



## **SPECIAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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/Roll Call**

#### **II. Scheduled Items – *Presentation Materials to be Posted on ESJGroundwater.org and Emailed Prior to the Meeting.***

##### **A. Discussion/Action Items**

1. Approval of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Steering Committee Minutes - [Page 2](#)
2. Presentation from Stantec on Communications and Engagement Provided through DWR Facilitation Support Services
3. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Adopt a Domestic Well Mitigation Program - [Page 4](#)
4. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Adopt the FY 2024-2025 Budget - [Page 10](#)
5. Update on GSP 2025 Update Progress - [Page 13](#)

#### **III. Staff Reports**

1. DWR Report
2. Other Items
3. Communications

#### **IV. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)**

#### **V. Director Comments**

#### **VI. Future Agenda Items**

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

8:30 am to 10:00 am

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

# Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Special Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center in Assembly Room 1. At approximately 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Rickman.

Roll Call: In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Jason Colombini, Mike Henry, Mitch Maidrand, Robert Holmes, Secretary Fritz Buchman and Chairman Robert Rickman.

## II. Scheduled Items

### A. Discussion/Action Items

#### 1. Approval of the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Andrew Watkins

**Second:** Mike Henry

**All in favor.**

#### 2. Update on Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Plan

Brandon Nakagawa shared the participation has been great. Stakeholders include local and private pumpers, farmers, etc. The best fit options should be discussed and chosen by the group regarding outreach communications.

#### 3. Discussion on Draft Well Mitigation Program

Steve Schwabauer shared the policy provides for a claim process. The user can contact the GWA or OES regarding a failed well, they will be given information regarding the process, the GWA will establish a committee to review the claims. Members of the committee will include: a District Engineer, Hydrologist hired by the GWA, County Environmental Health Officer, and a fifth entity to be recommended as a non-involved GEM or designee.

#### 4. Recommendation and Approval of an Amendment No. 1 to Land Use Agreement A-22-375 License to Use Land or Groundwater Monitoring Stations with San Joaquin County for the Westgate Landing Monitoring Well

**Motion:** Jason Colombini

**Second:** Robert Holmes

**All in favor.**

**5. Recommendation to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with San Joaquin County to Receive American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Monitoring Network Enhancements**

**Motion:** Mike Henry  
**Second:** Andrew Watkins  
**All in favor.**

**6. Recommendation to Submit 2023 Groundwater Reports**

**Motion:** Mike Henry  
**Second:** Robert Holmes  
**All in favor.**

**7. Spring and Fall Groundwater Reports**

Bob Granberg shared the Spring and Fall Groundwater Reports linked [here](#).

**8. Discussion on Upcoming ESJGWA Work Plan and Draft 2024-2025 Annual Budget**

Brandon Nakagawa shared the work plan which includes: GSP update, groundwater monitoring in the Spring and Fall, and administration. The report is due April 1<sup>st</sup> and is crucial to prevent a GSA from being sent into probation.

**III. Staff/DWR Reports**

1. **2024 Spring Groundwater Monitoring Schedule** – Brandon shared the monitoring schedule is almost complete, Spring came a little early, but they are starting early as well.
2. **DWR** – Chelsea shared updates on the DWR attachment in the agenda.
3. **Other Items** – Brandon commented the next Board meeting will be in June. Steering Committee will meet in April. Please plan on attending the June Board meeting to pass the budget.
4. **Communications** - None

**IV. Directors Comments** - None

**V. Public Comment** - None

**VI. Future Agenda Items** - None

**VII. Adjournment at 9:55am**

NOTE\* - Meeting presentation material can be found on the website at [www.esjgroundwater.org/](http://www.esjgroundwater.org/).

