



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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Oakdale Irrigation District
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South Delta Water Agency
John Herrick

South San Joaquin
Irrigation District
Robert Holmes

Woodbridge Irrigation
District
Keith Bussman

Special Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, CA 95206**

- I. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call**
- II. **Scheduled Items -**
 - A. Discussion / Action Items:
 1. Approval of the October 11th, 2023, Meeting Minutes - [Page 2](#)
 2. ESJ GWA Financial Report
 3. Presentation and Discussion on the GSP 2025 Update – Scope of Work and Budget Negotiations - [Page 5](#)
 4. Recommendation to Approve a Task Order with Woodard & Curran to Fund Initial GSP 2025 Update Tasks Not to Exceed \$60,000 - [Page 7](#)
- III. **Staff/DWR Reports**
 - A. Staff Reports
 - B. DWR Report
- IV. **Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports**
- V. **Public Comment (items not on the agenda)**
- VI. **Future Agenda Items**
- VII. **Adjournment**

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 13th, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

Action may be taken on any item

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.

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at San Joaquin County Public Works in Stockton, California (1810 Hazelton Avenue Conference Rm A). At approximately 8:30 a.m. call to order was conducted by Chairman Robert Rickman and roll call was taken of members only.

In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Mike Henry, Mel Lytle, Robert Holmes, Brandon Nakagawa, Joe Valente, Secretary Fritz Buchman, and Chairman Robert Rickman

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the August 23rd, 2023, Steering Committee Minutes

Motion: Mike Henry

2nd: Robert Holmes

In favor: Andrew Watkins, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes and Robert Rickman

Abstain: Joe Valente and Mel Lytle

2. Recommendations to Improve Public Participation in ESJ GWA Meetings

Fritz Buchman suggested a trial period of a virtual option for participation of the public only. Zoom would be the platform used. Other suggestions were to offer donuts, increase interaction with other businesses and community partners, GWA Board members attending the County Growers Meetings to inform the community of the ESJ GWA Board meetings to increase attendance and interest. Also suggested, mail out fliers and Board information via USPS and potentially offering Spanish fliers.

Motion to implement a trial virtual option for ESJ GWA Meetings: Andrew Watkins

2nd: Robert Holmes

Vote was unanimous.

3. Receive ESJ GWA Financial Report

Hope Paulin from San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources shared July – September financial updates. Brandon Nakagawa shared that grant funding needs to be spent by the end of the next year fiscal year and that the scope of work and budget for the GSP update will need to be negotiated. There will be more spending to come.

4. Approve a Task Order with Woodard & Curran for Preparation of the Water Year 2023 Report for an Amount Not to Exceed \$52,810.

Brandon Nakagawa commented that they are hoping to get the data requests out ASAP in a manner very similar to last year.

Motion to approve: Robert Holmes

2nd: Joe Valente

Vote was unanimous.

5. Update on Monitoring Well Drilling Task Fund by a Department of Water Resources Grant

Brandon Nakagawa shared that one of the tasks identified in the grant award is to put in a monitoring well somewhere in the Delta to help fill data gaps across subbasin boundaries. Of note the scope of work calls for one well with multiple depths, and that drilling has drastically increased in price over the last several years since the grant was approved. This well is hoped to be located at West Gate Landing, a public park owned by San Joaquin County. Permission from the County and a permit from Environmental Health is needed with the hope of commencing drilling next spring.

6. Update on Fall Groundwater Levels and Water Quality Monitoring Event

Brandon Nakagawa shared the GSP has a list of about 150 wells that need to be monitored for water levels and another 20 or so wells for water quality. Staff is working with Condor to develop scope of work and a cost estimate to get it done. This should start Monday, October 16th and last about 2 weeks. Condor is also tasked with renting equipment to sample and purge wells, a first time occurrence for the ESJGWA. There are chain of custody issues, hold-time issues, and other logistical considerations. The cost estimated is \$48K and will hopefully be less than that as we get into the field.

7. Recommendation to Negotiate a Proposal with Woodard & Curran for the Eastern San Joaquin GSP 2025 Update

Brandon Nakagawa shared we need to get a consultant on board ASAP and start the GSP 2025 Update. This is also a good opportunity to refine the engagement and outreach plan on the heels of our response back to the Civil Grand Jury. Woodard & Curran can scope and bring back to the ESJ GWA Board for a budget amendment and under contract. Fritz Buchman commented that the GSP update is due at the end of January 2025 to DWR, so this item is timely.

