Board, and stated he would like to set up a meeting with some DM JPA Board members and technical consultants to address the technical questions that Merced Subbasin has regarding this topic.

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

Nothing to report.

20. Next Meeting(s):

- a. October 12, 2026, 1 p.m. PST, Grassland Water District Board Room

21. Adjournment

Chair Hurley adjourned the meeting at 2:23p.m.



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

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