



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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Robert Holmes

Stockton East Water District – Vice Chair
Mel Panizza

California Water Service Company
Craig Stevens

Central Delta Water Agency
George Biagi Jr.

Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Richard Wagner

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Alan Nakanishi

City of Manteca
Regina Lackey

City of Stockton
Michael Blower

Eastside San Joaquin GSA
Gary Tofanelli

Linden County Water District
Myron Blanton

Lockeford Community Services District
Mike Henry

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Jason Colombini

Oakdale Irrigation District
Eric Thorburn

San Joaquin County
Sonny Dhaliwal

South Delta Water Agency
John Herrick

Woodbridge Irrigation District
Keith Bussman

Executive Director
Julia D. Berry

Board of Directors

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**San Joaquin County Council of Governments
555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202**

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

II. Additions to the Agenda

(The Board may add an item to the agenda if, upon a two-thirds vote, the Board finds that there is a need for immediate action on the matter and the need came to the attention of the Authority after the posting of this Agenda)

III. Public Comment

(Members of the public may address the Board on any matter related to the Authority that is not included on the Agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.)

IV. Action Items

1. Approval of December 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes - [Page 3](#)
2. Approval of Resolution R-26-01 authorizing the Chairman of ESJGWA or his/her designee to approve expenditures and execute contract within the designations and limitations of the approved budget. - [Page 5](#)

V. Presentations

1. GSA Spotlight – Keith Bussman, Woodbridge Irrigation District

VI. Authority Staff/Agency Reports

1. Executive Director, Julia D. Berry
2. Department of Water Resources, Chelsea Spier - [Page 7](#)

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
(Continued)

VII. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

VIII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
San Joaquin County Council of Governments

*Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order.
Action may be taken on any item listed on the Agenda.*

Writings relating to open session Agenda items that are distributed to members of the Board of Directors will be available for inspection at the San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources office, excluding writings that are not public records or are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Acts.

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at <http://www.ESJGroundwater.org>

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

ZOOM LINK:

<https://sjcog.zoom.us/s/82989811836>

Phone One Tap:
+16694449171,,82989811836#
DIAL: +1 669 444 9171
Meeting ID: 829 8981 1836
Passcode: 903992

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT/ROLL CALL

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Meeting convened at the Council of Governments building at 555 E. Weber Ave. Stockton, CA 95202. At approximately 10:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Holmes.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: Richard Wagner, Dante Nomellini, Alan Nakanishi, Regina Lackey, Michael Blower, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, John Herrick, Keith Bussman, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Christy McKinnon, Vice Chair Mel Panizza, and Chair Robert Holmes.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Knell, Interim General Manager of Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, spoke about the benefits of using cover crops across the region to increase soil infiltration and water holding capacity.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of November 12, 2025, Board Minutes

Motion: Richard Wagner

Second: Michael Blower

The vote was unanimous

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Joe Zilles, P.E., Kleinfelder

Joe Kleinfelder gave an update on the progress of selecting monitoring well sites to cover data gaps identified within the subbasin. Several GSAs responded and have provided locations for the installation of wells. Individual GSAs where each well will be located will execute easement agreements with respective property owners to allow for access and maintenance of these wells.

2. GSA Spotlight – John Herrick, South Delta GSA

John Herrick announced his retirement and shared background information on the South Delta GSA via a PowerPoint presentation.

VI. AUTHORITY STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS

1. Executive Director, Julia D. Berry

Julia provided an update staff work to conduct a comprehensive inventory monitoring

wells and responsible parties for collecting and reporting data via the SGMA portal. There are 172 wells in the monitoring network inclusive of 21 representative wells identified as geographically by local GSA.

2. Department of Water Resources

Chelsea Spier shared that the draft Integrated Surface Waters (ISW) guidance document will be postponed to early 2026 for its release. California Proposition 4 has been adopted and \$380 million will be made available for groundwater projects with some grants included.

3. San Joaquin County

Secretary Fritz Buchman announced his retirement and introduced Najee Zarif who will be the new Acting Public Works Director.

VII. DIRECTORS; COMMENTS AND PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Michael Blower shared an update on the Delta Water Supply Groundwater Recharge Project and the recent groundbreaking ceremony. The project is 33% complete and all three ponds have taken shape. He will provide more updates as the progress continues.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 12:03 p.m.

