

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 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: Craig Stevens, Regina Lackey, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Scot Moody, Paul Canepa, Keith Bussman, Secretary Najee Zarif, Vice Chairperson Mel Panizza, Chairperson Robert Holmes, Dante Nomellini, Steve Knell, Travis Kahrs, Christy McKinnon, and Douglas Smith

Directors Absent: George Biagi, Richard Wagner, Alan Nakanishi, Michael Blower, Gary Tofanelli, Myron Blanton and Dean Ruiz

Members of the Public in attendance: Julia Berry, Melissa Anna, Chelsea Spier, Brandon Warmerdam, Steve Schwabauer, Nancy Munoz, Brittany Harker and Tara Khan

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were added to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were recorded.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

1. SGMA Portal Update and Data Management Approach

There are 53 wells in the Representative Monitoring Network, and data is entered and updated in the SGMA Portal at this time.

2. FY 2026-2027 Draft ESJGWA Budget

ED Berry presented the draft 2026-2027 Budget. The ad hoc Executive Committee met in February and approved the draft 2026-27 ESJGWA Budget. A two-month period will follow to allow for questions and comments from member agencies and members of the public. Member dues were kept flat, using the same rate and calculation method that has been in place since 2019.

The Well Mitigation program has been fully funded at \$200,000. Reserve funds for the 2030 Periodic Evaluation are currently at \$200,000. The Executive Committee agreed to fund engineering services that will be selected from the list of approved contractors identified through the RFP process completed in 2025. No action was taken on the proposed budget.

A. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of March 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Scot Moody

Second: Mike Henry

Vote was unanimous.

2. Cancel May 13, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion: Regina Lackey

Second: Vice Chairperson, Mel Panizza

Vote was unanimous.

V. Authority Staff/Agency Reports

- 1. Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director** – No staff report given.
- 2. Chelsea Spier, Department of Water Resources** – The first scoping meeting has been scheduled for the Proposition 40 Grant on April 30, 2026, and the email and link to registration went out last week.

VI. Directors' Comments and Project Status

Chairperson Holmes commented that the North San Joaquin Conservation District hosted a water forum last week at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi, CA. The event was well attended, featured excellent presentations, and had strong board participation. A presentation was given by Executive Director Julie Berry at the meeting.

Director Paul Canepa shared that the golden mussel issue is becoming increasingly serious. Efforts are underway to fund a dip tank, and the Smith Canal gates recently required extensive cleaning. He noted concerns about how this problem could potentially impact farmers in the area. The County is working to collect data and identify solutions. Input is welcomed through the task force.

VII. Adjournment at 11:09 a.m.