



## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**August 23, 2023**

**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**

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

1. July 12th 2023 Minutes - [Page 3](#)
2. Grand Jury Response
3. Communication and Engagement Plan Review Process Staff Report - [Page 5](#)

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

1. GWA Staff
  - a. Staffing Plan
  - b. Well Mitigation Program
2. DWR Report - [Page 6](#)
3. Other Items

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

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

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

#### **VII. Adjournment**

# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## Steering Committee Meeting

### AGENDA

*(Continued)*

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***Presentation Materials to be Posted on ESJGroundwater.org and Emailed Prior to the Meeting when possible or after the meeting where they are presented.***

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

Wednesday, September 13, 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, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at San Joaquin County Public Works in Stockton, California (1810 Hazelton Avenue Conference Rm A). At approximately 8:30 a.m. call to order was conducted by Chairman Robert Rickman and roll call was taken of members only.

In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Robert Holmes, Jason Colombini, Chairman Robert Rickman and Secretary Fritz Buchman

### II. Scheduled Items

#### A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes with the correction of the word “deference” in a statement made by Andrew Watkins.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended: Andrew Watkins

2nd: Jason Colombini

The vote was unanimous.

2. Water Accounting Framework (WAF)

Matt Zidar reviewed the presentation attached to the agenda indicating the WAF intent, and content of the first meeting.

3. Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E)

Matt Zidar shared the C&E Plan Update Appendices with a 7/12/23 start date and named Stantec as the responsible party. The ESJ GWA/GSA start date of 7/12/23 and end date 7/25/23. Stantec to forward the finalized word and pdf copies of the C&E Plan Update plus it's appendices to ESJ GWA and GSAs.

4. Budget and GSA Cost Distribution

Matt Zidar shared the corrected table #2 for the GSA Cost Distribution.

Motion to approve: Robert Holmes

2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrew Watkins

Vote is unanimous.

5. TAC Activity and Assignments for FY 2023-24

Matt Zidar shared they are working on data monitoring evaluations and instrumenting the representative wells. Andrew Watkins suggested a presentation from Tracy Data System. Matt suggested having the TAC evaluate both.

**III. Staff/DWR Reports**

1. DWR Report – Chelsea shared the Drought Resilience Committee meeting was July 20<sup>th</sup> and was open to the public and the Water Commission will have three meetings on how to prepare for drought and non-droughts: July 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Public Comment** – Mary Elizabeth commented the presentation shared was not posted to the website prior to the meeting, she was not included in the survey, the agenda doesn't contain any information regarding the grand jury report, or any information on SB552 or update on dry wells in the county.

**V. Directors Comment** – Robert Holmes commented the board approved 2.1 million for project management last Tuesday for monitoring wells.

**VI. Future Agenda Items** – The Grand Jury report and quarterly reporting after speaking with counsel.

**VII. Adjournment at 9:25 am**



**Memo**

**To: Steering Committee**

**From:** Matt Zidar - Water Resources Manager

**RE: Communications and Engagement Plan Schedule**

**Date:** August 18, 2023

**Summary:** At the August 9th 2023, meeting, the GWA Board established the process for review of the draft Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) that is being prepared. A schedule for review is proposed.

**Discussion:** A C&E Plan is being prepared by Stantec for the GWA under a Facilitation Support Services Agreement and with funding provided by the California Department of Water Resources. At the August 9, 2023, GWA Board meeting the draft C&E Plan appendices were presented including 1. GSA Manager Survey Analysis and Summary, 2. Interested Parties Survey Analysis and Summary, 3. GSA Website Audit, and 4. C&E Inventory Summary. Interviews of representative interested parties are also planned.

The process to review the draft was discussed by the Board. The Steering Committee decided that the C&E Plan should be distributed to all the GSA for review and comment, with comments provided to the Steering Committee who would then review the comments, direct revisions to the draft plan and provide a final plan to be considered by the full Board. The proposed schedule is presented below.

- 9/1/23 Draft C&E Update to ESJGWA due (Stantec) for internal review (Alex C. and Brandon N.)
- 9/6/23 Internal review comments due to Stantec (9/6)
- 9/8/23 Mail Draft to Steering Committee and GSA
- 9/29/23 Comments to C&E Plan due from agencies to GWA staff and Stantec
- 10/5/23 Final draft C&E Plan due to GWA staff
- 10/6/23 Final Draft included in ESJGWA board meeting agenda packet
- 10/11/23 ESJGWA Board meets to review and Final Draft and consider adoption C&E Plan

**Fiscal Impact:** None at this time.

**Recommendation:** Information only.

## August 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](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. 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 announce [Final guidelines](#) and [application materials](#) with \$9.4 million available in Round 1. 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 RRGP application is now available. Full applications due in August 29, 2023 by 5pm.** The first step in applying to RRGP's funding is filling out the [Intent to Apply Survey](#). Applicants interested in applying for the RRGP but not ready to submit the Intent to Apply Survey may reach out to RRGP staff for help through the [Request for Help Survey](#) or by emailing [icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov](mailto:icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov).

