



Board of Directors Special Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday September 13th, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Eastern San Joaquin County Board Members:

Jeremiah Mecham, George Biagi Jr., Grant Thompson, Alan Nakanishi, David Breitenbucher, Dan Wright, Gary Tofanelli, Myron Blanton, Mike Henry, Jason Colombini, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Robert Holmes, Andy Christensen, Robert Rickman (Chair) and Mel Panizza (Vice-Chair).

Eastern San Joaquin County Alternates:

Dante Nomellini, Reid Roberts, Charlie Swimley, Mel Lytle, Russ Thomas, Douglas Smith, Joseph Salzman, Eric Schmid, Joe Valente, Scot Moody, Jerry Robinson, Brandon Nakagawa, Andrew Watkins and Paul Canepa

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion / Action Items:

1. Approval of the August 9th 2023 Meeting Minutes - [Page 3](#)
2. Approve a Letter of Agreement with the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for Staff Support Services - [Page 5](#)
3. Approve Draft Response to the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury - [Page 10](#)
4. Approve a Budget Adjustment in the Amount of \$192,571 for Remaining Grant Funds Awarded Under Proposition 68 - [Page 24 \(Amended\)](#)
5. Direct Staff to Respond to the Department of Water Resources' Request for Model Data - [Page 26](#)

III. Staff/DWR Reports

A. Staff Reports

B. DWR Report - [Page 38](#)

IV. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

V. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

VI. Future Agenda Items

VII. Adjournment

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

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
August 9th, 2023

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

At 10:30 AM, 8 Members were in attendance and the board did not meet quorum. The board did not discuss action items but allowed Stantec to share their presentation (item #4 under topic A on the agenda). At approximately 11:28 AM the 9th member of the board arrived, Dante Nomellini. Once quorum was met, action items proceeded and motions were made. The minutes below will reflect the order in which the meeting took place.

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Meeting convened at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center in Stockton CA (2101 E. Earhart Avenue; Assembly Rm. 1), called to order (once quorum was met) by Andrew Watkins at approximately 11:28 AM.

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

In attendance: Jeremiah Mecham, Mike Henry, Eric Thorburn, Jason Colombini, Robert Holmes, Fritz Buchman, Charley Swimley, Mitchell Maidrand, Dante Nomellini arriving late and Andrew Watkins acting as Chair.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan Status and Initial Draft Deliverable

Craig and Khandriale from Stantec reviewed the C&E presentation mentioning that the work plan, interviews, and the C&E plan update appendices were completed. They shared the interview information and plan provided on page 6 of the C&E Plan Status attachment and the reviewed the C&E Inventory Recommendations.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 14th, 2023

No discussion or comment

Motion: Robert Holmes

2nd: Eric Thorburn

All in favor

3. GWA Adopt Cost Allocation Table 2 and Authorize Invoicing to GSAs

No discussion or comment

Motion: Charlie Swimley

2nd: Robert Holmes

All in favor

4. Approval of the 2023-2024 Budget for the Easter San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Grant Fund #21452

No discussion or comment

Motion: Jason Colombini

2nd: Eric Thorburn

All in favor

5. Ad Hoc TAC Activity and Assignments for FY 2023-2024

Matt Zidar shared the tasks assigned to the Ad Hoc TAC and asked for motion to allow the TAC to proceed with the listed assignments on page #59 of the agenda.

Motion: Eric Thorburn

2nd: Robert Holmes

All in favor

III. STAFF Reports/DWR Report

A. Staff Reports

1. Plan for Grand Jury Response

The response to the Grand Jury will be shared with the Steering Committee members at the end of the month then will be shared with the ESJ GWA Board of Directors in October.

2. Status of the Mokelumne Integrated Conjunctive Use Project to Perfect Mokelumne River Water Rights

Matt Zidar shared the RFP, written proposals and interviews are complete. The negotiated scope schedule budget is set for review by the Steering Committee later this month.

B. DWR Report

No report

IV. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Memorandum of Understanding and GWA Budget
- Grand Jury Response

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 11:58 AM



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

MEMO

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors

FROM: Fritz Buchman, Secretary

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Letter Agreement with the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for Staff Support Services

Date: September 13, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Board of Directors:

1. Approve a Letter Agreement with South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) for Staff Support Services (see attached); and,
2. Authorize and Direct the Secretary of the ESJGWA to sign the Letter Agreement.

Discussion

County Water Resources Director Matt Zidar has retired, and his last day in the office was August 25. In the spirit of collaboration, SSJID offered the assistance of Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, to provide executive, administrative, and technical assistance to the ESJGWA on a temporary basis pending recruitment of Mr. Zidar's successor. This is a role that Mr. Nakagawa is familiar with having served in a similar capacity as a San Joaquin County employee prior to joining SSJID in 2019.

Staff has discussed with SSJID their proposed terms for temporary staff support from Mr. Nakagawa, which are reflected in the proposed Letter Agreement and summarized below:

1. In accordance with Section 3.10 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement establishing the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA), SSJID agrees to make available Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, to the ESJGWA for executive, administrative and technical assistance on a temporary basis for the next 3-6 months.
2. ESJGWA agrees to pay SSJID one hundred percent (100%) Mr. Nakagawa's time expended on ESJGWA business at the fully loaded hourly rate of one hundred forty-two dollars and 78 cents (\$142.78) per hour. SSJID will not seek reimbursement from the ESJGWA for Mr. Nakagawa's time spent on SGMA related business conducted on behalf of SSJID or the SSJGSA. SSJID's costs in the purchase materials on behalf of the ESJGWA shall be

reimbursed at 100% of the actual costs. Material costs over one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be subject to approval by the ESJGWA Board of Directors or their approved designee.

3. Mr. Nakagawa's time availability is limited. The ESJGWA should expect between 10 to 20 hours per month of Mr. Nakagawa's time to support the ESJGWA (\$17,134 estimated for 6 month duration x 20 hours per month x \$142.78 per hour).
4. SSJID will provide back-up documentation when submitting invoices.
5. ESJGWA or SSJID may at any time and for any reason, unilaterally terminate this Letter Agreement or initiate renegotiation of the terms of service.
6. Standard noticing clause.

On August 23, the ESJGWA Steering Committee discussed the potential for Mr. Nakagawa to provide temporary staff support services and unanimously recommended approval of such an arrangement. South San Joaquin Irrigation District's Board of Directors is anticipated to approve the Draft Letter Agreement on September 12th.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated cost for SSJID's services is approximately \$17,134 for a six (6) month engagement. The FY 2023-2024 Budget includes costs for County staff to administer the ESJGWA and is adequate for reimbursing SSJID for Mr. Nakagawa's time.

Attachment



September 12, 2023

Mr. Fritz Buchman, Administrator
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
PO Box 1810
Stockton, CA 95201

**SUBJECT: DRAFT LETTER AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY STAFF SERVICES PROVIDED BY SSJID TO
THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Buchman:

The South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) appreciates the leadership of the San Joaquin County Department of Public Works and the successes of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) in meeting the challenges of complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SSJID is concerned that the recent retirement of Mr. Matt Zidar could jeopardize the progress of the ESJGWA at this critical juncture. In the spirit of collaboration, SSJID offers the assistance of Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, to provide executive, administrative, and technical assistance to the ESJGWA on a temporary basis. This is a role that Mr. Nakagawa is somewhat familiar with having served in a similar capacity when an employee with San Joaquin County prior to joining SSJID in 2019.

