



## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

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

#### **I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

#### **II. Scheduled Items – *Presentation Materials to be Posted on ESJGroundwater.org and Emailed Prior to the Meeting.***

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

1. Approval of the April 10th, 2024, Steering Committee Minutes - [Page 2](#)
2. Recommendation to Adopt the Draft Program for Domestic Well Mitigation - [Page 5](#)
3. Presentation from Woodard & Curran – Groundwater Demand Management
4. Recommendations to the Board of Directors on Groundwater Demand Management
5. Staff Updates
  - a. Staffing Transition
  - b. Fall Groundwater Monitoring
  - c. Westgate Landing Monitoring Well Drilling
  - d. ARPA Funded Activities

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

1. DWR Report - [Page 19](#)
2. Other Items
3. Communications

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

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

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

#### **VII. Adjournment**

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

San Joaquin Council of Governments  
555 E. Weber Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95202

# Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Special Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center in Assembly Room 1. At approximately 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Rickman.

Roll Call: In attendance were Director and Alternates: Andrew Watkins, Secretary Fritz Buchman, Mike Henry, Robert Holmes, Chairman Robert Rickman, and Joe Valente.

## II. Scheduled Items

### A. Discussion/Action Items

#### 1. Approval of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Robert Holmes

**Second:** Mike Henry

All in favor.

#### 2. Presentation from Stantec on Communications and Engagement Provided through DWR Facilitation Support Services

Marina Deligiannis, Lead Facilitator from Stantec, shared her presentation and the following details:

- Eastern San Joaquin's FFS Tasks
  - Public Outreach and Coordination Support, Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup, Inter-basin Coordination Support, and Contract Management.
- C&E Framework includes:
  - C&E Inventory and Summary, GSA Manager Survey Results and Analysis, Interested Parties Survey Results and Analysis, Website Audit, and Example Template Materials.
- C&E Framework Key Findings & Recommendations include:
  - Communication and Engagement Tracker, Comment Portal, Document Management, Enterprise Management System Transparency, GSP Conformance, Interested Party Database, Native American Heritage Commission, Staff Resources, Website Management, Workgroup and Targeted Outreach.
- C&E Plan Next Steps:
  - Determine preferred timeline for completion, goals, and support needed from the GSAs and GWA, further data collection, and drafting the C&E Plan.

- Anticipated Plan for the C&E Plan:
  - Survey Contact List – April 30
  - Stakeholder Engagement Survey – May 3
  - Survey Approved – May 10
  - Survey Open – May 13 to 31
  - Survey Analysis Done – June 14
  - Draft C&E Plan Done – June 14
  - GWA Review of Draft Done – June 26
  - C&E Plan Finalized – June 28

### 3. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Adopt a Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Steve Schwabauer shared that dry wells can happen, and our County has seen them. If it is found to have been caused by groundwater overdraft, the ESJGWA would pay the claim for the drilling of a new domestic well. New in the policy is the Claim Limitation Period that all claims need to be brought on by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and the claims need to be brought within 6 months of adoption. The Claims process is consistent with State law. Five members of the technical committee will be chosen, claims filing locations will be assigned, and a timeline for all various decisions to be made.

**Motion:** For GWA staff to solicit public comments on the draft Domestic Well Mitigation program as presented.

**Motion:** Robert Holmes

**Second:** Jason Colombini

All in favor.

### 4. Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Adopt the FY 2024-2025 Budget

Hope Paulin shared that as to date we have collected \$1,000,062.00 from the original GSA cost allocations, 310K from reserve transfer, 225K government aid from Zone 2, 5K in grants and some retention from the Prop 1 grant.

Expenditure is 289K.

**Motion:** To recommend the adoption to the board, with 373K allocated to GSAs through member dues.

**Motion:** Andrew Watkins

**Second:** Robert Holmes

### 5. Update on GSP 2025 Update Progress

Brandon Nakagawa shared that progress is on time, model update is looking great and updating the list of projects is happening. The workgroups will be formed, public review

period starts in October, the responding of comments will take place in November, plans are still on track.

