



# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 8, 2026

**TO:** ESJGWA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Julia Berry, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Woodard and Curran Consultant Proposed Scope of Work to Address DWR Comments on 2025 GSP Amendment and Periodic Evaluation in the amount of \$166,745

Approval of ESJ Budget Amendment Increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$167,000 increase in spending authority to be offset by an increase in revenues,

Approval of Increased Dues for ESJGWA Members to Cover Additional Appropriations

**Date:** July 6, 2026

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### Recommendation

Staff recommend that the ESJGWA Board of Directors approve the following:

1. Approve Woodard and Curran Consultant Proposed Scope of Work to Address DWR Comments on 2025 GSP Amendment and Periodic Review in the amount of \$166,745;
2. Approve an ESJGWA Budget amendment to reflect a \$167,000 increase in spending authority to be offset by an increase in revenues; and,
3. Approve the table of increased dues for ESJGWA Members which allocates an additional \$167,000 in costs using the allocation formula currently in use by the ESJGWA.

### Reasons for Recommendation

In 2025, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update and 2025 Periodic Evaluation to the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR has two years to review and respond to these submittals. In contrast to the review processes in the past, DWR is opting to reach out during its review to seek clarification prior to making a determination on the completeness of the submittals.

Written correspondence was received by the ESJGWA from DWR on April 17, 2026, identifying 6 topics which DWR staff requested additional information and requested a follow up meeting. The follow up meeting was conducted with DWR and ESJGWA staff on May 11, 2026, wherein DWR gave specific items to be addressed by ESJGWA GSAs to inform DWR staff's review and determination of completeness of the 2025 document submittals.

These topics include:

1. Groundwater Levels: Sustainable Management Criteria
2. Monitoring and Reporting
3. Land Subsidence: SMC
4. Groundwater Quality: Total Dissolved (TDS) and Chloride
5. Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW): SMC
6. Plan Implementation

The initial estimate received by Woodard and Curran to respond to DWR and to coordinate with GSAs was \$230,000. By decreasing the amount of staff time on behalf of Woodard and Curran, and by reassigning tasks to the Executive Director, the new estimate is \$166,745. The following items were removed from the original scope of work:

1. Reduced Woodard and Curran's time for finalizing memos
2. Slimmed down the number of scheduled meetings
3. Removed costs associated with responding to comments that Woodard and Curran deemed their responsibility and out of a desire to clarify language and data submitted
4. Decreased costs associated with addressing groundwater level comments, aided by the recent recovery of missing data from key well sites

The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 ESJGWA budget was originally adopted by the Board of Directors on June 10, 2026. At the time the budget was approved, the scope of work and cost estimate were not available. As a result, these costs were not included in the budget. An amendment is now needed to reflect the cost of responding to comments and requests for clarification on the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update and 2025 Periodic Evaluation. This is proposed to be achieved by increasing GSA member allocations by \$167,000. The increase represents 25% increase in member allocations from \$664,753 to \$831,753.

*Table 1. FY 2026-2027 GSA Member Allocation - Approved 6/10/26* illustrates the current GSA member allocation and *Table 2. FY 2026-2027 GSA Member Allocation - Proposed Amendment 7/8/2026* shows the increase to each GSA in blue, using the allocation formula currently in use by the ESJGWA.

