EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Board Members:

Chairman
South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Robert Holmes

Vice Chairman
Stockton East Water District
Mel Panizza

California Water Service Company
Craig Stevens

Central Delta Water Agency
George Biagi Jr.

Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Richard Wagner

City of Lodi
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
Scot Moody

San Joaquin County
Paul Canepa

South Delta Water Agency
Dean Ruiz

Woodbridge Irrigation District
Keith Bussman

Board of Directors

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 17, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.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

A. Approval of October 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes - Page 3

B. Review and consider action to change the start time of regularly scheduled ESJGWA Board of Directors meetings from 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., with no change to the scheduled meeting dates

C. Self Help Enterprises – Review and consider action to direct the Chairman or Secretary of the Authority to enter into an agreement upon review by Counsel for services provided by Self Help Enterprises to support implementation of the ESJGWA Domestic Well Mitigation Program - Page 6

V. Discussion Items

!ϕ Draft Coordination Agreement Regarding Implementing Demand Management in the Eastern San Joaquin - Page 16

±Lϕ Authority Staff/Agency Reports

!ϕ Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director π t l·ƎŜ нϕ

.ϕ Chelsea Spier, Department of Water Resources - Page 31

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

VII. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting
December 9, 2026
San Joaquin County Council of Governments
555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202

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
October 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 Holmes.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: Richard Wagner, Dante Nomellini, Christy McKinnon, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Scot Moody, Paul Canepa, Keith Bussman, Vice Chair Mel Panizza and Chair Robert Holmes

Directors Absent: Craig Stevens, Alan Nakanishi, Regina Lackey, Michael Blower, Gary Tofanelli, Myron Blanton, Dean Ruiz

Members of the Public in attendance: Executive Director, Julia Berry, Chelsea Spier, Mary Elizabeth, Clara Isho, Justin Hopkins, Gina C., Ron Nydam, Travis Small, Christina Castro, Nait Vann Alviar, Louie B., Michael Miller, Wes Henson, Nicholes Steinke, Jennifer Spaletta, Venki Narasimhalu, Alicia Valenzula, Brittany Harker, Khawaja Saifuddin, and Secretary Najee Zarif.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were added to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Elizabeth provided public comment. Director Dante Nomellini announced his replacement for the ESJGWA.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

Rhett Anderson with Self Help Enterprises shared his presentation.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of September 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Paul Canepa
Second: Mel Panizza
Vote was unanimous

B. Access Agreements – Review and consider action to direct the Chairman or Secretary of the Authority to enter into an agreement for access to construct monitoring wells using ARPA finds, in a form approved by Counsel

Motion: Scot Moody
Second: Jason Colombini
Vote was unanimous

C. Well Mitigation Claim Maximum Claim Amount – Review and consider action to amend the Domestic Well Mitigation Program to include a maximum claim amount of $30,000 per claim

Mary Elizabeth provided the Board with a handout outlining Self-Help Enterprises' work and ongoing efforts within San Joaquin County.

Motion: Dante Nomellini
Second: Keith Bussman
Vote was unanimous

D. Stakeholder Engagement Framework – Review and consider action to approve framework for stakeholder engagement

Alicia Valenzuela and Mary Elizabeth provided public comments.

Motion: Mike Henry
Second: Richard Wagner
Vote was unanimous

E. Board Meetings Online – Review and consider action to approve a scope of work not to exceed $2500 to post recorded meetings online. *No fiscal impact - $5,000 budget for website in FY 2026-2027 Budget, existing contractor*

Motion: Jason Colombini
Second: Mel Panizza
Vote was unanimous

F. Self Help Enterprises – Review and consider action to place on the agenda at the November Board of Directors meeting an agreement with Self Help Enterprises to provide support services to the ESJGWA Domestic Well Mitigation Program. The Board of Directors gave general direction to staff to agendize at the next board meeting an agreement for services to be executed Self Help Enterprises.

VI. AUTHORITY STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS

1. **Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director** – No report was given.

2. **Chelsea Spier, Department of Water Resources**
   Chelsea reviewed her written report distributed in the Board Packet.

VII. Directors' Comments and Project Status

Director Jason Colombini acknowledged Steve Schwabauer and the staff at North San Joaquin Water Conservation District for their efforts. He reported that 9,300 acre-feet of water had been utilized under the district's surface water right, marking the highest usage since 1973, and expressed hope that the district would be able to utilize its full water right in the future.

Director Mike Henry requested consideration to change the regular Board meeting start time to 10:00 a.m. Julia suggested placing the item on the next Board meeting agenda for discussion and possible action.

November Board Meeting: Due to the regularly scheduled November meeting falling on Veterans Day, a Special Board Meeting will be scheduled once the availability of the SJCOG facility and Board Directors has been determined.

VIII. Adjournment at 12:40pm

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

Special Meeting Date: November 17, 2026

TO: **ESJGWA Board of Directors**

FROM: **Julia Berry, Executive Director**

SUBJECT: **Contract with Self Help Enterprises to Provide Domestic Well Mitigation Program Support**

Date: **November 9, 2026**

Recommendation

Staff recommend that the ESJGWA Board of Directors take the following action:

Discuss and consider entering into an agreement between ESJGWA and Self Help Enterprises to accomplish the following:

1. Supply bottled water service to eligible claimants under the Domestic Well Mitigation Program;
2. Assist in reviewing claims submitted under the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and;
3. Provide support to GSAs as needed to expand outreach to Disadvantaged Communities

Reasons for Recommendation

Self Help Enterprises has been providing assistance to low-income families in the San Joaquin Valley since 1965. Self-Help Enterprises can provide services that are not currently available through ESJGWA's existing contractors and is an efficient and cost-effective way to contract with an organization with a proven track record of supplying these services.
Specifically, the ESJGWA does not currently have the ability to provide bottled water services to claimants under the Domestic Well Mitigation Program.

Self-Help Enterprises also brings many years of experience administering and supporting well mitigation efforts. This expertise may be helpful, as needed, in advising staff on individual well mitigation applications and related issues.

Lastly, Self-Help Enterprises has extensive experience engaging disadvantaged communities. Access to this experience and expertise may also support the ESJGWA's broader strategy to improve stakeholder communication and outreach throughout the Subbasin, while maintaining the GSAs' role in conducting outreach within their respective service areas.

