



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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Stockton East Water
District
Mel Panizza

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Company
Craig Stevens

Central Delta Water
Agency
George Biagi Jr.

Central San Joaquin Water
Conservation District
Richard Wagner

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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

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Joaquin County Council of Governments

555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

II. Additions to the Agenda

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

III. Public Comment

(Members of the public may address the Board on any matter related to the Authority that is not included on the Agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.)

IV. Presentations

- A. Rhett Anderson, Self Help Enterprises - [Page 3](#)

V. Action Items

- A. Approval of September 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes - [Page 24](#)
- 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 funds, in a form approved by Counsel. - [Page 26](#)
- 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 - [Page 31](#)
- D. Stakeholder Engagement Framework – Review and consider action to approve a framework for stakeholder engagement - [Page 33](#)
- 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 budgeted for website in FY 2026-2027 Budget, existing contractor* - [Page 43](#)
- 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 - [Page 45](#)

VI. Authority Staff/Agency Reports

- A. Staff Report – Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director
- B. Chelsea Spier, Department of Water Resources

VII. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting

November 11, 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/j/82989811836>

Phone One Tap:

+16694449171,,82989811836#

DIAL: +1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 829 8981 1836

Passcode: 903992



YEARS

**Self-Help
Enterprises**



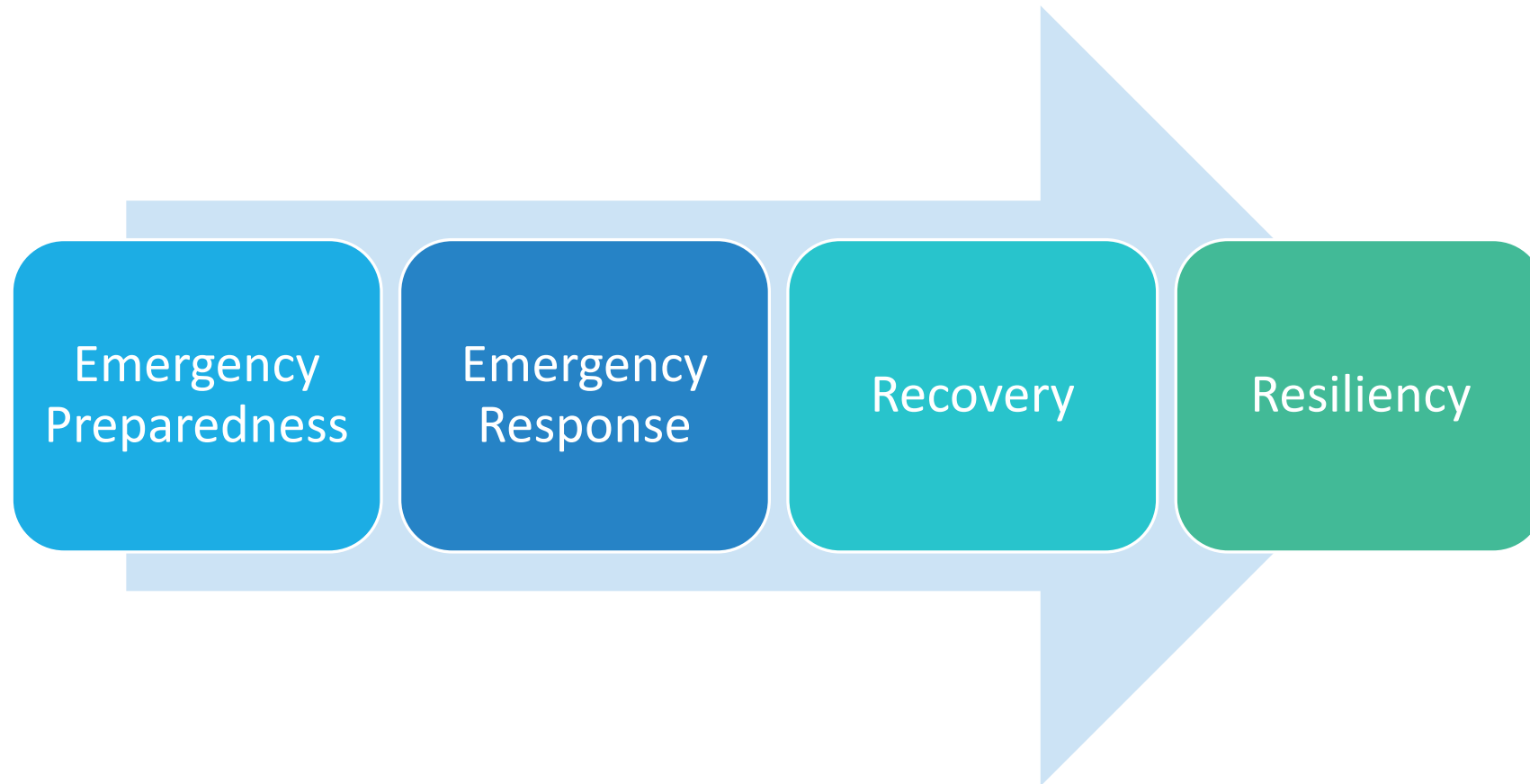
Self Help Enterprises

Who Is Self Help Enterprises?

Self Help Enterprises (SHE) is a nationally recognized community development organization whose mission is to work together with low-income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities. Since 1965, Self-Help Enterprises' efforts have touched the lives of over 65,000 families.