**III. Staff/DWR Reports**

1. Staff Report – None
2. DWR Report – Chelsea from DWR highlights her attachment and updates.

**IV. Director’s Comments** – Alex Chetley shared that the new Water Resources manager will start on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**V. Public Comment** – Mary Elizabeth provided written comments and it was confirmed that they were forwarded to the Steering Committee prior to the start of the meeting.

**VI. Future Agenda Items** - None

**VII. Adjournment at 9:54 am**

NOTE\* - Meeting presentation material can be found on the website at [www.esjgroundwater.org/](http://www.esjgroundwater.org/).



**Meeting Date: August 14, 2024**

**TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee**  
**FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA**  
**SUBJECT: Recommendation that the ESJGWA Board of Directors Adopt the Draft Program for Domestic Well Mitigation**  
**Date: August 14, 2024**

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that Steering Committee recommend that the Board of Directors Adopt the Draft Program for Domestic Well Mitigation at their next scheduled meeting on September 11, 2024.

## **Reasons for Recommendation**

The ESJGWA made significant revisions to the 2020 Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to address the Department of Water Resources (DWR) initial incomplete determination. One of the items of particular concern to DWR was allowing for declines in groundwater levels ahead of reaching sustainability by 2040 (i.e. during droughts prior to the implementation of projects and management actions). Other critically over drafted basins received similar comments from DWR and are also pursuing development of a well mitigation policy or program with varying degrees of success.

In 2022, the ESJGWA sent Technical Memorandum 2 to Paul Gosselin, DWR SGMA Chief, to specifically address domestic wells as referenced in DWR's inadequate determination comment letter. The following excerpt from Technical Memorandum 2 spells out the ESJGWA obligation to consider a well mitigation policy.

*"The GSAs recognize that domestic wells may be impacted by declining groundwater levels, as well as other factors, including but not limited to, end of useful life. The GSAs intentionally set the minimum thresholds in the GSP to avoid domestic well failures due to declining groundwater levels. However, the GSAs recognize the need for a back-up process to mitigate the impact of GSP management on domestic well failures, if necessary. As part of the five-year update to the GSP, the GSAs, through the GWA, will identify additional management actions that can be implemented to address this situation, including considering development of a domestic well mitigation policy and program ("DWMP")."*

The Draft Domestic Well Mitigation Program is meant to address domestic wells going dry or facing water quality degradation directly related to groundwater overdraft caused by over pumping after 2015, the year SGMA became enforceable law. In summary, the proposed Program is a claims process filed by a domestic well owner to the ESJGWA for the cost of re-drilling a domestic well. The claim would be investigated by a select committee and if determined that the well failure was caused by

groundwater overdraft, a claim could be approved and processed for reimbursement of drilling costs to the claimant. The process resembles the claims process outlined in State law.

Several GSA including North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Stockton East Water District, and the South San Joaquin GSA, developed an early draft of a well mitigation program concept. Formed through discussions with the ESJGWA Steering Committee and Board of Directors a draft Well Mitigation Program was drafted and circulated. On April 10, 2024, the Steering Committee directed staff to solicit public comment on the Draft Program. The draft Program was sent for comment to all ESJGWA stakeholders currently in the email database and was the main topic of discussion for Stakeholder Workshop #1 held on June 26, 2024. Additional public comments may be received through the public comment process established as part of the Steering Committee and Board of Director meetings.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Program is funded by a Well Mitigation Fund totaling \$200,000 which was established by the ESJGWA Board of Directors in June 2024. Currently, the fund was approved for \$100,000 in the current fiscal year with the intent of funding the remaining \$100,000 in the next fiscal year.

