



# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## Board of Directors Meeting

### AGENDA

Wednesday June 14th, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center  
2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, CA 95206

- I. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call**
- II. **Scheduled Items -**
  - A. Discussion / Action Items:
    1. Approval of the April 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes - [Page 3](#)
    2. Review and Adopt the FY 2023-2024 GWA Budget (Staff Report and Budget Tables) - [Page 6](#)
- III. **Staff/DWR Reports**
  - A. Staff Reports
    1. Communications and Engagement Plan Development
    2. Water Accounting Framework
    3. SGMA Implementation Grant Projects Update
    4. Media Clippings - [Page 12](#)
  - B. DWR Report
- IV. **Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports**
- V. **Public Comment (non-agendized items)**
- VI. **Future Agenda Items**
- VII. **Adjournment**

### **Next Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, July 13th, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## Board of Directors Meeting

### AGENDA

*(Continued)*

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#### **Action may be taken on any item**

*Agendas and Minutes may also be found at <http://www.ESJGroundwater.org>*

*Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.*

**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT/ROLL CALL**

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Meeting convened in Assembly Room 1 at the Agricultural Center, called to order by Mel Panizza at 10:35 AM.

Angie Provencio of San Joaquin County Water Resources Division conducted roll call.

In attendance: Jeremiah Mecham, Dan Wright, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, John Herrick, Robert Holmes, Fritz Buchman, Mel Panizza, Joe Valente, and Scot Moody.

**II. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**A. Discussion/Action Items:**

**1. Approval of Minutes of January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Changes to minutes should note that Chairman Winn did not call the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting to order, Mel Panizza called the meeting to order.

**Motion:**

Motion by John Herrick and seconded by Joe Valente. The vote was unanimous.

**2. Preliminary Review of Survey Results and Next Steps for Communications and Engagement Plan**

Craig Moyle from Stantec reviewed the survey data and websites. Craig Moyle shared the ESJ GWA Distribution List is roughly 300 people, with stakeholders on this list at about 75.

*Responses to the survey are as follows:*

Manteca GSA	18
East Side San Joaquin GSA	12
North San Joaquin GSA	25
San Joaquin County GSA	14
South San Joaquin Irrigation District	20
Stockton East GSA	25

*Craig Moyle shared that the data showed the 3 top websites that stakeholders go to for information on SGMA are as follows:*

1. Local GSA's website
2. San Joaquin County website
3. The DWR website

The goal through additional outreach, is to build the ESJ GWA website to be the first website stakeholders visit, from there they will branch off to the others. Craig Moyle shared interviews with interested parties in the basin will start in 2 weeks and will take 1 week to complete. He will send a draft plan to Matt within 3 weeks. Mike Henry requested a copy of the report shared. Matt noted that he did not want to distribute interim produce but that a summary of the survey and interviews could be prepared when the interview and manager surveys were complete. Such a report would be sent to the Board.

### **3. 2022 Annual Report**

- a. **Review of Basin Conditions and Findings:** Matt Zidar presented the annual report to the Technical Advisory Committee and Steering Committee. Matt Zidar shared the report elements are groundwater elevation data, groundwater extraction information, surface water supply used or available for use, total water usage and any changes in groundwater storage. He shared 2019 was a wet year, 2020 was dry, 2021 was critical and 2022 is assumed to be critical as well. Matt commented that surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in-lieu shall be reported on quantitative data that describes the annual volume and sources for the preceding water year.
- b. **Review of progress and Status of Project Management GSAs:** Scot Moody shared that Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) efforts the last few years has come to fruition. The OID Board met with farmers regarding keeping water locally. The agreement was to keep water locally and gain commitment from landowners and farmers to take water from OID the following year at a minimum of 18" and OID would invest in keeping the water for local use. Joe Valente shared that North San Joaquin are taking charge of an abandoned vineyard for a groundwater project, and still looking into a basin in Lockeford, and moving on Dream project forward. Dan Wright shared that the City of Stockton is moving forward on a groundwater recharge pond next to the Delta treatment plan and that the project is on track as far as timing. Justin Hopkins shared that Stockton East did receive temporary flood diversion permit, DWR paid fees, and only allowed to divert till March 31<sup>st</sup> but about 120-acre feet of flood water. The Stockton East Board is working to change the incentive programs for growers to switch to surface water and will continue to come up with new ways to incentivize the use of surface water.
- c. **Discussion of Additional Project Management Actions:** Matt Zidar shared some discussions that took place at the TAC and Steering Committee meeting: project actions, data collection and monitoring, the SGMA grant and the need of \$500,000 to help accomplish the work, the idea of having funds available, grant writing and including some money for the engagement plan.

