



SPECIAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Thursday, May 25, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

1810 Hazelton Avenue Stockton CA 95205 Conference Room A

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 April 12th 2023 minutes - [page 3](#)
2. Status of SGMA Round 2 Grant
3. Review of FY 23-24 GWA Budget Alternatives, Referral to the Board

III. Staff Reports

1. GWA Staff Report
 - a. SGMA Round 1 Grant and Progress
 - b. WAF Ad Hoc Committee Formation
 - c. Communications and Engagement Plan
2. DWR Report - [page 5](#)
3. Other Items

IV. Public Comment (non-agendized items)

V. Director Comments

VI. Future Agenda Items

VII. Adjournment

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, June 14th, 2023

8:30 am to 10:00 am

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center in Stockton, California (2101 E. Earhart Avenue Conference Rm 1). At approximately 8:46 a.m. call to order was conducted by Robert Holmes and roll call was taken of members only.

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

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the March 8th, 2023, minutes with the correction of the meeting location from the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center to SJC Public Works, Conference Rm. A.

Motion to approve the minutes with the location correction: Mike Henry
2nd: Andrew Watkins
The vote was unanimous.

2. Review the Proposed Budget and Recommendation to the GWA Board for May Meeting

Andrew Watkins commented about the \$100,000 placed in the 5 Year Reserve, that a line item is required in revenues for reimbursement, or it may not be able to be used for that purpose. Matt Zidar agreed to adjust the budget or follow up why that decision was made. Mel Lytle shared concern about the percentages based on the GSAs and requests to look between the needs and wants because based on the proposed budget, City of Stockton is paying 17% of the overall budget. Robert Holmes commented, to his recollection, for the past 3/4 years the GSAs contributed \$17,000 – \$20,000 a year to the GWA. The minimum and low number is low. Robert Holmes is in support of the lower budget number then waiting to see if grant funding is approved and if projects come forward that deserve funding, then an amendment can take place. Mel Lytle commented that strategy is easier for him to support but recognized the need for the work as listed in the middle budget. Andrew Watkins commented he remembers \$62,000 was allocated for grant writing last year, that everyone was going to pay for. Andrew Watkins reminded that at a previous meeting, Jennifer Spaletta recommended that \$100,000 in the budget be allocated subject to reimbursements, Andrew Watkins stated, a \$100,000 line item is required for grant writing, or the money will be used elsewhere for general funds and reminded that those funds had a purpose to benefit everyone. Mel Lytle recommended a deeper look at the ability to complete the listed items in the middle row and possibly modifying to reflect the capability of the GWA.

3. Monitoring Well Development

Matt Zidar reviewed the Memo: Status of Well Drilling, attached in the agenda package. Mel Lytle asked Matt Zidar if he is looking to monitor the previous wells that were put in under the USGS Program. Matt stated it is something that needs to be done and needs attention and suggested bringing in a consultant to get that completed. Mel Lytle stressed the importance of the well data and recommended resources be put in place to monitor the wells.

4. WAF Ad Hoc Committee Nominations and Formation

Matt Zidar reminded the Board that nominations for the WAF Ad Hoc Committee are due to the Chair, Robert Rickman with a cc: to Angie Provencio and Alicia Connelly by Friday. Technical and Management Staff are needed but board quorum cannot be met in this group.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. DWR Report
2. Other Items – **none**

IV. Public Comment – none

V. Directors Comment – Robert Holmes comment he hasn't seen a water year like this year since 1983 and reminds the group that data collection right now is critical.

VI. Future Agenda Items - none

VII. Adjournment at 9:58 am

May 2023 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 to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) – Block Grant Pilot

Awardees of the program will: 1) provide technical assistance to farmers in development and implementation of irrigation projects, 2) identify on-farm projects for financial support and disburse funds, 3) Support and verify on-farm project implementation, 4) provide reporting and invoicing. The minimum award is \$2 million, the maximum award is \$5 million. Awardees will prioritize socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (as defined by the Farm Equity Act of 2017) for technical assistance and financial support. Total funding available is \$40 million, no match required and advanced funding available under certain circumstances. **Applications are due 6/19/23 at 5pm.** [More information here.](#) Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program also has grant programs open for [Agricultural Conservation](#), [Capacity and Project Development](#), and [Land Use Planning Grants](#).