**Before the Board of Directors of the
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority**

Resolution R-26-01

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD CHAIR OF THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS
WITHIN THE DESIGNATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE APPROVED BUDGET**

WHEREAS, The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) is a joint powers agency created pursuant to California Government Code section 6500 *et seq.*, and

WHEREAS, Section 5.10 of the ESJGWA Joint Powers Agreement provides “expenditures within the designations and limitations of the applicable approved budget shall be made upon the approval of any officer so authorized by the Authority Board of Directors”; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020, the ESJGWA Board of Directors adopted Resolution R-20-06 designating the Secretary of the Board of Directors as the officer authorized to execute contracts and approve expenditures within the approved budget designations and limitation; and

WHEREAS, the ESJGWA Board of Directors now wishes to update and amend that prior designation and instead designate the Board Chair, or his/her designee, as the officer authorized to execute contracts and approve expenditures within the approved budget designations and limitations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority hereby approves and designates, consistent with the provisions of Section 5.10 of the Joint Powers Agreement, the Chair of the ESJGWA Board of Directors, or his/her designee, as the officer authorized to approve expenditures and execute contracts within the designations and limitations of the applicable approved ESJGWA budget without prior Board of Directors approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chair of the ESJGWA Board of Directors, or his/her designee, is authorized to make administrative changes to any contracts, as needed, including changes to any contract or agreement that results in no-cost time extensions to approved agreements, to ensure the agreements are implemented in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution supersedes and replaces any prior resolutions or actions of the Board of Directors to the extent they are inconsistent with the officer designations set forth herein.

The foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority on the 14th day of January 2026. On motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, this Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Directors.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 14th day of January, 2026 by the following vote of the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, to wit:

MOTION:

AYES:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST: SECRETARY
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

ROBERT HOLMES, Chairman Board of
Directors
of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater
Authority

January 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Grants

California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit grants.ca.gov to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

DWR's Underrepresented Communities and Small Farmer Technical Assistance Program

The mission of the Program is to determine the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities with the implementation of the SGMA for underrepresented communities and small farms in medium and high priority basins, including critically overdrafted (COD) basins. The types of services provided include, but are not limited to: Groundwater level monitoring; Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply; Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs); Analyze well interference; Identifying additional water supply; Analyze existing well condition using downhole video log; Rehabilitation of water storage tank; Long-term water supply and demand analysis; Analyze and help to facilitate water transfers. [More information is available on the webpage](#). Local entities can request services by emailing SGM_TA@water.ca.gov.

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118 – Update 2025

DWR released the [Draft California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118 – Update 2025 \(CalGW Update 2025\)](#). CalGW Update 2025 provides a comprehensive inventory and assessment of available information on the occurrence and nature of groundwater and informs decisions on the protection, use, monitoring and management of the resource. This five-year update builds on the CalGW Update 2020 by integrating data submitted to DWR by local agencies under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including information reported in Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), Alternatives to GSPs, annual reports, and other groundwater initiatives. CalGW Update 2025 is part of a comprehensive suite of resources designed to support groundwater understanding and management across the state, including the [Semi-Annual Updates](#), [CalGW Live](#), and the [Basin Characterization](#) program. The full document as well as a highlights document (in English and Spanish) and all appendices can be [downloaded here](#).

DWR presented an overview of the Draft CalGW Update 2025 at a public virtual webinar meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from noon to 1:00 p.m. The [recording can be viewed here](#) in English or Spanish.

Preliminary Sac Valley Aquifer Recharge Potential Maps Available

New: [Aquifer Recharge Potential maps](#) and a [process document](#) are now available to download from the [Basin Characterization CNRA Open Data Portal](#). Note— we'll be updating the ARP Process Document later in October.

DWR Releases Subsidence DRAFT BMP and Educational Resource Webpage

DWR has released a [draft Best Management Practices document](#) for public comment, to help local water agencies address land subsidence, support groundwater reliant communities, and help meet objectives set by SGMA. The public comment period has closed and **the BMP is expected to be finalized during the first quarter of 2026.**

DWR has also launched of a [new webpage dedicated to providing educational resources and information about land subsidence](#) in California, particularly as it relates to groundwater use and sustainable groundwater management. The resources available on this page are designed to help the public better understand subsidence and associated potential impacts. The page will be updated with educational materials, data, best management practices, and project information as it is available.