Motion for Steering Committee to direct staff to negotiate a proposal with W&C for the ESJ GSP 2025 Update: Robert Holmes

2nd: Mike Henry

Vote is unanimous.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. Staff Report – none
2. DWR Report – none

IV. Directors Comments

Robert Holmes thanks Brandon Nakagawa and staff for their efforts on getting back on track. Fritz Buchman shared the vacancy for the Water Resources Manager is open, applications are pending and hoping to start interviews shortly.

V. Public Comment

Mary Elizabeth provided public comment.

VI. Future Agenda Items

Possible Board meeting by the end of the year for a budget amendment and to get Woodard & Curran under contract.

VII. Adjournment at 9:51 am



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee
FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA
SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion on GSP 2025 Update – Scope of Work and Budget Negotiations
Date: November 3, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Steering Committee receive a presentation on the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Update - Scope of Work and Budget Negotiations. Woodard & Curran is preparing an hour-long presentation. The concurrent discussion will also inform staff in the preparation of a formal recommendation for consideration by the Steering Committee on a final Scope of Work and Budget and any resulting changes to the current ESJGWA Budget including possible increases in GSA Member Dues.

Summary of Initial Scoping Meeting

On October 11, 2023, the Steering Committee recommended unanimously to direct staff to negotiate a Scope of Work and Budget with Woodard & Curran (WC) for the GSP 2025 Update. WC is preparing a draft scope of work for the ESJGWA's consideration. Staff met with WC on Tuesday, October 31 to discuss approach, goals and objectives, cost drivers, and potential stakeholder concerns. The Team thought it best to present to the Steering Committee foundational information on the task items driving the scope and budget. The Team also came to consensus on the following items:

1. The Steering Committee will need to fully understand how existing guidance and directive documents from the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Board, San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury, State Law, and other pertinent documents drive "Need It" and "Want It" elements in the GSP 2025 Update. Notably, DWR included in its Approved Determination Letter dated July 2023 a list of 8 Recommended Corrective Actions for the GSP 2025 Update. And just recently on October 30, DWR published a GSP Implementation Guide citing new higher expectations for GSP Annual Reports and GSP revisions. Ultimately, DWR will need to have an evolved GSP in their hands by the end of January 2025 that meets their evolving standards. Failure to do so could thrust GSAs into probationary status.
2. Given the condensed schedule, it is in the best interest of the ESJGWA to accelerate a portion of the GSP 2025 Update immediately while continuing to refine the overall Scope of Work and Budget. The remaining Scope of Work and Budget would be presented for consideration by the Steering Committee in December and ultimately, the ESJGWA Board in January. WC is preparing a standalone scope of work for the accelerated work which includes the incorporation of new data into the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model which is an expected task by DWR. The associated Task Order is expected to not exceed \$60,000. A separate staff report

is being prepared for the Steering Committee’s consideration. The Task Order could be approved by the County Public Works Director under his existing budget authority.

3. The envisioned overall Scope of Work will likely exceed the cash reserves currently available to the ESJGWA. It is likely that GSA Members will need to increase their dues for the current budget and again in 2024-2025. As agreed at the October 31 meeting, WC’s approach to developing a Scope of Work has been to identify items that are “Need It” as opposed to “Want It.” Serious consideration will need to be given to items identified as “Want It” that could potentially save money for the ESJGWA in the long term. To reduce the amount of cash needed to be raised from GSAs, the Team will recommend ways to leverage outside resources (i.e. existing secured grants) or other in-kind assistance (GSA or DWR provided assistance) to reduce the ESJGWA’s cash need. These potential resources are anticipated to be minimal as there is no specific grant funding allocated by the Administration for GSP development this time around.
4. WC will also present their research on comparable scopes of works and budgets from other subbasins producing 2025 GSP updates. This is an opportunity to see how others are tackling the challenge of producing their respective GSP updates.

Timeline for Approval of GSP 2025 Update Scope of Work and Budget

- November 8 Steering Committee – Receive Presentation on GSP 2025 Update - Scope of Work and Budget Negotiations
- November 8 Steering Committee – Recommend Task Order for Acceleration of GSP 2025 Update Tasks – Not to Exceed \$60,000
- December 13 Steering Committee – Recommendation on remaining Scope of Work and Budget for GSP 2025 Update
- January 10, 2024 ESJGWA Board of Directors – Approval of Budget Adjustment and Possible Increase in GSA Member Dues
- January 10, 2024 ESJGWA Board of Directors – Approval of Remaining Scope of Work and Budget for GSP 2025 Update
- May or June 2024 – Adoption of 2024-2025 ESJGWA Budget and Possible Increase in GSA Member Dues