Emergency Services - Engaging with and educating our most vulnerable populations of the SJV with vital information about natural disasters like flood, fire, earthquake, drought, and pandemics. SHE's Emergency Services Team is committed to providing individuals, families and communities, resources that will ensure safety and security during a disaster

Process Overview



Service Territory – 29,000 mi²



Emergency Services

Scope of Work



Emergency
Preparedness



Interim Tanks
& Hauled
Water



Interim
Bottled Water



Water Well
Repair,
Replacement,
& Connections



Water Quality
Testing and
Filtration



Education &
Resiliency





First Contact

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Tank and Hauled Water Program

INTERIM SOLUTIONS

PURPOSE

- Provide up to 60 gallons Bottled Water per month to homes with private wells or communities that lack access to drinking water due to drought, well/pump failure, or contamination issues
- On initial well assessments, 30 gallons of bottled water are provided to all homes on property

PROCESS

- On approval to start water services, participant information is provided to Bottled Water vendor and put on a scheduled delivery route
- Daily correspondence with participants and vendors to ensure water deliveries for enrolled homes



Field Team

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & INTERIM
SOLUTIONS

Field Team Activities



Well Assessment (Single Homes & Community Wells)



Tank Inspections (Weatherization & Repairs)



Post Tank Installation Inspections



Bottled Water Storage and Logistical Deployment



Community Bottled Water Deliveries



Emergency Response (EOS & LISTOS)

Well Assessments

- Appointments are scheduled by the Intake Team
- Field Technicians make contact with Participants
- Participant qualification and documentation are collected
- Inspection of well and well sounding takes place
- Assessing Well Sustainability
- Pictures are taken of the property and well site to determine Tank & Pump System placement
- Full Well Assessment Reports are submitted for approval
- 30 gallons of water are dropped off as part of the 72-hour response efforts



Salvador Ruiz, left, talks to Rubio of Self-Help Enterprises. Ruiz qualified for water deliveries because his family's well was dry. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)



Ivan Rubio of Self-Help Enterprises checks the water level of a well at a home. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

Tank Inspections

- Post Tank Installation Inspections are scheduled to verify that Tank and Pump Systems are functioning properly and providing vital resources to our participants
- Tank Inspections are scheduled six (6) months after the initial approval and tank installation
- Weatherization of PVC and hose lines are installed to prevent lines freezing



Bottled Water Storage and Logistical Deployment

- Receive bottled water deliveries, up to 20 pallets at a time
- Field Technicians and Supervisors are forklift certified
- With the Coordination of the Bottled Water Team, we can deploy multiple teams to deliver bottled water to communities, individual homes, and special events/projects



Domestic Water Well Repair, Replacement, and Connection Program

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Process and Procedures

Phase 1: Application

- Submit complete application for review
- Complete and sign Income Self Certification Form
- Submit title documentation
- Certify and obtain verification property is not within existing water system sphere of influence and eligible for connection
- Submit a minimum of one complete estimate



Phase 2: Processing

- Inspection of well and vetting of submitted estimates
- Selection of well driller (for connections, selection of contractors)
- Completion of processing by SHE staff, notification of approval to participant
- Preparation of grant documents



Phase 3: Approval

- SHE grant approval review
- Grant document signing by participant
- Well driller signature on Terms of Award and final estimate
- Funding verification
- Ready to Go issued to driller



Phase 4: Well Construction

- Contractor will obtain permits and order materials needed
- Driller will schedule start date with participant
- SHE field staff will monitor well construction
- Upon completion testing will occur; filtration devices will be utilized as needed via our Water Quality Division
- Well monitoring device will be installed if participant authorized

Field Management – Construction/Repair Oversight

- Pre-Construction Well Assessment
- Complete vetting of estimates
- Job award oversight
- Coordinate on well construction and progress with driller
- Review and approve change orders during construction
- Act as an intermediary between driller and homeowner
- Complete final inspection upon well completion
- Verify water samples collected
- Review testing results and coordinate with driller and water quality team for potential filtration devices
- Complete final closeout of construction with driller