Attachment: Draft Agreement, Self-Help Enterprises and 2026-27 Rate Schedule

DOMESTIC WELL MITIGATION AGREEMENT

THIS DOMESTIC WELL MITIGATION AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into this XX day of XXXX, 202X by and between _____, listed on the attached Exhibit A, hereinafter referred to as "_____ Subbasin GSAs," and Self-Help Enterprises, a California nonprofit corporation, hereinafter referred to as "SHE." The _____ Subbasin GSAs and SHE may occasionally be referred to herein collectively as the "Parties" or SHE and each entity listed on Exhibit A may also be referred to individually herein as a "Party." This Agreement is entered into in reference to the following facts:

RECITALS

A. There are _____ individual Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs") within the _____ Subbasin formed under and pursuant to the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") (California Water Code Section 10720 et seq.), which requires them to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") in order to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater resources within the _____ Subbasin;

B. The _____ Subbasin GSAs have approved such GSPs, and a Coordination Agreement has been entered into among the GSAs listed on Exhibit A, by which the _____ Subbasin GSAs have agreed to coordinate the development and implementation of their GSPs and drinking water well mitigation actions;

C. The _____ Subbasin Coordination Agreement describes how the Parties will work together to ensure coordinated implementation of the multiple GSPs covering the Subbasin to satisfy the requirements of SGMA;

D. The _____ Subbasin GSAs have drafted a Well Mitigation Program that implements the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Framework within each GSA's jurisdiction. The Well Mitigation Program is attached hereto as Exhibit B and is incorporated herein by reference;

E. The Well Mitigation Program establishes a Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track, by which users of domestic wells may obtain emergency, interim, and long-term mitigation of dry wells if the _____ Subbasin GSAs determine that the dry well is caused by groundwater management activities of a GSA in the _____ Subbasin, as further described in the Well Mitigation Plan. This Agreement applies only to the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track and not to the Drinking Water Well Technical Track;

F. SHE is a community development organization that operates in the _____ Subbasin;

G. One of SHE's programs involves providing emergency water and interim supplies to domestic water users who submit requests for assistance to SHE;

H. The _____ Subbasin GSAs and SHE have determined it is efficient and beneficial for the _____ Subbasin GSAs to collaborate with and support SHE's existing programs as a means of implementation of the Well Mitigation Program;

I. The _____ Subbasin GSAs and SHE desire to enter into this Agreement to establish said collaboration and define the respective obligations of each Party.

NOW THEREFORE, in and for consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions, and promises hereinafter set forth, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement as though fully set forth herein.

2. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the respective responsibilities of each Party for the purpose of the implementation and funding of the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track under the Well Mitigation Program.

3. **Term.** The Term of this Agreement shall be a period of one year from the date of execution. The Agreement will be automatically renewed for an additional one-year Term at the expiration of each Term, unless terminated by either Party pursuant to Section 17.

4. **Definitions.** As used herein, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

    a. "Applicant" shall mean a landowner within the _____ Subbasin who submits an application for mitigation by submitting SHE's online intake form pursuant to the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track of the Well Mitigation Program.

    b. "Contractor" shall mean any third-party construction, well drilling, or other professional company that is contracted to provide interim supplies or long-term mitigation measures.

    c. "Dry Well" shall mean the domestic well, or agricultural well used for domestic purposes, that is owned by an Applicant and that has ceased producing water.

    d. "Emergency Water" shall mean the delivery of up to 60 gallons of bottled drinking water per month.

    e. "Interim Supplies" shall mean the delivery of bottled drinking water, not to exceed 60 gallons per household per month, and the installation of temporary water tanks or delivery of hauled water, not to exceed 50 gallons per day per individual, consistent with the time period to administer potential mitigation measures as described in the Well Mitigation Program, which is anticipated to not exceed a 12-month period.

    f. "Long-Term Mitigation" shall mean measures taken to ensure long term access to water, including but not limited to connecting the impacted Applicant into an existing water system, lowering the pump, constructing a new well, modifying pump equipment, or establishing a new small public water system.

    g. "Outreach" shall mean communication with landowners within the _____ Subbasin about the Well Mitigation Program, including but not limited to the development and distribution of educational materials regarding stewardship of domestic wells, notification to landowners of the availability of mitigation, and workshops explaining the Well Mitigation Program and other available support.

    h. "Project" shall mean the entire process of implementing mitigation measures, beginning when an Applicant submits an application for mitigation, and ending when _____ Subbasin GSAs determine the appropriate mitigation measures, whether long term or interim, are warranted and have been fully and completely administered.

    i. "Qualified Applicant" means an applicant who has been approved for Long Term Mitigation pursuant to the Well Mitigation Program.

j. "Track" shall mean the Drinking Water Well Mitigation Track as described in the Well Mitigation Program.

k. "Well Mitigation Program" shall mean the program described in the attached Exhibit B.

5. **SHE Responsibilities.** SHE shall have the following obligations:

a. Provide all technical and administrative services as needed for Program implementation; monitor, supervise, and review all work performed; and coordinate budgeting and scheduling to ensure the Program is implemented within budget, on schedule, and in accordance with approved procedures, applicable laws, and regulations;

b. Conduct outreach to prospective Applicants including developing and distributing outreach materials by mail, door-to-door canvassing, community events and workshops, and other venues as appropriate;

c. Receive and review all applications submitted by Applicants consistent with the Track. The applications shall contain releases of SHE and the _____ Subbasin GSAs from liability;

d. Perform initial investigation of the Dry Well consistent with the Well Mitigation Program;

e. Provide Emergency Water and Interim Supplies to Applicants consistent with the Well Mitigation Program, which is anticipated to not exceed a 12-month time period;

f. Provide the GSA-designated qualified professional with all applications and other relevant materials that are necessary for developing a recommendation for Long-Term Mitigation pursuant to the Well Mitigation Program;

g. Act as contract coordinator between Applicant and any Contractor used to implement Long-Term Mitigation;

h. Lend Applicant the funding necessary to pay Contractor to implement Long-Term Mitigation, provided that the _____ Subbasin GSAs have approved, in accordance with the Well Mitigation Program, any such loan to be made to an Applicant;

i. Perform initial one-time water quality testing, on an Applicant's new or mitigated well as necessary to ensure safe drinking water pursuant to SGMA and other state and local laws, and provide a certified copy of the testing results to the _____ Subbasin GSAs; Water quality filtration and/or monitoring equipment may be provided if conditions warrant pursuant to the Well Mitigation Program.

j. Terminate Interim Supplies by removing all related equipment, and providing the Applicant with notification;

k. Host a Well Stewardship Training workshop for the Applicant and provide additional educational resources;

l. Conduct a final inspection of the well no later than 60 days after completion of Long-Term Mitigation to verify that the work performed was satisfactory and within the applicable scope of work;

m. Obtain an Acknowledgement and Release (Payment Request) (in a form acceptable to the GSA) from the Applicant and provide a Notice of Project Completion to the _____ Subbasin GSAs.