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN  
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**RESOLUTION R-24-**

**ADOPTING PROGRAM FOR DRY DOMESTIC WELL MITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (“Authority”) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the 16 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) overlying the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin to coordinate the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) and activities thereunder as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

WHEREAS, SGMA encourages GSAs to include in their GSP implementation measures that provide mitigation for undesirable results of overdraft, including the failure of domestic water supply wells due to overdraft pumping occurring after January 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, the GSA’s in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin have not experienced significant dry well reports as reported by the State of California Dry Well Reporting System or as reported by individuals within the GSAs;

WHEREAS, nevertheless the GSA’s desire to establish a single program, to be operated through the Authority, that can be used to provide emergency, interim and long-term mitigation assistance for owners and other persons who experience a failure of a domestic water supply well due to overdraft pumping within the subbasin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Authority that:

1. The attached Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Program for Domestic Well Mitigation is hereby adopted and approved. The Program establishes the rules and procedures to be used by the Authority and its members to address mitigation for failure of domestic water supply wells caused by groundwater overdraft occurring after January 1, 2015.
2. The Program shall be implemented by the Authority and coordinated through the San Joaquin County Director of Public Works designated as the Authority Secretary.
3. The DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND (FUND) is hereby created with a funding target in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00). Initial funding shall be raised from GSA Member dues as part of the Authority’s annual budget and apportioned to Member GSAs using the Authority’s annual budget allocation formula..
4. Program activities and funding needs shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed with the understanding that this is an evolving situation and there is a need to establish an initial Program and then adjust as the GSA Members learn more about the needs of the community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024, by the following vote of the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

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Robert Rickman  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater  
Authority

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ATTEST: Fritz Buchman, C.E., P.E., CFM  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater  
Authority

DRAFT

## Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Program for Domestic Well Mitigation

(draft 3/21/24, approved by the ESJGWA on \_\_\_\_\_)

1. **PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY LIMITS:** This Program provides emergency, interim and financial mitigation for domestic water supply wells that have been determined to have failed due to groundwater overdraft conditions occurring since January 1, 2015.
2. **DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND:** The Authority shall establish a DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND (FUND) with a funding target in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00).
  - 2.01 Initial funding shall be raised from GSA Member dues as part of the Authority's annual budget and apportioned to Member GSAs using the Authority's annual budget allocation formula.
  - 2.02 By action of the Authority Board of Directors, the Fund may be replenished by utilizing reserves or additional Member dues. Should the Fund fall below ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00), GSA Members will meet and confer in good faith to determine the appropriate funding mechanism, replenishment amount, and GSA Member allocation methodology prior to Fund replenishment.
3. **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND CLAIMS ASSISTANCE:** Authority and GSA Members shall assign staff or representatives (collectively herein referred to as "staff") to engage in public outreach to give notice to domestic well owners and residents of their right to request assistance under this Program, and how to apply for assistance.
  - 3.01 **Outreach:** Staff will perform outreach to populations likely to require assistance under this Program and create fliers, social media posts and website links to publicize this Program. The above fliers shall be posted at appropriate locations such as County Environmental Health Departments, GSA offices, Farm Bureau locations, community organizations and City and County Public Works and Utility Offices. The Authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations to assist with outreach.
  - 3.02 **Development of an Application for Assistance:** Staff will develop a simple application form for residents applying for assistance under this Program. Pertinent information submitted with the application form may include location of the well, age of the well, well construction information such as total depth of the well, screen intervals, and annular seal depth, contact information, date the well first failed to produce water or meet water quality standards. Applicants will be strongly urged to provide evidence such as official lab results, declarations from a licensed well driller identifying the cause of the well failure (if available), and all other evidence in applicant's possession that the failure was caused by overdraft pumping (i.e. depth to water measurements, nearby wells, etc.).

**3.03 Filing Applications for Assistance:** Staff will assist residents with filing the request for assistance called for in this Program. The Authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations to assist residents with filing claims.

4. **CLAIMS PROCESS:**

**4.01 Limitations Period:** All claims brought under this Program must have accrued after January 1, 2015. Claims brought that accrued between January 1, 2015 and the adoption of this policy shall be brought within six months of the adoption of this policy. The limitations period for claims brought after the adoption of this policy shall be the limitations process and period provided by the California Government Tort Claims Act (Government Code Section 810 and following).

