

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

Monday, June 29, 2026, 10:00 AM

Grassland Water District
200 W Willmott Ave., Los Banos, CA

Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Directors and Alternates Present

Augustine Ramirez, Alternate – Fresno County
Brian Silva, Alternate – San Luis Water District
Chase Hurley, Alternate – Pacheco Water District
Danny Wade, Director – Tranquillity Irrigation District and Fresno Slough Water District – *Joined online at 10:08 am from unnoticed location and therefore, did not vote on action items.*
Lacey McBride, Director – County of Merced
Palmer McCoy, Director – Mercy Springs Water District
Randall Miles, Director – Eagle Field Water District
Wayne Western, Director – Panoche Water District
Patrick McGowan, Alternate – Panoche Water District

Absent

Santa Nella County Water District
Oro Loma Water District

Others Present

Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
Karlee Liddy – Hallmark Group

Others Present Via Zoom

Amir Mani – EKI
Adan Ortiz – Fresno County
Gilber Torres – Fresno County
Jason Dean
Joe Hopkins – P&P
Juan Cadena – Panoche Water District
Rachel Alstrom – Baker Manock & Jensen
Steve's Notetaker
Taylor Blakslee – Hallmark Group

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
Chair Barcellos called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Chair Barcellos 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**
5. **Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar**
 - a. Minutes for the May 28, 2026 Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA

b. ~~Budget-to-Actual Report~~

Motion:

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

6. **Direction on Well Registration Compliance**

Taylor Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the well registration census is still missing some critical data including total well depths and perforation information. He reminded the Board that there were three CDMGSA entities that requested extra time to complete the well registration at the May meeting, and that representatives of those entities would provide a status update to the Board.

Director Ramirez stated that he estimates another 14 wells in the Fresno County area still need to be registered, and that he would like opportunity to get another mailer out and engage with landowners. He stated he would need another 30-45 days to engage those landowners and get those remaining wells registered. He added that they are all domestic wells and confirmed there are no commercial wells that need to be registered in Fresno County area at this time.

Director Silva stated that out of 166 wells, 40 were declared inactive from Director Hurley's research, and only four wells that needed to be registered are included now in the census. He stated that he noticed landowners, giving them 60 days to install flowmeters.

Karlee Liddy (Hallmark Group) read the written update provided by Director Montgomery (Santa Nella County Water District) regarding well registration and metering. Wells are registered and have been included in the well census report from P&P, while more time is needed for meters to be installed and registered.

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*Director Wade joined online at 10:08 am.*  
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Staff received direction from the Board not to charge fees for wells not registered in the CDMGSA for another 30-45 days, and to agendize an action item to ratify the 30-45 deadline extension for well registration penalty fees at the July meeting.

Regarding the missing well data from the well census report, staff will reach out to those GSA entities to fill in the data as soon as possible. Director McGowan asked if wells without total depths reported will be considered lower aquifer wells until determined otherwise and Amir Mani (EKI) confirmed that would be the case.

7. **Direction on Well Metering Compliance**

Taylor Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the well metering and reporting policy requires wells be metered and that monthly data from the meter be available for review and be reported to CDMGSA on an annual basis. He also clarified which types of wells need to be metered under the policy, which does not include de minimis domestic wells, abandoned wells, monitoring-only wells or cathodic production wells. He outlined the approach staff is taking to ensure all wells that require a meter have a registered meter within a timely manner and is seeking direction from the CDMGSA Board.

Regarding well meter registration forms, a few of the Directors stated that they recalled submitting metering forms to P&P staff and / or to San Luis Water District some time ago. The Board directed staff to follow up with SLWD regarding well meter registration forms.

Regarding the well metering requirement, Director Miles expressed concern that inactive wells need to also be metered under the policy, as he has a well that is inactive and that he is not able to pump. Director Western suggested that staff work with legal counsel to modify language in the Well Metering and Reporting Policy to better define inactive wells versus abandoned wells or standby wells. He also suggested that well owners simply submit a new well meter registration form for any well meters that get replaced. The Board directed staff to work with Directors Barcellos and Hurley to simplify the meter registration form.

Director McBride stated that for existing active wells, she feels two months is adequate time to get wells metered, with some grace and extra time for wells that are between standby/inactive status. She agreed that the policy should better define inactive versus abandoned or standby wells.