### **4. Budget Overview: Ad Hoc TAC and Steering Committee**

The budget will be adopted in June. Budget packages were shared with the Steering Committee.

### **III. STAFF Reports/Water Resources**

- a. Staff Report – none
- b. DWR Report – attached to the agenda package for individual review.
- c. Media Clippings – attached to the agenda package for individual review.

**IV. DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Mike Henry commented on the water coming down from EBMUD noting that it would be great if farmers along the Mokelumne River could have intakes to put this water in the ground.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

**VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**VII. ADJOURNMENT at 11:53 AM**



## Staff Report

**TO:** ESJ Groundwater Authority Board

**FROM:** Matt Zidar

**Date:** June 9, 2023

**Subject:** FY 2023-24 Budget

**Attachment:** GSP Budget Tables 1 & 2

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board (Board) adopts an annual budget each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). A preliminary draft budget was developed in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee discussed the budget in April and May. At the May 25<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee's Special Meeting, the proposed budget was finalized for Board consideration and is being recommended for adoption at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### Budget Scenarios

The Ad Hoc TAC made recommendations for a GWA project to be included in the SGMA Round 2 Grant and included drilling, additional monitoring, redesign of the monitoring network and instrumentation of representative wells used in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to track management objectives and avoid undesirable results. The budget was developed by staff which evaluated GWA programs both with and without the grant award. The grant was not awarded so discussion centered around how to fund desired projects and programs in the absence of grant funds. A range of scenarios and program management actions were considered by the Steering Committee.

As in prior years, the approach was to define known revenues, generate expense scenarios and calculate the difference between known revenues and planned expenses. These costs are then distributed to the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) based on groundwater pumping and population to generate revenue and balance the budget. **Table 1. FY 2023-24 Budget** shows the recommended budget from the Steering Committee.

**Revenues** are from member GSA contributions, grants, and Zone 2 of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and costs allocated to the GSAs (lines 9-19). The Revenue include all sources of funding from existing grants under contract and the pending DWR SGMA Implementation Round 1 Grant that was recently awarded to the GWA (\$7.6 M). The highlighted cell shows the GSA costs based on the method above.

**Expenses** were categorized into General Office, Management and Administration, Technical and Engineering, Work in Progress and Reserves.

- Office expenses are about the same as prior years.
- Management and Administrative costs have not changed significantly with the exception of funding for Professional Services Public Outreach, Communications, Engagement (line 44) and for Grant writing (line 46).

- Technical and Engineering Services expenses include Implementation of Instrumentation (line 52), Monitoring Network Evaluation (line 53), and Monitoring Network Improvements (line 54). Wells. These efforts are recommended for inclusion in the budget but at a reduced level since grant funding was not obtained.
  - Implementation of Instrumentation (Representative Wells). This would be to put solid state data recorders, transducers, and telemetry on representative monitoring wells. This would improve data collection, reduce the cost for field visits, increase the data available and provide more accurate information. This is a three-to-five-year effort.
  - Monitoring Network Evaluation. The purpose of this work is to evaluate and redesign the groundwater level and quality monitoring network to reduce the overall cost while keeping or improving the information quality and representativeness.
  - DMS Implementation. The purpose of this task is to coordinate with the Tracy subbasin to identify and implement a Data Management Systems that would serve both basins; and improve quality control, data management, analysis and required reporting. There are currently two different systems. These and other alternatives would be evaluated, demonstrated, and selected by an interbasin work group and then implemented to meet business needs.
  - Model Development & Support. The model was upgraded and has been applied to the analysis of the priority projects. This budget is to support the further analysis of the water accounting framework and to evaluate other projects that may seek to be grant funded so that benefits may be quantified, and impacts evaluated. Some of these costs could be borne by project proponents but it is recommended some funds be allocated to this purpose should it be necessary to further apply the model to demonstrate to DWR that the proposed project management actions would help achieve sustainability goals.
  - Domestic Well Mitigation Program is to be evaluated this fiscal year per the response to DWR comment.
  - Water Accounting Framework. This effort will continue.