**Table 1. FY 2026-2027 GSA Member Allocation - Approved 6/10/26**

| GSA             | Minimum          | Pumping          | Population       | Eastside GSA<br>Zone 2<br>Adjustment | Total            | %             |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| CDWA            | \$10,000         | \$3,640          | \$549            | \$(1,000)                            | \$13,189         | 2.0%          |
| CSJWCD          | \$10,000         | \$52,570         | \$2,710          | \$(1,000)                            | \$64,280         | 9.7%          |
| Eastside SJ GSA | \$10,000         | \$24,049         | \$3,536          | \$15,000                             | \$52,585         | 7.9%          |
| LCSD            | \$10,000         | \$437            | \$525            | \$(1,000)                            | \$9,961          | 1.5%          |
| LCWD            | \$10,000         | \$184            | \$949            | \$(1,000)                            | \$10,133         | 1.5%          |
| Lodi            | \$10,000         | \$5,499          | \$19,593         | \$(1,000)                            | \$34,092         | 5.1%          |
| Manteca         | \$10,000         | \$7,190          | \$21,649         | \$(1,000)                            | \$37,839         | 5.7%          |
| NSJWCD          | \$10,000         | \$55,353         | \$7,402          | \$(1,000)                            | \$71,755         | 10.8%         |
| OID             | \$10,000         | \$15,131         | \$637            | \$(1,000)                            | \$24,767         | 3.7%          |
| SDWA            | \$10,000         | \$1,716          | \$2,403          | \$(1,000)                            | \$13,120         | 2.0%          |
| SEWD            | \$10,000         | \$62,499         | \$13,854         | \$(1,000)                            | \$85,353         | 12.8%         |
| SJC #1          | \$10,000         | \$28,195         | \$5,678          | \$(1,000)                            | \$42,873         | 6.4%          |
| SJC #2          | \$10,000         | \$3,099          | \$13,398         | \$(1,000)                            | \$25,497         | 3.8%          |
| SSJGSA          | \$10,000         | \$22,735         | \$12,825         | \$(1,000)                            | \$44,561         | 6.7%          |
| Stockton        | \$10,000         | \$8,724          | \$93,334         | \$(1,000)                            | \$111,058        | 16.7%         |
| WID GSA         | \$10,000         | \$11,831         | \$2,859          | \$(1,000)                            | \$23,689         | 3.6%          |
|                 | <b>\$160,000</b> | <b>\$302,852</b> | <b>\$201,901</b> |                                      | <b>\$664,753</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

**Table 2. FY 2026-2027 GSA Member Allocation - Proposed Amendment 7/8/2026**

| GSA             | Minimum          | Pumping          | Population       | EastSide GSA<br>Non-Zone 2<br>Adjustment | Total            | %             |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| CDWA            | \$10,000         | \$4,844          | \$730            | \$(1,000)                                | \$14,574         | 1.8%          |
| CSJWCD          | \$10,000         | \$69,963         | \$3,607          | \$(1,000)                                | \$82,570         | 9.9%          |
| Eastside SJ GSA | \$10,000         | \$32,006         | \$4,706          | \$15,000                                 | \$61,711         | 7.4%          |
| LCSD            | \$10,000         | \$581            | \$698            | \$(1,000)                                | \$10,279         | 1.2%          |
| LCWD            | \$10,000         | \$244            | \$1,264          | \$(1,000)                                | \$10,508         | 1.3%          |
| Lodi            | \$10,000         | \$7,318          | \$26,076         | \$(1,000)                                | \$42,394         | 5.1%          |
| Manteca         | \$10,000         | \$9,569          | \$28,812         | \$(1,000)                                | \$47,381         | 5.7%          |
| NSJWCD          | \$10,000         | \$73,667         | \$9,851          | \$(1,000)                                | \$92,518         | 11.1%         |
| OID             | \$10,000         | \$20,137         | \$847            | \$(1,000)                                | \$29,984         | 3.6%          |
| SDWA            | \$10,000         | \$2,284          | \$3,199          | \$(1,000)                                | \$14,483         | 1.7%          |
| SEWD            | \$10,000         | \$83,177         | \$18,438         | \$(1,000)                                | \$110,614        | 13.3%         |
| SJC #1          | \$10,000         | \$37,524         | \$7,557          | \$(1,000)                                | \$54,080         | 6.5%          |
| SJC #2          | \$10,000         | \$4,124          | \$17,830         | \$(1,000)                                | \$30,955         | 3.7%          |
| SSJ GSA         | \$10,000         | \$30,257         | \$17,069         | \$(1,000)                                | \$56,326         | 6.8%          |
| Stockton        | \$10,000         | \$11,610         | \$124,214        | \$(1,000)                                | \$144,825        | 17.4%         |
| WID GSA         | \$10,000         | \$15,745         | \$3,805          | (1,000)                                  | \$28,549         | 3.4%          |
|                 | <b>\$160,000</b> | <b>\$403,052</b> | <b>\$268,701</b> | <b>\$-</b>                               | <b>\$831,753</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

**Attachments**

Proposed Scope of Work – Woodard and Curran

DWR Letter April 17, 2026 San Joaquin Valley - Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (No. 5-022.01) - 2025