The Board floated September 1, 2026 as a potential date to enforce penalty fees for well meters not installed by that date and directed staff to agendaize an action item for the July meeting to decide on implementing a September 1, 2026 deadline for penalty fees. Staff will work with legal counsel to develop a fee schedule and will present it at the July meeting. Blakslee stated that even with the well metering compliance by September 1, 2026, the cash call based 50% on pumping data may still be difficult to implement. Therefore, the Board directed staff to follow up with GSA entities on their pumping data availability and will present options for the 2nd cash call at the July meeting.

The Board also directed staff to work with Director Montgomery regarding well permitting and metering requirements at the County level.

8. Direction on the P&P proposal to Continue Monitoring Subsidence Benchmarks

Taylor Blakslee introduced this item and stated that the proposal is for a single event in 2026. Amir Mani (EKI) and Director Hurley emphasized the importance of having this data to better understand subsidence conditions on the south side of the Subbasin.

The Board provided direction to Director Hurley to support the 1/7th split of the DM Subbasin portion of the proposed costs to continue the monitoring of the subsidence benchmarks.

Report Items

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

Director Hurley stated that DM Subbasin representatives had a great face-to-face meeting with DWR regarding subsidence BMPs and critical head. He added that DWR may not follow up with next steps until they complete their series of subsidence meetings with other subbasins. Lastly, Director Hurley stated that he and others are meeting with DWR online to provide an overview of the single DM Subbasin GSP.

10. Update on Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation, Q2 Groundwater Level Data, and Exceedance 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 Q3 groundwater level and water quality to the DMS is September 30th, with August being the target month for measurements.

Regarding exceedances, Mani stated that Well 18 has been under its MT for 2 years, but that the MT was based on contour levels. Therefore, he recommends the GSA collect groundwater level

data more frequently to get a better estimate on where the MT/SMC should be set. He also stated that Well 31 needs more measurements but is likely to exceed the MT again in the Fall.

Lastly, Mani stated that water quality exceedances for TDS (a legacy issue in this region) require further investigations and quarterly measurements, if possible, by the entity in which the exceedance occurs in compliance with the PRP.

11. **Update on Scope of Work for the Phased Approach to the DM Subbasin Model Calibration**
Blakslee provided background on the phased approach to the model calibration and stated that On May 19, 2026, the DM JPA Board approved the contract for EKI to develop and submit a USBR WaterSMART grant application on behalf of the DM Subbasin. He clarified the grant would cover up to a \$400k cost match for the model calibration, and Mani walked through the tasks that would be covered for the model calibration with and without the USBR grant award.
12. **Program Management Report**
Blakslee stated that staff will continue to coordinate with GSA entities to upload data into the DMS for Q1 and Q2, and that staff will also follow up with any entities that experience exceedances in the future. The Board did not have any questions at this time.
13. **Next Steps**
 1. Staff agendaize action item to ratify the 30-45 deadline extension for penalty fees at July meeting.
 2. Staff send out list of wells with missing information (well depth, etc.) from the Well Census Report and work on a plan to fill gaps to present at July meeting.
 3. Agendaize July item for well metering deadline (September 1, 2026) well metering penalty.
 4. Staff to follow up with San Luis WD to determine if well metering records from the CDMGSA entities have been submitted.
 5. Work with Directors Barcellos and Hurley to simplify well meter registration form.
 6. Work with legal counsel to modify language in the Well Metering and Reporting Policy to define inactive wells versus abandoned wells.
 7. Coordinate with Director Montgomery regarding County well permitting and metering requirement.
 8. Staff develop fee schedule with legal counsel, present at July meeting.
14. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**
There were no reports provided.

Closed Session
15. **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).
The Board entered closed session at 11:27 a.m.*

Open Session
16. **Report Out of Closed Session**
The Board returned from closed session at 11:34 a.m. and Layne stated there is no reportable action.
17. **Future Meetings**
 - a. Central Delta-Mendota GSA
 - i. Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. PST (Santa Nella County Water District)
 - b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
 - i. Monday, July 13, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. PST (Grassland Water District)
18. **Adjournment**
Chair Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. PST.