January 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

DWR Releases Second and Third Paper on Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

To help GSAs address the depletion of interconnected surface water (ISW) in their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), the DWR released the second and third in a series of three draft papers that discuss the technical aspects of ISW and quantification of depletions of ISW caused by groundwater pumping. The first paper (Paper 1), [Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water: An Introduction](#), introduced concepts associated with ISW, including approaches for identifying ISW and defining depletion of ISW from groundwater pumping. The second paper (Paper 2), [Techniques for Estimating Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Caused by Groundwater Use](#), continues the foundational concepts presented in Paper 1 by discussing the data requirements, methods, and general implementation process to consider for ISW depletion analyses. The final paper (Paper 3), [Examples for Estimating Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Caused by Groundwater Use](#), continues and expands upon the topics presented in Paper 2 by providing detailed examples of using numerical models to evaluate depletion of ISW. A pre-recorded webinar that summarizes the contents of the three papers and describes the next steps in the development of the guidance document [can be viewed here](#).

The DRAFT ISW guidance document is *tentatively* scheduled for winter 2026 for public release.

SGMA Updates and Tools

Update Your GSA and GSP Manager Point of Contact Information in DWR's SGMA Portal

If your GSA and/or GSP Plan Manager Point of Contact (POC) is not current, or you are not sure, please visit the SGMA Portal to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. When logged in, the Portal allows edits to be made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.

The CASGEM Online System is Moving to the SGMA Portal July of 2026

The Department is beginning to integrate the [California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring \(CASGEM\) Program's Online System](#) with the [SGMA Portal's](#) Monitoring Network Module (MNM). This integration will streamline groundwater elevation data management and reporting processes by consolidating data submission into one location – the SGMA Portal's MNM. Our goal is to provide a more unified and efficient user experience for local agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

No action is required at this time. With the updated schedule, CASGEM Monitoring Entities and Online System users do not need to take any steps between now and July 2026. CASGEM Monitoring Entities and Online System users should submit their Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 data through the CASGEM Online System as normal.

If you have questions, please reach out to your DWR region office CASGEM contact ([here](#)) or to the CASGEM Program in Headquarters at CASEM@water.ca.gov.

DWR releases provisional WY 2024 statewide land use data

DWR has officially released [provisional statewide land use data from Water Year \(WY\) 2024](#) for public access and use. The released data follows up on land use mapping conducted in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 where more than 15 million acres of land were classified (including agriculture multi-cropping instances and urban categories) using tools such as remote sensing and geographic information systems. The data can now be accessed at the following locations: [CA DWR Land Use Viewer](#) (viewing and downloading); [CNRA Webpage](#) (viewing and downloading); on the [SGMA Data Viewer](#) (viewing) and the [California State Geoportal](#) (viewing and downloading).

Facilitation Support Service and Translation Services Available to GSA's at No Cost

GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation. [FAQ about FSS is available here](#). More information [can be found here](#). Written translation services available in 8 languages

January 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

for outreach materials (5,000 word maximum). DWR has Verbal Interpretation service available to GSA's. Real-time interpretive services are available to GSAs for virtual, hybrid, or in-person meetings in support of GSP implementation with the goal of engaging underrepresented communities within basins and encouraging equal access for non-fluent English speakers during the implementation of GSP's. If you are interested in learning more or receiving support from an interpretation team email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Reminders: Drought related tools & guidance

'Be Well Prepared' Initiative and Website

May 17, 2023, DWR released the [Be Well Prepared initiative](#). DWR is providing tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater and experiencing climate-driven weather extremes, to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies. The Be Well Prepared initiative focuses on domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their well. [The website includes resources and information](#) that every well owner should know and understand about: groundwater conditions, well maintenance, water quality, assistance, and additional articles, videos and resources. A [new flyer](#) from DWR provides the four initial steps for well owners to take if they think their well has gone dry. This flyer is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).

SB552: DWR's Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool

As part of its technical assistance to support SB 552 implementation, DWR developed the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) to provide the foundational data and information statewide to counties for their water shortage risk assessment.

Dry Well Susceptibility Map

The DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, has developed an interactive mapping tool, called the Dry Well Susceptibility Tool. This tool identifies areas within groundwater basins that may be prone to water supply shortages in drinking water wells. State and local agencies and well owners can use this tool to anticipate where wells may go dry based on historical conditions to inform drought preparedness decision-making. To use this tool, navigate to [California's Groundwater Live website](#) and click the [Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility tab](#). A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, [is available here](#).

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). Information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and a [list of resources are included on the webpage](#). The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish. Local agencies can now sign up to receive notifications of any dry wells reported in their area. To sign up please email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading. For more information, visit the updated [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: CalGW@water.ca.gov.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the [Fall 2024 Semi-Annual Groundwater Conditions Update](#), which provides a look back at groundwater conditions following California's historic 2023 Water Year and an average 2024 Water Year. It also summarizes groundwater conditions over the first 10 years of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation (2014-2024).