Periodic Review – Additional Information Request

**Client: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority**

6/30/2026

**Project: Response to DWR Comments on 2024 GSP & Periodic Evaluation**

| Phases                                                           | Labor               |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       | ODCs  |                | Total     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
|                                                                  | Principal in Charge | Project Manager | Technical Manager | Project Planner | Project Engineer | Senior Technical Leader | Project Assistant   | Total Hours | Total Labor Costs (1) | ODCs  | Total ODCs (3) | Total Fee |
|                                                                  | Leslie Dumas        | Katie Cole      | Sara Roche        | Emily Honn      | Mackenzie Dughi  | Jim Blanke              | Project Coordinator |             |                       |       |                |           |
|                                                                  | \$375               | \$350           | \$330             | \$315           | \$300            | \$375                   | \$150               |             |                       |       |                |           |
| Phase 1: Project Coordination & Meetings                         |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                |           |
| 1.1 Project Management & GWA Coordination                        | 4                   | 30              | 6                 | 6               |                  |                         | 10                  | 56          | \$17,370              |       | \$0            | \$17,370  |
| 1.2. GSA Coordination Meetings                                   | 15                  | 20              | 16                | 8               |                  | 8                       |                     | 67          | \$23,425              |       | \$0            | \$23,425  |
| 1.3. DWR Coordination & Meetings (May, July & Aug)               | 12                  | 12              | 12                | 8               |                  | 4                       |                     | 108         | \$16,680              |       | \$0            | \$16,680  |
| 1.4. GWA Board Meeting (Sept 2026)                               | 2                   | 12              | 2                 | 2               |                  |                         |                     | 18          | \$6,240               | \$500 | \$550          | \$6,790   |
| 1.5 Support Finalizing TMs                                       | 6                   | 6               | 8                 | 9               |                  |                         |                     | 29          | \$9,825               |       | \$0            | \$9,825   |
| Subtotal Phase 1:                                                | 39                  | 80              | 44                | 33              | 0                | 12                      | 10                  | 278         | \$73,540              | \$500 | \$550          | \$74,090  |
| Phase 2: GWL Response                                            |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                |           |
| 2.1 Data Processing & Set SMC for NSCJWD-01 and SEWD-01 (Item 1) | 1                   | 0               | 2                 | 8               |                  | 2                       |                     | 13          | \$4,305               |       | \$0            | \$4,305   |
| 2.2 Draft Response Letter (Item 1)                               | 1                   | 1               | 4                 | 8               |                  | 2                       |                     | 16          | \$5,315               |       | \$0            | \$5,315   |
| 2.3 Draft Response Letter (Item 2)                               |                     | 1               | 2                 |                 |                  |                         |                     | 3           | \$1,010               |       | \$0            | \$1,010   |
| 2.4 Draft Response Letter (Item 3)                               | 14                  | 1               | 2                 |                 |                  |                         |                     | 17          | \$6,260               |       | \$0            | \$6,260   |
| 2.5 Data Processing & Set SMCs for 2 new RMN wells (Item 5)      | 1                   | 0               | 2                 | 8               |                  |                         |                     | 11          | \$3,555               |       | \$0            | \$3,555   |
| 2.6 Re-run Impact Analysis w/ 4 new wells (Item 4)               | 2                   | 1               | 8                 | 16              |                  | 2                       |                     | 29          | \$9,530               |       | \$0            | \$9,530   |
| 2.7 Draft Response Letter (Item 4)                               | 2                   | 1               | 4                 | 8               |                  | 2                       |                     | 17          | \$5,690               |       | \$0            | \$5,690   |
| 2.8 Draft Response Letter (Item 5)                               |                     |                 |                   | 8               |                  | 2                       |                     | 10          | \$3,270               |       | \$0            | \$3,270   |
| 2.9 Draft Response Letter (Item 7) (no Item 6)                   | 1                   | 2               | 4                 | 8               |                  |                         |                     | 15          | \$4,915               |       | \$0            | \$4,915   |
| 2.x Prepare New Set of Hydrographs (Item 8)                      |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| 2.x Draft Response Letter (Item 8)                               |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| 2.x Finalize Response Letter                                     |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| Subtotal Phase 2:                                                | 22                  | 7               | 28                | 64              | 0                | 10                      | 0                   | 131         | \$43,850              | \$0   | \$0            | \$43,850  |
| Phase 3: ISW Response                                            |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                |           |
| 3.1 Quantify Depletions from Current Model (Item 1)              | 2                   |                 | 16                | 8               |                  | 4                       |                     | 30          | \$10,050              |       | \$0            | \$10,050  |
| 3.2 Draft Response Letter (Item 1)                               | 1                   |                 | 4                 | 2               |                  | 2                       |                     | 9           | \$3,075               |       | \$0            | \$3,075   |
| 3.3 Draft Response Letter (Item 2)                               |                     | 2               | 6                 |                 |                  |                         |                     | 8           | \$2,680               |       | \$0            | \$2,680   |
| 3.4 Draft Response Letter (Item 3)                               | 2                   |                 | 8                 | 4               |                  |                         |                     | 14          | \$4,650               |       | \$0            | \$4,650   |
| 3.5 Draft Response Letter (Item 4)                               | 1                   |                 | 2                 | 2               |                  |                         |                     | 5           | \$1,665               |       | \$0            | \$1,665   |