The Reserve expenditure (line 69) is to continue to build funding for the five-year update or to serve as a contingency fund for the GWA to allocate via budget amendment as issues or opportunities.

### Cost Allocation

**Table 2, Cost Allocation** applied the same method as used on FY 2022-23 and is based 60/40 w/ Minimum GSA Charge and East Side Zone 2 Adjustment. This method is based on proportionate distributing costs to the GSAs based on 60% groundwater pumping and 40% population, a minimum cost of \$7,500 and apportionment of the Zone 2 benefits to those within the zone. Only the East Side GSA is not in Zone 2 and therefore cannot receive the benefit.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**RESOLUTION R-23-**

**Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, Establishing  
Member Cost Allocations, and Authorizing the Secretary of the  
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority to Invoice the Member Agencies**

WHEREAS, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (“Authority”) is a Joint Powers Authority created pursuant to California statute, and which is a public entity separate and apart from the Members; and

WHEREAS, the Authority was formed to provide coordination among the Members to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (“Basin”) in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”); and

WHEREAS, Article 5 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (“JPA Agreement”) sets forth the Financial Provisions of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 and Section 5.5 of the JPA Agreement provides that the Authority Board of Directors shall adopt a budget for the Authority for each fiscal year and Members shall share in the general operating and administrative costs of operating the Authority in accordance with the allocation determined by the Authority Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary draft budget was developed in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee discussed the budget in April and May 2023 and finalized a draft budget at its Special Meeting on May 25, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee is recommending adoption of the proposed budget for the Board’s consideration at their regular June 14, 2023 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption of the proposed budget and cost allocation amounts, the Secretary of the Authority will invoice each of the Member Agencies and each Member Agency shall pay the invoice within ninety (90) days of receiving the invoice from the Secretary; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:



1. The Authority Board of Directors hereby adopts its Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget to reflect total expenses for the year from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, not to exceed \$960,000 as shown in Table 1 of Exhibit A.

Invoicing: The County of San Joaquin Public Works Director, as the Secretary of the Authority, shall bill Member Agencies for their total contributions. Each invoice will apply the cost allocation methodology set forth in Table 2 of Exhibit A.

2. No Precedent: This FY 2023-2024 budget and cost allocation methodology (including underlying assumptions about groundwater pumping amounts) are not intended to create any precedent or reflect an allocation or determination of water rights. The budget and cost allocation methodology are subject to revision for the next fiscal year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 2023, by the following vote of the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: FRITZ BUCHMAN  
Secretary of the Eastern San  
Joaquin Groundwater Authority

ROBERT RICKMAN, Chairman  
Board of Directors of the  
Eastern San Joaquin  
Groundwater Authority