Attached are a number of standard terms of service which were discussed by SSJID and County Public Works staff. The ESJGWA Steering Committee also discussed the concept of the potential for Mr. Nakagawa's service on August 23 and unanimously recommended the ESJGWA Board of Directors' approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 13, 2023. Following approval by the Board of Directors, please sign and return the fully executed Letter Agreement.

SSJID values our partnerships within the greater community and the continued success of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority.

Sincerely,
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PETER M. RIETKERK
General Manager

Attachment

CC: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

TERMS OF TEMPORARY STAFF SERVICE
PROVIDED BY SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
TO THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

1. SUPPORT SERVICES. – In accordance with Section 3.10 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Establishing the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA), SSJID agrees to make available the services of Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, to the ESJGWA on a temporary basis during the recruitment of a successor for Mr. Matt Zidar, retired San Joaquin County Water Resources Coordinator. Following execution of this Letter Agreement, Mr. Nakagawa will provide temporary executive, administrative and technical assistance to the ESJGWA for a period not to exceed six (6) months. .
2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR REINBURSEMENT OF TIME AND MATERIALS – ESJGWA agrees to pay SSJID one hundred percent (100%) Mr. Nakagawa’s time expended on ESJGWA business at the fully loaded hourly rate of one hundred forty-two dollars and 78 cents (\$142.78) per hour. SSJID will not seek reimbursement from the ESJGWA for Mr. Nakagawa’s time spent on SGMA related business conducted on behalf of SSJID or the SSJGSA. SSJID’s costs for the purchase of materials on behalf of the ESJGWA shall be reimbursed at 100% of the actual costs. Material costs over one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be subject to approval by the ESJGWA Board of Directors or their approved designee. It is understood that Mr. Nakagawa is an employee of SSJID, and shall not be considered an employee of the ESJGWA or the County of San Joaquin.
3. BUDGET – Mr. Nakagawa’s time availability is limited. The ESJGWA should expect between 10 to 20 hours maximum, per month of Mr. Nakagawa’s time to support the ESJGWA (\$17,134 estimated = 6 month duration x 20 hours per month x \$142.78 per hour).
4. SUBMITTAL OF INVOICES AND PAYMENTS. – SSJID shall submit invoices to ESJGWA on a monthly basis including any supporting receipts, third-party agreements, time sheets, and any other documentation used by SSJID to establish the actual costs incurred by SSJID. The ESJGWA shall pay submitted invoices with 45-days.
5. TERMINATION – ESJGWA or SSJID may at any time and for any reason, unilaterally terminate this Letter Agreement or initiate renegotiation of the terms of service.
6. NOTICES. All notices required shall be in writing, and (a) delivered by hand, (b) sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, (c) delivered by facsimile, or (d) delivered by e-mail. Notice shall be deemed given two (2) business days after deposit in U.S. Mail, or if by delivery by hand, upon receipt. Delivery by facsimile or e-mail shall constitute delivery by hand, and notice shall be deemed given on the next business day following the day such notice was sent.

Notices required to be given to SSJID shall be addressed as follows:

South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Peter M. Rietkerk
P.O. Box 747
Ripon, California 95366-0747
Phone: (209) 249-4645
E-mail: prietkerk@ssjid.com

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Fritz Buchman
P.O. Box 1810
Stockton, California 95201
Phone: 209-468-3100
E-mail: fbuchman@sjgov.org

Herby agreed to by the following parties.

SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

By: PETER M. RIETKERK
General Manager

By: FRITZ BUCHMAN
Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____

APROVED AS TO FORM:

APROVED AS TO FORM:

By: Mia S. Brown,
General Counsel

By: County Counsel



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Memo

To: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board

From: Fritz Buchman, Secretary

RE: Approve Responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report

Date: September 13, 2023

Recommendations:

1. Approve the proposed responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report
2. Authorize and direct the Secretary to send a letter with attached responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Summary: Information is provided to facilitate discussion of dry wells in the County and to discuss potential well mitigation programs.

Discussion:

Among the new reports issued by 2022-2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury was:

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority: A Rubik's Cube of Water Management (Case #0622)

The Grand Jury requested responses to the findings and recommendations in its report from the Groundwater Authority Board, the County Board of Supervisors, and the County Auditor-Controller. California Penal Code (PC) Section 933 requires that specific responses to all findings and recommendations contained in the report be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations within 90 days of issuance. PC Section 933.05 specifies that responses to findings must be: 1) Agrees with the finding; or 2) Disagrees, wholly or partially with the finding. Responses to recommendations are limited to: 1) Has been implemented; 2) Has not yet been implemented, but will be within a certain timeframe; 3) Requires further analysis and timeframe for further determination within six months; or 4) Will not be implemented, and reasons therefor.

Responses from the County Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor-Controller have been provided to the court. A summary of the proposed responses/actions reflecting the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are attached.

Fiscal Impact: With one exception, the recommendations proposed to be implemented involve only a small increment of staff time. Improving website accessibility will cost approximately \$50 per month. Although SB 7405 website accessibility requirements cited by the Grand Jury are inapplicable to the GWA, counsel recommends implementing them as other statutory / regulatory accessibility requirements likely do apply to the Groundwater Authority.

Before the Board of Directors

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

B-23-

Approve Responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report

THIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS DOES HEREBY:

1. Approve the responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Reports; and
2. Authorize and direct the Secretary to sign a letter with attached responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on _____ by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

MOTION:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

By: _____
Angie Provencio, Clerk

Attest: _____
Fritz Buchman, Secretary

2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury
The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority: Rubik’s Cube of Water Management
(Case #0622)

Responses to Findings and Recommendations

1.0 Outreach and Engagement Findings

F1.2.1 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority has provided no public information events on the status of the adoption and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan since July 2021, leaving the public largely unaware of what the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority is doing regarding groundwater sustainability and the associated effects and costs of Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation.

GWA Response: Disagree. On August 30, 2022, a public meeting was held to discuss DWR’s comments on the original Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan GSP (GSP) submitted in January 2020, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority’s responses thereto, and associated revisions to the GSP. The revised GSP was adopted by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and submitted to DWR in July 2022.

F1.2.2 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority developed but never formally approved or adopted an engagement and public outreach plan, and although the Department of Water Resources is now funding a consultant firm to work with the Board of Directors to develop one, public communications and engagement efforts so far have been limited and ineffective.

GWA Response: Partially agree. Prior to GSP adoption, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) and its GSAs performed outreach efforts beyond those that were required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act statute and its associated state regulations. The California Department of Water Resources found that “The Plan provides a detailed explanation of how the various interests of groundwater uses and users in the Subbasin were considered in developing the sustainable management criteria and how those interests would be impacted by the established minimum thresholds. (23 CCR § 355.4(b)(4).)”.

Regarding outreach efforts after adoption and submittal of the GSP, the GWA is working to develop practical Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) to help educate the public regarding the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the activities and accomplishments of the GSAs in the Eastern San Joaquin Sub-basin, and to inform constituents about the role that they play in contributing to overdraft and how they can help achieve sustainability.