6. **The _____ Subbasin GSAs Responsibilities.** The _____ Subbasin GSAs or the affected GSA, as the case may be, shall have the following obligations:
   a. Disburse funds to SHE to cover the costs incurred in supplying Emergency Water and Interim Supplies to Applicants as outlined in the Well Mitigation Program;

   b. Disburse funds to SHE to cover the costs of Long-Term Mitigation;

   c. Upon receipt of a recommendation for Long-Term Mitigation, the _____ Subbasin GSAs' Evaluation Committee (EC) shall conduct an investigation into whether the Dry Well qualifies for GSA funding pursuant to the Well Mitigation Program;

   d. If necessary, coordinate with SHE to modify or refine recommendations for Long-Term Mitigation;

   e. Review and, if appropriate, approve funding for Long-Term Mitigation within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the recommendation by the EC;

7. **Funding.** The _____ Subbasin GSAs shall reimburse to SHE, on a monthly basis, the costs of implementing its obligations hereunder, to the extent SHE has not already received funds for such purposes from either _____ Subbasin GSAs or other funding sources. Such reimbursement of costs shall be determined in consultation with the EC, consultants, and SHE.

8. **Accounting.** SHE shall provide to the _____ Subbasin GSAs, the following for the _____ Subbasin GSAs' review and approval:

   a. Estimate for Emergency Water and Interim Supplies. SHE shall provide the _____ Subbasin GSAs on an annual basis with a cost estimate for SHE's administration of Emergency Water and Interim Supplies prior to providing said services to Applicants to allow the _____ Subbasin GSAs an ability to budget and collect the necessary funding.

   b. Estimate for Long-Term Mitigation. SHE shall provide the _____ Subbasin GSAs with a cost estimate for the recommended Long-Term Mitigation to be implemented following completion of the initial site assessment and prior to providing said services to Applicants to allow the EC to evaluate an application and for the _____ Subbasin GSAs an ability to budget and collect the necessary funding.

   c. Invoice of Costs Incurred. SHE shall provide the _____ Subbasin GSAs with a detailed invoice for the total costs incurred the prior month from the administration of Emergency Water, Interim Supplies, and Long-Term Mitigation.

   d. "Costs" as used in this Section 8 shall include both Direct Project Costs and Administrative Costs.
      i. Administrative Costs include, personnel, travel, and overhead costs including staff salary and fringe benefits, mileage reimbursement or rental vehicles and fuel costs, and overhead including routine clerical and administrative support, office expense, space, telephone, and insurance.

ii. Direct Project Costs may include, but are not limited to, bottled water, hauled water, tank and pump purchase, professional contracted services, permits, laboratory analysis, water filtration devices, water level monitoring equipment, and such other items as the Parties may agree to in advance from time to time.

9. **The _____ Subbasin Consultation and Cooperation.** SHE hereby agrees to consult with and coordinate with _____ Subbasin GSAs' staff including but not limited to _____ Subbasin Coordination Committee, staff of any affected GSA, EC, and any consultants hired by _____ Subbasin GSAs, regarding the Interim Supplies and Long-Term Mitigation. SHE further agrees that it will not commence, cause to be commenced, or allow commencement of, any Long-Term Mitigation that has not been approved in accordance with the Well Mitigation Program.

10. **Recordkeeping.** SHE agrees to obtain copies of all documents related to each Project, including documents executed by Applicant and/or Contractor, including but not limited to any permits, site plans, Contractor estimates, Contractor invoices, Contractor contracts, Contractor licenses, lending agreements, disbursement receipts, Applicant agreements and consents, Applicant approvals to Project actions, water testing results and/or certifications, and any and all technical reports generated in relation to the Project. SHE further agrees to provide the _____ Subbasin GSAs copies of all documents in its possession.

11. **Audit/Accounting.** On reasonable request, each of the _____ Subbasin GSAs shall have the right to, at its own expense, inspect, audit, and copy from SHE's books, records, and other documents, including computer files, supporting orders, and invoices, as necessary to verify SHE's adherence to this Agreement and to balance the accounts of the _____ Subbasin GSAs related to the Projects.

12. **Outreach.** The Parties shall coordinate Outreach pursuant to the Well Mitigation Plan.

13. **Exhibits.** Each Exhibit attached to this Agreement is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by this reference.

14. **Insurance.** SHE shall carry workers compensation insurance in accordance with workers compensation laws of the State of California. SHE shall furnish the _____ Subbasin GSAs with a Certificate of Insurance with combined single limits of at least $1,000,000.00 for bodily injuries and property damages on each occurrence. The Certificate of Insurance shall state that the contractual liability assumed under this Agreement is covered and shall provide that ten (10) days' notice of cancellation or reduction in coverage shall be given to the _____ Subbasin GSAs. Certificates of said coverage shall be filed with the _____ Subbasin GSAs before any work commences.

15. **Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, SHE shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend each of the _____ Subbasin GSAs, its directors, officers, employees, consultants, agents, or authorized volunteers, and each of them, from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, costs, expenses, losses, or liabilities, in law or in equity, of every kind or nature whatsoever, arising out of or in any manner, directly or indirectly, connected with SHE's performance of its obligations under this Agreement, or SHE's failure to comply with any of its obligations under this Agreement, including but not limited to any action related to water quality, water quantity, water supply, water source, well performance, well location, or well construction.

    To the fullest extent permitted by law, the _____ Subbasin GSAs shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend SHE, its directors, officers, employees, consultants, agents, or authorized volunteers, and each of them, from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, costs, expenses,

losses, or liabilities, in law or in equity, of every kind or nature whatsoever, arising out of or in any manner, directly or indirectly, connected with a _____ Subbasin GSA's performance of its obligations under this Agreement, or individual failure to comply with any of its obligations under this Agreement, including but not limited to any action related to water quality, water quantity, water supply, water source, well performance, well location, or well construction.

16. **Disclaimer.** Nothing in this Agreement represents or should be construed to represent that any _____ Subbasin GSA is responsible for water levels, well performance, wells going dry, or any other injury and adverse consequences related to groundwater use, levels, or elevations. The _____ Subbasin GSAs manage groundwater but do not pump groundwater and have no liability related to overdraft, pumping, water levels, or the impacts therefrom.

17. **Termination of Agreement.** This Agreement may be terminated with or without cause by either Party by giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other. Any funds SHE has expended pursuant to this Agreement prior to the date of termination shall be reimbursed by the _____ Subbasin GSAs pursuant to Section 7, above. Any funds SHE has received in excess of its actual costs shall be returned to the _____ Subbasin GSAs promptly.

18. **Default.** Failure to perform any of the terms of this Agreement shall be deemed a material default of a Party.

