



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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South Delta Water Agency
John Herrick

Woodbridge Irrigation
District
Keith Bussman

Executive Director

Julia D. Berry

Board of Directors

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

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-third vote, the Board finds that there is a need for immediate action on the matter and the need comes 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 Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2025 - [Page 3](#)
2. Groundwater Monitoring Wells Ownership - [Page 5](#)
3. Change Order – Kleinfelder - [Page 7](#)

V. Authority Staff/Agency Reports

1. Executive Director, Julia D. Berry
 - i. Demand Management Program Development Update - [Page 12](#)
2. Department of Water Resources

VI. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

VII. Adjournment

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

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
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](tel:+16694449171),,82989811836#
DIAL: +1 669 444 9171
Meeting ID: 829 8981 1836
Passcode: 903992

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 10th, 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: Craig Stevens, Richard Wagner, Alan Nakanishi, Regina Lackey, Mike Henry, Scot Moody, John Herrick, Keith Bussman, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Vice Chair Mel Panizza, Chair Bob Holmes, Chrisy McKinnon, Joe Valente and Brandon Nakagawa

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of July 9th, 2025, Minutes

Scot Moody motioned to approve the July 9, 2025, meeting minutes, with the amendments requested by the Board to remove the reference to Prop 218 in Item #6 and to change the mention of Chair Bob Holmes to Vice Chairman Mel Panizza.

Motion: Mel Panizza

Second: Scot Moody

The vote was unanimous

2. Appointment of Executive Director as Department of Water Resources Point of Contact for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin and Update the SGMA Portal

Motion: Scot Moody

Second: Mel Panizza

The vote was unanimous

3. Groundwater Monitoring Implementation Program Presentation

Joe Zilles, PG of Kleinfelder, shared his presentation sharing data gaps that exist within the subbasin, ISWs, GDEs and their relationship, groundwater quality and groundwater levels. Joe included the action to fill data gaps within the subbasin monitoring network. Joe confirmed that in the next few weeks he would have a working list.

III. STAFF/DWR Report

A. Staff Report

Executive Director, Julia Berry thanks San Joaquin County Staff, Brandon Nakagawa and the Executive Committee for support and assisting with a smooth transition. Julia shared the following points:

- Website links on the ESJGWA site have been reviewed and updated.
- The most recent Annual Report has been uploaded to the ESJGWA website.
- Responsibilities and tasks previously supported by San Joaquin County have been successfully transitioned to First Partners staff, ensuring continuity and a smooth handover.
- Planning for the use of ARPA funds is progressing. Condor is evaluating accessibility considerations and will be coordinating with Kleinfelder accordingly.
- Stantec will continue to provide materials in support of the Communications and Engagement Plan, and to assist both the GSAs and the Authority.
- The Domestic Well Mitigation Program is currently in development. Contact has been made with Self-Help Enterprises, and informational handouts are being prepared.

Director Richard Wagner asked whether there has been any discussion or decision regarding how responsibilities will be allocated among the GSAs to address their shortfall. Julia responded that while the Executive Committee has had conversations on the matter, they are not yet at a point where they can define how it will be addressed, but it remains a priority focus.

B. DWR Report

Chelsea Spier with DWR reviewed highlights of the DWR report.

IV. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Travis Small with City of Stockton shared that details for the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Groundwater Recharge Project will be sent out to all GSAs with more details and a RSVP link.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 11:16 a.m.

STAFF REPORT**Meeting Date: November 12, 2025**

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Groundwater Monitoring Wells Ownership
DATE: October 20, 2025

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Board of Directors take action to approve the transfer of ownership for newly drilled groundwater monitoring wells to the respective Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) with jurisdiction over each well site. GSAs would be responsible for the long-term ownership and maintenance responsibilities for these wells.

Background

New monitoring wells are being drilled using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided to the ESJGWA by San Joaquin County under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed in March 2023.