#### **Build Better Communities: Grant Writing Assistance**

The California Alliance for Jobs (CAJ), in partnership with the California Special Districts Association, Association of California Water Agencies, and League of California Cities, has launched the "Build Better Communities Grant Program" to help smaller and disadvantaged communities leverage federal and state funding to invest in local infrastructure. This service can be used by municipalities serving a population between 10,000-49,999, Special Districts providing critical infrastructure (I.E., Water Districts / Authorities, Irrigation Districts, Community Services Districts, Reclamation / Flood Control Districts, Transit Districts, and Transportation Authorities) or rural counties. Grant writing assistance will be targeting grants for transportation infrastructure improvements, water storage and resilience projects, rehabilitation of aging water infrastructure, clean drinking water infrastructure and wildfire mitigation projects. [More detailed information can be found here](#).

#### **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 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).**

#### 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,

## August 2023 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

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](mailto:smallcommunitydrought@water.ca.gov) or Alena Misaghi at (559) 230-3309.

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

### Upcoming Webinar: "CASGEM Program Overview and Release of New Online System"

DWR's [California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring \(CASGEM\) Program](#) is pleased to invite you to register for its "CASGEM Program Overview and Release of New Online System" webinar to be held on **August 30, 2023, from 10:00 AM to noon**. Since 2009, DWR's CASGEM Program has tracked seasonal and long-term groundwater elevation trends statewide. Recently, DWR has been working on important updates to the CASGEM [Online System](#), including an enhanced user interface, easier access for public users, and a new data import process. DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Office will host the webinar to provide an update on the CASGEM Program and details about the release of these long-awaited updates to the CASGEM Online System. Please follow [this link](#) to register for the event.

### Two Water Plan RMS workshops scheduled for September

The California Water Plan team has scheduled two virtual workshops in September to cover three resource management strategies (RMSes) that will support [California Water Plan Update 2023](#). On [Wednesday, Sept. 13, the workshop will cover the draft Desalination RMS](#). The following week, on [Thursday, Sept. 21, the draft Conjunctive Use RMS and the draft Recharge Area RMS will be discussed](#). The workshops will serve as a venue for interested parties to provide input on the draft content and recommendations.

### Bulletin 74, California Well Standards: Status Update

The Bulletin 74 Team continues to incorporate TAC feedback and work on the sealing materials specifications, which has caused a delay to the schedule. It is now anticipated that revisions to **the Draft will be completed by Fall 2023**, at which point the Draft will be circulated within DWR and to Partner Agencies for review. Following DWR and Partner Agency review, **we anticipate that the Public Review Draft will be released in Winter 2025**, at which time we will host two public meetings to initiate the 45-day review period. The current Project Timeline is reflected on the project webpage and will be updated as needed: <https://water.ca.gov/well-standards>.

### 2023 Flood-MAR Forum and Quarterly Workshops: Save the Date

We are excited to announce the fourth biennial Flood-MAR Network Forum event will be held **November 7 & 8 at the CSUS Alumni Center in Sacramento**. [Please save the date!](#) We will reflect on five years of using floodwaters for managed aquifer recharge, share ideas and considerations to expand and improve Flood-MAR implementation statewide, and be better prepared for future wet years.

We hope that you will join us for the Network's Quarterly Workshop scheduled for **Monday, September 11th from 2:30PM – 4:30PM**. [Here is the link](#) to register for the workshop.

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](#)

## August 2023 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

[permitting processes](#). The new website has all relevant California Environmental Quality Act information, along with the [draft 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.

### 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](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).

### Executive Order N-7-22

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-7-22](#), updated in 2023 to [EO-N-3-23](#), which **included new well permitting requirements (Action 9) as well as CEQA 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 Well Permitting Requirements' and the 'CEQA Suspension on Groundwater Recharge Projects' accordion dropdowns: <https://water.ca.gov/water-basics/drought>.

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



## August 2023 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

### DWR Starting New Basin Characterization Work

DWR is seeking input on what areas of GSP implementation need the most support related to Basin Characterization? What types of information or data would support your short-term and long-term groundwater management actions and timelines for filling data gaps and refining HCMs. To provide information to these questions please [fill out the following survey](#). The survey is open to GSA representatives, consultants, researchers, and other interested parties. If you are interested in joining a workgroup for this effort, please email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).

### NEW SGMA Overview Brochure Available Online

DWR released a new SGMA Overview Brochure that provides useful information for those interested in learning more about SGMA and local groundwater management, DWR's assistance resources, and DWR's SGMA Program benefits. You can view or download the SGMA Overview Brochure in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), in both an online version and an 11-inch by 17-inch printable version ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

### DWR Releases GSP Determinations for 10 Non-Critically Overdrafted Basins and 3 COD basins

DWR released assessments of GSPs developed by local agencies to meet the requirements of SGMA. This late July release includes the approval of ten GSPs for the following basins: East Bay Plain in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, East Contra Costa in Contra Costa County, North San Benito in San Benito and Santa Clara Counties, Ukiah Valley in Mendocino County, Sierra Valley in Plumas and Sierra Counties, North American in Placer, Sacramento, and Sutter Counties, South American in Sacramento County, Butte in Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Sutter Counties, Vina in Butte County, and Wyandotte Creek in Butte County. The Department released the approved determinations for 3 COD subbasins Merced, Westside, and Kings. The assessments [can be viewed on the SGMA Portal](#). These plans are approved with recommended corrective actions that the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) will need to address in their next plan update, due in January 2027 (January 2025 for the 3 COD basins).

### 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. 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.

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### 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](#).
- **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 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 April 1 of 2023** 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**. The pilot project makes real-time interpretive services 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).