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. A webinar kicking off the availability of these assistance opportunities was held March 16. A recording of the presentation will be available shortly, but [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 are being accepted now through December 29, 2023.**

ICARP: Regional Resilience Grant Program

The ICARP [Regional Resilience Grant Program](#) (RRGP) is pleased to invite responses to key surveys that mark the beginning of the application process for RRGF funding: the [Intent to Apply Survey and the Request for Help Survey](#). This program funds regional climate resilience efforts, including identifying climate resilience priorities, building capacity, and implementing projects, that respond to a region's greatest climate risks. **The first step in applying to RRGF's funding is filling out the Intent to Apply Survey.** The RRGF application will be available June 13th, 2023 with full applications due in Late summer 2023. Applicants interested in applying for the RRGF but not ready to submit the Intent to Apply Survey may reach out to RRGF staff for help through the Request for Help Survey or by emailing icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov.

California Financing Coordinating Committee's Spring 2023 Funding Fairs

Representatives from 14 local, state, and federal agencies will provide information about funding opportunities, and will be available to answer questions about your projects.

Funding fairs will be held on: **May 4, 9am-2pm (Virtual), May 16, 9am-2pm (Virtual), and May 25, 9am-2pm** (In person only at the Davis USDA office. If you have a location, please let CFCC know.) [Visit the California Financing Coordinating Committee's website to register for the Zoom link.](#)

Water tank program for dry wells

DWR in partnership with CalOES, DGS, and Water Boards has a new tank program for domestic wells that have gone dry. Eligible Applicants Include: public agencies, public utilities, special districts, colleges and universities, mutual water companies, nonprofit organizations, federally recognized tribes and state tribes listed on the NAHC's consultation list. Under the program, 2,500 gallon tanks are pre-purchased by DWR. The program includes funding for the tanks to be delivered to residence and connected to their existing plumbing with a small pump, and for water hauling to fill the tanks to meet basic health and sanitation needs. For more information contact: smallcommunitydrought@water.ca.gov or Alena Misaghi at (559) 230-3309.

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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

Executive Order N-4-23: Streamlining Recharge Using Floodwater

On March 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-4-23, which set forth the conditions under which water users may capture and divert floodwater for groundwater recharge – temporarily lifting regulations and setting clear conditions for diverting flood stage water without state permits to boost groundwater recharge storage. The Executive Order suspends certain regulatory requirements under conditions of imminent risk of flooding during this Spring's runoff months until June 1, 2023. For more information a [press release](#), [the EO](#), and an [overview fact sheet](#) can be seen here. A joint webinar hosted by DWR, SWRCB, and CDFW was held Thursday March 23, 2023 from 1-2:30 pm, [recording available here](#), [SWRCB reporting page](#) and for other data information and mapping resource tutorials, please visit the [DWR webpage](#).

DWR Releases the Latest California's Groundwater Conditions, Semi-Annual Update

DWR has released the latest version of [California's Groundwater Conditions, Semi-Annual Update: March, 2023](#). This update provides information on statewide groundwater levels, land subsidence, and well infrastructure, including dry well reporting, and summarizes the effects of the current and historical drought periods on California's groundwater conditions. For the first time, this Semi-Annual Update takes a look at groundwater extraction and change in storage data submitted to DWR in annual reports as part of ongoing efforts to manage groundwater basins under SGMA.

California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future

August 11, 2022 Governor Newsom announced a new strategic document to manage water in the face of a projected 10% reduction in supplies over the next 20 years. The strategy calls for investing in new sources of water supply, accelerating projects and modernizing how the state manages water through new technology to increase water supply and adapt to more extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. The [full strategy document](#) can be found here and a [press release here](#).