At the September 10, 2025, ESJGWA Board of Directors meeting, Kleinfelder presented findings on existing groundwater data gaps and proposed locations for new monitoring wells to address these deficiencies. Since that meeting, Kleinfelder has been working with individual GSAs to evaluate both potential new sites and existing wells for use as monitoring locations. In collaboration with GSA staff, Kleinfelder has applied a scoring system to identify the most suitable sites for installation.

Staff is now prepared to draft and execute access and easement agreements with property owners to secure entry for groundwater measurements. Several GSAs have chosen to use their own easement agreement templates; others will be offered a standard template prepared by ESJGWA legal counsel.

Maintenance of monitoring wells is relatively uncomplicated as monitoring wells. While they are considered facilities, do not include any motorized components or others which require labor intensive up-keep.

Reasons for Recommendation**1. Continuity in Oversight:**

Should the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) be dissolved in the future, assigning ownership to the GSAs ensure that oversight and maintenance of the monitoring wells remain intact. Transfer of

ownership would be unnecessary. In addition, no additional action would be required to continue groundwater measurement and access would be streamlined.

2. **Operational Efficiency:**

Some GSAs already conduct their own groundwater measurements. If an external agency had ownership of the wells, it could complicate scheduling and coordination, potentially delaying data collection. Local GSA ownership streamlines operations and maintains consistency in monitoring.



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: November 12, 2025

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Change Order – Kleinfelder
Groundwater Monitoring Well Implementation Project
DATE: November 5, 2025

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve a change order to the existing agreement for services between the ESJGWA and Kleinfelder to include: 1) development of projects based on selection of candidate site selections for new monitoring wells; 2) preparation of Requests for Proposals for new wells and/or instrumentation; 3) bidding and contracting and 4) assist ESJGWA with contractor selection.

Project Update

At least six additional monitoring wells are needed to fulfill the current data gaps identified in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin and include areas such as the Delta area, central groundwater depression, basin boundaries, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and interconnected surface water locations. Following is a status update of work performed to date under the current contract with Kleinfelder.

- Kleinfelder sent 8 Requests For Information (RFIs) to SEWD, CDWA, NSJWCD, CSJWCD, SSJID, SJC, ESSJ, and LCWD.
- Six (6) responses were received by deadline from initial RFI list (NSJWCD, CSJWCD, SSJID, SJC, LCWD, Stan County for ESSJ, and Calaveras County.
- Responses were not initially received from SEWD or CDWA before requested timeline, but subsequently, responses were received from CDWA on 10/23 indicating they would check with landowners.

These responses are used to develop an initial project list:

1. LCWD – Deep nested well on former District Well#3 site. Include data logging equipment.
2. NSJWCD – Deep nested well on private property. Include data logging equipment.
3. CSJWCD – ISW/GDE well in Farmington between Littlejohns and Duck Creeks on public property. Include data logging equipment. CSJWCD is working with owner to secure exact location.

4. SSJID – Deep Nested well, ISW, WQ, southern basin boundary conditions. Include data logging equipment. Staff are considering three of the suggested locations and are helping to vet each with City of Ripon, City of Escalon, and City of Ripon.
5. Calaveras County – add data recording equipment to existing USGS wells (2 - 3) within the ESSJ GSA. Calaveras County owns these wells.

Kleinfelder initially ranked the suggested projects using a scoring criteria evaluation tool.

Note, cost estimates of each project have not been completed to see where they may fall within the budget. Those will be done concurrently with project development and could change the ranking.

Reasons for Recommendation

The initial steps of identifying data gaps, coordinating with GSAs, and evaluating potential monitoring well sites, are nearly complete. The next phase will include preparing and issuing RFPs to the existing list of approved contractors, selecting qualified contractors, and executing contracts for well installation.

Kleinfelder, a prequalified provider for these services, is ready to begin work immediately. Timely action is critical, as the ESJGWA is committed to utilizing grant funding to complete well installations by December 31, 2026. Staff recommends leveraging Kleinfelder's expertise and availability to ensure successful and timely implementation of this effort.



