



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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Woodbridge Irrigation
District
Keith Bussman

Executive Director

Julia D. Berry

Board of Directors

AGENDA

Wednesday, February 11, 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 January 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes - [Page 3](#)

V. Presentations

1. Greg Young, Zanjero – North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
2. Justin Hopkins, Stockton East Water District

VI. Authority Staff/Agency Reports

1. Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director - [Page 5](#)
 - a. Staff Recommendation – Net Groundwater Impact Annual Accounting Framework
2. Chelsea Spier, CA Department of Water Resources

VII. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

VIII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 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/j/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

January 14, 2026

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 Chairperson Bob Holmes.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: Craig Stevens, Richard Wagner, Alan Nakanishi, Regina Lackey, Michael Blower, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Scot Moody, Keith Bussman, Secretary Najee Zarif, Dante Nomellini, Travis Kahrs, Christy McKinnon, Vice Chairperson Mel Panizza and Chair Bob Holmes.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Elizabeth, Delta Sierra Club, provided verbal comments.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of December 10, 2025, Board Minutes

Motion: Keith Bussman

Second: Michael Blower

The vote was unanimous.

2. Approval of Resolution R-26-01, authorizing the Chairman of ESJGWA or his/her designee to approve expenditures and execute contracts within the designations and limitations of the approved budget.

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Michael Blower

The vote was unanimous.

V. PRESENTATIONS

GSA Spotlight – Keith Bussman, Woodbridge Irrigation District

VI. AUTHORITY STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS

1. Executive Director (ED), Julia D. Berry Staff Report -
The ED noted that Woodard and Curran sent out data requests to all GSAs to report by January 23 to meet the GSP Annual Report submission date. She noted that Justin Hopkins from Stockton East Water District will be the GSA Spotlight at the February Board Meeting. The ED shared an update on the ongoing work her and her staff put into the ESJGWA Well Monitoring Network including coordinating with DWR to identify missing data, remove/update well information, and ensure the GWA meets the commitment made in the 2024 GSP update. She also noted the need to formalize the process to support the Well Mitigation program and allocation of funds supported by the development of a formal application. The ED shared work will start next month to develop the ESJGWA 2026-2027 Budget for the upcoming fiscal year and also noted the recommendation to aim for the February Meeting to seek direction from the board to develop a process for accounting each GSA's annual Net Groundwater Impact.
2. CA Department of Water Resources, Chelsea Spier announced Groundwater Awareness Week is coming March 8 – 14th, DWR will be releasing educational material.

VII. DIRECTORS; COMMENTS AND PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Chairperson Holmes shared management actions and scheduling will continue moving forward to include Executive Committee Ad Hoc Meetings in the next few weeks.

Scot Moody shared that DWR is scrutinizing GSAs and asking for evidence to support effective projects and management actions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

11:30 a.m.



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT
Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: ESJGWA Net Groundwater Impact Annual Accounting Framework
Date: February 5, 2025

Recommendation

Staff recommends the development and implementation of an annual accounting framework to calculate each GSA's Net Groundwater Impact to the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin.

Background

The Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) includes a subbasin commitment to undertake demand management to reduce groundwater use. To measure progress toward this commitment, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must establish a shared starting point and a consistent method to measure annual progress.

At present, there is no consistent method used across the subbasin to measure the annual pumping and other subbasin impacts attributable to each GSA, respectively. The subbasin's groundwater model provides planning-level information based on estimates and assumptions over long time horizons; however, it does not produce annual operational reporting based on contemporaneous data that is consistent throughout the basin, and specific to each GSA.

The goal is to give each GSA a clear way to account for its share of the overdraft and a clear path to implement projects and management actions that help bring the subbasin into sustainability. Accordingly, staff recommend development and implementation of an annual accounting framework to calculate each GSA's Net Groundwater Impact to the subbasin.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Board of Directors:

1. Direct the GSAs to agree on a method to calculate each GSA's annual Net Groundwater Impact to the subbasin and direct the GWA to retain a consultant to work with the GSAs to gather, compute, and report this information to the GSAs and the GWA on an annual basis.

2. Authorize staff to retain an approved consultant, or to seek additional qualified providers as necessary, to develop and implement an Annual Net Groundwater Impact accounting framework, including the following scope of work:
 - a. Finalize a Net Groundwater Impact calculation method following consultation with the GSAs and make a final recommendation to the GWA for adoption.
 - b. Collect data from the GSAs for Water Years 2024 and 2025 and issue a report calculating Net Groundwater Impact for each GSA for Water Years 2024 and 2025 by December 1, 2026.
 - c. Collect data from the GSAs for Water Year 2026 and issue a report calculating Net Groundwater Impact for each GSA for Water Year 2026 by March 1, 2027.
 3. Direct staff to prepare a Resolution for Board consideration regarding adoption of an Annual Net Groundwater Impact Report Method at the July 2026 ESJGWA meeting. A sample method for discussion purposes is attached as Exhibit A.
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Fiscal Impact

Expenditure is consistent with the current budget. The 2025-2026 Fiscal Year ESJGWA budget identifies \$150,000 for “Groundwater Accounting Framework/GW Model Update.”

Exhibit A – Example – for discussion purposes only

NET GROUNDWATER IMPACT CALCULATION METHOD AND DATA SOURCES

The GWA will compute the Net Groundwater Impact for each GSA annually, based on the Water Year (October 1 through September 30).

NET GROUNDWATER IMPACT

Net Groundwater Impact equals groundwater pumped, less return flows from pumped groundwater, less surface water recharge. Net Groundwater Impact is an annual calculation for each GSA.

$$\text{Net Groundwater Impact} = \text{GW Pumping} - (\text{GW Return Flows} + \text{Surface Water Recharge})$$

DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING

Data collected for purposes of computing Net Groundwater Impact is described below:

1. GROUNDWATER PUMPED

Groundwater Pumped is the combined total groundwater pumped within a GSA, including:

- Ag Pumping: Total Ag Pumping in each GSA may be estimated by using data from OpenET, and agreed-upon assumptions for effective precipitation and irrigation efficiency.
- GSA Pumping: Each GSA shall provide metered data for GSA Pumping, if any, to the Consultant on or before November 15 for the prior Water Year.
- Other Pumping (including municipal and industrial (M&I), domestic, and industrial pumping).

2. RETURN FLOWS FROM PUMPED GROUNDWATER

The Consultant shall estimate Return Flows from Pumped Groundwater based on agreed-upon data sources/assumptions.

3. SURFACE WATER RECHARGE

Each GSA shall provide a technical memorandum to the Consultant, on or before November 15, describing and quantifying Surface Water Recharge in the GSA in the prior Water Year, including measurement data to substantiate the quantities reported.

The Consultant shall review the data and work with each GSA to refine the estimate for purposes of calculating Net Groundwater Impact.

Surface Water Recharge may include seepage from canals and other conveyance facilities, return flows from surface water irrigation, and recharge from recharge ponds or Flood-MAR recharge projects.

Surface Water Recharge does not include in-lieu recharge accomplished by delivering surface water for irrigation. In-lieu recharge may be captured through the combination of lower quantities of groundwater pumped and higher surface water return flow quantities.

CONSULTATION PRIOR TO FINAL REPORT

The Consultant shall prepare a draft annual report computing Net Groundwater Impact for each GSA and circulate the draft report to GSA staff for review on or before February 1 of each year. GSAs shall provide comments. The Consultant shall finalize the report on or before March 1st, prior to the submission of the GSP Annual Report, due to Department of Water Resources by April 1 of each year.