

Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 10:00 AM

Board Room, Santa Nella County Water District
12931 CA-33, Gustine, CA 95322

Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Members and Alternates Present

Amy Montgomery, Member – Santa Nella County Water District
Augustine Ramirez, Alternate – Fresno County
Brian Silva, Alternate – San Luis Water District
Chase Hurley, Alternate – Pacheco Water District
Danny Wade, Member – Tranquillity Irrigation District and Fresno Slough Water District
Palmer McCoy, Member – Mercy Springs Water District
Randall Miles, Member – Eagle Field Water District
Wayne Western, Member – Panoche Water District

Absent

Oro Loma Water District
Merced County

Others Present

Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
Karlee Liddy – Hallmark Group
Patrick McGowan, Alternate – Panoche Water District

Others Present Via Zoom

Amir Mani – EKI
Adan Ortiz – Fresno County
Gilber Torres – Fresno County
Joe Hopkins – P&P
Juan Cadena – Panoche Water District
Michael Miller
Rachel Alstrom – Baker Manock & Jensen
Taylor Blakslee – Hallmark Group

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
Vice Chair Montgomery called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Vice Chair Montgomery led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**
No corrections or additions were made.
4. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
Patrick McGowan noted that he is the alternate for Panoche Water District, not Steve Fausone. Staff will correct the members and alternates list for future meetings.
5. **Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar**
 - a. Minutes for the April 23, 2026 Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA
 - b. Budget-to-Actual Report

Motion:

Member McCoy made a motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Member Western and passed unanimously.

6. Direction on the Proposed Subbasin Model Calibration Cost Share

Taylor Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the cost share breakdown for the Central DM GSA Group may change in the future, as they plan to incorporate a pumping component into their budget, and a pumping component for the model calibration cost share is an option. He also stated that there is a potential decrease in costs for the model calibration (up to 50%) if the Subbasin were to receive the USBR WaterSMART grant.

Lauren Layne clarified that the two options for the Board to consider are the current 1/7th cost share allocation under the DM Subbasin JPA Agreement and the cost share allocation as outlined in Exhibit B of the Special Project Agreement for the Subbasin to develop a single GSP.

Member Hurley reminded the Board that their direction last meeting was to either approve the 1/7th or the 50% cost share per entity (1/7th) and 50% gross pumping allocation for the model calibration cost share. He gave a summary of the DM JPA Board meeting and mentioned that all of the seven DM GSA Groups will take these options to their respective Boards.

The cost share under Exhibit B could be a one-time cost allocation approach, and that GSAs could enter special project agreement (SPA) specifically for model calibration work in the future rather than revising the JPA Agreement. In this case, Layne would have the DM Subbasin JPA simply approve the cost share for the model calibration and if it becomes a persistent topic, she will recommend a SPA.

The Board provided direction to the Central DM representative to the DM Subbasin JPA Board to approve either option for the model calibration cost share.

7. Direction on Well Registration and Metering Compliance

Karlee Liddy introduced this item stating that the updated well registration and metering policies were presented by legal counsel and approved by the Board during the March 26, 2026 meeting. She stated that while the Board approved a June 1, 2026 deadline for fees to be incurred for wells that are not yet registered in the region, there are water districts and the counties that are still working with landowners to get wells registered and would appreciate an extension to the June 1, 2026 deadline.

Member Montgomery stated that Santa Nella/ Merced County needs more time to get final wells registered and to install meters on those wells. Member Silva and Member Hurley stated that about 35 wells have been verified in SLWD and could be registered within a week or two with P&P. Member Ramirez stated that there are remaining wells in Fresno County that need to be registered for the well census. He estimated about 12 de minimis wells need to be registered, and stated that an extension of the timeline for finalizing the well census would be helpful.

Member Montgomery proposed a new deadline of December 31, 2026 for well registration completion. Member McGowan stated there may not need to be a deadline, as the water districts needing more time presented their needs and progress update to the Board for discussion. Member Hurley recommended Santa Nella, Merced, Fresno, and San Luis Water District give an update on well registration at the next meeting. He asked staff to also provide a report on which CDMGSA entities have sent in their metering forms and work with GSAs to get those to staff for completion. The Board agreed to this reporting process in lieu of imposing penalties beginning June 1, 2026.

Lastly, staff stated that to smoothly and efficiently finalize the CDMGSA well census report, P&P provided a draft, short-term contract with the CDMGSA, not to exceed \$8,000.

Motion:

Member Hurley made a motion to approve the Provost & Pritchard contract not to exceed \$8,000 to finalize the Central DM GSA Well Census Report and Mapping. The motion was seconded by Member Miles and passed unanimously.

Report Items

8. Report from the Central DM GSA Representative to the DM JPA Board

Member Hurley stated that most of the discussion during the May 19 special meeting of the DM JPA Board was on cost share allocation for the model calibration. Member Hurley stated that DWR has floated meeting dates with the DM Subbasin regarding subsidence, and he recommended at minimum the seven DM JPA representatives attend. He stated that staff is also working to schedule a meeting with DWR regarding the GSP review and updates.

9. Update on GSP Implementation

a. Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation and PRP Dashboard Reporting

Amir Mani (EKI) provided a summary of the groundwater level and quality monitoring schedule and SGMA reporting requirements to improve PRP implementation across the GSAs. He highlighted the deadline to upload Q1 and Q2 data to DWR is the end of June.

b. Q1 and Q2 Monitoring Event and DMS Upload

Mani provided a summary of the groundwater level and quality exceedances and triggers from Q1 (February) and recommended that those wells get sampled more frequently. Staff to follow up with GSA entities with wells 07-0321, 07-031, 07-036, as they are missing groundwater quality data for Q1.

Member Hurley asked, when approaching landowners/ well owners regarding well registration and reporting, if the authority to implement those policies comes from the MOA or the JPA, and legal counsel Layne stated both.

10. Program Management Report

Blakslee stated that a second cash call may be needed soon and that staff will be in touch with the GSA entities regarding the cost breakdown for those invoices.

11. Next Steps

1. Patrick McGowan confirmed as the Panoche Water District alternate.
2. Staff to verify that San Luis WD is the only remaining CDMGSA entity to register wells to finalize the well census.
3. Staff to send report on well metering to GSAs and work with those who have not sent in well metering their forms.
4. Facilitate the execution of the P&P contract to finalize the CDMGSA Well Census Report and Mapping.
5. Work with GSAs on Q2 groundwater levels and missing Q1 groundwater quality data.

12. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

There were no reports provided.

Closed Session

13. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1 case)

*The GSA will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel on significant exposure to anticipated litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (1 case).
No closed session was required at this time.*

Open Session

14. Report Out of Closed Session

No closed session was entered into by the Board.

15. Future Meetings

- a. Central Delta-Mendota GSA
 - i. Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. PST (Santa Nella County Water District)
- b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
 - i. Monday, June 8, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. PST (Grassland Water District)

16. Adjournment

Vice Chair Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m. PST.