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, Regina Lackey, 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, Kevin, King, 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