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

The GWA and its GSAs generally recognize that there is a need to inform and educate the public as to the critical nature of groundwater overdraft and the need to fund and implement the program management actions identified in the GSP which will help achieve sustainability. The GWA website has been updated to include an option (Get Connected tab) for the public to subscribe to the GWA mailing list. This engagement feature allows anyone to be alerted to current and upcoming GWA activities.

Recommendations

R1.2.1 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors, in consultation with member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, develop, adopt, and implement a schedule for regular public events to provide information on Groundwater Sustainability Plan adoption and implementation and the associated effects and costs.

GWA Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. GWA decisions regarding outreach strategy will be made following the release of the Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) recommendations, which is anticipated to be presented to the GWA within the next six months. Based on the final C&E Plan recommendations, the GWA and GSAs will develop specific plans and schedules for the 2025 GSP Update which would include activities such as public events and communications.

R1.2.2 By December 31, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors follow the Department of Water Resources-funded communications consultant’s recommendations in developing, adopting, and implementing a communications and outreach plan and that the plan be posted to its website upon adoption.

GWA Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. The consultant’s recommendations will be reviewed by the GWA and the GSAs in developing and considering adoption of their final C&E Plans. These recommendations will be considered in the context of the statutory and regulatory requirements, along with GSP and GWA objectives, priorities, and available resources. The GWA’s adopted C&E Plan will be posted to the GWA website within 10 days after its adoption.

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

1.1 Efforts to Reach Diverse Population Groups

Findings

F1.3.1 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority’s efforts to identify and engage with people who are members of disadvantaged communities have been limited, potentially excluding members of these communities from learning about and having a voice in groundwater sustainability plans.

GWA Response: Partially agree. Attempts were made to engage DAC stakeholders; however, as the Grand Jury notes in its report, there are significant challenges to engaging DAC communities due to limited communications channels and organized stakeholder groups. During recent development of Greater San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, the County expended \$180,000 to implement the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program and work with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water on dedicated DAC outreach efforts. These efforts sought to identify DAC stakeholders and engage them regarding various water issues, including groundwater. There was limited DAC participation and engagement with that effort, which went over and above what was required by SGMA.

Additional public input opportunities during GSP development included four public outreach workshops at various locations within the County and a 60-day public review and comment period prior to GSP adoption by the GSAs. These additional outreach efforts are also above and beyond the extensive public noticing and input opportunities required by SGMA, including a published 90-Day Notice of Intent to Adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, publicly noticed and advertised public hearings by all GSAs in consideration of GSP adoption by all 16 GSAs, and a 60-day public review and comment period by DWR after GSP submittal. Additionally, all GWA Board and Steering Committee meetings are noticed public meetings where public input is welcome and encouraged.

F1.3.2 Informational materials used to communicate with and inform residents of the subbasin have been in English and Spanish only, thus leaving subbasin residents who speak and read other languages potentially uninformed about the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority and its activities.

GWA Response: Agree.

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

Recommendations

R1.3.1 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors develop specific methods for better identifying and engaging with disadvantaged communities in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin and include these in the communication and engagement plan currently being developed with the Department of Water Resources.

GWA Response: This recommendation requires additional analysis. Methods to potentially improve disadvantaged community outreach and engagement will be considered in conjunction with C&E Plan development.

R1.3.2 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors develop methods for communicating more effectively with major non-English speaking groups and include these in the communication and engagement plan currently being developed with the Department of Water Resources.

GWA Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. Given the large number of languages utilized within San Joaquin County, it is impractical to translate every communication into all utilized languages. However, communications could potentially be translated to a specific language upon request. Additionally, communications made available via the GWA website potentially could be translated into virtually any desired language using computer-based translators. These issues will be addressed in the pending C&E Plan.

2.0 Funding, Budgets, and Expenditures

Findings

F2.1.1 The Memorandum of Agreement with Cal Water benefits the County and its taxpayers by reducing the cost allocation paid by the County and incorporates Cal Water’s expertise and support into the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development and implementation.

GWA Response: Agree.

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

F2.1.2 Zone 2 property fees are collected by the County within the Cal Water-County GSA boundaries. Therefore, it is reasonable and equitable that Cal Water-County GSA receives the same reduction to its member cost allocation as all other County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to reflect the property fees paid into the Zone 2 fund.

GWA Response: Agree.

2.2 Transparency and Ease of Access to Financial Information

Findings

F2.2.1 Important Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority financial information is not readily available on the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website, effectively depriving the public access to this information.

GWA Response: Partially agree. Detailed financial and budget information is available on the GWA website; however, it is noted that facilitating access to this information will be beneficial for interested website users.

Recommendations

R2.2.1 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board modify the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website to provide the public clear and convenient access to a more detailed Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority budget with prior-year actuals.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Links to detailed budget information have been added to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website.

3.0 Public Information and Transparency

Findings

F3.1.1 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website does not provide the State-required Financial Transaction Report or a link to the State Controller’s website, which decreases transparency.

GWA Response: Partially agree. Although the website has not historically provided this information, the requirement to do so applies only to independent special districts and is inapplicable to the GWA.

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

F3.1.2 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website does not list the Board compensation report or a link to the State Controller’s website, reducing transparency.

GWA Response: Disagree. The GWA does not compensate Board members for their services.

F3.1.3 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website does not provide an Enterprise System Catalog, which violates public records and transparency reporting requirements.

GWA Response: Agree.

F3.1.4 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website does not meet the accessibility requirements established by Government Code Section 7405, which could make it difficult for some members of the public to access the site and could expose the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority to legal action.

GWA Response: Partially agree. The website accessibility provisions prescribed by Government Code Section 7405 apply only to state agencies and are inapplicable to the GWA.

F3.1.5 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website is not updated in a timely manner, causing frustration for site visitors and the appearance of a lack of transparency.

GWA Response: Disagree. Meeting notices/agendas are posted timely in accordance with Brown Act requirements. It is unclear from the Grand Jury Report what other content is required or desired to be posted or updated in a timelier manner.

Recommendations

R3.1.1 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors update their website to include the current Financial Transaction Report (or link to the State Controller’s website) to ensure compliance with SB 929.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented. However, note that SB 929 applies to independent special districts and is inapplicable to the GWA.

R3.1.2 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

Directors update their website to include a Board compensation report (or link to the State Controller’s website) to ensure compliance with SB 929.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Although the GWA does not compensate Board members for their services and SB 929 is inapplicable to the GWA, a link to the State Controller’s website has been added to the GWA website.

R3.1.3 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors update their website to include an Enterprise System Catalog to ensure compliance with SB 272.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

R3.1.4 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors ensure that their website complies with the requirements of Government Code Section 7405.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented to enhance public accessibility. However, note that the website accessibility provisions prescribed by Government Code Section 7405 apply only to state agencies and are inapplicable to the GWA.

R3.1.5 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors consult with San Joaquin County’s Information Systems Division to recommend, develop, and implement methodologies to ensure the timely posting of information to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website.

