



**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN  
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup  
Meeting #2  
July 17, 2024**

# Today's Agenda

- ✓ Opening Remarks, Introductions, and Ground Rules
- ✓ Brown Act Overview
- ✓ ESJGWA C&E Plan Overview & Development Process
- ✓ ESJGWA C&E Plan Next Steps
- ✓ Q/A





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# Opening Remarks, Introductions, and Ground Rules

# Today's Presenters & Group Introductions

- **Marina Deligiannis**, *Public Affairs Specialist, Stantec*
- **Khandriale Clark**, *Public Affairs and Funding Specialist, Stantec*

**Please introduce yourself! Name, GSA / Agency (if applicable)**

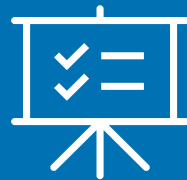
# Ground Rules



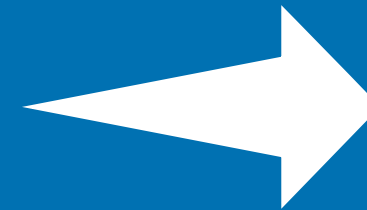
✓ Come Prepared



✓ Be Engaged



✓ Learn, Listen & Share



**Adopted  
C&E Plan**



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# Brown Act Overview

# Introduction & Purpose of the Brown Act

*The purpose of the Brown Act is to ensure transparency and public participation in local government decision-making processes. The Brown Act creates transparency that strengthens democracy*

- **Transparency**: The Brown Act promotes transparency by requiring that the actions and deliberations of local government bodies be conducted openly.
- **Accountability**: Ensures that elected officials are accountable to the public by providing opportunities for public oversight and input.
- **Public Trust**: Enhances public trust in local government by ensuring that decisions are made in a fair and open manner



# Key Provisions of the Brown Act

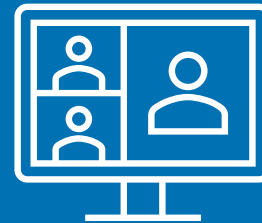
Public Records	Open Meetings	Notice & Agenda Requirements	Public Participation	Closed Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting materials, including agendas, minutes, and any distributed documents, must be made available to the public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All meetings of legislative bodies of local agencies must be open and public, allowing members of the public to attend and participate.</li> <li>A legislative body includes city councils, county boards of supervisors, school boards, and other local government agencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agendas must be posted at least 72 hours before regular meetings and must clearly describe each item of business to be transacted or discussed.</li> <li>Special meetings require a 24-hour notice.</li> <li>Agenda items must be described in enough detail to inform the public about what will be discussed or decided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the public must be given an opportunity to address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the body's consideration of the item.</li> <li>Public comment periods must be provided for both agenda and non-agenda items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act allows for closed sessions in specific situations, such as personnel matters, pending litigation, and labor negotiations.</li> <li>Actions taken in closed sessions must be reported out in public sessions as soon as possible.</li> </ul>



# Recent Amendments & Updates of the Brown Act

## **AB 361 (Teleconferencing):**

Expands the use of teleconferencing for meetings, especially during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, with specific requirements for public participation.



## **AB 992 (Social Media):**

Clarifies the rules regarding the use of social media by elected officials to prevent violations of the Brown Act through indirect communications.



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# **ESJGWA Communication & Engagement Plan Overview & Development Process**

# What is a C&E Plan?

*A multi-year implementation strategy for ESJGWA and its member agencies to engage with beneficial users and uses of groundwater in the region during implementation and management of the GSP.*

# The C&E Plan Is Comprised Of...

- Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin 2022 GSP:
  - Section 1.3 – Notice and Communication
  - Section 6.0 – Projects and Management Actions
  - Section 7.7 – Public Outreach
  - Appendix 1-H: Stakeholder Engagement and Public Outreach Plan
  - Appendix 1-I: Public Comments Received
  - Appendix 1-J: Response to Public Comments
- Stanislaus County Superior Court: CalSPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSGS Plan (March 16, 2020)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) GSP Assessment Staff Report (January 28, 2022)
- 2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report for Case #0622 (June 26, 2023)



# The C&E Plan Is Comprised Of (cont.)

- Previous Data Collection Efforts (2023)
  - GSA Manager Survey Analysis and Summary
  - Interested Parties Survey Analysis and Summary
  - GSA Website Audit
  - C&E Inventory Summary
  - Individual and Group Interviews
- Stakeholder Engagement Survey (re-do of IP Survey) (2024)
- New and Clarified C&E Goals in 2025 GSP Update
- Industry Best Practices



# C&E Plan Goals

- **Resume** progress from 2023 C&E framework
- **Build** detailed strategy document
- **Conduct** additional data collection
- **Establish** community outreach contacts
- **Provide** SGMA-compliant recommendations
- **Prioritize** actions and protocols
- **Define** roles and responsibilities
- **Implement** with community and GSA capacity in mind
- **Expand** community and GSA capacity over time





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# **ESJGWA Communication & Engagement Plan Next Steps**

# C&E Plan Next Steps



Continuation of  
Data Collection



Drafting of C&E Plan



Review Period for C&E  
Plan



ESJGWA Adoption of  
C&E Plan





# Stakeholder Engagement Survey Now Live!

We need  
**YOUR** help!

Survey  
closes Aug.  
7th

Link to the survey  
(English)



[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESJ2024\\_Engagement](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESJ2024_Engagement)

Enlace a la encuesta  
(Spanish)



[https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/ESJ2024\\_Spanish](https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/ESJ2024_Spanish)

# Continuation of Data Collection...Outreach & Engagement Survey

Support Outreach to Beneficial Users and Uses of Groundwater	Inform Outreach Actions	Prioritize Activities	Confirm Agency Responsibilities	Improve Communication About Groundwater Management	Enhance Community Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance communication efforts to reach all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Ensure comprehensive outreach to individuals and groups who benefit from groundwater.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect feedback to guide effective communication strategies.</li> <li>• Tailor outreach efforts based on survey responses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key areas of focus based on stakeholder input.</li> <li>• Allocate resources to the most critical outreach activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify the roles of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority and its member GSAs.</li> <li>• Ensure accountability in the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster better understanding and engagement within the community.</li> <li>• Enhance transparency and trust between the agencies and stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage active participation from all community members.</li> <li>• Strengthen collaboration and feedback mechanisms.</li> </ul>



# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## Q/A

Brandon Nakagawa: [Brandon.nakagawa@ssjid.gov](mailto:Brandon.nakagawa@ssjid.gov)

- Marina Deligiannis: [Marina.Deligiannis@stantec.com](mailto:Marina.Deligiannis@stantec.com)
- Khandriale Clark: [Khandriale.Clark@stantec.com](mailto:Khandriale.Clark@stantec.com)