**4.02 Technical Review Committee:** A Technical Review Committee will be formed to review each application under this Policy. The Technical Review Committee shall consist of the following members:

4.02.1 The District Engineer for the GSA where the well is located.

4.02.2 A licensed hydrologist hired by the Authority on an eligibility list pre-approved by the ESJGWA Steering Committee.

4.02.3 A registered Environmental Health Specialist from the County Environmental Health Department in which the well is located.

4.02.4 The well owner, agent (i.e. well driller, independent consultant, attorney, or designated representative), environmental justice advocate selected from a list compiled by the ESJGWA Steering Committee.

4.02.5 A technical representative designated by a Member GSA that is not the GSA for the area in which the well is located. The Steering Committee will vet and compile a list of names of eligible technical representatives from Member GSAs and assign a person from this list to serve on the Technical Review Committee on a rotating basis.

5. **Interim Remedies:** The Authority will work with county Office of Emergency Services where the well is located, other non-governmental agencies, or directly with vendors to ensure the applicant is provided an interim water supply to all applicants with a reasonable facial complaint for damages. An interim water supply consists of bottled water intended to meet drinking water and cooking needs while the claim is reviewed and processed. If the claim is approved, the Authority will ensure that an interim water supply will continue until the selected mitigation is complete.

6. **Claims Subject to Mitigation:** The following claims are eligible for mitigation assistance under this Program:

**6.01** Well Failures caused by declining water levels that were caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

**6.02** Well Failures due to water quality problems caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015. Water quality problems means well water that exceed State or Federal maximum contaminant levels. Water quality problems that are not the result of overdraft pumping shall not be subject to mitigation under this Program. Eligibility for an alternative water supply such as bottled water may be available through CV-Salts.

**6.03** Well failure due to subsidence caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

**7. Claim Administration:**

**7.01 Notice of Claim:** Claims must be submitted in the form of a completed application to:

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority  
Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County  
PO BOX 1810  
Stockton, CA 95201

Or in-person:  
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority  
Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County  
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95201

**7.02** The Secretary of the Authority is authorized to summarily reject any claim if and only if, the well failure can be remedied by replacing failed electrical or mechanical pump components without needing to re-drill the well.

**7.03** The Technical Review Committee shall have authority to conduct its own investigation of the evidence including contracting with hydrogeologists and well drillers, researching county well records and requesting records from the applicant.

**7.04** The Technical Review Committee will draft a written technical memorandum recommending how, whether and to what extent to mitigate a claim, if any, within 15 days of receipt of the application together with any additional information requested by the Technical Review Committee.

**7.05** The Technical Committee will forward its Technical Memorandum and Recommendation for funding/mitigation to the GWA Steering Committee. The GWA Steering Committee will issue a final written decision on the Claim within 30 days of receipt of the Technical Review Committee's memorandum. The written



decision will be provided to the Claimant via mail at the address located in the Application on the date it is issued.

- 7.06** The GWA Steering Committee may decide to provide complete or partial mitigation for a particular Claim based on the Committee's determination of the percentage of responsibility for the well failure related to groundwater pumping as opposed to other contributing factors, such as the age or construction of the well.
- 7.07** A Claimant may appeal a decision of the GWA Steering Committee by submitting a written appeal to the GWA Board Chair within 30 days of the mailing date of the GWA Steering Committee Decision. The appeal shall contain a copy of the original application, the Technical Memorandum and the Steering Committee Decision and state the basis for the appeal.
- 7.08** The GWA Board Chair shall agendize the appeal for the next quarterly GWA Board Meeting that is at least 15 days after receipt of the appeal and provide written notice and the agenda to the appellant.
- 7.09** The GWA Board of Directors shall act on the appeal and issue a written decision. The decision of the GWA Board of Directors shall be final.



# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

**STAFF REPORT**

**Meeting Date: April 10, 2024**

**TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee**  
**FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA**  
**SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve the Proposed ESJGWA Budget for FY 2024-2025  
Totaling \$3,352,000 in Revenue and Appropriations and to Approve the  
Proposed Cost Allocation to ESJGWA Members Totaling \$373,000.**  
**Date: April 5, 2023**

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Steering Committee make the following recommendations to the Board of Directors:

1. The ESJGWA 2024-2025 Budget be adopted totaling \$3,352,000 increase in spending authority to be offset by an increase in revenues; and,
2. The resulting increase in Member Dues of \$373,000 be allocated to Member GSAs using a similar allocation formula currently in use by the ESJGWA.

The ESJGWA Board of Directors is scheduled to take action on the proposed Budget on June 12, 2024. The proposed Budget detail and proposed GSA Member allocations are attached to this staff report.

## **Reasons for Recommendation**

The current ESJGWA budget was originally adopted on June 9<sup>th</sup>, amended on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and amended for a second time on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Budget was necessary to fund the 2025 GSP Update. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Budget was significantly revised to defer or re-assign certain activities to GSAs, allocate reserves specifically held for the 2025 GSP Update, and to increase Member Dues to fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Budget shortfall of \$670,120.

The total proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget totals \$3,352,000 in revenue and \$3,352,000 in appropriations. Notable line items include:

### **Revenues:**

- Carry-over \$650,000 in previous GSA Member Dues to finish 2025 GSP Update - \$650,000
- Bring GSA Member Cost allocations down to previous funding levels - \$373,000
- Receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding from San Joaquin County - \$2.104,000

**Appropriations:**

- 2025 GSP Update (remaining work) - \$650,000
- Groundwater Data Collection - \$125,000
- GSP Annual Report - \$65,000
- ARPA Expenditures (i.e. monitoring well drilling, instrumentation, data gaps) - \$925,000
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program Implementation Start-Up - \$20,000
- Subsidence Related Surveying - \$25,000
- Contribution to Reserves GSP Update - \$100,000
- Contribution to Reserves ARPA - \$1,179,000
- Contribution to Reserves Domestic Well Mitigation Fund - \$100,000

The proposed Budget assumes a fund balance total of \$0 on July 1, 2024 and that ESJGWA reserves are projected to be \$1,379,000 at the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30, 2025. There are outstanding grant reimbursement and invoices that will need to be accounted for through June 30, 2024. A final accounting of 2023-2024 ESJGWA revenues and expenditures will be prepared by San Joaquin County in July 2024.

GSA	Total Pumping-Projected (AFY)	Population (2017)	Minimum	Pumping	Population	Eastside GSA Non-Zone 2 Adjustment	Total	%
CDWA	9,611	1,629	\$7,500	\$1,824	\$275	\$(1,000)	\$8,599	2.3%
CSJWCD	138,809	8,047	\$7,500	\$26,350	\$1,358	\$(1,000)	\$34,209	9.2%
Eastside	63,500	10,498	\$7,500	\$12,054	\$1,772	\$15,000	\$36,326	9.7%
LCSJ	1,153	1,558	\$7,500	\$219	\$263	\$(1,000)	\$6,982	1.9%
LCWD	485	2819	\$7,500	\$92	\$476	\$(1,000)	\$7,068	1.9%
Lodi	14,520	58,174	\$7,500	\$2,756	\$9,821	\$(1,000)	\$19,077	5.1%
Manteca	18,985	64,279	\$7,500	\$3,604	\$10,851	\$(1,000)	\$20,955	5.6%
NSJWCD	146,158	21,977	\$7,500	\$27,745	\$3,710	\$(1,000)	\$37,955	10.2%
OID	39,952	1,890	\$7,500	\$7,584	\$319	\$(1,000)	\$14,403	3.9%
SDWA	4,532	7,136	\$7,500	\$860	\$1,205	\$(1,000)	\$8,565	2.3%
SEWD	165,025	41,134	\$7,500	\$31,327	\$6,944	\$(1,000)	\$44,771	12.0%
SJC #1	74,448	16,859	\$7,500	\$14,132	\$2,846	\$(1,000)	\$23,479	6.3%
SJC #2	8,183	39,779	\$7,500	\$1,553	\$6,715	\$(1,000)	\$14,769	4.0%
SSJ GSA	60,031	38,080	\$7,500	\$11,396	\$6,429	\$(1,000)	\$24,324	6.5%
Stockton	23,035	277,120	\$7,500	\$4,373	\$46,782	\$(1,000)	\$57,655	15.5%
WID GSA	31,238	8,488	\$7,500	\$5,930	\$1,433	\$(1,000)	\$13,863	3.7%
	<b>799,665</b>	<b>599,467</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$151,800</b>	<b>\$101,200</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$373,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority  
Proposed Budget 2024-2025**