	D	H	N	O	P
3	<b>Table 1. FY 2023-24 Budget Scenarios</b>		<b>GWA Board Draft June 14, 2023</b>		
4			<b>Steering Committee Recommended</b>		
5			<b>FY 23-24</b>	6221100802	
6	<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Contract /ODC</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Total</b>
7					
8					
9	Interest Income				
12	GWA GSAs Cost Allocation		\$ 370,000		\$ 370,000
13	Other Govt Aid From Zone 2		\$ 225,000		\$ 225,000
14	State (DWR) Sustainable GW Grant (Well)		\$ 175,000		\$ 175,000
15	SGMA R 2 Grant (Submitted)				\$ -
16	GSA Reimbursable Grant Writing		\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
17	Rebates & Refunds				\$ -
18	Carry Over (use of fund balance)		\$ 130,000		\$ 130,000
19	Allocated from Reserve		\$ -		\$ -
20	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$ 960,000</b>		<b>\$ 960,000</b>
24	<b>Expense</b>				
25	<b>General Office</b>				
26	Supplies		\$ 500		\$ 500
27	Office Expense		\$ 500		\$ 500
28	Office Supplies-Purch-ISF				\$ -
29	Website Maintenance		\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,000
30	Advertising				\$ -
31	Rents Structures & Grounds		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
32	Small Tools & Instruments				\$ -
33	Postage		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
34	Auditor's Payroll & A/P Charges		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
35	Professional Services Water Resources				\$ -
36					\$ -
37	Subtotal		\$ 13,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 15,000
38	<b>Management and Administration</b>				
39	Meetings (Clerk and Records)			\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
40	Budget, Contract Administration and Accounting			\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
41	Professional Services PW Admin			\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
42	Professional Services: GWA Legal		\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
43	Professional Services: County Legal		\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
44	Professional Services Public Outreach, Communications, Engage		\$ 50,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 62,000
45	Interbasin and DWR Coordination			\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
46	Grant writing		\$ 100,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 112,000
47	Subtotal		\$ 180,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 370,000
49	<b>Technical and Engineering Services</b>				
50	2023 Annual Report		\$ 55,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 62,500
51	Groundwater Data Collection		\$ 20,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 32,000
52	Implementation of Instrumentation (Representative Wells)		\$ 25,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 32,500
53	Monitoring Network Evaluation		\$ 100,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 105,000
54	Monitoring Network Improvements (wells; SW/GW Interact)		\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
55	DMS Implementation		\$ 15,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 23,000
56	Model Devel & Support		\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 22,500
57	Domestic Well Mitigation Program		\$ 60,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 70,000
58	Water Accounting Framework		\$ 50,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 65,000
63	Subtotal		\$ 340,000	\$ 77,500	\$ 417,500
64					
65	<b>Work in Progress</b>				
66	Professional Services (WC A-18-01) Shallow Wells				\$ -
67	Professional Services (WC A-20-01)				\$ -
68	Funding and Financing (Prop 68)		\$ 50,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 57,500
69	Subtotal		\$ 50,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 57,500
70					
71	<b>Reserved Expenditure</b>				
72	Reserve- dedication		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000
73	Subtotal		\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000
74	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 683,000</b>	<b>\$ 277,000</b>	<b>\$ 960,000</b>
81					Reserve Balance
82	<b>Reserve</b>				<b>\$ 310,000</b>
83	FY 23/24 Reserve Contribution				\$ 100,000
84					\$ 410,000

**Table 2 - Cost Allocation Based 60/40 w/ Membership Minimum and East Side z2 Adj**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
				GSA Funding					
GSA	Total Pumping-Projected (AFY)	Population (2017)	Minimum	Pumping	Population	EastSide GSA Non-Zone 2 Adjustment	Total	%	
CDWA	9,611	1,629	\$ 8,500	\$ 4,247	\$ 640	\$ (1,000)	\$ 12,388	1.7%	
CSJWCD	138,809	8,047	\$ 8,500	\$ 61,345	\$ 3,163	\$ (1,000)	\$ 72,007	9.9%	
Eastside SJ GSA	63,500	10,498	\$ 8,500	\$ 28,063	\$ 4,126	\$ 15,000	\$ 55,689	7.7%	
LCSD	1,153	1,558	\$ 8,500	\$ 510	\$ 612	\$ (1,000)	\$ 8,622	1.2%	
LCWD	485	2819	\$ 8,500	\$ 214	\$ 1,108	\$ (1,000)	\$ 8,822	1.2%	
Lodi	14,520	58,174	\$ 8,500	\$ 6,417	\$ 22,863	\$ (1,000)	\$ 36,780	5.1%	
Manteca	18,985	64,279	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,390	\$ 25,263	\$ (1,000)	\$ 41,153	5.7%	
NSJWCD	146,158	21,977	\$ 8,500	\$ 64,592	\$ 8,637	\$ (1,000)	\$ 80,730	11.1%	
OID	39,952	1,890	\$ 8,500	\$ 17,656	\$ 743	\$ (1,000)	\$ 25,899	3.6%	
SDWA	4,532	7,136	\$ 8,500	\$ 2,003	\$ 2,805	\$ (1,000)	\$ 12,307	1.7%	
SEWD	165,025	41,134	\$ 8,500	\$ 72,930	\$ 16,166	\$ (1,000)	\$ 96,597	13.3%	
SJC #1	74,448	16,859	\$ 8,500	\$ 32,901	\$ 6,626	\$ (1,000)	\$ 47,027	6.5%	
SJC #2	8,183	39,779	\$ 8,500	\$ 3,616	\$ 15,634	\$ (1,000)	\$ 26,750	3.7%	
SSJ GSA	60,031	38,080	\$ 8,500	\$ 26,530	\$ 14,966	\$ (1,000)	\$ 48,996	6.8%	
Stockton	23,035	277,120	\$ 8,500	\$ 10,180	\$ 108,913	\$ (1,000)	\$ 126,593	17.5%	
WID GSA	31,238	8,488	\$ 8,500	\$ 13,805	\$ 3,336	(1,000)	\$ 24,641	3.4%	
	<b>799,665</b>	<b>599,467</b>	<b>\$ 136,000</b>	<b>\$ 353,400</b>	<b>\$ 235,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 725,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Per Steering Committee Meeting Recommendation May 17, 2023