Water Quality Program

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

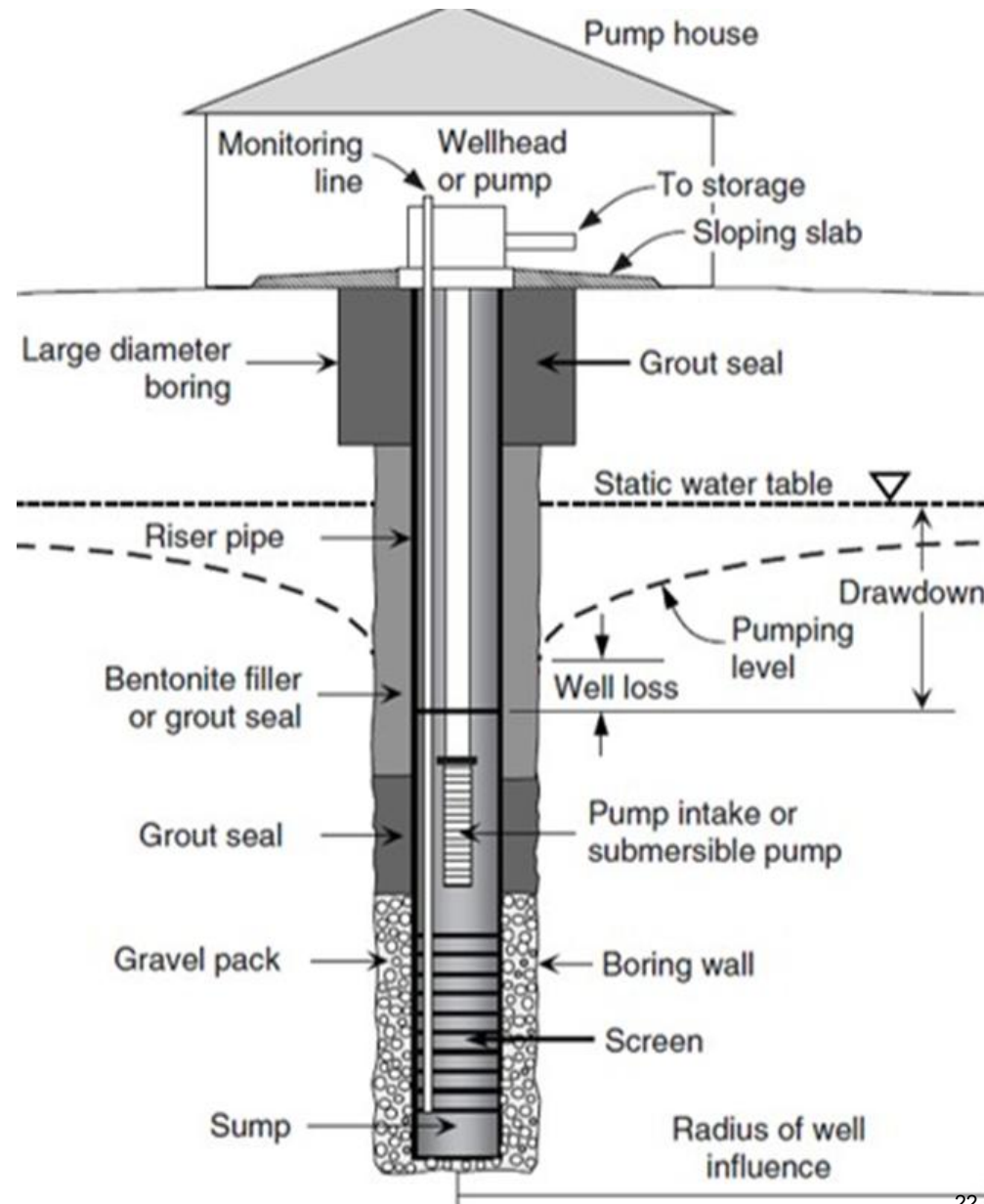
Water Quality Program Overview

- Conduct outreach to prospective disadvantaged households served by private wells or state small water systems
- Provide well assessment and sampling services
- Analyze testing results, determine any contamination issues
- Provide interim solutions including point of entry and/or point of use (POE/POU) filtration devices to households that have water quality issues
- Educate participants on water quality contamination, filter operation and maintenance

Water Quality Program Process

1. Participant intake, program qualification
2. Assess the private well, or state small water system
3. Identify potential point source contamination, check well for functionality, sound well depth, collect samples:

Total Coliform	Total Chromium	123TCP
E.coli	Lead	Uranium
Nitrate	Copper	Gross Alpha (Sierra Nevada Range only)
Perchlorate	EDB	Additional contaminants as deemed necessary
Arsenic	DBCP	
4. Review test results, determine if POE or POU is required
5. Oversee installation, conduct post water quality testing
6. Participant Education: contamination, well maintenance, filter O&M



Sustainable Domestic Well Ownership

EDUCATION

Questions?

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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 10:31 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Holmes.

In attendance were Directors and Alternates: Craig Stevens, Regina Lackey, Michael Blower, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Scot Moody, Paul Canepa, Keith Bussman, Dante Nomellini, Kevin King, Christy McKinnon, Vice Chair Mel Panizza and Chair Robert Holmes

Directors Absent: George Biagi, Richard Wagner, Alan Nakanishi, Gary Tofenelli, and Dean Ruiz

Members of the Public in attendance: Executive Director, Julia Berry, Chelsea Spier, Rashik K., Mary Elizabeth, Omar Samara, Greg Young, Neda Spinder, TJ Salano, Justin Hopkins, Brandon Warmerdam, Travis Small, Jason Mathews, Ron Skaggs, Gavin Cline, Steve S., Andrew Renshaw, Melissa Anna, Louie B., Maria Razo, Michael Miller, Jennifer Spaletta, Greg Terzakis, Margo Praus, Robert Eckard, Scott Williams, Jarin Tasmin Anika, Brittany Harker, Wes Henson, Secretary Najee Zarif, Nait Vann Alviar and SJCOG Support Staff.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were added to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alicia Valenzuela, Mary Elizabeth and Margo Preus provided public comments.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of August 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Scot Moody

Second: Michael Blower

Vote was unanimous

2. Review and take action to direct staff to respond to Department of Water Resources requests for clarification

Louie B, Christy Mckinnon, Mary Elizabeth and Jennifer Spaletta provided public comments.

Motion: Michael Blower

Second: Jason Colombini

Vote was unanimous

Mary Elizabeth, Louie Brichetto Jr., and Jennifer Spaletta provided public comments.

3. Review and take action to give direction to staff regarding Effective Precipitation Methodology for Annual Net Groundwater Impact Accounting Framework – Greg Young, Zanjero

Najee Zarif, Mary Elizabeth and Jennifer Spaletta provided public comments.

Motion: Dante Nomellini

Second: Keith Bussman

Vote was unanimous

V. AUTHORITY STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS

1. Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director

Julia shared the following updates from First Water Partners:

- ARPA funding, totaling \$2.104 million dollars has been spent on drilling two new nested monitoring wells. Staff is in the process of selecting a third well location to fill RMN data gap area. Funds will also be used to install telemetry to USGS and new monitoring wells. Thirdly, upgrades to the Data Management System are being performed by Woodard and Curran
- The Well Mitigation Program application is posted to the ESJGWA website
- Julia recommended that the October agenda include a discussion of recording meetings, potential for a draft MOU for GSA review, and an ESJGWA Quarter Budget update from SJ County Public Works staff.

2. Chelsea Spier, Department of Water Resources

Chelsea reviewed the items listed in her written report, provided prior to the meeting.

VI. Directors' Comments and Project Status

Chair Holmes welcomes any agenda item suggestions from the Board of Directors.

VII. Adjournment at 12:03pm



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: ARPA Funded Monitoring Well Construction – Form Access Agreement
Date: October 7, 2026

Recommendation

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

Authorize the Chairman or Secretary of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (Authority) to execute access agreements necessary for the construction and ongoing monitoring of new groundwater monitoring wells.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Authority is utilizing the remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available to the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin to construct additional groundwater monitoring wells. The new wells will expand the Subbasin's groundwater monitoring network and provide additional data to support implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Construction of the new groundwater monitoring wells will require the Authority's contractor and subcontractors to access properties owned or controlled by member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the Subbasin. Access agreements are necessary to document and authorize this access for well construction and related activities.

