

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.