GWA Response: This recommendation will not be implemented. The County’s Information Systems Division is not involved in managing GWA website content. Additionally, meeting notices/ agendas are posted timely in accordance with Brown Act requirements, and it is unclear from the Grand Jury Report what other content is required or desired to be posted or updated in a timelier manner.

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations

3.1 Board, Standing Committees, and Advisory Committees

Findings

F3.2.1 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board routinely holds its meetings at times that differ from those stated in its Bylaws and on its website. Together with cancellations and a reduction in the number of Board meetings, this creates confusion and reduces opportunities for public engagement.

GWA Response: Disagree. The GWA Board adopts a schedule of regular meetings near the beginning of each calendar year. The by-laws provide the GWA Board and Secretary flexibility to schedule meetings at different times than the indicated regular meeting times in the by-laws. ESJ Board meeting frequency has varied and will continue to vary depending on the amount and time sensitivity of matters to be considered by the Board.

F3.2.2 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Technical Advisory Committee is a de facto standing committee but does not follow noticing and transparency requirements for its meetings, violating the Brown Act and giving the public no insight or input into its activities.

GWA Response: Disagree. The GWA does not have a standing Technical Advisory Committee. According to Section 4.11 of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority JPA, the Board has the power to establish one or more “advisory committees, technical committees, or other committees...” Because of the technical nature of the matters considered by its various ad hoc committees, and because of the advisory role they fulfill for the Board, these committees have often been casually called “technical advisory committees.” Although this casual parlance amongst the GWA Board and staff has clearly led to some confusion regarding the GWA’s committees, the ultimate reality is that the GWA has created numerous ad hoc committees and staff-only working groups to address limited matters prior to bringing them before the Board. Each ad hoc committee has had a limited purpose, a limited duration, and has been dissolved once its tasks have been completed. These various ad hoc committees have been served by different board members and staff members, depending upon the needs of that specific committee.

Temporary advisory committees (i.e., “ad hoc committees”) serve a limited or single purpose, have a limited duration, and will be dissolved once their specific task is completed. Such temporary advisory committees are not subject to Brown Act. (Gov. Code § 54925(b), Freedom Newspapers, Inc. v. Orange County Employees Retirement System Board of Directors (1993) Cal.4th 821.) By contrast, standing committees have either: (1) a continuing subject matter jurisdiction, or (2) a meeting schedule fixed by charter,

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ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body. (Gov. Code § 54925(b).)

In summary, this misunderstanding is fundamentally a product of nomenclature used by the GWA Board and staff. Because the JPA states that the Board can create advisory and technical committees, and because its various ad hoc committees analyze very technical issues and play advisory roles before the Board, the term “technical advisory committee” has been loosely used to describe numerous, discrete ad hoc committees that have been created over the years. Each of these committees has had a limited purpose, a limited duration, are dissolved upon the completion of their task, and are therefore not subject to the Brown Act.

F3.2.3 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority does not identify the individuals who serve on the Board of Directors on either its website or its agendas, making it difficult for the public to ascertain who governs the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority and who from each Groundwater Sustainability Agency sits on their Board.

GWA Response: Agree.

Recommendations

R3.2.1 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors amend its Bylaws and update its website to reflect the actual meeting time of the Board.

GWA Response: This recommendation will not be implemented. The GWA Board adopts a schedule of regular meetings near the beginning of each calendar year. The by-laws provide the GWA Board and Secretary flexibility to schedule meetings at different times than the indicated regular meeting times in the by-laws. ESJ Board meeting frequency has varied and will continue to vary depending on the amount and time sensitivity of matters to be considered by the Board.

R3.2.2 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors, during a public meeting, discuss and implement options that would enable increased public attendance at its meetings.

GWA Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

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R3.2.3 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors acknowledge at one of its meetings that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a standing committee and direct that the TAC begin holding its meetings in compliance with the Brown Act.

GWA Response: This recommendation will not be implemented. The GWA does not have a standing Technical Advisory Committee. Over the years, the GWA has created numerous ad hoc committees and staff-only working groups to address limited matters prior to bringing them before the Board. Each ad hoc committee has had a limited purpose, a limited duration, and has been dissolved once its tasks have been completed. These various ad hoc committees have been served by different board members and staff members, depending upon the needs of that specific committee. Each of these committees has had a limited purpose, a limited duration, are dissolved upon the completion of their task, and are therefore not subject to the Brown Act.

R3.2.4 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors ensure that its website has been updated to include the name, position, and contact information for each person serving on the Board and that this information be kept current.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented. GWA Board member and GSA contact information has been posted on the GWA website and will be kept current.

R3.2.5 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors ensure the name and position of each current Board member be included in the agenda of each Board meeting.

GWA Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

3.2 Meeting Minutes

Finding

F3.3.1 The minutes of Board and Steering Committee meetings are difficult to locate on the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website and sometimes are not posted for months or at all, resulting in frustration for interested parties and a lack of transparency.

GWA Response: Partially agree. GWA staff is unaware of any instances where minutes

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were not posted to the website. It is acknowledged that the minutes can be difficult to locate for those unfamiliar with the GWA website, and the minutes are not available on the website until they are approved at the subsequent Board or Steering Committee meeting, which is usually a month or more later.

Recommendation

R3.3.1 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors make changes to the website to ensure all meeting minutes (including drafts) are posted within 10 business days of the meeting adjournment and made easily available to the public.

GWA Response: This recommendation will be implemented, except that minutes will not be posted within the suggested 10-business day timeframe. Meeting minutes for past meetings are now available via a separate link next to the associated meeting agenda link rather than as part of the subsequent agenda package. Subsequent meeting minutes will be posted to the website once approved by the Board or Steering Committee, as appropriate, which will invariably be beyond the requested 10-business day timeframe. Once approved, meeting minutes will be posted to the website within 10 business days. Draft minutes are not required to be posted to the website.

4.0 Administrative Issues

Findings

F4.2 The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority has insufficient staff support, which negatively impacts its ability to operate efficiently and can result in staff burnout and possible administrative delays and errors.

GWA Response: Partially agree. The San Joaquin County Water Resources Division (WRD) provides staff support to the GWA and has typically had several vacant positions over the past several years due to recruitment and retention challenges resulting from an extraordinarily tight labor market for public works and water resources professionals. The WRD staffing shortages have been the result of vacant positions rather than insufficient positions being allocated to the WRD. Also, note that GWA had full staff support from the WRD when the administrative oversight was made regarding amending or renewing the Cal Water – County MOA.

Recommendations

R4.2 By November 1, 2023, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board

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develop a recommendation and proposal for additional staffing necessary to adequately support its activities and present this proposal to the member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies’ Boards and the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

GWA Response: This recommendation will not be implemented. It is unclear at this time that full staffing of currently allocated WRD positions would result in insufficient staff support for the GWA. Other options besides additional County staff include increased use of consultants, use of GSA staff, and/or other in-kind assistance from GSAs. If the GWA Board determines that additional staffing / consultant resources are needed to support GWA activities, a strategy will be developed at that time.



MEMO

TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors
FROM: Fritz Buchman, Secretary
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to the 2023-2024 ESJ GWA Budget
Date: September 13, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Board of Directors approve amending the 2023-2024 Budget (R-23-01) to appropriate the remaining Prop. 68 funds for completion of grant related work (see attached).