The access agreements will also provide for continued access following construction so that Authority staff and consultants may sample, measure, inspect, and otherwise monitor the wells as needed in support of the Authority's groundwater monitoring activities.

A draft form of the access agreement is included with this staff report. The agreement is intended to serve as a starting point and may be modified by Authority counsel as necessary to address the specific requirements, concerns, or circumstances of each GSA and property on which a monitoring well will be constructed. Accordingly, the final agreements executed by the Authority may differ from the draft form presented to the Board.

Authorizing the Chairman or Secretary to execute the necessary access agreements will allow the Authority to proceed with construction and provide for future access to the monitoring wells.

ACCESS AGREEMENT

This Access Agreement (“Access Agreement”) is entered into on this ____ day of _____ 2026 (the “Execution Date”), by and between the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, a California joint powers authority (“ESJGWA”), and _____.

RECITALS

The following recitals are hereby incorporated into this agreement and made a part hereof:

WHEREAS, _____ owns the real property located at _____, consisting of approximately _____ acres and which houses the _____ and a parking lot (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, ESJGWA is conducting groundwater monitoring and data collection for purposes of developing, implementing, and updating the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that the Work will benefit _____, ESJGWA, and groundwater users within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sub-basin, and the _____ desires to allow the Work to occur; and

WHEREAS, in order to complete the Work, it will be necessary for ESJGWA and its representatives, agents, consultants, and contractors to enter the Property from time to time to install, read, inspect, maintain, repair, replace, and remove groundwater-level monitoring equipment; measure groundwater levels; and collect the Well location, screened intervals, depth, and other relevant Well and groundwater data as reasonably necessary to conduct a groundwater-level monitoring program (collectively, the “Activities”); and

WHEREAS, ESJGWA may acquire, use, share, and submit the Well location, screened intervals, depth, groundwater-level measurements, and other relevant Well data to the California Department of Water Resources and other public agencies as reasonably necessary for Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, implementation, reporting, and compliance; and

WHEREAS, ESJGWA will install and maintain any monitoring equipment in a secure manner designed to prevent tampering and unreasonable interference with _____’s use of the Property, and, upon completion of the Work or at the _____’s reasonable request, will remove its equipment and restore affected surface conditions to substantially the same condition that existed before the Activities, ordinary wear and preexisting conditions excepted.

NOW, THEREFORE, _____ and ESJGWA agree as follows:

1. License. The _____ hereby grants ESJGWA a non-exclusive temporary license, and not a grant of easement or any other interest in the Property, to enter and access the Property, including reasonable ingress and egress, to perform the Activities on the Property and at the Well. ESJGWA shall exercise reasonable efforts to conduct the Activities with

minimum disturbance to _____'s operations and use of the Property and, upon completion of the Activities, shall return affected portions of the Property and Well to substantially the same condition that existed before entry, ordinary wear and preexisting conditions excepted. All Activities performed by ESJGWA, and the repair of any damage to the Property or Well caused by such Activities, shall be at ESJGWA's expense. ESJGWA shall not materially impair the operation of the Well without the _____'s prior written approval.

2. Notifications. ESJGWA or its consultant shall provide notification, which may be by electronic mail, to _____ at least ten (10) business days before conducting the Work, including routine monitoring, except in an emergency or when a shorter period is approved by the _____. _____ shall notify ESJGWA within five (5) business days after receipt whether the proposed date(s) and time(s) are acceptable. If unacceptable, the parties shall cooperate in scheduling a substitute date and time. Absence of a response from _____ will be construed as acceptance of the proposed date(s) and time(s).

3. Term. This Access Agreement shall continue for so long as ESJGWA reasonably requires access to perform the Activities for Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, implementation, reporting, or compliance, unless terminated earlier by mutual written agreement. _____ may require relocation or temporary suspension of Activities when reasonably necessary for public safety, City operations, maintenance, construction, or use of the Property, and the parties shall cooperate to identify a reasonable alternative, if available.

4. Removal and Restoration. Upon conclusion of ESJGWA's need to conduct the Activities or the Work, ESJGWA shall remove any monitoring equipment or related infrastructure installed pursuant to this Access Agreement, subject to any approvals required by agencies with jurisdiction, and shall restore affected surface conditions consistent with the surrounding landscape and/or hardscape. ESJGWA shall conduct all removal and restoration work at its sole expense. If ESJGWA fails to remove installed equipment or infrastructure as required, _____ may remove it and restore the area and invoice ESJGWA for _____'s reasonable costs, plus an administrative fee of ten percent (10%). ESJGWA shall be responsible for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by _____ to collect amounts due under this Section.

5. Compliance with Laws. ESJGWA shall conduct the Activities in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including applicable well-access, safety, and permitting requirements.

6. Notices. Except as provided in Section 2 hereof, notices required under this Access Agreement shall be in writing and shall be given in person or sent by regular mail, overnight delivery service, or e-mail to the party at its mailing address or e-mail address set forth below, or to another address later specified by written notice:

ESJGWA:	Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
	Attn
	Address
	E-mail

Agency: City of _____
Attn: _____
Address _____
Email _____

7. Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, ESJGWA shall indemnify and defend _____, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers against claims and demands by third parties to the extent arising out of the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of ESJGWA or its representatives, agents, consultants, contractors, or employees in performing Activities on the Property, except to the extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of _____.

8. Non-Liability. Nothing in this Access Agreement constitutes an admission by either party regarding responsibility for or liability arising from groundwater conditions, contamination, Well construction, Well condition, or the accuracy or completeness of preexisting Well information. ESJGWA does not acquire ownership, control, or operational responsibility for the Property by performing the Activities.

