



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday August 9th, 2022

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

- I. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call**
- II. **Scheduled Items -**
 - A. Discussion / Action Items:
 1. Approval of the June 14th 2023 Meeting Minutes - [Page 3](#)
 2. GWA Adopt Cost Allocation Table 2 and Authorize Invoicing to GSAs - [Page 5](#)
 3. Approval of the 2023-2024 Budget for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Grant Fund 21452 - [Page 6](#)
 4. Communication and Engagement Plan Status and Initial Draft Deliverable - [Page 8](#)
 5. Ad Hoc TAC Activity and Assignments for FY 2023-24 - [Page 59](#)
- III. **Staff/DWR Reports**
 - A. Staff Reports
 1. Plan for Grand Jury Response
 2. Status of Mokelumne Integrated Conjunctive Use Project to Perfect Mokelumne River Water Rights
 - B. DWR Report
- IV. **Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports**
- V. **Public Comment (items not on the agenda)**
- VI. **Future Agenda Items**
 - A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Memorandum of Understanding and GWA Budget Amendment and Appropriation.
 - B. Grand Jury Response
- VII. **Adjournment**

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 13th, 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
June 14th, 2023

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

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. 3), called to order by Robert Rickman at 10:31 AM.

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

In attendance: Jeremiah Mecham, Dan Wright, Mike Henry, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Robert Holmes, Mel Panizza, Robert Rickman, Charley Swimley, Douglas Smith, and Joe Valente.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes of April 12th, 2023

Motion:

Motion by Mel Panizza and seconded by Joe Valente

2. Review and Adopt the FY 2023-2024 GWA Budget

Motion:

The motion was made to adopt the 2023/2024 GWA Budget as presented in Table #1.

Motion by: Robert Holmes and seconded by Joe Valente

In favor of the vote: Dan Wright, Mike Henry, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, Robert Holmes, Mel Panizza, Robert Rickman, Charley Swimley, Douglas Smith, and Joe Valente

Abstention: Jeremiah Mecham

III. STAFF Reports/Water Resources

- a. Communications and Engagement Plan Development – not discussed.
- b. Water Accounting Framework – Andrew Watkins commented the meeting is set for 6/28/23.
- c. SGMA Implementation Grant Projects Update – not discussed.
- d. Media Clippings – attached to the agenda for personal review.
- e. DWR – Chelsea Spier shared the ADM data finished interpretations for area 6 and could be useful for any recharge projects. Verbal translation services are now available through DWR for public meetings, and a new website Be Well Prepared is a great tool for domestic well owners to link to their websites.

IV. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Staff Reports not discussed to roll over to the next meeting.
- The revision of Budget Table #2

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 10:50 AM

Table 2 - Adopted Budget. Cost Allocation Based 60/40 w/ Minimum and East Side z2 Adjustment

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
						GSA Funding			
GSA	Total Pumping-Projected (AFY)	Population (2017)	Minimum	Pumping	Population	EastSide GSA Non-Zone 2 Adjustment	Total	%	
CDWA	9,611	1,629	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,803	\$ 272	\$ (1,000)	\$ 8,575	2.3%	
CSJWCD	138,809	8,047	\$ 7,500	\$ 26,038	\$ 1,342	\$ (1,000)	\$ 33,880	9.2%	
Eastside SJ GSA	63,500	10,498	\$ 7,500	\$ 11,911	\$ 1,751	\$ 15,000	\$ 36,162	9.8%	
LCSD	1,153	1,558	\$ 7,500	\$ 216	\$ 260	\$ (1,000)	\$ 6,976	1.9%	
LCWD	485	2819	\$ 7,500	\$ 91	\$ 470	\$ (1,000)	\$ 7,061	1.9%	
Lodi	14,520	58,174	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,724	\$ 9,704	\$ (1,000)	\$ 18,928	5.1%	
Manteca	18,985	64,279	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,561	\$ 10,723	\$ (1,000)	\$ 20,784	5.6%	
NSJWCD	146,158	21,977	\$ 7,500	\$ 27,416	\$ 3,666	\$ (1,000)	\$ 37,582	10.2%	
OID	39,952	1,890	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,494	\$ 315	\$ (1,000)	\$ 14,309	3.9%	
SDWA	4,532	7,136	\$ 7,500	\$ 850	\$ 1,190	\$ (1,000)	\$ 8,540	2.3%	
SEWD	165,025	41,134	\$ 7,500	\$ 30,955	\$ 6,862	\$ (1,000)	\$ 44,317	12.0%	
SJC #1	74,448	16,859	\$ 7,500	\$ 13,965	\$ 2,812	\$ (1,000)	\$ 23,277	6.3%	
SJC #2	8,183	39,779	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,535	\$ 6,636	\$ (1,000)	\$ 14,671	4.0%	
SSJ GSA	60,031	38,080	\$ 7,500	\$ 11,261	\$ 6,352	\$ (1,000)	\$ 24,113	6.5%	
Stockton	23,035	277,120	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,321	\$ 46,228	\$ (1,000)	\$ 57,049	15.4%	
WID GSA	31,238	8,488	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,860	\$ 1,416	\$ (1,000)	\$ 13,776	3.7%	
	799,665	599,467	\$ 120,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 370,000	100.0%	
							\$ 370,000		

Percentage

		GW	Pop
	% Split	60%	40%
Low Cost			
Need and without minimum	\$ 370,000	\$ 222,000	\$ 148,000
Balance after Minimum	\$ 250,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000
Minimums total	\$ 120,000		



Memo

To: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

From: Matt Zidar, Water Resources Manager

RE: Eastern SJ Groundwater Authority Grant Fund (21452)

Date: August 9, 2023.

Summary: Approval of the 2023-2024 Budget for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Grant Fund (21452).

Discussion: In 2022, on behalf of San Joaquin County (County), the City of Stockton (COS) and North San Joaquin Water & Power Authority (NSJWPA) also known as Local Project Sponsors (LPS), the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) applied for and received \$7,600,000 from the Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant (SGM Grant) from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to help fund certain projects proposed by the LPSs in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sub-basin. For transparency, a separate fund was established for the grant funds titled the Eastern SJ Groundwater Grant Fund (Grant Fund).

The GWA Board of Directors (Board) must authorize the 2023-2024 budget appropriations for the Grant Fund to receive and expend the SGM Grant funds. Revenues total \$7.6 million with appropriations of \$4.3 million to reimburse LPSs COS and NSJWPA and \$3.3 million to reimburse LPS County for eligible project costs (Attachment 1).

Fiscal Impact: By approving the 2023-2024 Grant Fund Budget, the GWA will authorize appropriations totaling \$7,600,000 for LPS projects and administration costs.

Recommendation: A motion to approve appropriations in the amount of \$7,600,000 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Grant Fund.

Table 1 to Staff Memorandum		BUDGET	
		2023-24	BUDGET
Fund/ Department: 21452/2910000000			
Fund Name: Eastern SJ Groundwater Authority Grant Fund		Approved Budget	Notes
Line Item Account	Account Description		
Revenue			
4527600500	State- DWR -SGMA Grant	7,600,000	Per Tod Hill, use with Program Code 30308
Total Revenue		7,600,000	
Expenditures			
6221019500	Professional Services Other Grants	4,300,000	to reimburse Local Project Sponsors: City of Stockton & NSJWCD for eligible project costs.
6601030100	Operating Transfer to MRWPA	3,300,000	to reimburse Local Project Sponsor, San Joaquin County (MRWPA) for eligible project costs.
Total Expenditures		7,600,000	

APPENDIX A
GSA Manager Survey Results and Analysis

Appendix A GSA MANAGER SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A.1 Introduction and Overview

A 9-question survey was distributed to the managers of the Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) in April 2023. The focus of the survey was to solicit responses to items related to outreach actions and priorities and gather presumptions to the roles and responsibilities of individual GSAs and the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) as associated to engagement actions to beneficial users and uses of water in the Subbasin. Representatives of nine of 16 GSAs responded to the survey (see Table A-1).

Findings and results of this survey serve to inform existing practices of GSAs and ESJGWA to prepare a roadmap of potential implementation actions to assist in the update of the ESJGWA Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan and advise Subbasin GSAs on potential adaptations of existing practices to expand cross-coordination engagement actions between GSAs and the ESJGWA.

Table A-1. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Manager Survey Respondents

Agency	Respondent
City of Manteca GSA	David Breitenbucher
Linden County Water District GSA	John S Villierme
Lockeford CSD GSA	Joe Salzman
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	Jason Colombini
Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	Scot Moody
Stanislaus County GSA	Christy McKinnon
South Delta Water Agency GSA	John Herrick
South San Joaquin Irrigation District GSA	Brandon Nakagawa
Stockton East Water District GSA	Justin Hopkins

A.2 Survey Results and Findings

This section segments survey results into three categories of responses and includes aggregated or agency-specific responses. Findings contained within each section relate to observed consistency among respondents and suggestions on next steps.