Line Items	APPROVED January 10, 2024 Amendment No. 2			PROPOSED Board Consideration - June 12 FY 2024-2025		
	Contract	Staff	Total	Contract	Staff	Total
<b>(Fund 21451)</b>						
<b>Revenue</b>						
GWA GSAs Cost Allocation	370,000		370,000	373,000		373,000
GWA GSAs Cost Allocation (2025 GSP Update)	670,120		670,120	650,000		650,000
Reserve Fund-dedication	310,000		310,000	-		-
Other Govt Aid from Zone 2	225,000		225,000	225,000		225,000
State (DWR) Sustainable GW Grant	367,571		367,571	-		-
Prop. 1 Retention Reimbursement	0		0	-		-
Reimbursement from GSAs for Grant Writing Exp	0		0	-		-
ARPA	0		0	2,104,000		2,104,000
Carryover (use of fund balance)	0		0	-		-
Interest Income	0		0	-		-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>1,942,691</b>		<b>1,942,691</b>	<b>3,352,000</b>		<b>3,352,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>General Office</b>						
Supplies	500	0	500	500	-	500
Office Expense	500	0	500	500	-	500
	0	0	0	-	-	-
Website Maintenance/Upgrades	5,000	2,000	7,000	10,000	-	10,000
	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rents Structures & Grounds	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
	0	0	0	-	-	-
Postage	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Auditor's Payroll & A/P Charges	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
	0	0	0	-	-	-
	0	0	0	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Management and Administration</b>						
Meetings (Clerk and Records)	0	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Budget, Contract Administration and Accounting	0	60,000	60,000	-	60,000	60,000
Professional Services PW Admin	0	50,000	50,000	-	20,000	20,000
Professional Services GWA Legal	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
Professional Services County Legal	15,000	0	15,000	-	-	-
Professional Services Public Outreach, Communications, Engage	0	0	0	15,000	-	15,000
Interbasin & DWR Coordination	0	0	0	-	-	-
Grant Writing	0	0	0	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>
<b>Technical and Engineering Services</b>						
2023 GSP Update	1,130,120	0	1,130,120	650,000	-	650,000
2023 Annual Report	55,000	7,500	62,500	65,000	-	65,000
Groundwater Data Collection	60,000	0	60,000	100,000	25,000	125,000
ARPA - Implementation of Instrumentation (Representative Wells)	0	0	0	150,000	-	150,000
ARPA - Monitoring Network Evaluation/Management	0	0	0	-	50,000	50,000
ARPA - Monitoring Network Improvements (wells; SW/GW Interact)	0	0	0	600,000	-	600,000
ARPA - DMS Implementation	0	0	0	100,000	25,000	125,000
Model Development & Support	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
Domestic Well Mitigation Program Implementation	0	0	0	-	20,000	20,000
Water Accounting Framework	50,000	15,000	65,000	-	-	-
Subsidence Surveying				25,000	-	25,000
Accelerated GSP Work	60,000	0	60,000	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,370,120</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>1,392,620</b>	<b>1,705,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>1,825,000</b>
<b>Work in Progress</b>						
Professional Services WC (A-18-01)	0	0	0	-	-	-
Professional Services WC (A-20-01)	0	0	0	-	-	-
Completion of Prop 68 Project	367,571	7,500	375,071	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>367,571</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>375,071</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Contributions to Reserve</b>						
Reserve-GSP Update	0	0	0	100,000	-	100,000
ARPA Reserve Fund				1,179,000		1,179,000
Domestic Well Mitigation Program Fund				100,000		100,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,379,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,379,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,780,691</b>	<b>162,000</b>	<b>1,942,691</b>	<b>3,132,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>3,352,000</b>
<b>Reserve Balance (Fund 21453)</b>						
Reserve Balance July 1, 2024 (Assume \$0 start)						-
FY 2024-2025 Reserve Contribution						1,379,000
Reserve Balance June 30, 2025						1,379,000