### **Attachment**

Draft Resolution and Domestic Well Mitigation Program – Dated August 8, 2024

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

**RESOLUTION R-24-**

**ADOPTING PROGRAM FOR DRY DOMESTIC WELL MITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (“Authority”) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the 16 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) overlying the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin to coordinate the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) and activities thereunder as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

WHEREAS, SGMA encourages GSAs to include in their GSP implementation measures that provide mitigation for undesirable results of overdraft, including the failure of domestic water supply wells due to overdraft pumping occurring after January 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, the GSA’s in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin have not experienced significant dry well reports as reported by the State of California Dry Well Reporting System or as reported by individuals within the GSAs;

WHEREAS, nevertheless the GSA’s desire to establish a single program, to be operated through the Authority, that can be used to provide emergency, interim and long-term mitigation assistance for owners and other persons who experience a failure of a domestic water supply well due to overdraft pumping within the subbasin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Authority that:

1. The attached Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Program for Domestic Well Mitigation is hereby adopted and approved. The Program establishes the rules and procedures to be used by the Authority and its members to address mitigation for failure of domestic water supply wells caused by groundwater overdraft occurring after January 1, 2015.
2. The Program shall be implemented by the Authority and coordinated through the ~~San Joaquin County Director of Public Works~~ designated ~~as the~~ Authority Secretary.
3. The DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND (FUND) is hereby created with a funding target in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00). Initial funding shall be raised from GSA Member dues as part of the Authority’s annual budget and apportioned to Member GSAs using the Authority’s annual budget allocation formula.-
4. Program activities and funding needs shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed with the understanding that this is an evolving situation and there is a need to establish an initial Program and then adjust as the GSA Members learn more about the needs of the community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024, by the following vote of the Board of Directors of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

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

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

DRAFT



**Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Program for Domestic Well Mitigation**

(draft ~~3/24~~08/08/24, approved by the ESJGWA on \_\_\_\_\_)

1. **PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY LIMITS:** This Program provides emergency, interim and financial mitigation for domestic water supply wells that have been determined to have failed due to groundwater overdraft conditions occurring since January 1, 2015.
2. **DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND:** The Authority shall establish a DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND (FUND) with a funding target in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00).

**2.01** Initial funding shall be raised from GSA Member dues as part of the Authority's annual budget and apportioned to Member GSAs using the Authority's annual budget allocation formula.

**2.02** By action of the Authority Bord of Directors, the Fund may be replenished by utilizing reserves or additional Member dues as part of the Authority's annual budgeting process or as a budget amendment.

**2.022.03** Should the Fund fall below ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00), GSA Members will meet and confer in good faith to determine the appropriate funding mechanism, replenishment amount, and GSA Member allocation methodology prior to Fund replenishment.

3. **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND CLAIMS ASSISTANCE:** Authority and GSA Members shall assign staff or representatives (collectively herein referred to as "staff") to engage in public outreach to give notice to domestic well owners and residents of their right to request assistance under this Program, and how to apply for assistance.

**3.01 Outreach:** Staff will perform outreach to populations likely to require assistance under this Program and create fliers, social media posts and website links to publicize this Program. The above fliers shall be posted at appropriate locations such as County Environmental Health Departments, GSA offices, Farm Bureau locations, community organizations and City and County Public Works and Utility Offices. The Authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations to assist with outreach.

**3.02 Development of an Application for Assistance:** Staff will develop a simple application form for residents applying for assistance under this Program. Pertinent information submitted with the application form may include contact information, location of the well, age of the well, well construction information such as total depth of the well, screen intervals, ~~and~~ annular seal depth, ~~contact information, and~~ date the well first failed to produce water or meet water quality standards. Applicants will be strongly urged to provide evidence such as official lab results, declarations from a licensed well driller identifying the cause of the well failure (if

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available), and all other evidence in applicant's possession that the failure was caused by overdraft pumping (i.e. depth to water measurements, nearby wells, etc.).