A.2.1 Segment One: Outreach and Staffing

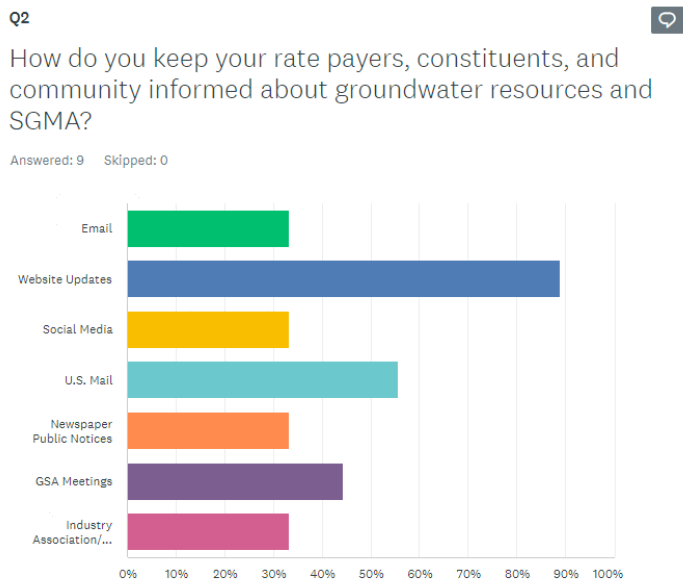
Questions two through five collected responses to the range of methods applied to distribute information to interested parties; the frequency by which communication is provided to interested parties; the types of

communication channels that are used; and whether such activities are directly or indirectly supported by agency staff. The discussion below represents an aggregated analysis of responses. Findings contained in this section are informed through an audit of the ESJGWA website and the websites of the 16 member agencies of the ESJGWA (see Appendix D). See Figure A-1 for a graphical display of results for Q2-Q4.

The majority of respondents state that they engage quarterly with interested parties on the activities of their GSA. These are most frequently deployed through meetings of their GSA’s Board of Directors or through workshops. All respondents rely on communication through their agency’s website, with communications through U.S. Mail, and the conduct of GSA meetings as the next highest priority methods. Six of nine respondents reported they commit staff and budget resources to support outreach activities, either through part-time assignment or staff resources through membership with the ESJGWA. Three of nine respondents reported they do not provide staff or budget resources to support communication actions to support GSP implementation.

Findings: The methods, frequency, communication channels and staffing commitments among the nine respondents vary widely and lack consistency in their approach and execution. While each rely on their agency’s website as the lead vehicle to engage interested parties in matters of the GSA, the level of detail to clearly explain the agency’s role and responsibility as a GSA and its relationship to the ESJGWA is frequently lacking.

Figure A-1. Responses to Questions 2 Through 4

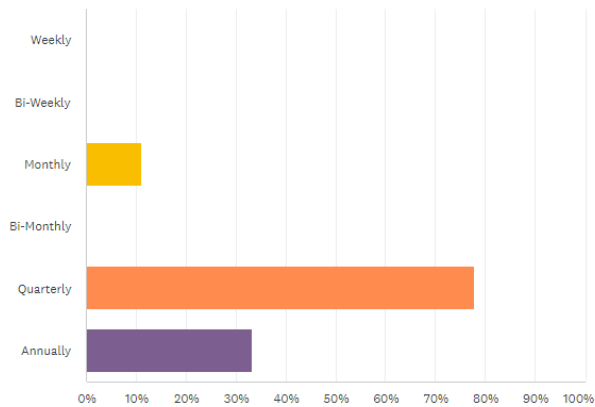


Q3



How often do you communicate with your rate payers, constituents, and community about groundwater resources and SGMA? Check all that apply.

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

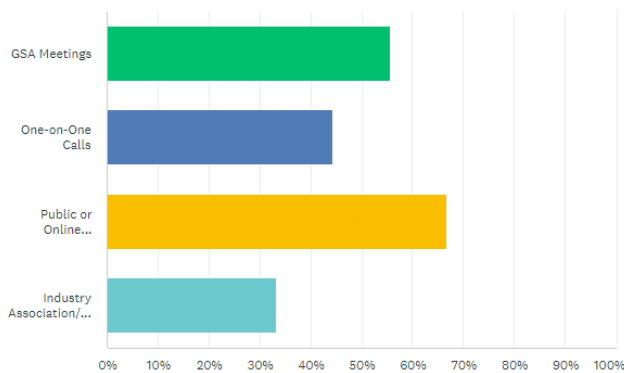


Q4



What types of groundwater-related engagement opportunities do you currently provide your rate payers, constituents, and community?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



A.2.2 Segment Two: Constituent Concerns and Responses

Questions six through eight identify the perceived pressures from interested parties to change existing engagement actions, a description of successful communication and engagement activities, and solicitation of actions that would support GSAs continue to respond to the communication needs of their interested parties. Responses to this latter element is considered a desire of the responding GSA that the activity be provided by ESJGWA. Verbatim responses of each agency are contained in Table A-2 and Table A-3. Findings in this section are informed through review of results of the Interested Party Survey

conducted during the same period and interviews with representatives of key groundwater user communities.

Table A-2. Responses to Question 6

Q6: What pressures do you currently face from your rate payers, constituents, and community to change or increase your communications and engagement activities?	
City of Manteca GSA	No pressures.
Linden County Water District GSA	None
Lockeford CSD GSA	No pressure; their awareness of groundwater is minimal.
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	None, I feel we are open with our board meetings and we host public forums that are well attended
Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	None.
South Delta Water Agency GSA	none
South San Joaquin ID GSA	Many of the pressures are related to keeping up with SGMA activities occurring Statewide. As questions and calls come in, customers and constituents are keenly interested in DWR/SWRCB activities as it relates to other Basin GSPs, industry trends, and drought.
Stanislaus County GSA	Occasional suggestions and requests
Stockton East Water District GSA	None

Table A-3. Responses to Questions 7 and 8

Agency	Q7: What communication practices do you believe have been the most effective in providing quality communications and engagement activities independent of any pressures you may or may not be facing from your community?	Q8: What areas of support do you feel would best help you in responding to these pressures?
City of Manteca GSA	Social media.	Sample posts and images that can be used for social media. AWWA provides great, free resources for water week every year. AWWA tells you what to say, images etc. It would be great if we could have similar resources for GSA/SGMA/GSP related items.
Linden County Water District GSA	Direct mailing	N/A
Lockeford CSD GSA	Public meetings	Continue ongoing efforts.
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	Mailing out notices to everyone in the district of upcoming public forums/meetings	Showing that we are being efficient with the public's money and actually completing capital projects
Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	Speaking to community groups.	N/A

South Delta Water Agency GSA	Public Meetings	N/A
South San Joaquin ID GSA	One on one communication is by far the most effective outreach method, however, it is very inefficient. There can be value added when speaking with local industry leaders or others who can help get the word out.	There are multiple resources already being taken advantage of including Maven's Notebook, Water Rights, SJV Water, GRA Summit, and ACWA.
Stanislaus County GSA	Establishing one on one professional relationships and community workshops.	Creating databases/maps and establishing contact information for subbasin management areas, facilitating workshops.
Stockton East Water District GSA	Direct outreach.	Opportunities to engage constituents that do not respond to town hall meetings or participate in electronic communication.

Findings: To be developed following completion of the interested parties survey.

A.2.3 Segment Three: Groundwater Sustainability Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Questions nine and 10 collect responses from GSA managers on how they view the role of their GSA or the ESJGWA when it comes to communication and engagement actions to beneficial users and uses of groundwater in the subbasin. Verbatim responses to these questions are provided below in Table A-4 and Table A-5. Findings in this section draw from the collective responses to questions by participants, an evaluation of the websites of member agencies to the ESJGWA, a review of the Joint Powers Agreement that established the ESJGWA, and responses to the Interested Parties Survey.

Table A-4. Responses to Question 9

Q9: In two sentences, how would you define the role of your GSA when it comes to communication and engagement activities?	
City of Manteca GSA	Social media is preferred.
Linden County Water District GSA	LCWD passes on all necessary information to our customers in the form of billing inserts, website and in our annual Consumer Confidence Report. We have received very minimal interest/input from our customers.
Lockeford CSD GSA	Provide updates on residential/commercial water use and convey to ratepayers. Present future scenarios of impacts to ratepayers related to groundwater status.
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	As a public district, it's our job to accomplish the reason the district was created for and be very transparent in what we are doing in the process. It's important to actively engage the community.
Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	Getting out to talk to as many people as possible.
South Delta Water Agency GSA	Keep landowners within boundaries up to speed on any new developments. Our GSA does not have a groundwater problem, is not undertaking separate projects and so just tries to keep everyone informed of the larger groups efforts.

South San Joaquin ID GSA	The SSJGSA has been entrusted to develop and implement the ESJ GSP on behalf of its members. Foundational to that commitment, the SSJGSA strives to transparently and efficiently communicate the obstacles to and progress towards achieving groundwater sustainability.
Stanislaus County GSA	To support the GSA and follow through with regional management commitments.
Stockton East Water District GSA	My GSA is responsible for engaging our constituents, when necessary and as required, to further implementation of our GSP projects.

Table A-5. Responses to Question 10

Q9: In two sentences, how would you define the role of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority when it comes to communication and engagement activities?	
City of Manteca GSA	A presence in social media directly from the Authority would be great!
Linden County Water District GSA	Linden County Water District has partnered with the ESGWA to hold public outreach workshops. LCWD also uses information from the ESGWA website to inform our customers.
Lockeford CSD GSA	Provide essential role in communicating with DWR. Coordinating discussion and action amount participating GSAs within the Authority
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	I think it ESJ's role to show the macro level of what all the efforts of the individual GSAs are doing for the public. This could be through an annual mailer to everyone in the GWA boundaries.
Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	None. It is the role of the GSA.
South Delta Water Agency GSA	The GWA's role is to make sure the public as a whole is kept up to speed and checking on the constituent GSA's effort at same
South San Joaquin ID GSA	The ESJGWA supports the implementation of a single GSP for 16 independent GSAs. The ESJGWA will continue its support of its members as they endeavor to educate, to communicate with, and to support their constituents and, to represent the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin as a leading example Statewide of achieving groundwater sustainability.
Stanislaus County GSA	To facilitate and coordinate activities on a subbasin wide basis between the subbasin GSA member agencies and to support the GSAs.
Stockton East Water District GSA	To engage the greater community on the importance of sustainability and the need for regional funding to support projects that help achieve sustainability.

