

Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 10:00 AM
Board Room, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
842 6th St., Los Banos, CA 93635

Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present

Aaron Barcellos*, Member – Pacheco Water District
Randall Miles*, Member – Eagle Field Water District (EFWD)
Danny Wade*, Alternate – Fresno Slough Water District & Member – Tranquillity Irrigation District (FSWD/TQID)
Palmer McCoy*, Member – Mercy Springs Water District
Hugh Bennett*, Alternate – Eagle Field Water District (EFWD)
Chase Hurley*, Alternate – Pacheco Water District
Wayne Western*, Member – Panoche Water District
Steve Stadler*, Member – San Luis Water District
Damian Aragona, Member – Widren Water District (WWD)

*Indicates representative, alternate, or second alternate of Central Delta-Mendota GSA

Absent

Oro Loma Water District
Fresno County
Merced County
Santa Nella County Water District

Others Present

Patrick McGowan – Panoche Water District
Chris Linneman – Summers Engineering
Gilbert Torres – Fresno County
Adam Ortiz – Fresno County
James Fisher – Provost & Pritchard (P&P)

Others Present Via Zoom

Amir Mani – EKI
Sam Cunningham – Provost & Pritchard (P&P)
Hannah Dickenson – Provost & Pritchard (P&P)
Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
Fernando Almaraz – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
John Brodie
Karlee Liddy – Hallmark

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco Water District called the meeting to order at 10:04AM.

2. Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar (Barcellos)

- a. Minutes for the December 18, 2025 Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota GSA
- b. Budget-to-Actual Report

Danny Wade/FSWD/TQID made the motion to approve the consent calendar, Augustine Wayne Western/Panoche Water District seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. GSA to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar (Barcellos)

- a. Minutes for the December 18, 2025 Special Joint Meeting of the Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Central Delta-Mendota GSA

Wayne Western/Panoche Water District made the motion to approve the Central Delta-Mendota GSA Consent Calendar. Randall Miles/Eagle Field Water District seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. GSA to Review and Take Action to Enter into the CDMGSA Membership Agreement with Oro Loma Water District to authorize Oro Loma Water District to become a member of the CDMGSA (Layne)

Fernando Almaraz/BM&J noted the Membership Agreement was similar to that executed by the CDMGSA with Widren Water District. He added that Oro Loma Water District executed the resolution approving admission to the CDMGSA after the packet was completed, which will replace Exhibit "B" of the Membership Agreement in the agenda packet. Steve Stradler/San Luis Water District made the motion to approve Oro Loma Water District to become a member of the CDMGSA. Randall Miles/Eagle Field Water District seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Committee/GSA to Consider Authorizing Its Representative to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee to Authorize Execution of Agreements with Relevant Consultants for FY2027 Program Administration Support and Technical Support for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support Services (Petersen)

In the absence of Scott Petersen and members of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee, Chase Hurley/Pacheco Water District presented the committee's recommendations based on prior discussions with Mr. Petersen. Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco Water District inquired why the committee recommended Hallmark Group given that Provost & Pritchard submitted a lower bid. Mr. Hurley explained that Hallmark's proposal included the full scope of services, including accounting and fiscal management support, whereas Provost & Pritchard's proposal did not include these services. Selection of Provost & Pritchard would therefore require the GSA to procure additional services to cover accounting and fiscal management needs. Mr. Hurley also noted that, given the absence of Coordination Committee members at the meeting, Mr. Petersen had suggested that the item could be deferred to a future meeting if the cost and scope details were difficult to evaluate. Mr. Barcellos stated that it would be beneficial to obtain additional

information prior to making a decision, including verification of the scope of work included in each proposal as presented in the board packet, a clearer understanding of the cost associated with fiscal management services, and comparison of the proposals against an updated budget. Based on this discussion, the item was deferred to the February meeting. No action was taken.