9. Insurance. At all times during the term of this Access Agreement, ESJGWA shall maintain, or shall require each consultant or contractor entering the Property to maintain, (i) Workers' Compensation insurance with statutory limits, as required by the State of California; (ii) Employer's Liability insurance with limits of no less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence; (iii) Commercial General Liability insurance with limits of no less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) per occurrence covering liability for bodily injury and property damage; and (iv) Automobile Liability insurance with a limit of no less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) per accident. The required total minimum limits may be satisfied by primary insurance or any combination of primary and umbrella/excess insurance. All liability policies shall name _____, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers as additional insureds as their interests may appear. ESJGWA shall provide certificates of insurance reasonably acceptable to _____ before entering the Property. ESJGWA shall waive, and shall require its consultants and contractors to waive, rights of subrogation against _____ under the foregoing policies to the extent permitted by law.

10. Governing Law. This Access Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions thereof.

11. Successors. This Access Agreement shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and the respective assigns, agents, representatives, transferees, heirs, and successors of the parties and the Property.

12. Captions. The caption headings in this Access Agreement are for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be, and should not be construed as, a part of this Access Agreement.

13. Counterparts. This Access Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original instrument and all of which together

shall constitute a single agreement. Signatures of the parties on this Access Agreement or any document delivered pursuant to this Access Agreement and transmitted by facsimile (or other electronic transmission including email of a PDF signature) shall be deemed to be original signatures for all purposes. At the request of a party, the parties shall confirm facsimile transmitted (or other electronic transmission including email of a PDF signature) signatures by signing an original document.

14. Warranty of Capacity to Sign Agreement. Each party warrants and represents that the individual signing this Access Agreement on its behalf has all required delegations of authority he or she needs to bind the party to this Access Agreement under law and that he or she signed this Access Agreement by his or her own free will. Each party further warrants that it is not relying upon any statement or representation made by the other party, or that party's agents, employees, attorneys or servants, but is relying solely upon its own judgment.

IN WITNESS OF THIS ACCESS AGREEMENT, the parties have executed this Access Agreement as of the Execution Date.

City:

CITY OF _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

ESJGWA:

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Domestic Well Mitigation Program – Maximum Mitigation Amount
Date: September 29, 2026

Recommendation

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

Approve a maximum payment of \$30,000 per eligible claimant under the Domestic Well Mitigation Program, exclusive of costs associated with bottled water or other water replacement services.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Authority's Domestic Well Mitigation Program provides assistance to eligible domestic well owners experiencing qualifying impacts. Under the Program, the Board may establish a maximum amount that may be paid to an eligible claimant.

Staff reviewed domestic well mitigation programs in other San Joaquin Valley subbasins to identify comparable funding levels. The review found the following:

Subbasin	Mitigation Amount
Madera	\$30,000
Chowchilla	\$30,000; up to \$35,000 with additional approval
Delta-Mendota	\$30,000
Merced	\$30,000
Modesto	No per-claimant maximum; \$300,000 annual program budget

The review demonstrates that \$30,000 is a commonly used benchmark for domestic well mitigation in the region. In particular, the Chowchilla Subbasin developed its \$30,000 maximum based on local well-drilling cost information, including an estimated \$25,000 for a replacement well plus a \$5,000 contingency.

Based on the programs reviewed, a maximum payment of \$30,000 per eligible claimant is recommended. This amount is consistent with comparable programs, provides meaningful assistance

toward eligible mitigation costs, and establishes a clear limit for administration and financial planning. Costs associated with bottled water or other water replacement services would be provided separately and would not count toward the \$30,000 maximum.



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 2026 Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Framework
Date: September 29, 2026

Recommendation

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

Adopt the 2026 Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan and direct staff to implement the Plan by developing and maintaining the identified stakeholder engagement resources for use by the member GSAs.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) has previously developed stakeholder communication and engagement plans to support development and implementation of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). As GSP implementation has progressed, staff has reviewed the approach to stakeholder engagement and developed an updated 2026 Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Framework to reflect the current needs and governance structure of the Subbasin.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is founded on locally led groundwater management, with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) responsible for implementing the GSP within their respective jurisdictions. Consistent with this structure, the proposed framework recognizes that stakeholder engagement is generally most effective when conducted at the local GSA level, where agencies are familiar with their communities, groundwater users, disadvantaged communities, organizations, languages, and other local interests.

The proposed framework establishes a coordinated approach in which ESJGWA continues to provide opportunities for public participation in basinwide decision-making while supporting the 16 member GSAs with common outreach resources and materials.

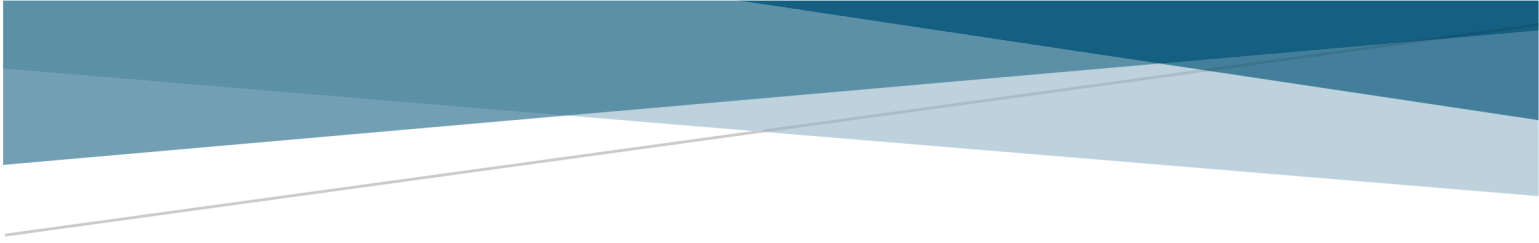
This structure is intended to provide consistent basinwide information while allowing engagement to occur through the local agencies that have the strongest understanding of and connection to the communities they serve. ESJGWA will provide tools, information, and support for these efforts, while

local meetings and community engagement would generally be organized and conducted by the individual GSAs.

The Plan also identifies enhanced basinwide communication activities, such as informational videos, that could be developed if collectively supported and funded by the member GSAs.