**Client: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority**

6/30/2026

**Project: Response to DWR Comments on 2024 GSP & Periodic Evaluation**

| Phases                                                              | Labor               |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       | ODCs  |                | Total     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
|                                                                     | Principal in Charge | Project Manager | Technical Manager | Project Planner | Project Engineer | Senior Technical Leader | Project Assistant   | Total Hours | Total Labor Costs (1) | ODCs  | Total ODCs (3) | Total Fee |
|                                                                     | Leslie Dumas        | Katie Cole      | Sara Roche        | Emily Honn      | Mackenzie Dughi  | Jim Blanke              | Project Coordinator |             |                       |       |                |           |
|                                                                     | \$375               | \$350           | \$330             | \$315           | \$300            | \$375                   | \$150               |             |                       |       |                |           |
| 3.6 Determine Incremental Depletions from Current Modeling (Item 5) | 2                   |                 | 16                | 8               |                  | 4                       |                     | 30          | \$10,050              |       | \$0            | \$10,050  |
| 3.7 Draft Response Letter (Item 5)                                  | 1                   |                 | 4                 | 2               |                  | 2                       |                     | 9           | \$3,075               |       | \$0            | \$3,075   |
| 3.x Finalize Response Letter                                        |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| Subtotal Phase 3:                                                   | 9                   | 2               | 56                | 26              | 0                | 12                      | 0                   | 105         | \$35,245              | \$0   | \$0            | \$35,245  |
| Phase 4: Plan Implementation Response                               |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                |           |
| 4.1 Draft Response Letter (Items 1-4)                               | 4                   | 6               | 8                 | 8               |                  | 2                       |                     | 28          | \$9,510               |       | \$0            | \$9,510   |
| 4.x DM Program Deadlines (Item 5)                                   |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| 4.x Well Mitigation Program (Item 6)                                |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| 4.x Finalize Response Letter                                        |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| Subtotal Phase 4:                                                   | 4                   | 6               | 8                 | 8               | 0                | 2                       | 0                   | 28          | \$9,510               | \$0   | \$0            | \$9,510   |
| Phase 5: Other Responses                                            |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                |           |
| 5.1 GWQ Response - Draft                                            | 2                   | 6               |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 8           | \$2,850               |       | \$0            | \$2,850   |
| 5.2 GWQ Response - Final                                            | 1                   | 4               |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 5           | \$1,775               |       | \$0            | \$1,775   |
| 5.3 Monitoring & Reporting Response - Draft                         | 2                   | 8               |                   | 3               | 8                |                         |                     | 21          | \$6,895               |       | \$0            | \$6,895   |
| 5.x Monitoring & Reporting Response - Final                         |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| 5.4 Subsidence Response - Draft                                     | 2                   | 3               |                   | 8               |                  | 2                       |                     | 15          | \$5,070               |       | \$0            | \$5,070   |
| 5.x Subsidence Response - Final                                     |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     | 0           | \$0                   |       | \$0            | \$0       |
| Subtotal Phase 5:                                                   | 7                   | 21              | 0                 | 11              | 8                | 2                       | 0                   | 49          | \$16,590              | \$0   | \$0            | \$16,590  |
| SUBTOTAL FOR WORK                                                   | 81                  | 116             | 136               | 142             | 8                | 38                      | 10                  | 591         | \$178,735             | \$500 | \$550          | \$179,285 |
| Already Encumbered from Prior Contract Task 11                      |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                | \$12,540  |
| NEW TOTAL REQUEST                                                   |                     |                 |                   |                 |                  |                         |                     |             |                       |       |                | \$166,745 |