Discussion

The adopted ESJGWA 2023-2024 Budget does not include adequate revenue and expense appropriations for the Prop. 68 work which is scheduled to be completed this year. For a balanced budget, the following appropriation changes are recommended:

1. Change “State (DWR) Sustainable GW Grant” to “Prop. 68 (DWR) - \$367,571 (the balance of \$500,000 awarded by DWR)
2. Decrease Technical & Engineering Services contract Expenses by \$125,000 by:
 - a. Reducing Implementation of Instrumentation (Representative Wells) by \$25,000 to \$0
 - b. Reducing Monitoring Network Evaluation by \$100,000 to \$0
3. Change “Funding & Financing (Prop 68)” - \$50,000 to “Completion of Prop 68 Project” - \$367,571

Fiscal Impact

The recommended 2023-2024 Budget Amendment will result in an increase of total appropriations of \$192,571 which will be offset by Prop. 68 grant funds.

Attachment

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

RESOLUTION R-23-

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

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

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 and Section 5.5 of the JPA Agreement provides that the GWA Board of Directors shall adopt a budget for the GWA for each fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2023, the GWA Board of Directors adopted the 2023-2024 budget (R-23-01) which included appropriations totaling \$960,000; and,

WHEREAS, an amendment to the 2023-2024 GWA budget is recommended to close out the balance of the Prop. 68 grant funded work by the following appropriation adjustments:

- A. Increase Prop. 68 Revenue to \$367,571
- B. Decrease Technical & Engineering Services contract Expense by \$125,000
- C. Increase the Work in Progress Prop. 68 contract Expense to \$367,571.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The GWA Board of Directors hereby approves amending the 2023-2024 Budget to adjust revenue and expense appropriations to an amount totaling \$1,152,571;

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of September 2023, by the following vote of the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Robert Rickman
Chairman, Board of Directors
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater
Authority

ATTEST: Fritz Buchman, C.E., P.E., CFM
Secretary, Board of Directors
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater
Authority

Budget adopted 6/14/2023 (R-23-1)

Proposed Amendment 9/13/2023

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority			
(Fund 21451)	Contract	Staff	Total
Revenue			
GWA GSAs Cost Allocation	370,000		370,000
Other Govt Aid from Zone 2	225,000		225,000
State (DWR) Sustainable GW Grant	175,000		175,000
	0		0
Reimbursement from GSAs for Grant Writing Exp	60,000		60,000
	0		0
Carryover (use of fund balance)	130,000		130,000
	0		0
TOTAL REVENUES	960,000		960,000
Expense			
General Office			
Supplies	500	0	500
Office Expense	500	0	500
	0	0	0
Website Maintenance	5,000	2,000	7,000
	0	0	0
Rents Structures & Grounds	5,000	0	5,000
	0	0	0
Postage	1,000	0	1,000
Auditor's Payroll & A/P Charges	1,000	0	1,000
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
Subtotal	13,000	2,000	15,000
Management and Administration			
Meetings (Clerk and Records)	0	40,000	40,000
Budget, Contract Administration and Accounting	0	60,000	60,000
Professional Services PW Admin	0	60,000	60,000
Professional Services GWA Legal	15,000	0	15,000
Professional Services County Legal	15,000	0	15,000
Professional Services Public Outreach, Communications, Engage	50,000	12,000	62,000
Interbasin & DWR Coordination	0	6,000	6,000
Grant Writing	100,000	12,000	112,000
Subtotal	180,000	190,000	370,000
Technical and Engineering Services			
2023 Annual Report	55,000	7,500	62,500
Groundwater Data Collection	20,000	12,000	32,000
Implementation of Instrumentation (Representative Wells)	25,000	7,500	32,500
Monitoring Network Evaluation	100,000	5,000	105,000
Monitoring Network Improvements (wells; SW/GW Interact)	0	5,000	5,000
DMS Implementation	15,000	8,000	23,000
Model Development & Support	15,000	7,500	22,500
Domestic Well Mitigation Program	60,000	10,000	70,000
Water Accounting Framework	50,000	15,000	65,000
Subtotal	340,000	77,500	417,500
Work in Progress			
Professional Services WC (A-18-01)	0	0	0
Professional Services WC (A-20-01)	0	0	0
Funding & Financing Completion of Prop 68 Project	50,000	7,500	57,500
Subtotal	50,000	7,500	57,500
Contributions to Reserve			
Reserve-dedication	100,000	0	100,000
Subtotal	100,000	0	100,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	683,000	277,000	960,000
Reserve Balance (Fund 21453)			
Reserve Balance July 1, 2023			310,000
FY 23/24 Reserve Contribution			100,000
Reserve Balance June 30, 2024			410,000

ESJGWA		
Contract	Staff	Total
370,000		370,000
225,000		225,000
367,571		367,571
0		
60,000		60,000
0		0
130,000		130,000
0		0
1,152,571		1,152,571
500	0	500
500	0	500
0	0	0
5,000	2,000	7,000
0	0	0
5,000	0	5,000
0	0	0
1,000	0	1,000
1,000	0	1,000
0	0	0
0	0	0
13,000	2,000	15,000
0	40,000	40,000
0	60,000	60,000
0	60,000	60,000
15,000	0	15,000
15,000	0	15,000
50,000	12,000	62,000
0	6,000	6,000
100,000	12,000	112,000
180,000	190,000	370,000
55,000	7,500	62,500
20,000	12,000	32,000
0	7,500	7,500
0	5,000	5,000
0	5,000	5,000
15,000	8,000	23,000
15,000	7,500	22,500
60,000	10,000	70,000
50,000	15,000	65,000
215,000	77,500	292,500
0	0	0
0	0	0
367,571	7,500	375,071
367,571	7,500	375,071
100,000	0	100,000
100,000	0	100,000
875,571	277,000	1,152,571
		\$310,000
		\$100,000
		\$410,000



TO: ESJGWA Board of Directors

FROM: Fritz Buchman, Secretary

SUBJECT: Direct Staff to Respond to the Department of Water Resources' Request for Groundwater Model Data

Date: September 13, 2023

Recommendations

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Board of Directors direct staff to respond to the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) request for groundwater model data.

Discussion

On August 9, 2023, DWR requested groundwater sustainability agencies to submit groundwater modeling data through the SGMA Portal. The specific request is attached to this staff report. DWR has and continues to be an important stakeholder and partner since the inception of SGMA. DWR had funded development of the updated Eastern San Joaquin Water Resources Model (Model) prior to embarking on the development of the 2020 GSP. The Model continues to be an important tool for the ESJGWA.

On October 12, 2022, the ESJGWA adopted a Model Policy (see attached) which empowers the ESJGWA to be the keeper and custodian of the Model. Written in the Model Policy, the ESJGWA would commit to annually funding the task of packaging Model data and transferring the files and documentation to the requesting party in an orderly manner as the Model data files are complex. The ESJGWA included up to \$15,000 in the FY 2023-24 annual budget for consultant costs to fulfill the obligations set forth in the Model Policy.