**3.03 Filing Applications for Assistance:** Staff will assist residents with filing the request for assistance called for in this Program. The Authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations to assist residents with filing claims.

4. **CLAIMS PROCESS:**

**4.01 Limitations Period:** All claims brought under this Program must have accrued after January 1, 2015. Claims brought that accrued between January 1, 2015 and the adoption of this policy shall be brought within six months of the adoption of this policy. The limitations period for claims brought after the adoption of this policy shall be the limitations process and period provided by the California Government Tort Claims Act (Government Code Section 810 and following).

**4.02 Technical Review Committee:** A Technical Review Committee will be formed to review each application under this Policy. The Technical Review Committee shall consist of the following members:

4.02.1 The District Engineer for the GSA where the well is located.

4.02.2 A licensed hydrologist hired by the Authority on an eligibility list pre-approved by the ESJGWA Steering Committee.

4.02.3 A registered Environmental Health Specialist from the County Environmental Health Department in which the well is located.

4.02.4 The well owner, agent (i.e. well driller, independent consultant, attorney, or designated representative), or environmental justice advocate selected from a list compiled by the ESJGWA Steering Committee.

4.02.5 A technical representative designated by a Member GSA that is not the GSA for the area in where the well is located. The Steering Committee will vet and compile a list of names of eligible technical representatives from Member GSAs and assign a person from this list to serve on the Technical Review Committee on a rotating basis.

5. **Interim Remedies:** The Authority will work with county Office of Emergency Services where the well is located, other non-governmental agencies, or directly with vendors to ensure the applicant is provided an interim water supply to all applicants with a reasonable facial complaint for damages. An interim water supply consists of bottled water intended to meet drinking water and cooking needs while the claim is reviewed and processed. If the claim is approved, the Authority will ensure that an interim water supply will continue until the selected mitigation is complete.

6. **Claims Subject to Mitigation:** The following claims are eligible for mitigation assistance under this Program:

**6.01** Well Failures caused by declining water levels that were caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

**6.02** Well Failures due to water quality problems caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015. Water quality problems means well water that exceeds State or Federal maximum contaminant levels. Water quality problems that are not the result of overdraft pumping shall not be subject to mitigation under this Program. Eligibility for an alternative water supply such as bottled water may be available through CV-Salts.

**6.03** Well failure due to subsidence caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

7. **Claim Administration:**

**7.01 Notice of Claim:** Claims must be submitted in the form of a completed application to:

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority  
Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County  
PO BOX 1810  
Stockton, CA 95201

Or in-person:  
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**7.02** The Secretary of the Authority is authorized to summarily reject any claim if and only if, the well failure can be remedied by replacing failed electrical or mechanical pump components without needing to re-drill the well.

**7.03** The Technical Review Committee shall have authority to conduct its own investigation of the evidence including contracting with hydrogeologists and well drillers, researching county well records and requesting records from the applicant.

**7.04** The Technical Review Committee will draft a written technical memorandum recommending how, whether and to what extent to mitigate a claim, if any, within 15 days of receipt of the application together with any additional information requested by the Technical Review Committee.

**7.05** The Technical Committee will forward its Technical Memorandum and Recommendation for funding/mitigation to the GWA Steering Committee. The

GWA Steering Committee will issue a final written decision on the Claim within ~~30~~ 45 days of receipt of the Technical Review Committee's memorandum. The written decision will be provided to the Claimant via mail at the address located in the Application on the date it is issued.

**7.06** The GWA Steering Committee may decide to provide complete or partial mitigation for a particular Claim based on the Committee's determination of the percentage of responsibility for the well failure related to groundwater pumping as opposed to other contributing factors, such as the age or construction of the well.

**7.07** A Claimant may appeal a decision of the GWA Steering Committee by submitting a written appeal to the GWA Board Chair within 30 days of the mailing date of the GWA Steering Committee Decision. The appeal shall contain a copy of the original application, the Technical Memorandum and the Steering Committee Decision and state the basis for the appeal.