19. **Remedies.** If a Party defaults, or otherwise materially breaches this Agreement, any other non-defaulting Party may seek recission of this Agreement, damages, or any other remedy it deems appropriate for the implementation of the Well Mitigation Program or the performance of this Agreement.

20. **Successors and Assigns.** All of the terms, covenants, and provisions hereof shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the respective successors and assigns of the Parties hereto.

21. **Compliance with all Laws.** The Parties are required to comply with all laws, regulations, permitting, including but not limited to any local agency rules or regulations, as they may exist from time to time.

22. **Attorney's Fees.** In the event of a dispute between the Parties related to or arising from this Agreement or any of the actions or events described herein, the prevailing Party in any litigation or arbitration shall be entitled to recover all costs and fees associated with the action or arbitration, including, without limitation, all attorney's fees and expert witness fees.

23. **Governing Law.** The laws of the State of California shall govern under the interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement.

24. **Interpretation.** The Parties agree that the terms and provisions of this Agreement embody their mutual intent and that such terms and conditions are not to be construed more liberally in favor, or more strictly against, any party.

25. **Partial Invalidity.** If any term or provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, to any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, a provision shall be added to this Agreement as similar in terms to such invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible, and be legal, valid and enforceable, and the remainder of this Agreement or the application of such term or provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid or

unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each remaining term and provision of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

26. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument.

27. **Independent Contractor Status.** It is mutually understood that, in performing the services herein specified, SHE shall act as an independent contractor and shall have control of the work and the manner in which it is performed. SHE shall be responsible for providing legally mandated benefits and complying with the state and federal withholding regulations. The _____ Subbasin GSAs retain the general right of inspection in order to judge whether, in the _____ Subbasin GSAs' opinion, SHE is performing the work in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed and made effective on the date first written above.

SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES

By: _____
Thomas J. Collishaw, President/CEO

CHARGE RATE SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Title	Charge Rate Range
Administrative Analyst 1	98.17 - 117.85
Administrative Analyst 2	107.29 - 130.06
Administrative Analyst, Sr.	121.72 - 149.41
Area Superintendent	114.16 - 139.27
Asset Management Specialist 1	98.17 - 117.85
Asset Management Specialist 2	107.29 - 130.06
Asset Management Specialist, Sr.	121.72 - 149.41
Asset Manager 1	114.16 - 139.27
Asset Manager 2	130.06 - 160.58
Assistant Program Director	149.41 - 179.54
Community Development Specialist 1	98.17 - 117.85
Community Development Specialist 2	107.29 - 130.06
Community Development Specialist, Sr.	121.72 - 149.41
Community Development Manager 1	114.16 - 139.27
Community Development Manager 2	130.06 - 160.58
Construction Assistant	80.32 - 93.93
Homeownership Counselor 1	85.65 - 101.06
Homeownership Counselor 2	92.80 - 110.64
Homeownership Counselor 3	101.06 - 121.72
Housing Specialist 1	98.17 - 117.85
Housing Specialist 2	107.29 - 130.06
Housing Specialist, Sr.	121.72 - 149.41
Loan Processor 1	85.65 - 101.06
Loan Processor 2	92.80 - 110.64
Loan Processor, Sr.	101.06 - 121.72
Manager 1	114.16 - 139.27
Manager 2	130.06 - 160.58
Office Manager	101.06 - 121.72
Program Director	172.90 - 218.01
Real Estate Development Program Director	186.50 - 236.83
Assistant Project Manager 1	83.49 - 98.17
Assistant Project Manager 2	90.29 - 107.29
Project Manager 1	98.17 - 117.85
Project Manager 2	107.29 - 130.06
Project Manager, Sr.	121.72 - 149.41
Project Technician 1	77.61 - 90.29
Project Technician 2	83.49 - 98.17
Project Technician 3	90.29 - 107.29
Superintendent 1	96.60 - 115.76
Superintendent 2	102.38 - 123.48
Superintendent 3	108.75 - 132.01

Current Charge Rates are effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Charges incurred after June 30, 2026 will be billed according to then-current schedule. Rates are all inclusive, i.e., they include not only salary and benefits, but also travel and overhead including routine clerical and administrative support, office expense, space, telephone, etc. Certain pass-through costs such as PIRTs and appraisals will be billed separately and in addition to these charge rates.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

Special Meeting Date: November 17, 2026

TO: **ESJGWA Board of Directors**

FROM: **Julia Berry, Executive Director**

SUBJECT: **Draft Coordination Agreement Regarding Implementing Demand Management in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin**

Date: **November 10, 2026**

Discussion Item

A draft Coordination Agreement prepared by Counselors representing GSAs in the Subbasin regarding Implementing Demand Management in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin ("Agreement" or "Coordination Agreement"). The document establishes voluntary Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) groundwater reduction commitments, annual water supply reporting requirements, and a process for evaluating progress toward groundwater use reductions by GSA.

Background and Purpose

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) and its member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies committed to agree on demand management responsibility in Technical Memo No. 6 to the GSP in calendar year 2026.

The draft Coordination Agreement establishes voluntary groundwater reduction commitments for participating GSAs within the Subbasin. These commitments are intended to establish minimum reduction targets and demonstrate continued progress toward eliminating groundwater overdraft and avoiding undesirable results.

Draft Agreement

The attached draft Coordination Agreement is an effort to establish an initial commitment to reducing groundwater impacts in the Subbasin through targeted groundwater demand management. The Agreement recognizes that groundwater use information continues to evolve and the draft Agreement is intended to provide a fair, inclusive, and flexible approach to demand management.

This approach emphasizes cooperation and accountability rather than prescriptive enforcement, while preserving the Authority's ability to evaluate progress and address deficiencies in meeting the Subbasin's sustainability objectives.

Net Groundwater Impact. To support implementation, the ESJGWA has engaged a consultant to develop a methodology for calculating the Net Groundwater Impact attributable to each GSA for the 2024–2026 period. This methodology is intended to provide a consistent basis for measuring groundwater impacts and evaluating progress toward the established reduction commitments.

Minimum Reductions. Each GSA with a negative Net Groundwater Impact will reduce it impact by 3% from the baseline by the year 2025 and by 5% from the baseline by 2040.

Additional Reductions. Certain GSAs have volunteered to be responsible for reductions to groundwater pumping in greater amounts than the minimum 3 and 5 percentages described above. The numbers below are current estimates of voluntary groundwater reduction responsibility, listed by GSA.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Draft Reduction (AF)
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD)	26,000
Stockton East Water District (SEWD)	24,000
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD)	20,000
Eastside GSA	13,000
San Joaquin County GSA #1	3,000

The groundwater reduction amounts listed are derived from a Projected Conditions Baseline" model run that evaluated only demand reduction in the form of reduction in total groundwater pumped.