Fiscal Impact: Following approval, staff is directed to respond to DWR's request which includes directing the Secretary of the ESJGWA to approve a task order with Woodard Curran to extract, format, and upload the data. The cost for Woodard Curran's services is not to exceed \$15,000 which had been previously appropriated in the adopted FY 2023-24 ESJGWA Budget.

Attachments

Brandon Nakagawa

From: Spier, Chelsea@DWR <Chelsea.Spier@water.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Buchman, Fritz [PW]; Brandon Nakagawa
Subject: Data request for C2VSim model update
Attachments: Model_Data_Upload_User_Guide_Final.pdf;
Model_Data_Upload_Request_Final.pdf

Hi Fritz and Brandon,

I didn't end up hearing back from Matt on this data request before he left. I was wondering if either of you could pass this along to the appropriate person/people.

Best regards,

~Chelsea Spier

From: Spier, Chelsea@DWR
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Matt Zidar <mzidar@sjgov.org>
Cc: Brewster, Bill@DWR <Bill.Brewster@water.ca.gov>; Chen, Zhiming@DWR <Zhiming.Chen@water.ca.gov>
Subject: Data request for C2VSim model update

Hi Matt,

As you may know, the C2VSim fine grid model is in the process of being extended through water year 2021. Before you leave the county 😞, I wanted to make sure I share this data request with you so you can pass it along to the appropriate person/people.

We are primarily looking for **surface water diversion and local stream flow rate data for the period of October 2015 through September 2021 (more recent or historical data is also welcome), preferably on a monthly or daily timestep with associated GIS files. Spreadsheet, text (including comma-separated values, or CSVs), or PDF data formats preferred for both the Eastern San Joaquin and Tracy Subbasins.** We are hoping to get this data ASAP as the model update will be completed by December 2023.

The data can be uploaded through the SGMA portal. I have included a how to guide on uploading data and more specifics on what we are looking for (also copied below). If you or others have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Zhiming, cc'ed here, is leading this effort from our side.

How?

- We are requesting that data be uploaded to the [SGMA portal](#).
 - o A model data dashboard has been developed for data upload, with basin/subbasin-specific access permissions (i.e., a user should only see the basin/subbasin model to which they are associated).
 - o **Please see the attached *Model_Data_Upload_User_Guide_Final* document for additional information.**



- Additionally, a *Model_Data_Upload_Request_Final* document describing this request is attached and can be shared with the agency or basin.

When?

- ASAP, especially with regards to the diversion, stream flow, and ET data as indicated below.
 - o This data will be used to update the C2VSim model and potentially other groundwater and surface water model development and calibration, a process that is planned to be complete by December 2023.
- After this initial request, additional requests will be sent annually thereafter.

What Data?

Immediate priority: we are looking for surface water diversion and local stream flow rate data for the period of October 2015 through September 2021 (more recent or historical data is also welcome), preferably on a monthly or daily timestep with associated GIS files. Spreadsheet, text (including comma-separated values, or CSVs), or PDF data formats preferred.

Secondary priority: we are looking for ET ground-truthing data; that is ET timeseries rasters or measured data (e.g., LandIQ rasters or eddy covariance station measured data).

Third priority: If available, we would also be interested in the following (via GIS, spreadsheet, text, PDF, etc.):

- Diversion specifications
 - o Point-of-diversion, delivery area, capacity, conveyance (e.g., pipeline, lined/unlined open channel)
- Local streams
 - o Streamflow rates and location
 - o Stream dimensions, streambed thickness, hydraulic conductivity of streambed
 - o Bypass rates and location/destination
- Wells
 - o Pumping rates
 - o Groundwater level time series
 - o Well location, well construction logs or e-logs

- Recharge
 - o Locations
 - E.g., detention/retention basins, wastewater treatment plant ponds, stormwater rock wells, other designated recharge locations
 - o Rates
- Aquifer property estimates
 - o E.g., hydraulic conductivity, transmissivity, aquifer thickness, specific yield, storativity, specific storage, etc.
- Aquifer test data
 - o E.g., specific capacity and pump test data
- Evapotranspiration
 - o Any ET ground-truthing data or ET model inputs/assumptions
- Groundwater quality time series
- Model files
 - o Model grid/node GIS files, if applicable
 - o Model input data related to any of the above, if that's easier to send (with supporting documentation, if applicable)

Best regards,

Chelsea Spier
Regional Coordinator, PE
Northern Central Region Office
CA Department of Water Resources
Pronouns She/Her ([what is this?](#))
NEW Phone: 916-820-8226



Model Data Upload Request

The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Fine Grid California Central Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation Model (C2VSimFG) is in the process of being extended through water year (WY) 2021. As part of that effort, DWR is conducting local agency outreach to request provision of regional and groundwater basin/subbasin-specific groundwater model-related datasets.

How to Upload Data

To support this effort, DWR has added functionality to the [SGMA Portal](#) to allow for model-related dataset uploads, for each basin/subbasin. Please see the accompanying [Model_Data_Upload_User_Guide.pdf](#) for data upload instructions.

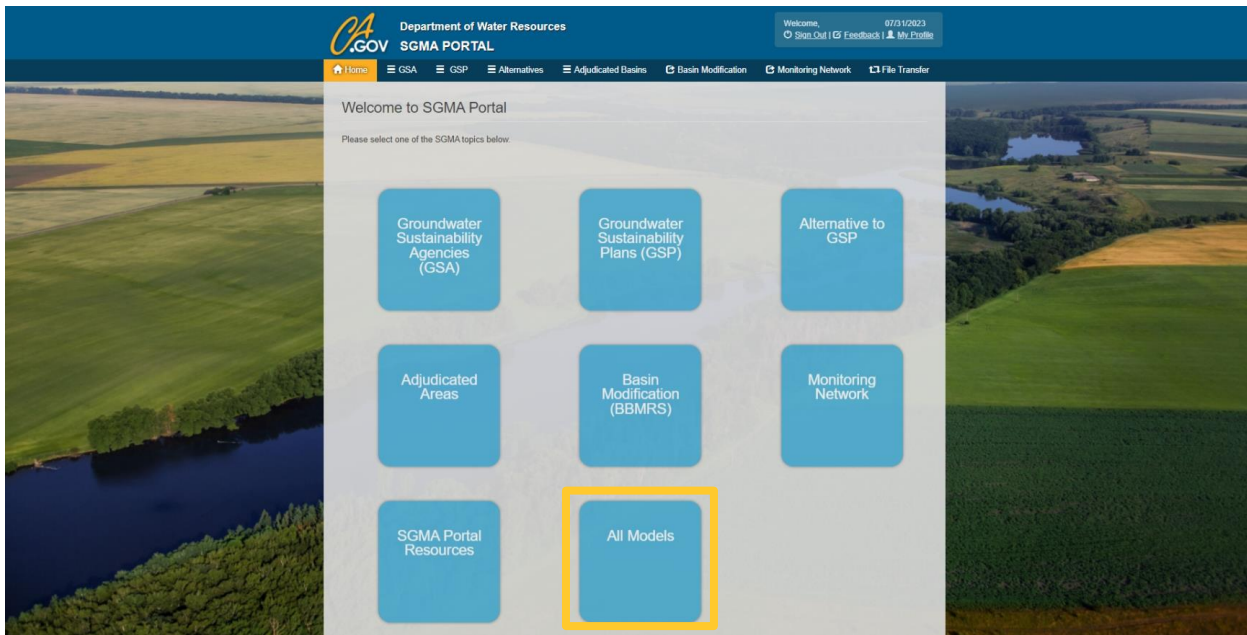


Figure 1. A screenshot of the SGMA Portal Homepage, highlighting the “All Models” icon.