1. The individual hourly rates include salary, overhead and profit.
2. Subconsultants will be billed at actual cost plus 10%.
3. Other direct costs (ODCs) such as reproduction, delivery, mileage
4. W&C reserves the right to adjust its hourly rate structure and
5. Additional Woodard & Curran staff may perform work on the project, based on our standard billing rate schedule currently in effect.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

April 17, 2026

Julia Berry  
Eastern San Joaquin GWA  
7600 N. Ingram Avenue, Ste 104  
Fresno, CA 93711  
[julia@firstwaterpartners.net](mailto:julia@firstwaterpartners.net)

RE: San Joaquin Valley - Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (No. 5-022.01) - 2025  
Periodic Review – Additional Information Request

Dear Julia Berry,

The Department of Water Resources (Department) is conducting its periodic review of the 2025 Periodic Evaluation and 2025 Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP or Plan) for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. The Department is requesting a meeting to explain the need for additional information the Department believes is necessary to inform the review.

During this meeting, Department staff will specify further details regarding each of the topics listed below and discuss the types of documentation and information needed to inform our review. Department staff will work with you to: (1) establish a reasonable schedule for providing the necessary additional information, (2) explain the process for submitting this additional information, and (3) determine whether a follow-up meeting is necessary. The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are not expected to respond to the information request during this meeting, nor do they need to prepare a presentation. However, it will be crucial for the GSAs to provide the additional information requested within the agreed timeline for the Department to fully inform the periodic review.

Department staff will discuss with you the need for additional information regarding the following topics:

1. **Groundwater Levels (GWL): Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)**

- a. **SMC update justification:** Provide justification for the change in minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for groundwater levels.
- b. **Undesirable result clarification:** Clarify the undesirable result definition.
- c. **Minimum thresholds and impact analyses:** Provide justification regarding the usage of the well impact and groundwater dependent ecosystem analyses to justify minimum thresholds.

- d. **Interim milestones:** Provide clarification on whether the subbasin has been meeting interim milestones.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

- a. **Missed measurements:** There are concerns regarding how missed measurements for groundwater levels were considered for identifying undesirable results.
- b. **Groundwater level reporting:** Clarify and justify discrepancies between submittals and the SGMA portal, including missing measurements, lagging reporting, and minimum threshold exceedance inconsistencies.

3. Land Subsidence: SMC

- a. **SMC update clarification:** Provide clarification regarding the relationship between subsidence-related adaptive management statements and the SMCs.
- b. Provide analysis to justify the rate and extent of potential subsidence impacts on the critical infrastructure.

4. Groundwater Quality: Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Chloride

- a. **SMC update clarification:** Provide clarification regarding the relationship between degraded groundwater quality-related adaptive management statements and the SMCs.

5. Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW): SMC

- a. **SMC development:** Provide additional information and clarification regarding development of SMCs, including the modeling scenarios utilized to support SMC development and ISW definition.

6. Plan Implementation

- a. Provide additional information pertaining to revision of the groundwater demand reduction offset, including justification of underlying assumptions.
- b. **Sustainability Goal:** Clarify and justify discrepancies between projected and realized project and management action benefits in the context of whether the subbasin continues to meet its sustainability goal.
- c. **Management actions:** Justify details pertaining to management actions and their importance for the subbasin to meet its sustainability goal.

To schedule the meeting, please contact me at [monica.salais@water.ca.gov](mailto:monica.salais@water.ca.gov) and Zhiming Chen at [zhiming.chen@water.ca.gov](mailto:zhiming.chen@water.ca.gov) by May 1, 2026.



Thank You,

*Monica Salais*

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Monica Salais, PE  
Supervising Water Resources Engineer  
Groundwater Sustainable Review Section Lead  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Office