This Agreement uses Net Groundwater Impact to measure progress. This difference in metrics and differences between actual and modeled conditions may require adjustments to the reduction amounts to maintain groundwater levels and prevent undesirable results. Reduction amounts shall be reviewed at least every five (5) years, beginning in 2030, and amended as needed.

Annual Reporting. The Agreement also establishes an annual reporting requirement under which each participating GSA must submit its annual Net Groundwater Impact to the ESJGWA on or before March 1 of each calendar year. This reporting will provide the Authority with information necessary to evaluate overall Subbasin progress and the performance of individual GSAs relative to their commitments.

Lack of Progress. The draft Agreement includes a collaborative process for addressing potential noncompliance. If the ESJGWA determines that insufficient progress is being made toward the commitments established under the agreement, the Board will meet and confer to discuss the circumstances and seek resolution.

Miscellaneous. The draft Coordination Agreement does not make any determination of rights. Nothing in the Agreement determines water rights, or the respective rights of any GSA, or members of a GSA, any landowner, or any other party who extracts water from the subbasin. Nor does this document represent a full accounting of any water rights to groundwater. The Agreement will be in effect when all parties have signed.

Exhibits. Exhibits A and B are being prepared. This agreement remains a draft and will undergo review and revision until the GSAs determine that its contents, including the exhibits, are acceptable for approval.

Attachment **Draft Coordination Agreement Regarding Implementing Demand Management in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin**

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

COORDINATION AGREEMENT REGARDING IMPLEMENTING DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN SUBBASIN

The sixteen Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (each a **GSA** and collectively the **GSAs**) of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (**Subbasin**) listed on the signature page at the end of this Coordination Agreement Regarding Implementing Demand Management in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (**Agreement**) agree as follows, based on the following circumstances:

RECITALS:

A. The GSAs each adopted the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan which was amended in 2022 and in 2024 (collectively the **GSP**). The 2024 Amendment adds Technical Memorandum No. 6 to the GSP regarding Demand Management (the **DM Memo**).

B. The DM Memo explains that the GSAs have committed to implement certain projects and management actions (**PMA**), as well as demand reduction (**DM**), to achieve sustainability in the Subbasin by 2040 and includes a timeline for GSA actions toward that end.

C. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish an initial commitment by the GSAs regarding allocating responsibility for PMAs and DM.

D. The GSAs acknowledge that the information on the Subbasin is imperfect and evolving and that the commitments in this Agreement will need to be revisited over time so that the GSAs can continue to work cooperatively to achieve Subbasin sustainability in a manner that is fair and economically and environmentally sensitive to the communities that they serve.

With this background, the GSAs agree as follows:

AGREEMENT:

1. SUSTAINABILITY GOAL. The GSAs agree that the ultimate goal is subbasin sustainability, which the GSAs agree is determined in accordance with SGMA as avoiding undesirable results, not as a model derived "zero change in groundwater storage" calculation. The GSAs intend to remain flexible to adapt as needed to achieve sustainability and revisit the commitments made in this Agreement as frequently as necessary.

2. GROUNDWATER IMPACTS AND COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE OVERDRAFT.

   2.1. Net Groundwater Impact. The GSAs will measure progress under this Agreement by calculating the "Net Groundwater Impact" of each GSA. The three (3) year average Net Groundwater Impact for the years 2024-2026 will be used as the "Baseline." A running three (3) year average will be used to measure progress against the Baseline. The GSAs, through the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Association (ESJGWA), have engaged a consultant to develop a method to compute the Groundwater Impact of each GSA that accounts for total groundwater pumped within a GSA as well as GSA recharge activities and the return flows from irrigated agriculture to the Subbasin. **EXHIBIT A** attached

hereto provides the best available information on Net Groundwater Impact for each GSA for the first three-year period of 2024-2026, and illustrates the method of calculation.

2.2. Minimum Reduction. Each GSA is responsible for implementing policies and actions to prevent a negative Net Groundwater Impact from Baseline. Each GSA that has a negative Net Groundwater Impact shall implement policies to reduce its Net Groundwater Impact by three percent (3%) from Baseline by 2035 and by five percent (5%) from Baseline by 2040.

2.3. Additional Reductions. In lieu of the Minimum Reduction set forth in Section 2.2, the following GSAs will implement projects, programs and policies, including demand management policies as needed, to achieve reductions from Baseline that are larger than the Minimum Reductions as follows:

GSA	Baseline AFA[1]	2030 Reduction AFA	2035 Additional Reduction AFA	2040 Additional Reduction AFA	Total Reduction AFA
NSJWCD		7,000	9,000	10,000	26,000
SEWD					24,000
CSJWCD					20,000
Eastside GSA					13,000
SJ County GSA #1					3,000

The Total Reduction amounts set forth above were derived from a "Projected Conditions Baseline" model run that evaluated only demand reduction in the form of reduction in total groundwater pumped. Because this Agreement utilizes a different metric to measure progress (Net Groundwater Impact) it is possible that the Total Reduction numbers set forth above are larger than what is needed to maintain groundwater levels and prevent undesirable results. It is also possible that real world conditions will differ from the model, and the Total Reduction numbers will need to be larger or smaller to avoid undesirable results. Therefore, the numbers set forth in this Section 2.3 will be revisited and amended as needed at least every five (5) years, beginning in 2030.

3. ANNUAL NET GROUNDWATER IMPACT REPORT. Each GSA shall provide the ESJGWA with its annual Net Groundwater Impact on or before March 1 each year, along with the data used to compute this number in a form agreed to by all GSAs consistent with Exhibit B. ESJGWA staff will prepare an annual report to be distributed to all GSAs that summarizes the current computed Net Groundwater Impact and progress from Baseline for each GSA. The report shall contain the information and utilize the methodology described in **EXHIBIT B** attached hereto. The information gathered for this annual report shall be used to continually update the groundwater model for the Subbasin (which updates shall occur at least every five (5) years). The annual report shall be completed and reviewed at an ESJGWA Board meeting on or before June of the year following each water year.

[1] AFA means acre feet annually.

4. LOCALIZED IMPACTS. Notwithstanding the commitments in this Agreement, the GSAs recognize that groundwater pumping may have localized undesirable results within the Subbasin that the GSAs will need to address individually or collectively in addition to the commitments made in this Agreement.

5. LACK OF PROGRESS. If the ESJGWA Board determines that a GSA is not making substantial progress toward the commitments in this Agreement, and the lack of progress is hindering the sustainability goal of the Subbasin, the ESJGWA Board shall commence a meet and confer process regarding the GSA's non-compliance, in accordance with the provisions of Section 9.