Attachments

2026 Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Framework



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN SUBBASIN COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

October 2026

History and Purpose

After the enactment of SGMA in 2014, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) were formed to develop and implement practices to meet the goal of groundwater sustainability by 2040. Following the establishment of individual GSAs throughout the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, a Joint Powers Authority was established among the 16 GSAs within the subbasin. On March 2, 2023, ESJGWA and its Member GSAs were notified by DWR that its 2022 ESJ Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was conditionally approved having been found for consistent with the statutory and regulatory requirements of SGMA. Currently, the ESJGWA serves to coordinate the implementation of the 2022 GSP and the 2024 GSP Amendment.

This Framework builds upon the Public Outreach document promulgated in 2018 and the Engagement and Outreach Program adopted in 2024. It summarizes communication and engagement activities undertaken since adoption of the 2024 Program, reflects the Subbasin's transition into GSP implementation, and establishes the framework for stakeholder communication and engagement during this next phase.

Since adoption of the 2024 Engagement and Outreach Plan Update, the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin submitted its five-year Periodic Evaluation and a GSP Amendment and has transitioned from GSP development to GSP implementation. This transition has changed the nature of stakeholder communication and engagement and created a need to more clearly define the respective responsibilities of the Authority and its member GSAs. This 2026 framework reflects that transition and clarifies that responsibility for local stakeholder outreach and engagement resides with the individual GSAs, with the Authority providing basinwide coordination, information, and resources to support those efforts.

During GSP implementation, local stakeholder outreach and engagement are particularly important because individual GSAs are responsible for implementing projects and management actions within their respective boundaries. GSAs will need to communicate with the public and affected stakeholders regarding these activities and, in many cases, engage directly with groundwater users regarding demand management strategies. This engagement will be necessary to explain the goals of demand management, the actions that may be taken to reduce groundwater use, and how those actions contribute to achieving groundwater sustainability within the Subbasin.

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority ("ESJGWA" or "Authority") and its member GSAs recognize that meaningful stakeholder communication and engagement are essential to the successful implementation of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and to achieving long-term groundwater sustainability.

Each GSA represents a distinct geographic area and serves communities with different groundwater uses, interests, demographics, languages, institutions, and communication needs. Accordingly, the most effective stakeholder engagement occurs at individual GSA level.

This 2026 Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Framework establishes a coordinated plan in which ESJGWA provides basinwide information, communication tools, technical resources, and opportunities for public participation in basinwide decision-making, while individual GSAs lead stakeholder outreach and engagement within their respective jurisdictions.

Role of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

ESJGWA serves as the basinwide coordinating entity for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. Its role is to provide the public governance structure through which the 16 GSAs coordinate implementation of the GSP and make decisions affecting the Subbasin collectively.

In the 2024 Communication and Engagement Plan, it is stated: “In the drafting of the ESJGWA JPA, GSAs were adamant that their autonomy would be preserved and all assets (i.e., water rights and facilities) would be respected. The notion of autonomy also extends to communications and engagement which should be clearly denoted when the ESJGWA is communicating on behalf of the entire Subbasin and when a GSA is communicating on behalf of its own interests. This means, that while coordination, communication, and facilitation support may be offered by the ESJGWA, it is up to the each of the individual GSAs to either implement C&E actions for all requirements of SGMA or provide consent, guidance, and/or funding to the ESJGWA to collectively do so on their behalf. For the purposes of this document, this Communications and Engagement Plan is drafted with the intent that the ESJGWA would fund and implement collectively the options presented unless otherwise noted in the document. This C&E plan does not supersede or alleviate any individual laws, regulations, or GSA requirements that are the responsibility of a Member GSA.”

ESJGWA will continue to conduct publicly noticed Board of Directors meetings and other public meetings as appropriate to provide opportunities for stakeholders to observe, understand, and comment on basinwide groundwater sustainability decisions.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Survey

To inform development of the Communication and Engagement Framework, ESJGWA surveyed its member GSAs regarding outreach activities conducted during the 2024–2026 period, existing communication practices, disadvantaged community engagement, translation and language access, outreach resources, and preferences regarding local and Subbasin-level support.

The responses were reviewed collectively to identify common practices, differing local needs, existing resources, and areas where coordinated support could provide value. Rather than establishing a uniform outreach approach for every GSA, the survey findings were used to develop a framework that recognizes the role of individual GSAs in local stakeholder engagement while identifying functions that may be coordinated more effectively at the Subbasin level.

Survey Area	General Finding	Examples Identified Through the Survey
Existing Outreach	GSAs are already conducting outreach through a variety of established local channels.	Public meetings; website postings; emailed information; newsletters; grower meetings; constituent/customer meetings; community events; social media.
Local Communication Infrastructure	Existing agency communication systems provide a strong foundation for continued outreach.	Agency websites; email lists; public information staff; newsletters; public meeting notices; partner websites; existing member-agency outreach programs. One respondent specifically noted the ability to use its public information officer for broader distribution.

Survey Area	General Finding	Examples Identified Through the Survey
Local Needs Vary	The appropriate level and type of outreach differs depending on the GSA, its stakeholders and the issue being addressed.	Some outreach is incorporated into existing agency operations; some GSAs conduct grower or community outreach; others primarily provide information through websites and regular public meetings. One response specifically observed that the level of outreach needed varies by the particular task.
DAC Engagement	GSAs reported differing levels of DAC identification and engagement, suggesting an opportunity for additional coordination and resources.	Responses ranged from identifying specific communities or vulnerable populations to reporting no identified DACs or uncertainty about how to determine which communities qualify. It is notable that not all GSAs have DACs in their boundaries.
Translation & Language Access	Translation is being addressed through several different approaches rather than one uniform system.	Existing agency translation tools; translated website content; consultants; automated web translation; outside agency resources; Spanish-language assistance; links to translated materials maintained by partner agencies.
Outreach Funding	Outreach resources are structured and accounted for differently among GSAs, making a uniform budget comparison less meaningful.	Dedicated GSA outreach budgets; outreach incorporated into existing GSA staff responsibilities; no separate outreach budget or accounting; use of existing agency (GSA) resources.
Local GSA Role	Survey responses support maintaining a meaningful local role in stakeholder communication and engagement.	Existing staff conducting routine outreach; use of established local meetings and relationships; GSA websites providing locally relevant information; outreach incorporated into existing agency programs. One response expressly stated that outreach responsibility should remain with the individual GSA, with Authority assistance available when needed.
ESJGWA Coordination & Support	The responses also identify functions where Subbasin-level coordination can improve consistency or efficiency.	Common outreach materials; translation services; major Subbasin initiatives; centralized information; One response specifically identified joint translation as an opportunity to avoid duplicative expenditures.
Emerging Structure	The collective responses support a coordinated model rather than either a fully centralized or fully decentralized outreach program.	Routine and locally specific outreach can remain with GSAs, while ESJGWA can provide Subbasin-wide information, common resources and support for broader initiatives.