## April 2024 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

### Grants

#### California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit [grants.ca.gov](https://grants.ca.gov) to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

**SB552: DWR's County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance** for state small water system and domestic wells **DWR will provide financial or direct technical assistance to counties (up to \$125,000)** for developing their County Drought Resilience Plan per SB 552 to provide needed water shortage protection and emergency response for state small water systems and domestic wells. [Applications and additional information can also be found here.](#) For questions, email CountyDRP@water.ca.gov or call Julie Ekstrom at 916-612-4371. Applications for financial assistance are closed, but **applications for technical assistance are open until May 2024 for direct.**

#### **DWR's Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program**

The mission of the Program is to determine the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities with the implementation of the SGMA for underrepresented communities and small farms in medium and high priority basins, including critically overdrafted (COD) basins. The types of services provided include, but are not limited to: Groundwater level monitoring; Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply; Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs); Analyze well interference; Identifying additional water supply; Analyze existing well condition using downhole video log; Rehabilitation of water storage tank; Long-term water supply and demand analysis; Analyze and help to facilitate water transfers. [More information is available on the webpage.](#) **Local entities can request services by emailing [SGM\\_TA@water.ca.gov](mailto:SGM_TA@water.ca.gov).**

Other state & federal grant websites for resources that may be helpful are:

- California Financing Coordinating Committee -- <https://cfcc.ca.gov/>, and
- CalOES grants -- <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/grants-management>
- US EPA -- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>, and
- Economic Development Administration -- <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

### Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

#### **NEW: California Water Plan Update 2023 Released 4/3/24**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the final [California Water Plan Update 2023](#). It is the State's strategic plan for sustainably and equitably managing and developing water resources. To achieve its ambitious vision for California water, [Update 2023](#) focuses on three intersecting themes — addressing climate urgency, strengthening watershed resilience, and achieving equity in water management. More information is available in this [news release](#) and [fact sheet](#).

DWR is hosting a [two-hour webinar](#) on Monday, April 29, to highlight key features of California Water Plan Update 2023. The webinar will also introduce the [Watershed Resilience Program](#), an initial round of pilot projects, and future funding opportunities that will put Update 2023 into action. To attend this webinar, please [register here](#).

Groundwater Awareness Week: March 10th - 16<sup>th</sup>

DWR is celebrated the 25th Anniversary of National Groundwater Awareness Week with a series of mid-day virtual activities:

- Monday (3/11) 11 am: will kickoff with the state of groundwater management in California and introduce the week's activities.

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- Thursday (3/14) will include a presentation focused on the reporting process and expectations for GSA's submittals.
- Friday (3/15) will showcase DWR's technical assistance, datasets, and tools, wrapping up with an overview highlighting the year ahead.
- [Recordings of the above webinars can be found on DWR's YouTube channel here.](#)

### DWR Releases First Paper on Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water: An Introduction

To help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) appropriately address depletions of interconnected surface water (ISW) in their Groundwater Sustainability Plans, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) today released the first in a series of three papers that will discuss the technical aspects of ISW and quantification of depletions of ISW due to pumping. These three papers will form the basis for a guidance document that DWR will publish for GSAs to consider when establishing ISW sustainable management criteria to manage depletions in their groundwater basins. Paper 1 and all subsequent ISW documents will be posted on [DWR's Best Management Practices and Guidance Documents](#) webpage under the heading of Guidance Documents.