[Under this directive DWR is partnering with SWRCB to fast-track efforts to capture flood waters to recharge groundwater basins. A fact sheet on DWR Regulatory Assistance: Temporary Water Rights for Groundwater Recharge can be found here.](#) If you are interested in participating in this program please email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

FREE Leak Detection Surveys for Small Water Systems

Protecting California's water supply is more important than ever as we brace for another year of drought conditions. The California Rural Water Association (CRWA), in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, is offering FREE leak detection surveys for small water systems. **If you are a small (including Tribal) water system with 3,000 connections or less, sign up for a free leak detection survey today! Please contact Luis Carmona at: lcarmona@calruralwater.org or 916-283-8509 x109 to get started.**

Executive Order N-7-22

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-7-22](#), which **included new well permitting requirements (Action 9) as well as CEAQ exemptions and permit streamlining for FloodMAR projects (Action 13)**. The materials including a fact sheets, recording and presentation materials from the April 13th and a self-certification form for the CEQA waiver are now posted on DWR's Drought Webpage, under the 'Drought

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Well Permitting Requirements' and the 'CEQA Suspension on Groundwater Recharge Projects' accordion dropdowns: <https://water.ca.gov/water-basics/drought>. This EO has been slightly modified in 2023 and the updated [EO-N-3-23](#) which includes the opportunity to send recommendations for further drought related actions and views on existing actions to the governor no later than April 28, 2023.

DWR's Climate Change Program Resources

DWR's Climate change program has lots of initiatives including resources for water managers. Check out their [webpage](#) and [factsheet](#) here.

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.

OpenET makes tracking water use data easier with satellite data

A space-based tool is ready to help track water in the western U.S. Using data from satellites, [Open Evapotranspiration](#) (OpenET) gives farmers and other water users information on how much of their water loss ends up as evapotranspiration. The OpenET data are available for 17 western states, including the Colorado River basin area.

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.

NEW: 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, and additional articles, videos and resources.

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.

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DWR Releases GSP Determinations for 12 non-Critically Overdrafted Basins

4/27/23: DWR released 12 assessments of GSPs developed by local agencies to meet the requirements of the SGMA. Today's release includes the approval of GSPs for the following basins: Shasta Valley and Scott River Valley Basins in Siskiyou County; Big Valley Basin in Lake County; East Side Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, and Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasins in Monterey County; San Luis Obispo Valley Basin in San Luis Obispo County; Santa Margarita Basin in Santa Cruz County; Upper Ventura River Subbasin in Ventura County; and San Jacinto Basin in Riverside County. The assessments can be viewed on [the SGMA Portal](#). These plans are approved with recommended corrective actions that will need to be address in the next plan update, due in January 2027

Groundwater platform announces expanding list of partners

A coalition of organizations and State agencies have announced [expansion in the number of partners](#) in for the [Groundwater Accounting Platform](#). The platform was initially developed in partnership with the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District. Now the platform is adding three new pilot project partners from Merced, Santa Cruz, and Yolo counties. Information from the platform is designed to help groundwater agencies with efforts to prevent dry wells and water supply shortages.

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.

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. Public webinar was held **June 8th 12:00 – 1:00**, a [recording can be viewed here](#) and [handouts can be downloaded here](#). Draft Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) resistivity **data for the entire Central Valley have been published** on the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal](#). The dataset can also be viewed online on the [AEM Data Viewer](#). DWR's AEM surveys will continue this Spring. Visit the AEM Survey Schedule webpage for more information on the tentative data publication dates.
- [2020 Statewide Crop Mapping data](#) was released in **March of 2023** and includes multi-cropping information. The [2020 final and 2021 provisional](#) datasets includes agricultural land use and urban

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

- **InSAR subsidence data** is now available through October 1 of 2022 and can now be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#). Future data will be released on a quarterly basis.

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).