Local Engagement as the Foundation of the Plan

The ESJGWA will continue to support local GSA engagement by developing and maintaining communication materials and resources that individual GSAs may use and adapt for their communities. This centralized development of materials promotes consistency in information concerning the GSP while allowing outreach to be delivered locally and tailored to the needs of individual communities.

ESJGWA's role is to support and equip GSAs in conducting effective local engagement. ESJGWA staff will not, however, conduct individual GSA outreach meetings on behalf of member GSAs; each GSA will be responsible for planning, conducting, and documenting their local stakeholder engagement activities, with materials, information, and other support made available by the ESJGWA.

To best facilitate the implementation of this 2026 Engagement and Outreach Plan, the ESJGWA surveyed each individual GSA to identify best practices, assist in expanding, where needed, engagement opportunities, and to undertake a gap analysis to understand and address additional needs for a successful outreach program with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged communities (DACs).

Documentation and Basinwide Coordination

Local engagement should also inform basinwide decision-making.

GSAs should use the ESJGWA Public Engagement Tracker or another agreed-upon reporting mechanism to periodically provide ESJGWA with information regarding significant outreach activities, stakeholder concerns, and recurring questions identified through local engagement.

ESJGWA staff may use this information to identify common themes across the Subbasin, inform future communication materials, assist the Board in understanding stakeholder perspectives, and document stakeholder engagement associated with implementation and future updates of the GSP.

This creates a two-way communication structure: ESJGWA provides consistent basinwide information and resources to the GSAs, while the GSAs bring locally identified issues, perspectives, and stakeholder input back into the basinwide process.

Responsibilities of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Each GSA should maintain an ongoing stakeholder engagement program appropriate to the communities, groundwater users, and interested parties within its jurisdiction.

At a minimum, each GSA should identify the constituencies within its jurisdiction that may be affected by or interested in implementation of the GSP and determine appropriate methods for communicating with those audiences.

Potential audiences include agricultural groundwater users, domestic well owners, municipal and public water systems, businesses, environmental interests, civic organizations, land use agencies, disadvantaged communities, California Native American Tribes and Tribal communities, and other users of groundwater.

Because stakeholder populations vary substantially among GSAs, outreach should be tailored rather than uniform. A GSA serving a primarily agricultural area may require a different engagement approach than a GSA serving an incorporated community, disadvantaged community, or area containing significant numbers of domestic well users.

Local GSA Meetings

Individual GSAs are encouraged to conduct local stakeholder meetings, workshops, presentations, or other engagement activities when significant GSP implementation issues affect their communities or when additional community dialogue would benefit groundwater sustainability implementation. These meetings will be organized and conducted by the individual GSA.

ESJGWA may provide supporting information, templates, technical materials, presentations, maps, white papers, or other resources for these meetings. However, responsibility for scheduling, noticing, organizing, conducting, and documenting local engagement activities remains with the individual GSA.

This distinction is important to the engagement structure established by this Plan. ESJGWA provides basinwide coordination and common resources; individual GSAs provide the local relationships and direct community engagement necessary for successful implementation.

Disadvantaged Communities and Underrepresented Groundwater Users

Special attention should be given to communities and groundwater users that historically may have had fewer opportunities to provide input into groundwater management decisions made by the GSAs.

For purposes of this Plan, disadvantaged communities are defined by the California Department of Water Resources Board as communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide average.

Each GSA should identify whether disadvantaged communities are located within its jurisdiction and, where they are present, make deliberate efforts to provide opportunities for participation. Not every GSA within the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin contains disadvantaged communities or has the same outreach needs; therefore, engagement strategies should reflect local conditions rather than rely upon a uniform basinwide approach.

Outreach efforts should consider the way residents receive information, appropriate locations and times for meetings, potential translation needs, and the importance of technical groundwater information to be related in understandable layman's terms.

GSAs should similarly identify domestic well communities and other underrepresented groundwater users within their jurisdictions and consider methods for ensuring that those interests have opportunities to receive information.

Tribal Engagement

GSAs should identify California Native American Tribes and Tribal communities with interests associated with their jurisdictions and provide appropriate opportunities for communication and engagement regarding GSP implementation.

SGMA identifies California Native American tribes among the beneficial users and interests that GSAs are required to consider in the development and implementation of groundwater sustainability planning and recognize the distinct governmental, cultural, and resource interests of Tribal communities.

Nongovernmental and Community Organizations

GSAs are encouraged to identify non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations that can assist with communication and engagement within their jurisdictions.

These organizations may include agricultural organizations, environmental organizations, civic and neighborhood organizations, community-based organizations, business groups, domestic well organizations, and other entities representing groundwater users or community interests.

Existing organizations can provide important communication networks and may assist GSAs in reaching audiences that do not routinely participate in governmental meetings.

Language Access

Each GSA should identify the predominant languages spoken within its jurisdiction and evaluate whether translated materials, interpretation services, or other language-access measures are appropriate for effective stakeholder engagement. The ESJGWA will assist GSAs by providing common outreach materials in formats that can be translated.