### DWR Releases Groundwater Recharge Guidance Documents

DWR has developed an [On-Farm Recharge Methods Manual](#), [District Recharge Program Guidance](#) and [Central Valley Groundwater Recharge Incentives and Strategies](#). The On-Farm Recharge Methods Manual, a summary of strategies and challenges. This document gathers observations and lessons learned from over a decade of Sustainable Conservation working directly with growers and irrigation districts to implement on-farm recharge, including methods to enhance recharge, avoid crop health problems, manage recharge events, and minimize nutrient leaching. This document summarizes in-field practices with 10 grower case studies to provide practical information about on-farm recharge from growers to growers.

The two guidance documents will help water districts, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), and their technical consultants design and implement effective multi-benefit recharge programs and projects. These documents include a summary of necessary considerations, publicly available tools, and examples to design new or refine existing recharge and incentive programs that address the specific needs and priorities in a subbasin.

### DWR launches permit portal for Delta Conveyance Project

DWR has launched a "[permit portal](#)" to help with plans and projects for the [Delta Conveyance Project](#). The portal includes access to information and resources related to some of the more critical environmental [compliance and permitting processes](#). The new website has all relevant California Environmental Quality Act information, along with the [final environmental impact report](#). New [fact sheets](#) are available in English, Spanish and Chinese and cover topics such as soil testing, seismic resilience and project features. Several companion [videos](#) are also now available. **A Final EIR for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project was issued and approved in December of 2023.**

Now that the environmental review is complete and the project has been approved, DWR will take the next steps to pursue numerous state and federal permits or authorizations, including those required by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, and compliance with state and federal Endangered Species acts. DWR will also continue to develop a Community Benefits Program. The Delta Construction Authority will provide a new cost estimate and a benefit-cost analysis in mid-2024.

### California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading. For more information, visit the updated [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: [CalGW@water.ca.gov](mailto:CalGW@water.ca.gov).

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### **SGMA & Drought**

Update Your GSA and GSP Manager Point of Contact Information in DWR's SGMA Portal

If your GSA and/or GSP Plan Manager Point of Contact (POC) is not current, or you are not sure, please visit the SGMA Portal to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. When logged in, the Portal allows edits to be made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to:

[GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov](mailto:GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov).

### **NEW: DWR Releases a Resource Guide for Funding SGMA Implementation**

DWR released its [Resource Guide for Funding Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Implementation](#) (3/2/24 release). The purpose of this high-level funding resource guide is to provide GSAs with information that will support the selection and development of self-funding streams for funding SGMA implementation. This funding primer outlines common funding mechanisms available to GSAs and provides a general approach that agencies can consider when developing a funding mechanism. Those earlier in the funding selection process may find this document most useful. The guide also provides a high-level overview of federal, state, and local funding opportunities to support SGMA implementation.

### **NEW: DWR releases groundwater well permitting report**

The various approaches being used to comply with California's well-permitting requirements are summarized in a [new report from DWR](#). The report looks at ways well-permitting agencies and groundwater sustainability agencies are meeting executive order requirements for lessening the effects of intense drought conditions. There is also information on perspectives shared by some small communities, examples of local agency compliance measures, and observations of groundwater conditions that occurred during the time the actions were taken. The document includes recommendations for a future policy bill as well.

### **Spring GSA Forum: Save-the-Date (May 23, 2024)**

Spring 2023 GSA Forum: The next GSA Forum will be held virtually on May 23, 2024. The agenda and registration link will be shared once the details are finalized.

### **Water commission approves white paper on drought strategies**

The California Water Commission has approved a [white paper](#) outlining four strategies to protect communities, fish, and wildlife in the event of drought. The list of strategies includes a scale-up of groundwater recharge, which is seen as a key element of dealing with a hotter, drier future. Details are available in this [news release](#).

### **Release of New Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation**

On October 30, 2023, DWR released its [Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments](#), which provides guidance to GSAs preparing these documents under SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The Department also released a [Frequently Asked Questions and Available Resources](#) document that provides commonly asked questions and answers about Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and GSP Amendments. These resources do not create any requirements or obligations for GSAs; the information is intended to clarify the necessary content of the documents already required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations.