8. GSA Committee/GSA to Consider Authorizing Its Representative to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee to Authorize EKI to Expand the PRP Dashboard Data to Be Visible to All GSAs, Beyond Current Zone Restrictions

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco Water District continued the discussion from the previous month regarding expanding access to agency data on the PRP Dashboard. He noted that this would provide access to view data of water management zones that are currently unavailable to water managers in the subbasin. Wayne Western/Panoche Water District raised concerns about whether the data could be edited, or whether it was view-access only. It was noted that edits are unlikely regardless, and that increased transparency would provide multiple opportunities to identify and correct any potential errors. Steve Stadler/San Luis Water District made a motion to expand PRP Dashboard data visibility. Wayne Western / Panoche Water District seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Report of the Representative to the Coordination Committee (Hurley)

Chase Hurley/Pacheco Water District noted that the two significant updates from the Coordination Committee were already discussed in agenda item 7 and 8, and there are no updates from the State Water Resources Control Board.

10. Committee/GSA Signatures Received on the JPA (Layne)

Fernando Almaraz/BM&J reported that two outstanding signatures remained from the previous board meeting, from Madera County and Oro Loma. Signatures from Madera County have since been received, and Oro Loma remains the only outstanding signature.

11. Committee/GSA to Discuss the Grassland Drainage Area Brackish Groundwater Recovery Project (Mani)

Chris Linneman/Summers Engineering discussed a project involving pumping groundwater from the shallow aquifer for recognition as a GSA management action and inclusion in the annual report. The shallow aquifer, located above the Corcoran Clay could potentially support up to 10,000 AF/year of agricultural pumping. The project is expected to provide dual benefits by reducing pumping from the lower aquifer (reducing subsidence) and helping to mitigate certain water quality concerns, although some level of overdraft in the upper aquifer is anticipated. This item was presented for informational purposes and to discuss potential Board concerns. No action was required or taken.

12. Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) Implementation

- a. Committee/GSA to Discuss Implementation of Pumping Reduction Plans (Mani)
- b. Committee/GSA to Discuss PRP Dashboard Reporting

Amir Mani/EKI reminded the Board that, as of this month, wells throughout the basin are expected to be registered and equipped with meters. With pumping reductions of 3,500 AF scheduled for this year, there should be mechanisms in place to track and measure reductions to demonstrate compliance with the policy.

13. **Committee/GSA to Discuss November Water Level Monitoring Event and DMS Upload (Dumas)**
Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran stated that water level data have been submitted to the DMS and are currently working on the SMC analysis, which can be completed when the one remaining agency submits their data uploads.
14. **Committee/GSA to Discuss 2025 Annual Report Preparation (Dumas)**
Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran stated that the goal is to complete the Annual Report by February 20; however, data needs outside of their control may delay this timeline. Outstanding items include analysis related to interconnected surface water and groundwater storage change calculations. Mr. Hurley asked why some wells are sampled for water quality quarterly, even when not in use, citing the cost per sample. Ms. Dumas and Mr. Mani explained that if an exceedance is detected, additional monitoring is required at the representative monitoring well.
15. **Committee/GSA to Discuss SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant Activities (Dumas)**
Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran is waiting for Amendment 6 to be finalized by DWR. Leslie is asking for all deliverables for the grant (invoices, component completion reports, etc.) to be sent to her by the beginning of March, so a set of revised and compiled deliverables can be sent to DWR by the March 31st deadline.
16. **Next Steps**
 - a. Amir Mani/EKI will distribute today's presentation slides to the Board.
 - b. Item #7 will be re-presented next meeting with more information on fiscal management/accounting costs, specifics in each proposal, and the 2026 budget.
17. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**
There were no reports provided.
18. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (1 case).**
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748, Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-01691.
Fernando Almaraz/BMJ reported no need to meet in closed session.
19. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1 case)**
20. **Report Out of Closed Session**
There was no closed session.
21. **Future Meetings**
 - a. Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and GSA
 - i. Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Santa Nella County Water District)
 - b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
 - i. Monday February 9, 2026 at 10:00 am (SLDMWA)
22. **ADJOURNMENT**
Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco Water District adjourned the meeting at 10:38 AM.