GSA Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit

To support implementation of this Plan, ESJGWA will develop and maintain a stakeholder engagement toolkit for use by member GSAs. The toolkit is intended to reduce duplication of effort, provide consistent information regarding the GSP, and give individual GSAs practical resources that can be adapted to local audiences. The toolkit may include:

GSA Best Practices for Community Engagement. ESJGWA may develop and periodically update a GSA Best Practices for Community Engagement document.

The Best Practices document will provide practical recommendations for conducting effective local engagement, including identifying stakeholder audiences; developing and maintaining stakeholder contact lists; engaging disadvantaged and underrepresented communities; identifying appropriate languages; working with community-based organizations; selecting accessible meeting locations and times; providing clear and understandable technical information; conducting public workshops; documenting participation and comments; and communicating stakeholder input to decision-makers. The Best Practices document is intended to provide a common framework while preserving each GSA's ability to determine the engagement methods most appropriate for its jurisdiction.

Public Engagement Metrics. ESJGWA may provide a standardized format for GSAs to document stakeholder engagement activities. These metrics may include the date and type of activity, audience or organization engaged, subject matter discussed, materials provided, languages used, approximate participation, and significant questions or comments received.

Printable and Digital Outreach Materials. ESJGWA may prepare flyers, notices, fact sheets, and other materials that GSAs may print, distribute electronically, post online, or adapt for local use. Materials may be translated into languages identified as relevant by individual GSAs.

Basinwide Meeting Information. ESJGWA maintains online information regarding ESJGWA Board meetings and other basinwide public meetings so that GSAs can direct their stakeholders to opportunities to participate in basinwide decision-making.

GSP White Papers and Issue Briefs. ESJGWA may prepare informational instruments explaining significant components of the GSP, technical concepts, implementation activities, projects and management actions, monitoring activities, and other subjects relevant to groundwater sustainability. GSAs may distribute these materials directly or use them as the technical foundation for locally developed outreach materials.

Presentation and Meeting Materials. When appropriate, ESJGWA may develop presentation materials, talking points, frequently asked questions, maps, graphics, and other resources that GSAs can use when conducting local public meetings or presentations.

Enhanced Basinwide Communication Activities

Certain communication resources may provide value to all 16 GSAs but require additional funding beyond the routine communication activities of ESJGWA.

Subject to Board direction and the availability of funding, the GSAs may collectively authorize additional basinwide communication resources. These could include professionally produced educational or informational videos explaining SGMA, the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, the GSP, groundwater conditions, monitoring programs, projects and management actions, or other implementation topics.

Such materials could be made available to all member GSAs for use on agency websites, social media, public presentations, community meetings, and other outreach efforts.

Implementation

As part of this 2026 Communication and Engagement Framework, it is anticipated that in the near term, ESJGWA Board of Directors meetings will be recorded and posted to the ESJGWA website for the benefit of subbasin stakeholders to bolster transparency and participation. Secondly, the ESJGWA intends to expand the stakeholder engagement toolkit and provide the materials to each member GSA. The Board of Directors will budget for the development of additional outreach and engagement materials in the next fiscal year. The development of communication resources would be considered separately by the Board, including the proposed scope, cost, funding allocation, and anticipated benefit to member GSAs.

Each GSA will be individually responsible for determining the appropriate frequency, format, audience, and location of engagement activities within its jurisdiction based upon local circumstances and GSP implementation needs. ESJGWA staff will periodically review the effectiveness of the shared resources and may recommend updates to the Board as GSP implementation progresses.



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Julia Berry, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Recording and Archiving of Board of Directors' Meetings
Date: October 5, 2026

Recommendation

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

Approve an scope of work with the Authority's existing website management contractor, Mayaco Marketing, in an amount not to exceed \$2500 annually to prepare recordings, post ESJGWA's monthly meeting on a dedicated YouTube channel, and embed in the ESJGWA website.

Reasons for Recommendation

At the September 9, 2026 the Board of Directors gave general direction to staff to investigate the feasibility and cost of this action.

Recording and posting GWA meetings allows interested parties to watch the meetings at their convenience if they are unable to attend in person meetings. This provides increased transparency and access to the actions taken by the Authority. This is part of an overall strategy to implement communication and outreach to interested parties. A YouTube channel will afford the Authority a new avenue by which to expand its communication capabilities moving forward.

MAYACO

MARKETING • INTERNET

6333 Pacific Ave. #521 * Stockton, CA 95207 * (209) 957-8629

October 2, 2026

TO: Eastern San Joaquin GWA

FROM: Steve Morales

RE: ESJGWA Monthly Video Support

Thanks for your email requesting a formal quote for ESJGWA monthly meeting video posting support. We already do regular website maintenance for SJC Public Works - Water Resources department and we will be pleased to provide this support for ESJGWA as well.

We would be happy to help setup the required YouTube channel.

- We can setup a YouTube account for ESJGWA. This account will also need a general email attached to ESJGWA or 2 factor authentication password codes, etc. You will have total control over it and gives us tech access to post or help manage the account for you. Set-up \$275
- For monthly postings of a mp4 video (the required format for YouTube). This then would also require posting on the ESJGWA website with graphic and linking for each posting. \$150.

This is an estimate because we don't know exactly the quality of the mp4 video that we will receive or if we will need to do extra work for posting.

Who will be doing the recording of the meeting?

We look forward to providing dependable and professional support. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Happy to help.

Sincerely,

Steve Morales

Mayaco Marketing & Internet



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 14, 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: October 5, 2026

Recommendation

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

Discuss and consider 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.

Alternative Approach

As an alternative, GSAs may take responsibility for providing bottled water service to eligible applicants under the program in their respective GSAs. This would entail providing a short-term drinking water supply while a permanent solution is pursued.

Short-term emergency supplies shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible and can include bottled water, bottled water paired with tanked water, or another combination. Interim solutions serve to address the immediate impacts and ensure access to water suitable for consumptive and other domestic needs, such as sanitation.