Findings: Responding GSAs generally recognize that communication and engagement with beneficial users and uses of groundwater is the responsibility of individual GSAs. Respondents also generally express a position that the role of the ESJGWA as responsible for providing coordination among and between member agencies and serve as the primary point of contact with the California Department of Water Resources for the adopted GSP.

While messaging of these responsibilities are frequently delivered through regular meetings of each agency's board of directors, the written messages contained in most agency's website are frequently inconsistent to these viewpoints. These agency websites often defer to the ESJGWA as the responsible agency. The exception here is South San Joaquin Irrigation District GSA, which includes a page that

describes the governance structure of its GSA, inclusive of meeting minutes and its relationship to the ESJGWA.

APPENDIX B

Interested Persons Survey Results and Analysis

Appendix B INTERESTED PARTIES SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

B.1 Introduction and Overview

An 18-question survey was distributed to the public in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin to solicit questions to a range of topics applicable to beneficial users and uses of groundwater in the region. The survey serves to inform preparation of an update to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan, a document that assists subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) implement a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Conducted via SurveyMonkey, the survey was released on March 10, 2023, and closed on April 1, 2023. Notification for the survey was conducted by email to the ESJGWA Interested Parties Database (also referred to as Interested Parties List), existing lists of members of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, and in partnership with the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, the San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner, and the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition.

B.2 Demographics

The survey yielded responses from 120 participants and requested each self-identify which GSA they belong to and their water user type consistent with California Water Code (CWC) §10723.2. A majority self-identified as belonging to one GSA, with 14 stating membership in two or more GSAs. Table B-1 shows these results in aggregate form. Approximately two-thirds of respondents self-identified as agricultural water users, with about half of these respondents also stating ownership of a private domestic well. This later response indicates on-farm or rural area residency. Participation by interested parties who self-identify as a disadvantaged community or environmental water user were two and one, respectively. Each of these respondents also self-identified as agricultural water users. Fifteen respondents listed private domestic well as their exclusive water use type. City water system was the next largest group at 23 respondents. Two small community water systems also participated. Four participants were interested parties outside of the East San Joaquin Subbasin. More than 50 participants requested they be added to the ESJGWA Interested Parties List.

All respondents described a moderate level of concern to groundwater levels and groundwater quality. On a scale of one to 10 – with 10 being a high level of concern – the average level of concern for groundwater levels was nearly 7, with groundwater quality concern ranking 6.5.

Table B-1. GSA Membership of Survey Respondents

Agency	Responses
Central Delta Water Agency GSA	1
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	4
City of Lodi GSA	2
City of Manteca GSA	18
City of Stockton GSA	3

Eastside San Joaquin GSA (composed of Calaveras County Water District, Stanislaus County, and Rock Creek Water District)	12
Linden County Water District GSA	0
Lockeford Community Services District GSA	1
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	26
Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	4
San Joaquin County GSA	14
South Delta Water Agency GSA	1
South San Joaquin GSA	20
Stockton East Water District GSA	25
Woodbridge Irrigation District GSA	6
Other/Out of Basin	4

B.3 Survey Design

The core design of the survey was to collect and compile responses to questions that fall under three categories and allow for comparison of responses by water user groupings (i.e., agriculture vs. Municipal and Industrial).

1. Information Channels
2. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Groundwater Conditions
3. Management Actions and Funding

A key limitation of this survey is sampling size. Here the volume of responses is a small fraction of the total pool of potential participants. As such, the data provided here should be considered anecdotal with activities implemented pursuant this document to be adapted as new information is gathered.

B.4 Survey Results

This section segments survey results into three categories of responses: Information Channels, SGMA and Groundwater Conditions, and Management Actions and Funding.

B.4.1 Category One: Information Channels

Information channels are the resources interested parties commonly visit or consult to learn about issues and engage. These channels include websites, trusted information sources, and the method information is delivered.

Websites

Participants were asked to rank in priority seven websites they could consult for information regarding groundwater updates and activities. To identify top-of-mind information resources, participant rankings for the top choices were combined to represent a cumulative score (e.g., combine “votes” of rankings 1, 2 and 3; see Table B-2).

Table B-2. Website Rankings

Website	Cumulative Score
My Local GSA	64
San Joaquin County	58
California Department of Water Resources	55
East San Joaquin Groundwater Authority	47
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau	38
San Joaquin Flood Control Agency	12
Non-Profit Organization	3

Participants were additionally asked to describe other websites they visit for groundwater related information (see Table B-3).

Table B-3. Other Websites Visited

Website	Number of Responses
No Websites	6
City Utility Bill/City Websites	3
San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	2
Media	2
Irrigation District Board Meetings	1
Wine Institute	1

Trusted Information Resources

Participants were asked to identify their trusted information resources they consult to gather groundwater related information. Table B-4 shows the results based on cumulative responses.

Table B-4. Information Resources

Resource	Responses
My Irrigation District(s)	46
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority	37
My Groundwater Sustainability Agency	36
The Internet	30
Government Agencies	29
My Groundwater Well	28
Family, Friends, or Neighbors (i.e., word of mouth)	22

Local Newspapers	16
Other (please specify)	12
Industry Associations/Organizations	9
My Ranch Manager	5
Non-Profit Organizations	3
Local Civic Clubs	1

Information Delivery

Information delivery consists of written documents, information delivered during meeting, and other venues. Respondents were provided a list of commonly used methods and requested to identify which they prefer to receive groundwater related information (see Table B-5).

Table B-5. Preferred Information Delivery Methods

Communication Channel	Responses
Email	90
U.S. Mail	51
Website Updates	44
GSA Meetings	26
Industry Association/Organization Meetings	24
Social Media	22
Newspaper Public Notices	18

B.4.2 Category Two: SGMA and Groundwater Conditions

Survey Participants were requested to respond to a series of questions related to their awareness and level of concern or familiarity to SGMA, local management of groundwater resources, and regional groundwater conditions.

SGMA

Respondents were asked to define their level of familiarity of SGMA and their involvement in groundwater management planning in the Subbasin. Nearly 30 percent of respondents stated a high level of involvement, while nearly 60 percent had some level of engagement (see Table B-6).

Table B-6. SGMA Familiarity

Answer Choices	Responses	
Not at all	15	12.5%
Read about it, but otherwise not much	34	28.33%
Had a few conversations about it	36	30%
Provided input to people involved with it	16	13.33%

Was activity engaged	19	15.83%
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GSA Familiarity

Respondents were asked to describe their level of familiarity with the responsibilities of their local GSA. Responses show that a majority of respondents have limited understanding of local GSA responsibilities.

Table B-7. GSA Familiarity

Answer Choices	Responses	
No familiarity	24	22.5%
Somewhat familiar	47	39.17%
Pretty familiar, but I still have questions	22	18.33%
Completely understand	24	20%

Documents and Content Quality

Respondents were asked to identify a range of documents they have read and share their opinion to the clarity of the content provided in these documents. Approximately half of respondents have read some or all of the adopted GSP for the Subbasin, with the rate of review for the revised GSP declining to less than a third. About 25 percent of respondents review subbasin annual reports. Clarity of content was generally found to be challenging for a majority of respondents. See Figures B-1 and B-2.

Figure B-1. Documents Reviewed

Q7



Have you read some or all of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or its Annual Reports? Check all that apply.

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0

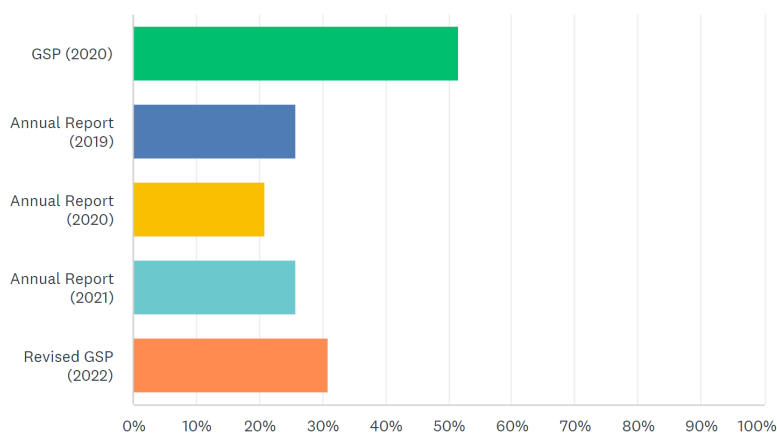


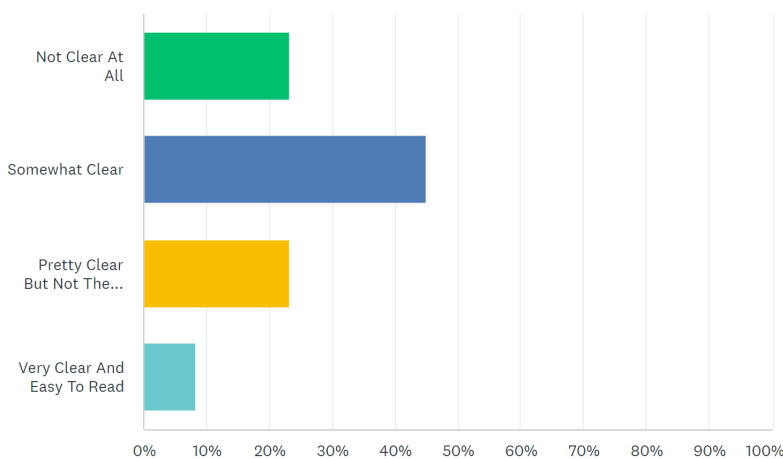
Figure B-2. Document Clarity

Q8



Please rank the clarity of the technical information provided in the GSP or the Annual Reports.