6. NO DETERMINATION OF RIGHTS. This Agreement and any reports generated under it are solely for the purpose of cooperative management of the subbasin by the GSAs. Nothing in this Agreement determines the water rights or the respective rights of any GSA, member of a GSA, landowner, or other party to extract water from the Subbasin. Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver or admission or any right, claim or defense regarding water rights or respective rights to groundwater in the Subbasin. All parties to this Agreement expressly acknowledge the limitations of Water Code section 10720.5 and confirm that no party to this Agreement, will use the Agreement or the data and information developed pursuant to this Agreement to support any claims to prescription against any party to this Agreement.

7. NOT A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING AND NO WAIVER. The commitments set forth in Section 2 represent an Agreement and commitment for GSAs with a negative Net Groundwater Impact to reduce this impact. The commitments set for in Section 2 do not represent a full accounting of the rights to groundwater or the attributable total overdraft for any GSA and no party to this Agreement is agreeing that the commitments in Section 2 fully resolve the rights to groundwater or the attributable overdraft of any party in the basin. Further, the Agreement does not resolve or otherwise limit any party from bringing a quiet title action or an action alleging injury based on any Party's water use.

8. SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREEMENT. This Agreement will be effective when all parties execute it and shall continue in force and effect until terminated by a majority of the parties.

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION. It is the desire of parties to informally resolve all disputes and controversies related to this Agreement whenever possible at the least possible level of formality and cost. If a dispute occurs, the disputing members shall meet and confer to resolve the matter. If informal resolution cannot be achieved, the matter will be submitted to a mediator. The mediator, who must have experience in water-related disputes, will be selected by the parties who participate in the mediation. The parties who participate in the mediation will use their best efforts to resolve the issues within thirty (30) days. The costs of any such mediation will be borne equally among the parties who participate in the mediation. Initiation of this mediation process will be through written notice to all Parties to this Agreement by any of the Parties hereto. If a dispute is not resolved within sixty (180) days of initiating the effort to mediate, an aggrieved Party may pursue any other remedy available at law.

10. COOPERATION. The Parties will cooperate in carrying out the provisions and intent of this Agreement.

11. NOTICE. Any notice or communication required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally, delivered by nationally recognized overnight courier service or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, or (if an email address is provided) sent by electronic transmission (subject to confirmation of such electronic transmission). Any such notice or communication shall be deemed to have been given (i) when delivered, if personally delivered, (ii) with the day received from a nationally recognized overnight courier service, if sent by nationally recognized overnight courier service, (iii) the day of sending, if sent by email before 5:00 p.m. (PT) on any Business Day or the next succeeding Business Day if sent by email after 5:00 p.m. (PT) on any Business Day or on any day other than a Business Day or (iv) five (5) Business Days after the date of mailing, if mailed by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, in each case, to the address or email address adjacent to each party's signature, or to such other address or addresses or email address or addresses as such party may subsequently designate to the other party by notice given hereunder. As used herein, "**Business Day**" means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or any other day on which banking institutions in the State of California are authorized by law or executive action to close.

12. MISCELLANEOUS.
    12.1. *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall be deemed to be one and the same agreement. A signed copy of this Agreement delivered by facsimile, e-mail or other means of Electronic Transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement.
    12.2. *Severability*. If one or more clauses, sentences, paragraphs or provisions of this Agreement are held to be unlawful, invalid or unenforceable, it is hereby agreed by the parties that the remainder of the Agreement shall not be affected thereby. Such clauses, sentences, paragraphs or provisions shall be deemed reformed so as to be lawful, valid and enforced to the maximum extent possible.
    12.3. *Entire Agreement*. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among the parties and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, written or oral.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Contract to be executed as a sealed instrument as of the Effective Date.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY (FOR SJC#1 AND SJC#2)

_____
Chair, Board of Supervisors
San Joaquin County,
State of California

Attest:

_____
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Joaquin County

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

Address: _____
_____
_____
Phone:
Email:

SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY

By: _____ Attest: _____
Name: _____ Secretary
Its: _____

Address: 1806 W. Kettleman Lane, Suite L
Lodi, CA 9520795242
Email: dean@mohanlaw.net
Phone: 209.888-6030

STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: PO Box 5157
6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95205-0157
Email: jhopkins@sewd.net
Phone: 209.948.0333

LOCKEFORD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: 17725 Tully Road
Lockeford, CA 95237
Email: lcsd@softcom.net
Phone: 209.727.5035

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: 1900 McHenry Avenue, Suite 305
Modesto, CA _____
manager@csjwcd.org
209.466.7952

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: 1205 East F Street
Oakdale, CA 95361
Email: smoody@oakdaleirrigation.com
Phone: 209.847.0341

CENTRAL DELTA WATER AGENCY

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: PO Box 1461
235 E Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95201
Email: ngmplcs@pacbell.net
Phone: 209.465.5883

WOODBRIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: 18750 N. Lower Sacramento Road
Woodbridge, CA 95258
Email: widirrigation@gmail.com
Phone: 209.625.8663

EASTSIDE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: c/o Calavera County Water District
PO Box 846
120 Toma Court
San Andreas, CA 95249
Email: administration@ccwd.org
Phone: 209.754.3543

CITY OF LODI

By: _____ Attest: _____
City Manager City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
City Attorney

Address: PO Box 3006
221 W Pine Street
Lodi, CA 95241
Email: scarney@lodi.gov
Phone: 209.333.6700

LINDEN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: PO Box 595
18243 Highway 26
Linden, CA 95236
Email: rmblrmn@aol.com
Phone: 209.754.3543

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: PO Box 334
Victor, CA 95253
498 E Kettleman Lane
Lodi, CA 95209
Email: steve@nsjwcd.com
Phone: 209.368.2101

SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

By: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

Address: 11011 E. Highway 120
Manteca, CA 95336
Email: peter.rietkerk@ssjid.com
Phone: 209.249.4600

CITY OF MANTECA

By: _____ Attest: _____
Mayor Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
City Attorney

Address: 1001 W. Center Street, Suite B
Manteca, CA 95337
Email: mayorcouncilclerk@ci.manteca.ca.us
Phone: 209.923.8960

CITY OF STOCKTON

By: _____ Attest: _____
City Manager Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
City Attorney

Address: 425 North El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95204
Email:
Phone: 209.937.8212

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

Special Meeting Date: November 17, 2026

TO: **ESJGWA Board of Directors**

FROM: **Julia Berry, Executive Director**

SUBJECT: **Review of ESJGWA Actions and Accomplishments: July 2025–December 2026**

Date: **November 10, 2026**

This staff report documents completed tasks and accomplishments of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority during the period of July 2025 through December 2026, along with remaining work anticipated for completion by year-end. Its purpose is to memorialize the actions taken by the Authority to benefit the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin and fulfill its responsibilities under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Net Groundwater Impact Annual Accounting Framework. ESJGWA retained Zanjero to develop a Net Groundwater Impact annual accounting framework for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. This work will establish a consistent approach to accounting for groundwater pumping, water inputs, and recharge attributable to each member Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The framework will support the evaluation of individual GSA contributions toward basin sustainability and inform the implementation of projects and management actions.