### **DWR Releases 'Be Well Prepared' Initiative and Website**

May 17, 2023, DWR released the [Be Well Prepared initiative](#). DWR is providing tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater and experiencing climate-driven weather extremes, to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies. The Be Well Prepared initiative focuses on domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their well. [The website includes resources and information](#) that every well owner should know and understand about: groundwater conditions, well maintenance, water quality, assistance,

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and additional articles, videos and resources. **A new flyer** from DWR provides the four initial steps for well owners to take if they think their well has gone dry. This flyer is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).

### DWR Releases 'Drinking Water Well Impacts' Guidance and 'Water Shortage Planning' Brochure

April 7, 2023: DWR released the [Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts](#) guidance document and technical assistance. This guidance document supports GSAs to fully consider and appropriately address potential impacts to drinking water well users during SGMA implementation. There is an [online accompanying toolkit](#). The Department also released a brochure, called [Alignment and Coordination: Water Shortage Planning](#) for Rural Communities and Sustainable Groundwater Management. This brochure encourages voluntary collaboration between counties and GSAs as they coordinate their respective responsibilities for drought and water shortage planning efforts, for rural communities under Senate Bill 552, and the long-term sustainability goals of groundwater basins under SGMA.

### SB552: DWR's Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool

As part of its technical assistance to support SB 552 implementation, DWR developed the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) to provide the foundational data and information statewide to counties for their water shortage risk assessment.

### Dry Well Susceptibility Map

The DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, has developed an interactive mapping tool, called the Dry Well Susceptibility Tool. This tool identifies areas within groundwater basins that may be prone to water supply shortages in drinking water wells. State and local agencies and well owners can use this tool to anticipate where wells may go dry based on historical conditions to inform drought preparedness decision-making. To use this tool, navigate to [California's Groundwater Live website](#) and click the [Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility tab](#). A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, [is available here](#).

### Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). Information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and [a list of resources](#) are included on the [webpage](#). The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish. Local agencies can now sign up to receive notifications of any dry wells reported in their area. To sign up please email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).

### DWR is developing eight Proposition 68-funded technical projects

Fact sheets on each project can be viewed under the "Prop 68" tab [here](#).

- [AEM webpage](#) contains information on the how the process works, safety, schedule, data submission by GSAs, TAC, pilot study data and more. The final Data Reports, AEM data interpretations, and supporting data are available for the Central San Joaquin Valley groundwater basins (Survey Area 5) and the Northern San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sacramento Valley groundwater basins (Survey Area 6). All reports and datasets are available for download on the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal](#) and AEM data can be viewed online on the [AEM Data Viewer](#). For more information about AEM, visit the AEM Project Webpage or check out "DWR's Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys: The AEM Method" video in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). **Statewide AEM survey data collection is now complete.**
- [2020 Statewide Crop Mapping data](#) was released in March of 2023 and includes multi-cropping information. The [2020 final and 2021 and 2022 \(new Feb 2024\) provisional](#) datasets includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California. The data can now be accessed at the following locations: [CA DWR Land Use Viewer](#) (viewing and downloading); [CNRA Webpage](#) (viewing



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and downloading); on the [SGMA Data Viewer](#) (viewing) and the [California State Geoportal](#) (viewing and downloading).

- **InSAR subsidence data is now available through January 1 of 2024** and can now be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#).

#### Facilitation Support Services (FSS): Funding still available

- GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation
- More information [can be found here](#). Written translation services available in 8 languages for outreach materials (5,000 word maximum).
- DWR has a **new Verbal Interpretation service available to GSA's**. Real-time interpretive services are available to GSAs for virtual, hybrid, or in-person meetings in support of GSP implementation with the goal of engaging underrepresented communities within basins and encouraging equal access for non-fluent English speakers during the implementation of GSP's. If you are interested in learning more or receiving support from an interpretation team email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).