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0



B.4.3 Category Three: Management Actions and Funding

Respondents were asked to respond to potential approaches that would address unsustainable groundwater use and who should pay for projects and management actions. A majority of respondents expressed preference towards groundwater banking programs and increase use of available surface water to the region. Less than 15 percent of respondents preferred demand reduction (i.e., limit groundwater pumping).

A majority of respondents expressed a preference that projects and management actions be paid by all beneficial users of water in the region, with less than 20 percent stating that project beneficiaries/their GSA should pay for these actions. See Tables B-7 and B-8 for participant responses.

Table B-8. Actions to Address Unsustainable Groundwater Use

Answer Choices	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Limit groundwater pumping	17	14.17%
Groundwater banking programs	57	47.5%
Incentivize use of available surface water	63	52.5%
Urban-Ag Partnerships to increase agricultural surface water use	28	23.33%
Expanding or constructing new public water systems in rural residential areas	28	23.33%

Table B-9. Funding of Project and Management Action

Answer Choices	Responses	
	All Beneficial Users of Water	66
Only Project Beneficiaries	12	10.00%
San Joaquin County	26	21.67%
My GSA	9	7.50%
Ballot Measure	20	16.67%

B.5 Survey Findings

As mentioned previously, survey results should be considered anecdotal due, in part, to the number of respondents in relation to the total population in the Subbasin. As such, findings described below should be considered as representative of this group’s perceptions and should be considered as a point of reference in future interactions with interested parties.

B.5.1 Finding No. 1: Awareness of Groundwater Conditions and Responsibilities

On an aggregate basis, survey respondents expressed a moderate to high level of concern over groundwater levels and groundwater quality. Contributors to this level of concern may be associated with:

- A low level of awareness to the responsibilities of subbasin GSAs (Table B-7).

- A limited level of engagement during GSP development (Table B-6).

- Perceived difficulty in understanding the content provided in annual reports and the subbasin’s GSP (Figure B-2).

- A lack of a clear single-source of information related to groundwater management in the subbasin (Table B-2 and Table B-4).

As discussed in Table B-2 and B-4, the ESJGWA ranked fourth as a top-of-mind website yet was second as a trusted resource (Table B-4). The generic “My Local GSA” was the leading website; however, it scored third as a trusted resource. It is important to consider whether the aggregate scores that led “My Local GSA” to be ranked as the leading top-of-mind website to be valid. As described in Appendix C: East San Joaquin Subbasin Website Audits, few East San Joaquin Subbasin GSAs host and regularly maintain a web page.¹ As such, it is reasonable to question why respondents reference “My Local GSA” as the leading top of mind information resource, when few of these sites describe:²

- The role and responsibility of the GSA within their jurisdictional footprint and in relation to ESJGWA

- Explains the agency’s formation and decision-making/governance process

- Describes the agency’s meeting schedule and location of meeting agendas and summaries³

- Describes opportunities for public engagement and how public input is used

¹ California Water Code §10725.2(c) requires establishment of a website as a component of notification and to provide electronic notice to any person who requests electronic notification.

² Comments, unless otherwise noted, link to CWC §10723.8 and DWR Emergency Regulations § 354

³ Required by California Water Code §10725.2

Describes the method the agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the adopted GSP, including the status of projects and management actions.

Provides a method for interested parties to be placed on a list to receive meeting notices and documents⁴

B.5.2 Finding No. 2: Projects and Management Actions

Respondents generally support projects and management actions at the subbasin-wide level in lieu of individual GSAs. They additionally do not support demand reduction actions (e.g., limit groundwater pumping). This subbasin-wide observation draws from the *who should pay* question detailed in Table B-8. Here more than three quarters of respondents identified “All Beneficial Users of Water” and “San Joaquin County”⁵ as the source of funds to implement physical projects.

B.5.3 Finding 3: Documents and Information Quality

While responses indicate that a majority found the GSP and annual reports a challenging read, it's important to recognize that many have taken the time to read these technical reports. Surmounting this issue can be addressed through changes in approach to technical editing of published documents and information materials that improve broad community understanding of groundwater management.

⁴ Associated with California Water Code § 10723.4

⁵ Answer is considered tacit support to fund projects through existing County revenues or new county revenues.

APPENDIX C

Projects and Management Actions Inventory and Summary

Appendix C PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS INVENTORY AND SUMMARY

C.1 Introduction

This document provides an inventory of communication and engagement commitments and recommendations contained in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority's (ESJGWA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and other related documents. The purpose of this inventory is to, among other things, identify existing communications and engagement commitments made by the ESJGWA and/or its 16 member agencies; identify GSP implementation actions that can be supported through outreach; and collate comments from agencies, individuals, and organizations that indicate opportunities for improvement in communications and outreach.

C.2 Reference Documents

This inventory of communication and engagement comprises a review of the following four documents.

- 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 Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin 2022 GSP and its appendices note the existing commitments made by ESJGWA and/or its 16 member agencies. The DWR GSP Assessment Staff Report, Stanislaus County Superior Court document, and findings and recommendations from the 2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report for Case #0622 provide clarity around public need and perception around the existing commitments and their execution thus far. In combination, these documents can create roadmap for enhanced and effective communications and engagement in the region. Further, where the report for


Case #0622 is concerned, the 2023 Communications and Engagement Plan that this summary functions as an appendix to aims to satisfy the needs identified in the Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations.





C.2.1 Applicable Statutes and Regulations





Passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 served to establish a framework to help protect groundwater resources over the long-term. The Act is comprised from a three-bill legislative package including AB 1739 (Dickinson) SB 1168 (Pavley) and SB 1319 (Pavley), and subsequent statewide Regulations. In signing SGMA, then-Governor Jerry Brown emphasized that “groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.” To foster local management objectives, SGMA and follow-on regulations provided local public agencies that elected to serve as GSAs general guidelines and broad authorities over how it would engage with beneficial users and uses of groundwater. Communication and engagement actions – as defined through SGMA (chaptered through the California Water Code (CWC) or DWR Emergency Regulations – applicable to connecting interested parties to the work of GSAs and DWR are described in Table C-1.

Table C-1. CWC and DWR Emergency Regulations

Action	Summary	Applicable Code or Section	Responsible Agency
 Notice and Communication content requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Plan			GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary of notification and communication	Description of beneficial users and nature of consultation	§ 354.10 (a)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Record	List of public meetings where Plan was discussed	§ 354.10 (b)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary of comments and responses	Summary of comment regarding the Plan and any responses	§ 354.10 (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication Section	Required subsections/content:	§ 354.10 (d)	
	1) Explanation of the Agency’s decision-making process		
	2) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used		
	3) Description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural and economic elements of the population within the basin		
	4) Method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress		

		implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions		
	Communication activities to support Groundwater Sustainability Plan development			GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Overarching Guidance	The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. A list of interested parties developed pursuant to Section 10723.2 and an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of the groundwater sustainability agency and the development and implementation of the agency's sustainability plan.	CWC §10723.2 CWC §10723.8.(a)(4)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication and Engagement Plan	Developed to support notification requirements, state opportunities for Interested Party involvement in the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and inform content to be provided in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan	§ 354.10 (d)(1-4) and CWC §10727.8 (a)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Website	Required as a component of notification and to provide for electronic notice to any person who requests electronic notification	CWC §10725.2(c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Interested Party Database	Establish and maintain Interested Party Database	CWC §10723.4	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Committees	Groundwater Sustainability Agency may establish advisory committees and describe their role/function as part of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan Initial Notification; may include Groundwater Sustainability Agency's approach to involvement of diverse social, cultural and economic elements of the population within the basin	CWC §10727.8 (a) and § 354.10 (d)(3)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Groundwater Sustainability Agency Meetings	Where consistent with California Public Records Act and Brown Act, posting of meeting agendas and summaries for public, agency and interested party review	Water Code §10725.2	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project and Management Action Notification	The Plan shall include the process by which the Agency shall provide notice to the public and other agencies that the implementation of projects or management actions is being considered or has been implemented, including a description of the actions to be taken.	§ 354.44 (b)(1)(B)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Agency, Public and Interested Party Engagement	Additional communication and engagement actions as determined by the governing body/plan manager		
	Public Hearing: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption	The Groundwater Sustainability Agency may adopt or amend Groundwater Sustainability Plan after a public hearing. CEQA is not applicable to plan preparation and adoption per the following requirements:		GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City/County Notification	Public hearing held at least 90 days after notice to city and county within area of plan	Water Code §10728.4	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Notification	Where consistent with California Public Records Act and Brown Act, posting of meeting agendas and summaries for public, agency and interested party review.	Water Code §10725.2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City/County Consultation	Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall review and consider comment from city or county and shall consult with any city or county requesting consultation within 30 days of receipt of notice	Water Code §10728.4	
	Post complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan to Department Website	Upon receipt of Groundwater Sustainability Plan consistent with Water Code §10733.4(a) or (b), DWR shall post the Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the department's website	Water Code §10733.4(c)	DWR
	Public Review Period: Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan	60-day public comment period from date document is posted to the DWR website. All comments to DWR must be copied to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Water Code §10733.4(c)	DWR
	Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Review and Approval	Up to 2-year department evaluation of groundwater sustainability plan. The assessment may include recommended corrective actions to address any deficiencies identified by the department	Water Code §10733.4(d)	DWR