Consultant Coordination and Monitoring Management. Staff strengthened the coordination and management of consultants responsible for groundwater level monitoring, water quality monitoring, and other metrics used to evaluate implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). This effort focused on organizing responsibilities, improving the efficiency of data collection, and ensuring that required information is compiled and uploaded to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Portal in a timely manner.

ARPA Grant Funding and Monitoring Infrastructure. ESJGWA successfully used the remaining portion of the $2.401 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding made available to the Authority through grant funds by San Joaquin County. The funding supported the construction of new groundwater monitoring wells, installation of telemetry and the connection of that infrastructure to the basin's data management system. These investments expanded the basin's monitoring capabilities and established the means to collect and maintain data from the newly constructed wells.

SGMA Portal and Data Management Improvements. Staff and consultants updated the basin's information in the SGMA Portal and cleaned up records within the basin's data management system. This process included reconciling information across sources, recovering previously collected data, and consolidating records that had not been aggregated in one location. These efforts closed numerous data gaps and improved the completeness, organization, and accessibility of information used for basin management and reporting.

Domestic Well Mitigation Program. ESJGWA advanced the Domestic Well Mitigation Program from an adopted policy toward an operational program. Staff updated the program to reflect the Authority's current staffing and governance structure and developed the application materials and public information needed to support implementation. These efforts established a clearer process for well owners seeking assistance and strengthened the Authority's ability to receive, evaluate, and respond to claims. Additionally, with the assistance of Self Help Enterprises, the Program will be fully supported to provide essential services and adequate response in a timely manner.

Response to Department of Water Resources Review. ESJGWA completed a six-month effort to respond to Department of Water Resources (DWR) requests for clarification regarding the 2024 GSP Amendment and the 2025 Periodic Evaluation. The process included meetings and correspondence with DWR staff, coordination among consultants and member GSA representatives, and preparation of six technical memoranda addressing the requested information. This work brought together multiple staffing teams to develop a coordinated basin response in consultation with all 16 GSAs.

Public Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement. ESJGWA strengthened stakeholder engagement through regularly scheduled public meetings supported by substantive staff reports. These reports explained the background, purpose, and requested direction for action items, providing Board members and the public with information needed for meaningful discussion. The meetings generated lively public dialogue on groundwater management, SGMA implementation, and compliance with the basin's GSP. The Authority's Executive Director attended multiple individual GSA meetings and additionally presented at various stakeholder workshops.

Online Access to Public Meeting Recordings. ESJGWA established a process to post recordings of its public meetings online for viewing at any time. This expanded access allows stakeholders who cannot attend a meeting to review Board discussions and actions at their convenience. Making recordings available also provides an ongoing resource for member GSAs and the public.

Demand Management Coordination. A remaining priority for completion is an agreement addressing coordination among member GSAs to assume responsibility for demand management implementation in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. A Coordination Agreement is intended to establish a shared framework for tracking progress toward sustainability.

November 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.

Prop 4, Bond Grant Funds

- Here is a link to sign up for DWR's Prop 4 email notification list.
- Prop 4 requires that 40% of grant funds provide "direct and meaningful" benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DAC), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) or Vulnerable Communities, with a minimum of 10% to SDAC's. To find out if your project covers a DAC, SDAC or Vulnerable Community the following tools can be used along with a longer description of the requirements in each grant program guidelines:
  - DAC/SDAC
  - Vulnerable Community Platform
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program (~$320 million available)**
  - Draft guidelines are now available for the Small GSA (under 10,000 AFY pumping, $3.5 million in funding) & Technical Assistance ($6.5 million available). **Final Guidelines will be published in October of 2026.**
  - Draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package for the full Proposition 4 SGMA Draft grant guidelines and PSP are now available. Public comments can be submitted to FinancialAssistance@water.ca.gov and the **deadline is December 4th, 2026**. Final PSP and guidelines are expected February 2027, with concept proposals are expected to open early 2027, and full applications over summer 2027. Workshops to go over the draft guidelines are scheduled for the following dates:
    - General Public Comment Workshop: November 5th, 2026 – 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Register here.
    - Tribal Public Comment Workshop: Nov 17th, 2026 – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Register here.

Watershed Resilience Grant Program (~$60 million for conservation implementation and ~$92 million for watershed resilience planning and projects)

- These funds will be distributed under 2 separate solicitations.
- Conservation Implementation-Capital projects with a water conservation benefit. Projects don't need to be listed in a Watershed Resilience Plan but must be selected by a "collaborative group" (definition forthcoming in the Guidelines). **Draft Guidelines, the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP), Draft Grant Agreement Template and Draft Self-Certification Eligibility Form now available and open for public comment through November 9th, 2026;** concept proposals early 2027, full applications spring 2027.
  - Tribal Public Comment Workshop, October 13, 2026, 2pm-3:30pm, Register here
  - General Public Comment Workshop, October 22, 2026, 1pm-3pm, Register here
- Watershed Resilience Planning+ (~$92 million for projects) – Grantees will work collaboratively across their watershed to develop a Watershed Resilience Plan and then use funding to implement the top-priority project(s) identified by that plan. Draft Guidelines/PSP expected this winter; concept proposals late 2027, followed by full applications.

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program ($200 million available through Department of Conservation)

The draft guidelines are available on the Department's website at the following link: Draft MLRP Climate Bond Guidelines. A 45-day public review period is open between October 23rd to December 7th. During this review period, members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments via email to MLRP staff at mlrp@conservation.ca.gov.