## **FEATURE: Water rights key to San Joaquin Valley aquifer recharge**

*Written by Robin Meadows*

It sounds like such a simple fix for California's groundwater woes. In phenomenally wet years like this one, when reservoirs are so full water is still being released to make room for snowmelt, just use some of that liquid wealth to inundate agricultural lands above severely over drafted aquifers.

But nothing is simple in the world of California water. This approach, called managed aquifer recharge, has a host of complications including sorting out who has rights to floodwaters, how to allocate those rights equitably, and whether plans for securing those rights for recharge are realistic.

[Click here to read this article.](#)

*From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/06/08/daily-digest-6-8-noaa-declares-the-arrival-of-el-nino-dwr-and-partners-experiment-with-soft-release-method-to-improve-delta-smelt-survival-valley-groundwater-will-need-more-than-one-epic-water-yea/>>*

## **California lawmakers eye new trims to judicial process to sidestep environmental red tape**

“A debate in California's Assembly about whether to fast-track bills looking to trim down the state's notoriously laborious environmental review process caused some pushback on behalf of public transparency. State lawmakers convened the last in a series of informational committees serving as the first public hearings on Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed policy and budget package for the coming year. Newsom released his proposals to improve the speed of infrastructure projects on May 19, saying that his eight-bill package will streamline project approval, maximize California's federal infrastructure dollars and expedite projects to meet economic and climate goals. ... ” [Read more from the Courthouse News Service.](#)

*From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/06/08/daily-digest-6-8-noaa-declares-the-arrival-of-el-nino-dwr-and-partners-experiment-with-soft-release-method-to-improve-delta-smelt-survival-valley-groundwater-will-need-more-than-one-epic-water-yea/>>*

## **Over 1 million acre-feet of water authorized for groundwater recharge since December**

A view from a drone of a groundwater recharge project at Ball Ranch near San Joaquin River in Madera County, California. Photo taken March 30, 2023.

Odin Abbott / DWR

“Seizing the opportunity from an extremely wet winter and spring to boost groundwater levels, the State Water Resources Control Board since late December 2022 has authorized the diversion of 1.2 million acre-feet of water – more than enough to fill the Folsom Reservoir – for underground storage, wildlife refuges and other purposes. “Planning for future dry conditions is critical to protecting our communities, health, and our environment,” said California Secretary for Environmental Protection Yana Garcia. “The state has taken unprecedented action to leverage the benefits of our recent wet weather by replenishing our groundwater resources through recharge, and we look forward to achieving even more progress in the future with partners across the state. This is just one example of how our state is creating a more resilient water supply for all Californians in the face of climate-driven weather extremes.” ... ” [Continue reading from the State Water Resources Control Board](#)

*From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/06/08/daily-digest-6-8-noaa-declares-the-arrival-of-el-nino-dwr-and-partners-experiment-with-soft-release-method-to-improve-delta-smelt-survival-valley-groundwater-will-need-more-than-one-epic-water-vea/>>*

## **Supreme Court water ruling gives clarity to farmers**

“With puddles in their fields at risk of being counted as a wetland and regulated as “[waters of the United States](#),” farmers for years have sought relief from what they say is government overreach into vast swaths of the nation’s land and water. They got their wish last month when the U.S. Supreme Court set limits on how the Environmental Protection Agency can regulate the nation’s wetlands and waterways. Though the high court reined in the scope of the 51-year-old Clean Water Act and resolved “a nagging question about the outer reaches” of that law, states retain authority to regulate waters within their own borders. That means what happens on the federal front does not affect what the State Water Resources Control Board can do in California, said Kari Fisher, senior counsel for the California Farm Bureau. The state water code, she noted, “already regulates more than what can be regulated under the Clean Water Act.” ... ” [Read more from Ag Alert](#)

*From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/06/07/daily-digest-6-7-two-california-lakes-are-making-comebacks-with-different-results-new-cdfw-policy-recognizes-ecological-value-of-beavers-conservationists-help-drought-stricken-california-wildlife/>>*