	Implement Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan	Groundwater Sustainability Agencies shall begin implementation upon submittal to DWR for review	Water Code §10733.4(e)	GSA
	Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report	Developed annually for submittal to DWR on or before April 1 a report on Groundwater Sustainability Plan results, including: a) Groundwater elevation data b) Annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year c) Surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use d) Total water use e) Change in groundwater storage	Water Code §10728	GSA
	Groundwater Sustainability Plan Evaluation	The Groundwater Sustainability Plan is to be periodically evaluated to assess changing conditions and whether actions are meeting the Plan's objectives and goals "at least every five years" and whenever the Plan is amended [DWR § 356.4]. Coordination Agreements, where present, are to be recirculated and signed by all parties. Action during update would include documentation of Interested Party engagement if such activities are identified as a management action	Water Code 10728.2, Water Code §10728.4 (tiers to §10727.2(b)(1)) ⁶ § 357.4	GSA
	Public Hearing: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Adoption	If the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is amended or otherwise subject to adoption, a public hearing may be required. Adoption requirements include:		GSA
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notification	Public hearing held at least 90 days after notice to city and county within area of Plan	Water Code §10728.4	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Notification	Where consistent with California Public Records Act and Brown Act, posting of meeting agendas and summaries for public, agency and interested party review.	Water Code §10725.2	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation	Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall review and consider comment from city or county and shall consult with city or county	Water Code §10728.4	

⁶ (b) (1) Measurable objectives, as well as interim milestones in increments of five years, to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within 20 years of the implementation of the plan.










		requesting consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice		
	Groundwater Sustainability Plan Evaluation	Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall provide a written assessment at least every five years describing whether the Plan implementation, including implementation projects and management actions, are meeting sustainability goals	§ 356.4	GSA
	The California Department of Water Resources Groundwater Sustainability Plan Assessment and Re-Evaluation	Developed by DWR for release “at least every five years” following initial submission. May include recommended corrective actions to address deficiencies identified by department. DWR shall issue an assessment for each basin for which a plan or alternative has been submitted	Water Code §10733.8	DWR

Table C-1 Legend:

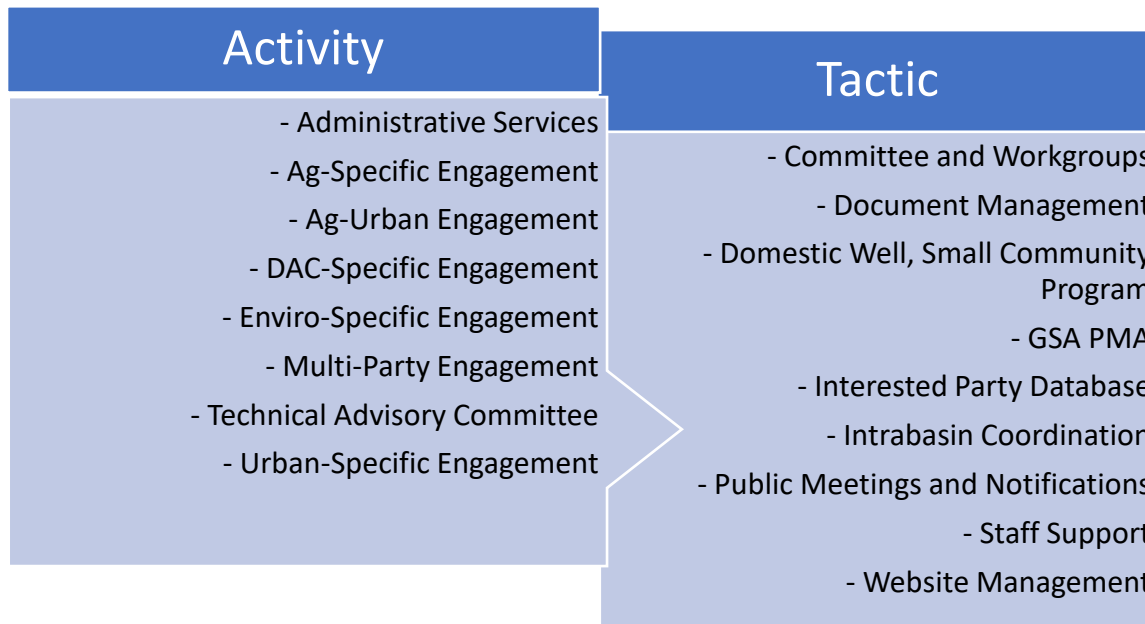
Icon	Description
	Denotes a public notification milestone to be completed by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. These include noticing the public hearings, public meetings, and other related actions.
	Denotes a public hearing and public meeting hosted by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency or the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) or as defined and implemented by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
	Denotes delivery of a notification to DWR such as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Annual Report.
	Denotes a review and approval period to be completed by DWR.
	Denotes a period of public comment for stakeholders and other members of the public for documents released by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency or DWR.
	Denotes a key document to be undertaken by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency as part of its development of documents pursuant to SGMA.
	Denotes communication activities that support development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

C.2.2 Inventory Organization

Each discrete statement or comment identified during the review of these documents were categorized to allow for sorting by activity, tactic, responsible agency, staff recommendation and applicable California Water Code or DWR Emergency Regulation. Each category contains the identified statement/comment, source and reference location. Below is a description of these sorting categories. These descriptions are provided to assist the reader during review of the Communication and Engagement Inventory Tables.

C.2.3 Activity and Tactic

For purposes of this document, “Activity” is associated with a specific audience or agency function. The “Tactic” is the approach or deliverable that is assigned to support the identified “Activity.” An identified “Activity” may be supported by more than one “Tactic.”



C.2.4 Recommendations

As part of this review, staff identified eight outreach, coordination and collaboration approaches for ESJGWA and subbasin GSAs to consider implementing to respond to the identified Activities and Tactics. These approaches are intended to be references that would be further elaborated in the updated Communication and Engagement Plan. Below are the 10 recommended approaches:

1. Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities to be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
2. Comment Portal: Establish, maintain and respond to public comments through general and project specific email contact portal.
3. Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
4. GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
5. Interested Party Database: Establish a comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA, and target audience engagement.

6. Native American Heritage Commission: Submit and receive Tribal and Sacred Land tribal contact list to the Native American Heritage Commission.
7. Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
8. Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
9. Workgroup: Consider establishment of a Small Community/Under-represented Community Committee to engage on well protection and other related PMAs.
10. Targeted Outreach: Outline and implement specific efforts, possibly through the previously suggested workgroup, to identify, contact, educate, and engage with underrepresented groundwater users and non-English speakers on groundwater resource management in the Subbasin.

C&E Inventory Table

Activity	Tactic	Responsible Party	Statement/Commitment	Source	Chapter	Section	Recommendations
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	Provide timely and accurate public reporting of planning milestones through the distribution of outreach materials and posting of materials on the ESJGWA website for the GSP	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	Maintain an active communications tracking tool to capture stakeholder engagement and public outreach activities and to demonstrate the reporting of GSP outreach activities	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3.4.3	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	There are detailed sections for GSP resources, technical reports and data, educational materials, and meeting notices with the accompanying presentation materials and minutes. A section of the website is devoted to press releases, newsletters, public notices, and other major events and accomplishments. Contact information is readily available for interested parties to communicate with ESJGWA members and staff, and members of the public can subscribe to the ESJ GWA mailing list to receive updates on GSP development and outreach events.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3.4.1	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Public Meetings and Notifications	All GSAs	Additional noticing for the public will be conducted consistent with permitting requirements in the case of the enactment of fees or assessments. Outreach may include public notices, meetings, website or social media presence, and email announcements.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	(2) "Outreach summaries produced and distributed by the GSP consultant team (see Appendix A) do not provide useful information because they allow for reporting on only certain kinds of outreach, and because even GSAs that do perform outreach are not always reporting it."	Stanislaus County Superior Court	CaISPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSA Plan	Page 8	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.

Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	The interests of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, and the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, were not adequately considered.	Stanislaus County Superior Court	CalSPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSA Plan	Page 6	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	(3) "Focusing outreach requirements on individual GSAs has created a situation in which it appears that no outreach has been done to an important and impacted category of users: people on domestic wells." (GSP, Appendix I-I, p. 665.)	Stanislaus County Superior Court	CalSPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSA Plan	Page 8	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	Defendants did not adequately engage the public in planning and adopting the GSP.	Stanislaus County Superior Court	CalSPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSA Plan	Page 6	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	All GSAs	(1) "Public outreach has not been well-coordinated or effective because of the nature of GSAs formed in this Subbasin, because of assumptions underlying Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) outreach guidelines, and because technical issues and funding challenges have not been widely discussed nor presented in language that will engage those impacted."	Stanislaus County Superior Court	CalSPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSA Plan	Page 8	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	Outreach summaries produced and distributed by the GSP consultant team (see Appendix A) do not provide useful information because they allow for reporting on only certain kinds of outreach, and because even GSAs that do perform outreach are not always reporting it	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	Outreach summaries produced and distributed by the GSP consultant team do not provide useful information because they allow for reporting on only certain kinds of outreach, and because even GSAs that perform outreach are not always reporting it.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Document Management	All GSAs	Focusing outreach requirements on individual GSAs has created a situation in which it appears that no outreach has been done to an important and impacted category of users: people on domestic wells.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.

Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) development process could be improved with greater integration of public comments into the GSP. Specifically, there should be a disposition process for both oral and written comments. In addition, engagement and coordination with adjacent agencies/ subbasins should be clearly documented. The subbasin planning processes in our region will benefit from greater coordination, and doing so will be essential to completing successful GSPs.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Chris Thomas, North Delta Ssutainability agency	Appen. 1-I	Comment Portal: Establish, maintain and respond to public comments through general and project specific email contact portal.
Administrative Services	Website Management	All GSAs	GSAs will post project updates to their websites to notify the public that the implementation of projects is being considered or has been implemented. This will include a description of the actions to be taken.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	All GSAs	These updates will also be provided to the other GSAs and will be published on the ESJGWA website and other appropriate locations.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	All GSAs	GSAs will post project updates to their websites to notify the public that the implementation of projects is being considered or has been implemented. This will include a description of the actions to be taken.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	All GSAs	Announcements will continue to be distributed via email prior to public meetings. Emails will also be distributed as specific deliverables are finalized, when opportunities are available for stakeholder input and when this input is requested, or when items of interest to the stakeholder group arise, such as relevant funding opportunities.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.7	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	The Eastern San Joaquin SGMA website, managed as part of GSP administration, will be updated a minimum of monthly, and will house meeting agendas and materials, reports, and other program information. The website may be updated to add new pages as the program continues and additional activities are implemented.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.7	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.

Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	A note regarding style: Credibility of the entire GSP will benefit from greater use of the active voice rather than the passive voice.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Jane Wagner-Tyack	Appen. 1-I	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	All GSAs	Inconsistent website presense by subbasin GSAs; GSA names may not be familiar to interested parties within the jurisdictional footprint.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	All GSAs	The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGA) website, esjgroundwater.org , should provide GSA website addresses where stakeholders can find GSA and ESJGA level information, GSA contact email addresses, telephone numbers, and GSA staff contact names. Currently only mailing addresses are available for contacting GSAs. A number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representatives including the Sierra Club, League of Woman Voters, and Catholic Charities requested back in November 2018 that this information be updated, but that has not been done.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	The ESJGA website should provide information about how people can determine the GSA jurisdiction within which they live.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Document Management: Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution as necessary.
Administrative Services	Interested Parties Database	All GSAs	Keep interested list of stakeholders informed and aware of opportunities for involvement through email communications and/or their preferred mode of communication	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	IPD: Establish comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA and target audience engagement.

Administrative Services	Interested Parties Database	ESJGWA	While the database of interested parties may have been robust, as the GSP asserts (1.3.4.4), actual outreach to two important groups—people reliant on domestic or community water system wells, and disadvantaged communities—has not been robust. This is a consequence of a variety of factors, including the nature and jurisdictions of the GSAs in this subbasin; the way DWR has defined disadvantaged communities for SGMA purposes; and the lack of projects to which outreach can be tied at this stage in the process.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Jane Wagner-Tyack	Appen. 1-I	IPD: Establish comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA and target audience engagement.
Administrative Services	Interested Parties Database	ESJGWA	Email inquiries to “Contact Us” on the ESJGA website currently go through a San Joaquin County government subcontractor, who redirects them. Responses to email inquiries, tabulating, and documenting of contacts and responses, should be included on regular outreach summaries.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	IPD: Establish comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA and target audience engagement.
Administrative Services	Interested Parties Database	ESJGWA	As of 8.25.19, the Notice of Intent to Adopt GSP was not forwarded to the ESJ interested parties list although interested parties were directed to the esjgroundwater.org website for meeting information and public hearing dates. The Notice of Intent to Adopt GSP did include email addresses of GSA representatives in addition to mailing addresses and FAX numbers. [SEE MORE SPECIFICS IN COMMENT LETTER]	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Sierra Club	Appen. 1-I	IPD: Establish comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA and target audience engagement.
Administrative Services	Interested Parties Database	All GSAs	Native American Tribes and Small Community Water Systems not referenced	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-I	NAHC: Submit and receive Tribal and Sacred Land tribal contact list to the Native American Heritage Commission.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	Engage DWR for facilitated support to aid in the development of the GSP	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	Facilitate productive dialogue among participants at Advisory Committee, Workgroup, and public meetings through the use of qualified facilitators to obtain, consider, and integrate feedback accordingly throughout the planning process	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	Secure quality media coverage that is accurate, complete, and fair	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	All GSAs	Outreach may include public notices, meetings, website or social media presence, and email announcements.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.

Administrative Services	Public Meetings and Notifications	All GSAs	Additional noticing for the public will be conducted consistent with permitting requirements in the case of the enactment of fees or assessments.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	Public outreach has not been well-coordinated or effective because of the nature of GSAs formed in this Subbasin, because of assumptions underlying SGMA outreach guidelines, and because technical issues and funding challenges have not been widely discussed nor presented in language that will engage those impacted.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	All GSAs	As part of GSP implementation, the ESJGA governance body should consider assessing GSAs a fee to provide funding for an outreach coordinator to perform tasks that GSAs do not have the staff or expertise to perform.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	All GSAs	Submitting public notices to the newspaper, notices of items on an isolated agenda, or a notice on a website fulfills a minimum outreach requirement for some governmental actions but not for SGMA. Groundwater sustainability plan regulations require.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	Open ESJGWA planning efforts to the public with agendas and meeting minutes published on the ESJGWA website	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Intrabasin Coordination	All GSAs	These updates will also be provided to the other GSAs and will be published on the ESJGWA website and other appropriate locations.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	Environmental, domestic, small community and otherl BU mapping has omitted locations or needs greater detai. Caswell Memorial State Park is omitted.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-I	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.

Administrative Services	Document Management	ESJGWA	Principal and sub-contract consultants who are developing the GSP can develop posters that can be widely distributed, and can provide flyers to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Environmental Health Department, and Community Development Department within Calaveras, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	OID	Agricultural Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SEWD	Agricultural Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJID	Agricultural Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SEWD	Project 1: Lake Grupe In-Lieu Recharge	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	CSJWCD	Project 6: CSJWCD Capital Improvement Program	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Project 7: NSJWCD South System Modernization	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJ GSA	Project 8: Long-term Water Transfer to SEWD and CSJWCD	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	CSJWCD	Project 9: BNSF Railway Company Intermodal Facility Recharge Pond	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Project 12: NSJWCD North System Modernization/ Lakso Recharge	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.

Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Project 13: Manaserro Recharge Project	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Project 14: Tecklenberg Recharge Project	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Project 21: NSJWCD Winery Recycled Water	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJ GSA	Project 22: Pressurization of SSJID Facilities	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJ GSA	Project 23: SSJID Storm Water Reuse	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Mokelumne River Loss Study	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Urban Engagement	GSA PMA	NSJWCD	Project 11: South System Groundwater Banking with EBMUD	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Urban Engagement	GSA PMA	SEWD	Project 18: Farmington Dam Repurpose Project	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Urban Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Manteca	Project 19: Recycled Water Transfer to Agriculture	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Ag-Urban Engagement	GSA PMA	San Joaquin County	Project 20: Mobilizing Recharge Opportunities	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
DAC-Specific Engagement	Interested Parties Database	All GSAs	DAC identification: Population that relies on domestic wells, water volumes, connections.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-I	IPD: Establish comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA and target audience engagement.

Enviro-Specific Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	All GSAs	Environmental Representation: ... we recommend actively engaging environmental stakeholders by including environmental representation on the GSA board, technical advisory group, and/or working groups.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	The Nature Conservancy	Appen. 1-l	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Public Meetings and Notifications	ESJGWA	Inform and obtain comments from the general public through public meetings held on an approximately quarterly basis	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Comment Portal: Establish, maintain and respond to public comments through general and project specific email contact portal.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	ESJGWA	Obtain input from the Workgroup about preferred locations to conduct public informational meetings to reach diverse audiences and disadvantaged communities	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	ESJGWA	Seek the input of interest groups during the implementation of the GSP and any future planning efforts	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	1. Agency Information, Plan Area, and Communication	1.3	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Public Meetings and Notifications	ESJGWA	Additional public workshops will be held semi-annually to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to learn about, discuss, and provide input on GSP activities, progress toward meeting the sustainability goal of this GSP, and the SGMA program.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.7	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	ESJGWA	Ongoing stakeholder engagement and inclusion throughout the GSP implementation process will be crucial to ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable beneficial users in the basin are met.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-l	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	All GSAs	As recommended by the Facilitation and Support Services consultants, a stakeholder or advisory board should be convened when the GSP is submitted, to review and inform implementation.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-l	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Public Meetings and Notifications	All GSAs	GSAs in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin should increase outreach by print with informational inserts in utility bills, property tax bills, and any other regular correspondence that is sent to households. Notices of the plan commenting period should be posted at each GSA headquarters, along with information about where to find GSA specific information.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-l	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Multi-Party Engagement	Intrabasin Coordination	All GSAs	Notification and public outreach around projects will be conducted at the GSA level.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.2.8	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.

Multi-Party Engagement	Intrabasin Coordination	All GSAs	A major theme raised by a member of the ESJ Groundwater Advisory Committee at its June 12, 2019 meeting is that there must be balance between autonomy and accountability. This documentation of SGMA-required outreach activities to encourage active involvement suggests that perhaps too much autonomy has been applied without clearly needed accountability. Also, not all agencies that want autonomy have the capacity or resources to do the required outreach for which they may be held accountable.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	League of Women Voters et al	Appen. 1-I	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	All GSAs	The Communication plan does not specify how the DAC's identified in Figure 1-8 were specifically engaged. The failure to identify small community water systems calls into question how and whether adequate outreach to DACs was conducted.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-I	Workgroup: Consider establishment of a Small Community/Under Represented Community Committee to engage on well protection and other related PMAs.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	ESJGWA	Stakeholder input from DAC community members does not appear to have been considered in establishment of water quality URs, based on the information provided in the GSP. Domestic wells were considered.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-I	Workgroup: Consider establishment of a Small Community/Under Represented Community Committee to engage on well protection and other related PMAs.
Multi-Party Engagement	Committee and Workgroups	ESJGWA	Impacts and benefits to DACs not clearly identified. GSP does not included domestic well mitigation or plan in relation to dewatering of 10% of domestic wells.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	Clean Water Action et al	Appen. 1-I	Workgroup: Consider establishment of a Small Community/Under Represented Community Committee to engage on well protection and other related PMAs.
Technical Advisory	Domestic Well, Small Community Program	ESJGWA	[T]he ESJGWA and GSAs will evaluate other programs as part of an adaptive management strategy, and along with an annual evaluation of Subbasin conditions, will continue outreach efforts to domestic well owners and small water systems regarding information related to forecasted water levels with and without project implementation to inform subsequent investments decisions for well improvement and replacement; produce and distribute current and forecasted groundwater level information to well permit applicants to inform the permitting process; review well standards to evaluate opportunities to establish standards to better reflect current and forecasted groundwater level conditions; ; and actively promote small systems interties and/or consolidation of their systems to achieve supply reliability.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	3. Sustainable Management Criteria	3.3.1.2	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.