Data Request Timeline

DWR is requesting this data be uploaded as soon as possible, especially with regards to diversion, stream flow, and evapotranspiration (ET) data. The data will support C2VSimFG and potentially other groundwater and surface water model development and calibration, which is scheduled for completion at the end of the 2023 calendar year.

After this initial request, additional requests for updated data will be sent out annually.

Requested Data, Priority, and Format

Immediate priority: DWR is requesting surface water diversion and local stream flow rate data for the period of **October 2015 through September 2021** (more recent or historical data is also welcome), preferably on a monthly or daily timestep with associated GIS files. Spreadsheet, text (including comma-separated values, or CSVs), or PDF data formats preferred.

Secondary priority: DWR is requesting ET ground-truthing data; that is, ET timeseries rasters or measured data (e.g., LandIQ rasters or eddy covariance station measured data).

Third priority: If available, DWR is also requesting the following (via GIS, spreadsheet, text, PDF, etc.):

- Diversion specifications
 - o Point-of-diversion, delivery area, capacity, conveyance (e.g., pipeline, lined/unlined open channel)
- Local streams
 - o Streamflow rates and location
 - o Stream dimensions, streambed thickness, hydraulic conductivity of streambed
 - o Bypass rates and location/destination
- Wells
 - o Pumping rates
 - o Groundwater level time series
 - o Well location, well construction logs or e-logs
- Recharge
 - o Locations
 - E.g., detention/retention basins, wastewater treatment plant ponds, stormwater rock wells, other designated recharge locations
 - o Rates
- Aquifer property estimates
 - o E.g., hydraulic conductivity, transmissivity, aquifer thickness, specific yield, storativity, specific storage, etc.
- Aquifer test data
 - o E.g., specific capacity and pump test data
- Evapotranspiration
 - o Any ET ground-truthing data or ET model inputs/assumptions
- Groundwater quality time series
- Model files
 - o Model grid/node GIS files, if applicable
 - o Model input data related to any of the above, if that's easier to send (with supporting documentation, if applicable)

Questions

For questions regarding the model-related dataset upload process, please reach out to your

basin/subbasin's DWR Point-of-Contact (POC), which can be found at the [DWR Assistance and Engagement webpage](#). Alternatively, e-mail requests can be sent to sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Eastern San Joaquin Water Resources Model Policy

Adopted on: October 12, 2023

By the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

I. Purpose of the Policy

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (Authority) was developed the Eastern San Joaquin Water Resources Model (ESJWRM) as an informative tool to support the development of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). This policy is intended to define the role of the Authority and its Member GSAs with respect to ESJWRM custody and distribution. The Authority Board of Directors may modify this policy in the future.

II. Disclaimer

The Authority developed the ESJWRM for the specific purpose of supporting the development of the ESJ GSP. The Authority provides no warranty for the ESJWRM nor endorses the use of the ESJWRM for any other purpose. The ESJGWM is available to ESJGWA GSAs and to the general public for their use. ESJWRM data files are to be made available by the ESJGWA only upon written request. ESJWRM data files are provided as is and may contain errors, inaccuracies, or parameters differing from the field.

III. ESJWRM Policies

The Authority has considered DWR's *Modeling Best Management Practices for Sustainable Groundwater Management* (DWR, 2016) in its development and use of the ESJWRM. A summary of DWR's publication is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 1. Ownership

- a. The Authority and its GSA members are the sole owners of the ESJWRM including all data files.
- b. DWR is the custodian of the IWFM-2015 model platform which is made available to the public for their use.
- c. DWR provides updates on the IWMP-2015 platform from time to time.

Section 2. Authority Responsibilities

- a. The Authority shall act as the custodian of the ESJWRM and at the direction of the Board of Directors, provides ESJWRM version control including all documentation, maintains data files, performs model upkeep, performs upgrades, operates ESJWRM, ensures ESJWRM is compatible with all DWR IWFM-2015 updates, and ESJWRM distribution.

- b. ESJWRM documentation shall be posted to the www.ESJGroundwater.org website clearly denoting the date of publication and ESJWRM version.
- c. Prior to the collective use of the ESJWRM for Authority purposes, the Authority Board of Directors will affirm the ESJWRM's current version including any new updates made.
- d. From time to time, the ESJWRM model may require an extensive update including but not limited refinement of hydrogeologic conditions, changes in hydrologic conditions, updated baseline conditions, etc. The Authority Board of Directors may elect to fund these improvements from GSA contributions or seek grant funds. Any ESJWRM related activities undertaken by the Authority shall be approved as part of the Authority's annual budget.
- e. To ensure ESJWRM version control, all requests for the ESJWRM shall be made in writing to the ESJGWA. A simple request form shall be developed by ESJGWA staff and shall include at minimum the requesting entity and their agent(s), contact name and information, proposed use of the ESJWRM, and a signature acknowledging the disclaimer above.
- f. Consistent with its role as ESJWRM custodian, the Authority shall allocate in its annual budget funding to accommodate ESJWRM distribution requests.
- g. Once transmitted, the Authority assumes no further responsibility to the requesting entity.

Section 3. GSA Responsibilities

- a. The GSAs retain unrestricted access to the ESJWRM. In the manner listed above, the ESJGWA shall provide all model data files to the requesting GSA.
- b. GSAs may request that the model be run on their behalf by the Authority's consultant. Such costs would be borne by the GSA under separate agreement with the Authority's consultant or the Authority.
- c. In their use of the ESJWRM, GSAs may uncover potential changes or improvements. Such improvements are welcome by the Authority provided that the proposed changes are supported with technical information. The Authority requests that GSAs document any proposed changes to the ESJWRM for convenient consideration by the Authority's various committees. Ideally, requested updates to the ESJWRM would take place coincidentally with an extensive model update previously approved by the Authority Board of Directors; however, the Board of Directors has the final discretion to approve GSA requests.

IV. Background

The ESJWRM was developed initially by GSAs from 2016 to 2018 using grant funds provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The GSAs collectively formed the Authority to specifically develop a single GSP for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin prior to the January 2020 deadline. The ESJGWA officially adopted the ESJWRM for use in the development of the GSP from 2018 through 2019. The results were documented in the ESJ GSP dated November 2019 GSP. The version of the model used for the development of the November 2019 GSP is herein referred to as ESJWRM Version 1.1.

The underlying model platform, IWFM-2015, was developed by DWR and is accessible for use by the general public¹. Previous groundwater simulation models developed for use by San Joaquin and others were antiquated or developed on proprietary platforms. The intent of the GSAs during the initial development of ESJWRM Version 1.1 was to develop an updated groundwater model for Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin on an open platform to be used individually and/or collectively by GSAs.