October 22, 2025

Kleinfelder Project No.: 26000657.001A

Julia Berry

First Water Partners, Inc.

7600 N. Ingram Avenue, Suite 104

Fresno, CA 93711

Email: julia@firstwaterpartners.net

**SUBJECT: Change Order Request
Project Development
Eastern Jan Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Groundwater Monitoring Implementation Project**

Dear Ms. Berry:

In accordance with our discussions and your request Kleinfelder has prepared this change order request to include Project Development of the groundwater monitoring and instrumentation projects currently being evaluated. The scope of work is detailed below.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between San Joaquin County and the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) MOU ID: B-24, we understand the scope of work may include installation of five shallow monitoring wells, two nested Delta wells to track salt migration, and up to six additional wells, including installation of monitoring hardware at key locations. The timeline of the project's completion is anticipated to be December 31, 2026. Currently, twelve data gap locations have been identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and six have been addressed with the installation of monitoring wells over the past 5 years.

At least six additional monitoring wells are needed to fulfill the current data gaps identified and include areas such as the Delta area, central groundwater depression, basin boundaries, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and interconnected surface water locations. Recently, Kleinfelder has presented several candidate sites to various Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (GSA's) to review and respond relative to the Sites viability for a monitoring well, after which Kleinfelder is evaluating and scoring each viable Site (October 2025) for implementation. We anticipate project development to occur through December 2025 and implementations to occur throughout 2026.

New Scope of Work to Provide Project Development tasks including:

- Develop Projects based on candidate site evaluations. We anticipate several projects to complete the goals. We have included the development of up to six projects in our fee estimate. Each project will be presented to GWA for review and approval.
- Prepare scope of work to support project Requests for Proposal(s) (RFP) for new wells and/or instrumentation. Components of projects anticipated to include equipment and materials submittals, drilling method, depth, borehole diameter, borehole geophysics (when required),

zone testing, well materials, well development, and testing (when required). Projects may include instrumentation. We assume the GWA will issue RFPs to the existing list of approved contractors.

- Respond to project scope of work Requests for Information during the RFP process(es).
- Assist GWA with contractor selection.

Fee Estimate: The estimated fee to complete the Project Development task is \$71,232. The fee is limited to the level of effort we estimated to complete each task using our current fee schedule and hours allocated per staff level.

Task	Hours	Labor	Total
Task 1 Develop Projects (6)	70	\$19,393.50	\$19,393.50
Task 2 Prepare RFP SOW (6)	100	\$27,972.00	\$27,972.00
Task 3 Respond to RFP RFIs	40	\$10,815.00	\$10,815.00
Task 4 Assist GWA with Contractor Selection	50	\$13,051.50	\$13,051.50
TOTALS	260	\$71,232.00	\$71,232.00

The current Task Order is \$210,771. The new Task Order total is \$282,003

SCHEDULE

We anticipate project development to occur through December 2025.

AUTHORIZATION AND CONTRACT TERMS

We understand GWA is using the San Joaquin County Public Works and Purchasing agent services. Please issue a purchase order in accordance with the agreed upon contract terms of agreement A-25-01, dated May 12, 2025.

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Our work will be performed in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other members of Kleinfelder's profession practicing in the same locality, under similar conditions and at the date the services are provided. Our conclusions, opinions, and recommendations will be based on a limited number of observations and data. It is possible that conditions could vary between or beyond the data evaluated. Kleinfelder makes no guarantee or warranty, express or implied, regarding the services, communication (oral or written), report, opinion, or instrument of service provided.

We assume each task can be completed in the estimated hours and level of effort described in this proposal. If additional time and effort is required to complete each task due to delays and/or factors beyond Kleinfelder's control, then additional fees may be required. If that is the case, Kleinfelder will prepare a change order to GWA review prior to proceeding. We will not proceed until GWA has approved a change order to continue.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our services to you. If you have any questions or if we may be of any further assistance, please contact me at (916) 366-1701 or by email jjzilles@kleinfelder.com.