Technical Advisory	Domestic Well, Small Community Program	ESJGWA	Removing the water-year type requirement from the definition of an undesirable result ... The GSAs should also explain how other factors they identified as "potential undesirable results" (e.g., adverse impacts to environmental uses and users) were considered when developing and selecting minimum thresholds and describe anticipated effects of the thresholds on beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Furthermore, the GSAs should explain whether other drinking water users that may rely on shallow wells, such as public water systems and state small water systems, were considered in the GSAs' site-specific thresholds. If not, the GSAs should conduct outreach with those users and incorporate their shallow wells, as applicable, into the consideration of site-specific minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.	California Department of Water Resources, GSA Assessment Staff Report	1d	Page 12	Workgroup: Consider establishment of a Small Community/Under Represented Community Committee to engage on well protection and other related PMAs.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	CCWD	Urban Water Management Plan: If consideration of a demand reduction program were to take place in the future, public outreach and education on the potential structure of the program, as well and feasible monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, would be necessary to enable a successful program. Outreach could include public notices, meetings, website or social media presence, and email announcements.	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Lodi	Urban Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	Cal Water	Urban Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	Cal Ripon	Urban Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SEWD	Urban Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.

Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJID	Urban Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Stockton	Urban Water Management Plan: Demand management measures include [...] public education and outreach	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	6. Projects and Management Actions	6.3	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SEWD	Project 2: SEWD Surface Water Implementation Expansion	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Manteca	Project 3: City of Manteca Advanced Metering Infrastructure	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Lodi	Project 4: City of Lodi Surface Water Facility Expansion & Delivery Pipeline	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Lodi	Project 5: White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility Expansion	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	City of Stockton	Project 10: City of Stockton Advanced Metering Infrastructure	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJ GSA	Project 15: City of Escalon Wastewater Reuse	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJ GSA	Project 16: City of Ripon Surface Water Supply	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
Urban-Specific Engagement	GSA PMA	SSJ GSA	Project 17: City of Escalon Connection to Nick DeGroot Water Treatment Plant	Final Revised ESJ GSP and Appendicies_2022	7. Plan Implementation	7.8	GSP Conformance: Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.

Administrative Services	Public Meetings and Notifications	All GSAs	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	1.2 Outreach Efforts Before and After Initial Submittal of the GSP	Findings - F1.2.1	
Administrative Services	C&E Plan Update	All GSAs	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	1.2 Outreach Efforts Before and After Initial Submittal of the GSP	Findings - F1.2.2	N/A
DAC-Specific Engagement	Targeted Outreach	All GSAs	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	1.3 Efforts to Reach Diverse Population Groups	Findings - F1.3.1	Targeted Outreach: Outline and implement specific efforts, possibly through the previously suggested workgroup, to identify, contact, educate, and engage with underrepresented groundwater users and non-English speakers on groundwater resource management in the Subbasin.
Multi-Party Engagement	Targeted Outreach	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	1.3 Efforts to Reach Diverse Population Groups	Findings - F1.3.2	Targeted Outreach: Outline and implement specific efforts, possibly through the previously suggested workgroup, to identify, contact, educate, and engage with underrepresented groundwater users and non-English speakers on groundwater resource management in the Subbasin.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	2.2 Transparency and Ease of Access to Financial Information	Findings - F2.2.1	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	Important Zone 2 financial information is not readily available on the San Joaquin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District's website, therefore does not meet the public's need for transparency.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	2.2 Transparency and Ease of Access to Financial Information	Findings - F2.2.2	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.

Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.1 Website	Findings - F3.1.1	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.1 Website	Findings - F3.1.2	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority website does not provide an Enterprise System Catalog, which violates public records and transparency reporting requirements.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.1 Website	Findings - F3.1.3	Legal Counsel: Seek advise to applicability to ESJGWA and Subbasin GSAs.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.1 Website	Findings - F3.1.4	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.1 Website	Findings - F3.1.5	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Multi-Party Engagement	Public Meetings and Notifications	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.2 Board, Standing Committees, and Advisory Committees	Findings - F3.2.1	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.

Administrative Services	Public Meetings and Notifications	All GSAs	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.2 Board, Standing Committees, and Advisory Committees	Findings - F3.2.2	Communication and Engagement Tracker: Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities. This tracker would be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
Administrative Services	Website Management	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.2 Board, Standing Committees, and Advisory Committees	Findings - F3.2.3	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Public Meetings and Notifications	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	3.3 Meeting Minutes	Findings - F3.3.1	Website Management: Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, project and management action updates, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	San Joaquin County and Cal Water allowed their Memorandum of Agreement to automatically terminate in December 2021 and failed to renew it until November 2022, which undermines public confidence in the County’s governance and due diligence in tracking all legal agreements.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	4.2 Inadequate Staff Support	Findings - F4.1	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.
Administrative Services	Staff Support	ESJGWA	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.	2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report	4.2 Inadequate Staff Support	Findings - F4.2	Staff Resources: Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.

APPENDIX D

Website Audit

Appendix D WEBSITE AUDIT

D.1 Introduction and Overview

This document summarizes a high-level audit of the websites of Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) and the individual GSAs within East San Joaquin (ESJ) Subbasin consistent with requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). It further outlines a range of potential amendments agencies may consider making to their websites to improve awareness of groundwater management activities in the Subbasin for interested parties. Information contained in this document draws from statutory and regulatory requirements from SGMA and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Emergency Regulations, and governance documents adopted by subbasin GSAs.

D.2 Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

SGMA and follow-on Emergency Regulations adopted by DWR references but does not explicitly direct GSAs establish and maintain a website. References to agency websites are defined in the following sections of the California Water Code (CWC) and DWR Emergency Regulations:

CWC §10725.2(c) In addition to any other applicable procedural requirements, the groundwater sustainability agency shall provide notice of the proposed adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan on its Internet Web site and provide for electronic notice to any person who requests electronic notification.

§353.6. Initial Notification. (a) Each Agency shall notify the Department, in writing, prior to initiating development of a Plan. The notification shall provide general information about the Agency's process for developing the Plan, including the manner in which interested parties may contact the Agency and participate in the development and implementation of the Plan. The Agency shall make the information publicly available by posting relevant information on the Agency's website.

Many other SGMA statues and state regulations further lend themselves to the efficient delivery of communication and engagement actions with interested parties, including public noticing consistent with California's open meeting laws and the requirement that "each agency establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. Any person may request, in writing, to be placed on the list of interested persons."⁷

⁷ California Water Code § 10723.4

D.3 Subbasin Governance Documents

Governance among the East San Joaquin Subbasin GSAs is defined through the ESJGWA Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the South San Joaquin GSA JPA and the Eastside San Joaquin GSA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

D.3.1 East San Joaquin Groundwater Authority JPA

The ESJGWA JPA constitutes the overarching agreement of the GSAs to the roles and responsibilities of the signatory agencies of the JPA. As described in its adopted GSP, the ESJ GSP was developed jointly by the ESJGWA via a JPA formally signed by 16 groundwater sustainability agencies within the subbasin. These signatories collectively represent 21 GSAs in the Subbasin. Formal signatories to the JPA include the Central Delta Water Agency (CDWA), Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD), City of Lodi, City of Manteca, City of Stockton, Eastside San Joaquin GSA (composed of Calaveras County Water District [CCWD], Stanislaus County, Calaveras County, and Rock Creek Water District), Linden County Water District (LCWD), Lockeford Community Services District (LCSD), North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), San Joaquin County No. 1, San Joaquin County No. 2 (Cal Water), South Delta Water Agency (SDWA), South San Joaquin GSA (composed of South San Joaquin Irrigation District [SSJID] including Woodward Reservoir, City of Ripon, and City of Escalon), Stockton East Water District (SEWD), and Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID).

As signed by the member agencies, the JPA's primary responsibility is to serve as a coordinating entity of Subbasin GSAs and represent the signatories during engagement with DWR. Implementation responsibilities for compliance with SGMA were largely reserved by individual GSAs.

D.3.2 South San Joaquin GSA JPA

The South San Joaquin GSA JPA was adopted by SSJID, the City of Escalon, and the City of Ripon. The SSJID was designated as the GSA lead on behalf of the signatory agencies for contracting and matters relating to the group's representation on the ESJGWA JPA. Similar to the ESJGWA JPA, implementation responsibilities for compliance with SGMA are largely reserved by each signatory of the SSJGSA JPA.

D.3.3 Eastside San Joaquin GSA MOU

The Eastside San Joaquin GSA MOU is between the County of Calaveras, the County of Stanislaus, Rock Creek Water District, and CCWD. The CCWD was designated as the GSA lead for purposes of contracting and other matters relating to the GSAs representation as a signatory to the ESJGWA JPA. Consistent with the limited powers of a MOU, responsibility for compliance with SGMA are reserved by the parties to the MOU.