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

Upcoming Dates:

- Public Workshop 1: November 4, 10:00 – 11:30 am. (Registration Link)
- Public Workshop 1: November 6, 2:00 – 3:30 pm. (Registration Link)
- Office Hours from 12:00pm – 1:00 pm on November 6th, November 13th, and December 4th. (Registration Link). Attendees of office hours are encouraged to submit their questions in advance to mlrp@conservation.ca.gov.
- Winter 2026: Revised Guidelines released. Response to comments posted
- Winter 2026-'27: Guidelines finalized. Initial application period open

To sign up for notices please either use the mailing list link or us at MLRP@conservation.ca.gov

Other DWR Prop 4 grant program information:

- Urban Streams Restoration Program declared that urban creek protection, restoration, and enhancement are best undertaken by local agencies and organizations with assistance from the State. The USRP funds projects and provides technical assistance to restore streams impacted by urban development to a more natural state. The 2026 Final Guidelines and PSP are available here. **The USRP will begin accepting Concept Proposals on Oct. 1, 2026 and will open the Full Application Solicitation for projects who were invited on January 4, 2027.**
  - Public Workshops will be held October 28th 2-4 pm (register here) and Tuesday November 17th 2-4:30 (register here)
- The Dam Safety and Climate Resilience program has closed public comment on draft Guidelines. Final guidelines will be released later this year. This program has $464 million available to be administered in 2 different rounds.
- The California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) draft Guidelines are now available. The public comment period has ended. Final guidelines will be released later this year.
- The public review period for the draft Guidelines of the Riverine Stewardship has ended. Final Guidelines can be found here. This program has $20.5 million available.
- The Brackish Water Desalination Grant Program will held a pre-draft Guideline webinar on June 22nd from 1:00–2:00 PM. Draft proposal solicitation package expected late 2026/early 2027. This program will have $57.6 million available through a competitive application process.

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

"Super El Nino" flood preparation

The September 26th, Governor's proclamation emphasizes preparedness. It mobilizes state support and advances recharge readiness; it does not automatically waive permitting requirements. DWR has support available. If you are looking for assistance with recharge related planning resources, mapping tools, forecasts, or permitting assistance please reach out to: **recharge@water.ca.gov**

DWR, Sustainable Conservation, and the Flood-MAR Network are co-hosting a "Recharge Readiness Webinar Series" to share information about recently completed guidance, projects, and case studies to help recharge project planners and implementers (growers and local agencies, in particular) prepare for the wet season ahead. These webinars will be held twice monthly on the second and fourth Thursday at 11 am Pacific beginning on August 27, 2026. Please see the accompanying flyer for dates and topics for each meeting. Zoom register link: tinyurl.com/Recharge26-27

DWR Releases Fall 2026 California's Groundwater Conditions Semi-Annual Update

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the Fall 2026 - California's Groundwater Conditions, Semi-Annual Update, which provides a look back at California's groundwater conditions during Water Year 2026 and the efforts to prepare for future recharge opportunities.

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

Bulletin 74: Public Review Begins November 5th

The 60-day public review of the draft California Well Standards begins on Thursday, November 5, 2026, and **closes Thursday, January 7, 2027**. Public comments can be submitted in writing to Bulletin74@water.ca.gov or at the following public meetings.

- Public meeting #1: Wednesday, December 9, 2026, from 12–3 pm. Register using this link.
- Public meeting #2: Friday, December 11, 2026, from 10–1 pm. Register using this link.

The draft document can be accessed at the following webpage starting November 5th.

Save The Date: Fall 2026 GSA Forum

Please mark your calendars for this Fall's GSA Forum to be held virtually on **November 18, 2026** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The agenda and registration link will be shared once the details are finalized. These forums provide a platform for GSA representatives to engage with one another and exchange ideas on topics related to GSP implementation. The theme of the event is "The Great Groundwater Balancing Act: Approaches to Managing Demands" and will feature interview style case studies with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, breakout sessions, as well as DWR updates.

Onboarding Resources for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

DWR has developed GSA Onboarding Resources including an Onboarding Checklist and a Handbook Template, to support GSAs as they welcome new board members and staff into their roles under SGMA. These materials are designed to help orient new team members to GSA governance, local GSP implementation, and key SGMA requirements. The resources include two documents. The first is the Onboarding Checklist paired with Section I of the Handbook Template, which highlights GSA- and GSP-specific information. This file is provided as a customizable Word template and is available here. The second document includes Section II of the Handbook Template, presented as a PDF that outlines statewide information and resources; it is available here. A short training video on how to use the template is available here.

C2VSimFG Web Application Released

The California Central Valley Groundwater–Surface Water Simulation Model—Fine Grid (C2VSimFG) Web Application is an interactive online tool for exploring outputs from C2VSimFG Version 1.5. It provides users with streamlined access to model results. C2VSimFG simulates groundwater and surface water conditions across the Central Valley and can be used to estimate regional water budgets for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) planning and implementation. Developed for GSAs and other interested parties, the application is designed to support users with little to no modeling experience. Through a user-friendly interface, users can visualize model outputs without running the model, including hydrographs, water budgets, and zonal budget charts generated on demand from the latest model results. To learn more and access the C2VSimFG web application, visit https://c2vsimfg.water.ca.gov/. For questions or technical assistance, please contact c2vsimfgtechsupport@water.ca.gov.

Basin Characterization Program Launches Basin Characterization Tools (BCTools) and Monthly BCX meeting link

DWR's Basin Characterization Program is pleased to announce the release of Basin Characterization Tools (BCTools), a new suite of open-source tools designed to help local agencies, consultants, and researchers better understand California's groundwater basins.

BCTools provides integrated workflows for developing hydrostratigraphic models, creating 3D sediment texture models, and estimating aquifer flow parameters from airborne electromagnetic (AEM) data, lithology and geophysical logs, and aquifer flow measurements. These tools support high-quality, data-driven groundwater analyses and modeling that can advance local and regional groundwater management.

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

Basin Characterization Exchange (BCX) meeting are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Upcoming webinar information can be found on the BCX Hub. To receive updates on upcoming meetings, join the BCX listserv or email us at Basin.Characterization@water.ca.gov.

DWR Releases Final Subsidence BMP and Educational Resource Webpage

DWR has released a final Best Management Practices document, that will serve as a guide for groundwater managers on the basics of subsidence, how to best manage it, and available technical assistance.

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.

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 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 spring 2027 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.

Coming soon: Monitoring Network Module Updates

DWR is enhancing the SGMA Portal and Monitoring Network Module (MNM) to collect additional Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) information. These updates will require basins to submit:

- Qualitative and quantitative undesirable result definitions.
- Basin-wide and site-specific minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for land subsidence, groundwater storage reduction, and seawater intrusion.
- Site-specific groundwater elevation-based minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones when groundwater levels are used as a proxy for other sustainability indicators.

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

Once released, basins must submit this additional SMC information, related to their existing groundwater sustainability plan(s) (GSP(s)), prior to uploading their periodic evaluation, including basins with evaluations due in January 2027. More details will be available in November 2026, near the anticipated release of these enhancements. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.

The CASGEM Online System has moved to the SGMA Portal July of 2026

The Department is completed integration of 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.

A user manual for the CASGEM submodule, a Voluntary Submodule User Manual and a batch import user manual can be found here. If you have questions, please check out the CASGEM webpage (here) or send your questions CASGEM@water.ca.gov.

DWR releases final WY 2023 statewide land use data

DWR has officially released final data set for 2023 and 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 14 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 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.