Respectfully submitted,

KLEINFELDER, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J D Zilles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph D. Zilles, P.G.
Sr. Principal/Project Manager

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R P Erickson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Paul Erickson, PE
Sr. Principal Engineer/Group Manager



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: November 12, 2025

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation and Demand Management
Date: October 29, 2025

Recommendation

This report is provided for informational purposes only. No Board action or recommendation is requested at this time.

Background

In 2024, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) submitted its amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review. The amended Plan reflects ongoing coordination among the Authority, member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), and our technical consultants at Woodard & Curran.

Since the submittal, ESJGWA staff have been actively responding to DWR's requests for additional information to support a complete and efficient review. These efforts are part of the Authority's continuing commitment to transparency, data accuracy, and collaboration across the subbasin.

Technical Memorandum No. 6 – Demand Management Program

A key component of the 2024 Plan Amendment is Technical Memorandum No. 6 (TM6) – Demand Management Program. TM6 outlines a 15-year schedule for developing and implementing a regional demand management program that identifies responsibilities for both individual GSAs and the Authority.

By the end of 2025, TM6 anticipates progress on three key program elements:

1. Model Refinement – Refining model as a part of or following the development of the annual report.
2. Annual Recalculation Process – Developing a framework for recalculating target groundwater pumping reductions each year.
3. Allocation Approach – Establishing an approach for annual allocation of reduction among GSAs based on hydrology, PMA implementation, and other ongoing groundwater demand management efforts.

Current Status

Model Refinement:

Work to refine and update the groundwater model is currently underway. ESJGWA staff and consultants are reviewing model inputs and outputs on a parcel-by-parcel basis to validate data accuracy. Preliminary findings indicate opportunities to improve model inputs using more precise and locally verified information. These improvements are expected to enhance the model's reliability and usefulness as a decision-support tool.

Demand Management Coordination:

Authority staff have convened several meetings with representatives from multiple member GSAs and their legal counselors to initiate discussions on demand management approaches. These conversations have focused on the process for evaluating and recalculating annual pumping reduction targets and on developing an approach for allocating demand reductions among GSAs.

While projects and management actions in the GSP are expected to achieve sustainable groundwater levels, current modeling indicates that additional reductions—approximately 95,000 acre-feet per year—may be required to achieve groundwater level stabilization. This estimate includes an approximate margin of error of 6,000 acre-feet.

Collaborative GSA Actions

Member GSAs have begun exploring options for how to address this potential reduction. It is expected that Category A projects will ultimately result in 33,000 acre-feet per year of annual demand offset. TM6 recognizes that GSAs will agree to allocate amongst themselves responsibility for reducing groundwater demand by 56,000 acre-feet per year which may be met with additional demand reduction or direct in-lieu recharge from projects.

To facilitate early progress and coordination, GSAs are discussing a voluntary, non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU would document each GSA's voluntary assumption of responsibility for a portion of the subbasin's overdraft and establish an annual process for assessing progress and updating data on overdraft conditions.

Next Steps and Schedule

The following milestones are anticipated:

- 2026: GSAs to agree on division of overdraft responsibility by December 31, 2026.
- 2027: GSAs to adopt enforceable demand management programs by December 31, 2027.
- 2028: GSAs to implement adopted demand management programs by December 31, 2028.

These steps will move the subbasin closer to sustainable groundwater management and reflect the region's continued emphasis on collaboration, accountability, and adaptive planning.

The cooperative, data-driven process currently underway reflects the commitment of the ESJGWA and its member GSAs to achieving long-term groundwater sustainability. While TM6 provides the technical foundation for demand management planning, the GSAs' voluntary coordination through the MOU represents an additional and proactive effort to share responsibility and demonstrate progress.

Staff will continue to update the Board and stakeholders as work advances on model refinement, demand management framework development, and GSA coordination efforts.

Attachment

Technical Memorandum No. 6 – Demand Management Program (TM6)