D.4 Audit Approach

As mentioned above, the objective of the audit is to evaluate subbasin websites for consistency with the requirements of SGMA and provide recommendations to amend websites to improve engagement with

interested parties. It included a high-level review of agency websites to identify the location of GSA information starting at the agency's home page and initial observations of content associated with governance, documentation, and notification processes (see Exhibit A). At its core, a GSA website would address the informational needs of each user and uses of groundwater within its jurisdictional boundary in three key areas:

1. Governance: Does the site explain the governing structure of the agency, its decision-making structure, and identify its members?
2. Documentation: Does the site provide a record of decisions made by the agency such as board meeting summaries, committee meeting summaries, major documents required by SGMA (e.g., GSP, Annual Reports, resolutions and organizational documents), and other information materials and maps?
3. Notices and advisories: Does the site include a method for interested parties to be added to a list consistent with CWC §10723.4?

D.5 Findings and Next Steps

It is important to note that the web strategies of each subbasin GSA vary significantly in their approach to meet the above elements. These range from having no web presence at all to disclosing the governance structure, record of board meetings and its members, governance documents, and the entity's relationship to the ESJGWA. This variation, for example, undermines the ability of GSA constituent to understand the decision-making process of their governing body in relation to the ESJGWA. The lack of a cohesive web strategy across the region can result in inconsistent understanding to the specific roles and responsibilities of local GSAs and the ESJGWA among interested parties.

Recommendations:

- Provide clear and uniform descriptions of the governance structure, roles and responsibilities of each subbasin GSA, inclusive of their relationship to related overlying governance agreement(s).
- Develop and implement a consistent method to publish and distribute documents appropriate to the objectives of the ESJGWA and the responsibilities of subbasin GSAs.
- Consistently provide access to be added to a list of interested parties consistent with CWC §10723.4.

Below are suggested process steps for revision of the websites for ESJGWA and signatories of the ESJGWA JPA.

D.5.1 ESJGWA:

Discussion

The ESJGWA was primarily created to serve as a convenor and coordinator of activities among subbasin GSAs, to support broad communication and engagement actions in the subbasin and serve as the point of contact to DWR for the subbasin GSP. This observation is supported by Section 1.3.3 Decision-Making Process of the adopted GSP:

“The governing bodies of each of the individual GSAs take action and provide direction to their Board member representatives and must individually approve the final GSP. Projects will be administered by the GSA project proponents. Although the ESJGWA does not provide direct authority to require GSAs to implement projects, the GWA will be working on GSA-level water budgets and will be requesting annual or biannual progress reports to evaluate progress.”

Suggested Amendments

About Us: Update the content to reflect the number of member agencies who are signatories to the JPA and refine the description of the authority’s roles and responsibilities consistent with the adopted GSP and the JPA.

Governance Page: Populate with the name and agency of each voting member, and their alternate, on the GWA Board of Directors and applicable committee. Include a description of the board term and the appointment process. Explain the roles and responsibilities of the board in relation to the member agencies. Explain the role and responsibilities of the governing bodies of member agencies in relation to GSP implementation and engagement with interested parties.

Member Page: Update the member agency page to be consistent with the signatories of the JPA. All member links should arrive at a SGMA specific page maintained by the GSA.

Document Page: Insert introductory text under the “Document” heading to define the contents of the identified subpages.

Get Connected: Add buttons for interested parties to self-identify the GSA they are a member(s). Program the database to allow for individual GSAs to conduct agency-specific outreach on an as-needed basis. Suggest including a link to DWR’s GSA Map Viewer to assist stakeholders search their respective GSA by street address.

D.5.2 Subbasin GSAs:

Discussion

The powers of SGMA retained by subbasin GSAs have effectively resulted in establishment of a JPA that is a convenor of information and DWR representative on behalf of the member agencies. As demonstrated by the record of agencies who held meetings to adopt the ESJ GSP, the formal responsibility to implement the GSP fully rests with each individual GSA (see excerpt of Section 1.3.3 Decision-Making Process). Suggested amendments/outline of content for member agency web sites.

Suggested Amendments

Governance: Each subbasin GSA should clearly describe the governance structure of their respective GSA and its decision-making process in relation to the ESJGWA. This would include describing the frequency of meetings and notification processes consistent with the Brown Act.

Documents and Information Materials: These would, at a minimum, include copies of GSA meeting agendas, meeting summaries, board packets, and governance-related documents (e.g. GSA Formation Notification Page pursuant to CWC §10723.8).

Interested Party Database: Provide a direct link to the ESJGWA Get Connected webpage.

Projects and Management Actions: Provide a link or publish independently a list of Projects and Management Actions as identified in the adopted GSP. Provide detail of project status and next steps as applicable.

Point of Contact: Provide an email address or include a comment form for interested parties to contact a GSA representative.

Table #. High-level Website Audit

Website Path and Link	Audit Notes
SEWD GSA	
Home > Departments > Water Resources & Education > SEWD & SGMA	No SGMA specific IPD, governance discussion or documents.
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	
Home > District Services > Groundwater Management Act	No governance, no IPD, out of date.
Linden County Water District	
Home > News & Notices	No SGMA specific IPD, governance or documents. Reference to quarterly meetings, but not library (including board meetings)
SSJGSA	

Website Path and Link	Audit Notes
Home > About Us > Agendas and Minutes – SSJID GSA	Shows officers, minutes, JPA, etc.; includes major documents; omits SGMA specific IPD
South Delta Water Agency GSA	
N/A	No web presence for GSA No SGMA specific IPD
Lockeford CSD GSA	
Home > Updates & Reports > SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act)	No SGMA specific IPD, No details on governance ... two fact sheets, No link to ESJGWA
Eastside San Joaquin GSA	
N/A	No web presence for GSA No SGMA specific IPD
Calavera County Water District GSA	
Home > Doing Business > Water Resources > SGMA	Out of date on number of GSAs. Doesn't overtly state it is a GSA and when the agency meets.
Stanislaus County GSA	
Home > Environmental Resources > Groundwater Resources > SGMA > ESJGWA	No SGMA specific IPD, nor relation to Eastside San Joaquin GSA.
Rock Creek Water District GSA	
N/A	No web presence for GSA No SGMA specific IPD

Website Path and Link	Audit Notes
<i>Oakdale Irrigation District GSA</i>	
Home > District Services > Water Operations > Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)	No SGMA specific IPD, governance description, documents.
<i>Central Delta Water Agency GSA</i>	
All on home page	No SGMA Specific IPD; links of docs, link to the GWA, governance description.
<i>City of Lodi GSA</i>	
Home > Your Government > Departments > Public Works > Water	No apparent “GSA” link or details of city responsibility. No SGMA specific IPD, governance or description.
<i>City of Manteca GSA (link broken from ESJGWA site)</i>	
N/A	No web presence for GSA No SGMA specific IPD
<i>NSJWCD GSA</i>	
Home > SGMA	No SGMA specific IPD, governance or description of agency role. Does not say it’s a GSA
<i>Woodbridge Irrigation District GSA</i>	
N/A	No web presence for GSA No SGMA specific IPD
<i>San Joaquin County No. 1 and No. 2</i>	

Website Path and Link	Audit Notes
Home > Water Resources Management > Groundwater	Link from member page goes to the general county website. Content associated with the GSA appear to be housed on the county's Flood Control and Water Conservation District website. Page says ESJGWA adopted the plan; it did not. No direct link to IPD.
California Water Service Company	
	The foundation for why this CPUC regulated utility is shown as a member agency is primarily referenced in the adopted GSP. Additionally, the utility's website includes no reference to ESJGWA on its Stockton District Information Page.



Memo

To: Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

From: Matt Zidar, Water Resources Manager

RE: Ad Hoc TAC Activity and Assignments for FY 2023-24

Date: August 9, 2023.

Summary: Per the GWA Joint Powers Authority Agreement the Board Chair or Chair may make assignments to Ad Hoc work groups to evaluate technical or policy issues and bring back recommendations to the Board via the Steering Committee for consideration and action during regular noticed public meetings. The GWA has an Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee (Ad Hoc TAC) to serve as a work group to evaluate and investigate technical or other matters. This action is to assign work to the Ad Hoc TAC.

Discussion: Over the next six to nine months the Ad Hoc TAC is to directed to work on the following activities and bring analysis results and recommendations back to the Board through the Steering Committee for consideration and support Board decisions as to how to set priorities, commit resources and assign funds.

The following activities were the subject of a Round 2 SGMA Grant Application which was not funded. A reduced level of activity for these efforts was included in the FY 23-24 GWA budget. The Board of Supervisors has worked to allocate American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) monies to undertake the more robust program similar to the grant proposal. A work plan needs to be developed for use of the ARPA funds and would be included in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the GWA and County. An MOU has yet to be developed. A future GWA Budget Amendment and Appropriation would also be needed to receive and appropriate the funds. This work included:

- a. Review, selection, and plan for implementation of Data Management Systems
- b. Review and evaluation of the Monitoring Network and monitoring wells
- c. Development of an instrumentation plan and strategy

Additional assignments to the TAC include:

- d. Participation and coordination of interbasin meeting to review water budgets, analysis methods, data and flows at the boundaries of each basin, including the Tracy, Modesto and Cosumnes subbasins. This work is supported by DWRs Facilitation Support Services Agreements.
- e. Review Methods to Quantify Groundwater Pumping. This task is to review the results of the SEWD USBR funded WaterSMART project which used satellite data and models to quantify crop ET and groundwater pumping. It may provide a

method to quantify pumping for use in the annual report which currently relies on the ESJ IWFM groundwater model. Alternative methods should be considered.

Fiscal Impact: None currently. Future budget amendment would be needed to accept an appropriate ARPA monies.

Recommendation: A motion to assign activities to the Ad Hoc TAC.