

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 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, Myron Blanton, 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 and Christy McKinnon. Alternate Steve Schwabauer joined the meeting midway, replacing Director Jason Colombini.

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

Members of the Public in attendance: Julia Berry, Melissa Anna, Chelsea Spier, Kelly Gerkensmeyer, TJ Sallado, Justin Hopkins, Ashley Couch, Gavin Cline, K. Saifuddin, Eva Mijango, Tara Khan, Louie Brichetto Jr., Mary Elizabeth Hope Paulin, Michael Miller, Jennifer Spaletta, Jarin Tasim Anika, Brittany Harker, Maria Razo, Wes Henson, Venki Narasimhalu, Selinda Centeno, Guzman, Kim.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were added to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were recorded.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

1. ESJGWA 2025 Annual Report -

A. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of April 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mike Henry

Second: Mel Panizza

Vote was unanimous.

2. Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Grant Fund Budget Totaling \$781,948 in Appropriations

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Paul Canepa

Vote was unanimous.

3. **Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Totaling \$3,357,000 in Revenues and Appropriations and the Proposed Cost Allocation to ESJGWA Members Totaling \$664,753**

Motion: Dante Nomellini

Second: Scot Moody

Vote was unanimous.

4. **Approval of an Independent Contractor Agreement for Executive Director Services with First Water Partners, Inc. and assign responsibility for ARPA Grant Projects**

Motion: Steve Schwabauer

Second: Paul Canepa

Vote was unanimous.

V. Authority Staff/Agency Reports

1. Julia D. Berry, ESJGWA Executive Director

Greg Young from Zanjero will be giving a presentation at the July meeting. Significant progress has been made in addressing water level measurement and water quality data gaps, including identifying data holders and ensuring information is aggregated. This effort has been underway since last August and is now showing very positive results. Authority management has requested DWR training on the data upload process to help ensure successful submissions by contractor Condor Environmental.

A letter from Department of Water Resources (DWR) was received and has been posted to the portal. Staff meetings have been scheduled to review and address DWR's questions and comments. An email was sent to all GSA staff members encouraging participation and input. The deadline to submit responses to DWR is October 1.

The March subsidence monitoring event showed no measurable change, which is very positive news for the basin.

ARPA funds are currently being expended to drill two new monitoring wells. A third location is being sought in either the southern, eastern, or western portion of the basin. Kleinfelder is coordinating with the County, and the City of Ripon is also contributing to the effort to identify potential sites.

Regarding Proposition 4, DWR recently held an orientation and disclosed that the project solicitation package is targeted to be released early 2027. In the meantime, outreach will be conducted to gather landowner input on potential projects to move forward.

2. Chelsea Spier, Department of Water Resources

Chelsea reviewed the attachment from DWR.

VI. Directors' Comments and Project Status

There were no comments.

VII. Adjournment at 12:39 p.m.