In 2021, the Authority undertook an update to ESJWRM Version 1.1 including the following:

1. Extension of Data from Water Year 2016 through Water Year 2019
2. Extension of Data through Water Year 2020
3. Refinement of hydrologic conditions in the Modesto Subbasin and parts of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin.
4. Full update and recalibration resulting in ESJWRM Version 2.0.

The first two updates were completed as part of the preparation of ESJ Subbasin GSP annual reports to DWR. These updates only included an extension of model time series data (i.e., land use, surface water diversions, groundwater well pumping, and urban demand), with the model providing estimates of total surface water supplies, groundwater pumping, and change in groundwater storage for the water year covered by the model report.

The third update was initiated by the Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts (OID and SSJID, respectively) as part of their Stanislaus Basin Plan initiative. The recommended refinements included an update to surface water deliveries from the OID North Main. OID and SSJID provided suggested updates to the Authority for consideration in the 2021 ESJWRM update.

The fourth (and major) update to the ESJWRM Version 2.0 was required to evaluate future with and without project scenarios, including demand reduction and climate change (Woodard & Curran, 2022), for response to DWR comments on the GSP. These changes are documented the revised ESJ GSP dated July 2022.

¹ <https://data.ca.gov/dataset/iwfm-integrated-water-flow-model-version-2015-0-1045>

Exhibit A - DWR Best Practices

The following excerpts are provided in the Department of Water Resources *Modeling Best Management Practices for Sustainable Groundwater Management*, published in 2016. The sections selected are those most pertinent to providing background on the role of models with regards to Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation.

- Each GSA is responsible for determining the appropriate modeling method, software, and the level of detail needed to demonstrate that *undesirable results* can be avoided and the *sustainability goal* in each basin is likely to be achieved within 20 years of *GSP implementation*. Applicable SGMA sections regarding modeling include §354.18(e) and §352.4(f).
- While models are, by definition, a simplification of a more complex reality, they have proven to be useful tools over several decades for addressing a range of groundwater problems and supporting the decision-making process. Models can be useful tools for estimating the potential hydrologic effects of proposed water management activities.
- Modeling to support sustainable groundwater management is an ongoing effort. The initial model developed to support a sustainability assessment must be based on the best available information, the level of expert knowledge about the basin, and the best available science at the time of model development. As new data are collected and an improved understanding of the basin is developed over time, through either additional characterization, monitoring efforts, or both, the predictive accuracy of the model (or models) should be improved through a refinement of the underlying model assumptions (aquifer properties, stratigraphy, boundary conditions, etc.), as well as more robust calibration due to a larger database of calibration targets (groundwater levels, surface water flows, a more robust climatic dataset, etc.). The model selected as a long-term tool to support management of a groundwater basin should be able to adapt to refined hydrogeologic interpretations and incorporate additional data.
- The purposes of modeling in the broader context of SGMA implementation include:
 1. Supporting the development of the water budget
 2. Assessing the Sustainable Management Criteria (sustainability goal, undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives)
 3. Supporting identification and development of potential projects and management actions to address undesirable results that exist or are likely to exist in the future
 4. Supporting the refinement of the monitoring network in the basin over time
- Models provide insight into the complex system behavior and (when appropriately designed) can assist in developing conceptual understanding. Models provide an important framework that brings together conceptual understanding, data, and science in a hydrologically and geologically consistent manner. In addition, models can estimate

and reasonably bound future groundwater conditions, support decision-making about monitoring networks and management actions and allow the exploration of alternative management approaches.

- However, there should be no expectation that a single ‘true’ model exists. All models and model results will have some level of uncertainty. Models can provide decision-makers an estimate of the predictive uncertainty that exists in model forecasts. By gaining a sense of the magnitude of the uncertainty in model predictions, decision-makers can better accommodate the reality that all model results are imperfect forecasts and actual *basin* responses to projects and management actions will vary from those predicted by modeling.
- Developing and applying models to aid in determining sustainable groundwater management results in multiple benefits to GSAs and stakeholders. Constructing and calibrating the model improves understanding of the critical processes that influence *sustainability indicators* within the basin. The application of the model to forecast the influence of projects and management actions on basin conditions provides a framework within which a GSA can screen and select appropriate projects and management actions that lead to the achievement of the sustainability goal for the basin. Additionally, models can play a critical role in simulating the changing climate conditions that may occur during the 50-year *planning and implementation horizon* required under SGMA. It should be noted that in general, groundwater and surface water models are more effective at comparing the benefits and impacts of various management strategies with respect to one another rather than predicting exact management outcomes. While a model can assist in selecting the best alternative from a variety of options, uncertainty will remain in the forecasted outcome of a particular alternative.
- It is each GSA’s role to carefully consider if changing basin conditions and proposed projects and management actions have the potential to trigger undesirable results within the basin or in adjacent basins, and whether a model is necessary to demonstrate that the proposed projects and management actions will achieve the sustainability goal. Therefore, the use of models for developing a GSP is highly recommended, but not required.
- Since significant professional judgment goes into the development of a model, two models of the same basin – even if they are built with the same model code - are likely to differ in their design and their outcome. Where multiple models exist, differences between model outcomes, after a careful assessment of the differences in model design and assumptions, may provide an important opportunity to further assess uncertainty in predicted outcomes and to further direct future data collection programs. Importantly, multiple models with differing outcomes should not be interpreted *a priori* as one model being (more) right and others being (more) wrong.
- While models are useful and often invaluable tools for understanding a basin and predicting future basin conditions, in most cases, they are not the only available means for demonstrating that a basin has met its sustainability goal. Satisfactorily demonstrating that all undesirable results have been avoided and the sustainability goal has been met will be a function of the data collected and reported during GSP implementation.

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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.

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.**

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.**

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.

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>

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- 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

NEW: DWR Releases Groundwater Recharge Guidance Documents

DWR has developed an [On-Farm Recharge Methods Manual](#), [District Recharge Program Guidance](#) and [Central Valley Groundwater Recharge Incentives and Strategies](#). The On-Farm Recharge Methods Manual, a summary of strategies and challenges. This document gathers observations and lessons learned from over a decade of Sustainable Conservation working directly with growers and irrigation districts to implement on-farm recharge, including methods to enhance recharge, avoid crop health problems, manage recharge events, and minimize nutrient leaching. This document summarizes in-field practices with 10 grower case studies to provide practical information about on-farm recharge from growers to growers.

The two guidance documents will help water districts, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), and their technical consultants design and implement effective multi-benefit recharge programs and projects. These documents include a summary of necessary considerations, publicly available tools, and examples to design new or refine existing recharge and incentive programs that address the specific needs and priorities in a subbasin.

California Water Plan Update 2023 Plenary Session

The Plenary meeting for [CWP Update 2023](#) is set for **Oct. 3 and 4, at the Roebelen Center in Roseville**. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about, and provide feedback on, the public review draft of Update 2023. During the plenary, participants will receive an overview of the public review draft; hear about the three themes of Update 2023: climate urgency, watershed resilience, and water equity; and review and discuss the plan's recommendations. A [preliminary list of agenda items and breakout session](#) topics have been released. [Registration is open](#) with in-person tickets available at the early-bird rate of \$50 through Sept. 25.

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

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

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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 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.

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 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 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.

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**

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made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to: GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.

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.

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

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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. **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.