## **First drought, then flood. Can the West learn to live between extremes?**

“The shadows were long and the wind across the flatlands fierce as trucks and ATVs began pulling into Chepo Gonzales’s yard one afternoon this March. “Did you double up your socks today?” Gonzales teased one of the arrivals, a man who complained about cold feet during the previous night’s patrol. Another man leaned out the window of his truck and offered a more serious status report: “There’s a lot of water out there, but it’s flowing north.” There was so much water, in fact, that across the state it was spilling over the banks of rivers and bursting the walls of levees. For more than a week, Gonzales and his neighbors had been doing their rounds three to four times a day, looking for signs of danger along the various creeks and canals that surrounded Allensworth, a small town of houses, trailers and barns tucked amid the vast, flat farms of the San Joaquin Valley in central California. ...” [Read more from the New York Times \(gift article\)](#).

*From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/06/02/weekly-water-news-digest-for-may-28-june-2-saving-sturgeon-west-false-river-drought-barrier-new-water-rights-legislation-dramatic-weather-swings-ahead-and-more/>>*

### **California Reservoir Rebound**

NASA Earth Observatory, 6/7/23 - The color of the water in the center image likely appears greener because of suspended sediment. In the right image, some portions of the lake surface appear lighter due to an optical phenomenon known as sunglint, and suspended sediment may also be present.

### **San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Needs More Than One Epic Year to Rebound**

GVWire, 6/7/23 - With all the flooding, runoff, and snowmelt still to come, everyone’s wondering: How’s the groundwater? Short answer: Better. Long answer: It’s going to take more than one good water year to reach sustainability.

### **‘Improvised, spotty and belated’: Will California reform its oversight of water rights?**

Los Angeles Times, 6/5/2023 - California’s complex system of water rights took shape starting in the mid-1800s, when settlers saw the state’s water as abundant and free for the taking — a time when a Gold Rush prospector could stake claim to river flows simply by nailing a notice to a tree.

### **Race to move water underground on as California’s Central Valley overflows**

Courthouse News Service, 5/26/23 - After an unexpected wet winter, California’s drought-addled Central Valley now faces dangerous floods as a historic snowpack melts — even as the state moves to store the liquid gold as quickly as possible.

## **Supreme Court scales back clean water protections. What does it mean for California?**

Los Angeles Times, 5/28/23 - The Supreme Court's landmark decision scaling back federal protections for many wetlands and streams has drawn criticism from scientists and environmental advocates, who say the gutting of safeguards will jeopardize water quality throughout the arid West.

## **Drought Flood Cycle getting national news....**

## **First Drought, Then Flood. Can the West Learn to Live Between Extremes?**

New York Times, 5/31/23. When Californians aren't thirsting for water, they're drowning in it. But experts see a way to navigate climate swings.

## **California's test: Can floodwater be captured and stored for future?**

The Christian Science Monitor, 5/30/23. While heavy winter storms alleviated California's years of "megadrought," experts say that capturing the rainwater presents a challenge and opportunity. One solution to harnessing the resource could be the recharging of underground water systems.

## **Race to move water underground on as California's Central Valley overflows**

"After an unexpected wet winter, California's drought-addled Central Valley now faces dangerous floods as a historic snowpack melts – even as the state moves to store the liquid gold as quickly as possible. ... Without an outlet to the ocean, water normally leaves the basin through evaporation and agriculture. The lake occasionally reappears in particularly wet years. Snowpack from recent storms melts into about 4 million acre-feet of additional runoff, leaving 103,000 acres underwater. Communities within the Tulare Lake Basin will be on flood alert well into July. UC Davis professor Thomas Harter, Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Group chair, said whiplash from drought to floods makes water management very challenging. Local agencies must negotiate with farmers about capturing water, and finding land where it can soak into the ground – called recharge basins. "The looming question with the snowpack sitting up there is, is there a way we can store this water for a drier year?" he said. "The basin's shortfall is not going to go away." ...  
" [Read more from the Courthouse News Service.](#)

*From <<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/05/28/daily-digest-holiday-weekend-edition-race-to-move-water-underground-millerton-lake-can-drain-fill-six-times-over-with-snowpack-walters-the-stakes-for-newsoms-big-plan-to-streamline-big/>>*