

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
July 9th, 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 Vice Chairman, Mel Panizza.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: Richard Wagner, Michael Blower, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Keith Bussman, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Vice Chairman Mel Panizza, Travis Kahrs, Christy McKinnon, Scot Moody and Brandon Nakagawa

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of June 11th, 2025, Minutes

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Scot Moody

The vote was unanimous

2. Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Grand Fund Budget (21452) Totaling \$4,754,051 in Appropriations

Motion: Brandon Nakagawa

Second: Michael Blower

The vote was unanimous

3. Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Totaling \$3,357,000 in Revenues and Appropriations and the Proposed Cost Allocation to the ESJGWA Members Totaling \$664,753

Motion: Michael Blower

Second: Jason Colombini

The vote was unanimous

4. Approval of an Independent Contractor Agreement for Executive Director Services with First Water Partners, Inc., for a Not-to-Exceed Monthly Fee of \$27,000 (\$324,000 annually)

Motion: Scot Moody

Second: Michael Blower

The vote was unanimous

5. Receive Report on Annual Work Plan Progress

Alternate Brandon Nakagawa provided a brief update on subsidence surveying and ARPA monitoring well drilling.

6. GSA Spotlight Presentation – Oakdale Irrigation District

Alternate Eric Thorburn shared the details of his presentation. Some highlights included:

- Pre-1914 Water and Post, 1914 Storage Rights on the Stanislaus River
- On-farm irrigation: mixture of gravity flow and micro-drip irrigation
- Some challenges have been long term water supply, aging infrastructure and land use changes.

III. STAFF/DWR Report

A. Staff Report

None

B. DWR Report

Chelsea Spier with DWR reviewed highlights of her DWR report.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Alternate Brandon Nakagawa summarizes the Department of Water Resources Annual Report Letter, mentioning the submitted information satisfied the requirements of the GSP regulations.

V. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

At the June board meeting, Richard Wagner asked what the GSA's role will be in managing the underground overdraft and that his comment be added to the June board minutes.

Director Jason Colombini also suggested to make note that Mary Elizabeth's public comment was received at the June board meeting.

The Board thanked Brandon Nakagawa for his dedication and time leading the GWA and welcomed Julia Berry. Julia is taking the role of the Executive Director of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Knell commented on grant information.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 11:52am