Links to Pertinent Documents

- <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/service/gspdocument/download/9919> – Approved Determination Letter from DWR
- <https://www.sjcourts.org/divisions/civil-grand-jury/api/grabReport.php? id=376> – San Joaquin Civil Grand Jury Report, *Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Authority: A Rubik’s Cube of Water Management*
- <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/GSP-Implementation-Guidance-Report.pdf> – DWR GSP Implementation Guide



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Via Electronic Mail

November 6, 2023

Fritz Buchman
San Joaquin County Department of Public Works
1810 E Hazelton Ave
Stockton, CA 95205

Re: Proposal for Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin 2025 Periodic Evaluation Accelerated Work
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin

Dear Mr. Buchman:

As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code § 10733), the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin) Groundwater Authority (ESJ GWA) needs to complete a 2025 Periodic Evaluation and GSP Amendment for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin) by January 29, 2025. To meet this deadline, Woodard & Curran is recommending that various activities commence immediately while the larger scope of work and budget is negotiated.

Our proposed scope for immediate activities is outlined below, and generally consists of beginning model updates.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Task 1. Project Management and Technical Coordination

This task includes general project management covering the time period of this scope. Consultant will coordinate directly with San Joaquin County staff or ESJ GWA representatives as necessary.

Task 2. Evaluate Technical Updates to HCM and Model

Process AEM Data

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is working on airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys for all of California's high- and medium-priority groundwater basins where data collection is feasible. AEM survey results in continuous images showing the distribution of electrical resistivity values of the subsurface materials that can be interpreted for lithologic properties. The resulting information will provide a standardized, statewide dataset that improves the understanding of large-scale aquifer structures and supports the development or refinement of hydrogeologic conceptual models and can help identify areas for recharging groundwater. The survey covering the Subbasin (Survey Area 6) was completed in April 2022 with data reports and datasets published May 2023. Consultant shall download, process, and review the AEM data covering the Subbasin and evaluate how it can improve the understanding of the Subbasin aquifers. AEM work can support updates to the HCM and model.

Review and Revise HCM Based on Updated Information

The update of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM) will utilize the most recent and readily available data since the 2020 GSP. Updates to the GSP’s HCM section may include:

- Regional geologic and structural setting, and faults and structural features based on the AEM data and the fault studies.
- Geologic stratigraphy based on TSS monitoring wells.

Evaluate Model Updates

The existing Eastern San Joaquin Water Resources Model (ESJWRM) will be updated to incorporate the additional data and information that has been made available since adoption of the GSP. The following activities will be evaluated and may start immediately:

- Model Layering: Existing layering is based on an older version of C2VSimFG. ESJWRM will evaluate removing the deep saline layer, adding a shallow alluvium layer (based on evaluation of AEM data), and adjusting other layers based on updates in understanding or based on more recent data from C2VSimFG.
- Delivery Areas: Delivery areas need to be adjusted based on updated information from GSAs and due to finer analysis. Data has been made available to evaluate the surface water delivery to areas including riparian corridors, NSJWCD, and SEWD.
- Land Use: Model land use is current through 2016. More recent land use will be processed on and element scale for addition to the model.
- Farmington Reservoir: Recharge is not directly simulated in the model. Evaluate available data and consider explicitly adding recharge from Farmington Reservoir in the model.
- Begin Research on Changes to Datasets: Datasets that have long been earmarked as potentially needing changes include evapotranspiration, unsaturated zone, and boundary flows. Begin coordination and research on potential updates to these datasets.

BUDGET

The proposed budget for completion of the work described herein is not to exceed \$60,000. A detailed breakdown of the fee estimate is below and will be performed on a time and materials basis.

Tasks	Labor						Total Hours	Total Fee
	Senior Technical Leader	Project Planner	Project Engineer	Project Geologist	Junior Engineer	Admn		
	\$345	\$300	\$280	\$250	\$200	\$130		
Task 1: Project Management & Technical Coordination								
Project Management & Technical Coordination	4	12	4	8	4	2	34	\$9,160
Subtotal Task 1:	4	12	4	8	4	2	34	\$9,160
Task 2: Evaluate Technical Updates to HCM and Model								
Evaluate Technical Updates to HCM and Model	8	0	45	45	120		218	\$50,610
Subtotal Task 3:	8	0	45	45	120	0	218	\$50,610
TOTAL	12	12	49	53	124	2	252	\$59,770

CLOSING

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to offer our professional services. Please feel free to call either Katie Cole at (415) 321-3420 or Leslie Dumas at (916) 999-8760 or Katie Cole at (415) 321-3420 if you have any questions regarding this proposal or require any further information.

Sincerely,



Leslie Dumas
Senior Technical Leader



Katie Cole
Project Manager