**7.08** The GWA Board Chair shall agendize the appeal for the next quarterly GWA Board Meeting that is at least 15 days after receipt of the appeal and provide written notice and the agenda to the appellant.

**7.09** The GWA Board of Directors shall act on the appeal and issue a written decision. The decision of the GWA Board of Directors shall be final.

DRAFT

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AYES:

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ABSTAIN:

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Robert Rickman  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
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Authority

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ATTEST: Fritz Buchman, C.E., P.E., CFM  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
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DRAFT

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(draft 08/08/24, approved by the ESJGWA on \_\_\_\_\_)

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GWA Steering Committee will issue a final written decision on the Claim within 45 days of receipt of the Technical Review Committee's memorandum. The written decision will be provided to the Claimant via mail at the address located in the Application on the date it is issued.

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- 7.07** A Claimant may appeal a decision of the GWA Steering Committee by submitting a written appeal to the GWA Board Chair within 30 days of the mailing date of the GWA Steering Committee Decision. The appeal shall contain a copy of the original application, the Technical Memorandum and the Steering Committee Decision and state the basis for the appeal.
- 7.08** The GWA Board Chair shall agendize the appeal for the next quarterly GWA Board Meeting that is at least 15 days after receipt of the appeal and provide written notice and the agenda to the appellant.
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## August 2024 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

### Grants

#### California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit [grants.ca.gov](https://grants.ca.gov) to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

#### **DWR's Underrepresented Communities and Small Farmer Technical Assistance Program**

The mission of the Program is to determine the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities with the implementation of the SGMA for underrepresented communities and small farms in medium and high priority basins, including critically overdrafted (COD) basins. The types of services provided include, but are not limited to: Groundwater level monitoring; Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply; Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs); Analyze well interference; Identifying additional water supply; Analyze existing well condition using downhole video log; Rehabilitation of water storage tank; Long-term water supply and demand analysis; Analyze and help to facilitate water transfers. [More information is available on the webpage](#). **Local entities can request services by emailing [SGM\\_TA@water.ca.gov](mailto:SGM_TA@water.ca.gov).**

#### **DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program**

This is a 3 year grant with a total of \$6,450,000 available state wide. Applicants must be a public agency with a signed MOU partnership with either a NGO or Tribe. Projects must include a community involvement or education component along with ecological restoration and flooding/bank erosion reduction. Example projects include, but are not limited to: Bank stabilization and revegetation; recontouring of channels to improve or reestablish floodplain function and localized flood protection; installation of bioswales prior to water reaching urban streams; removing of culverts or storm drains to stabilize channels to achieve flood control objectives and daylighting of streams; and purchase of lands or structures on lands to allow for floodplain reconnection and floodwater detention or wetlands/tidal zone restoration. [More information can be found here](#). The application process is on-going until funds have been exhausted.

Other state & federal grant websites for resources that may be helpful are:

- California Financing Coordinating Committee -- <https://cfcc.ca.gov/>, and
- CalOES grants -- <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/grants-management>
- US EPA -- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>, and
- Economic Development Administration -- <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

### **Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data**

**A SGMA 10 year anniversary event will be held in October. Exact date TBD. This will be a hybrid event with the in person part happening in Sacramento.**

#### **GSA Spring Forum Recording Now Available**

The theme for the Spring 2024 GSA Forum was Applications of State Assistance: Leveraging Statewide AEM Data at the Basin Level to Inform GSP Implementation. The event features presentations from GSA representatives, followed by a Q&A session, that highlights local successes, challenges, and visions for use of AEM data to enhance groundwater management. The event also included a DWR informational session on how AEM data will inform DWR's Basin Characterization Program, which provides the latest information about California's groundwater basins to help local communities better understand their aquifer systems. The [workshop recording](#) can be viewed on DWR's YouTube channel.

## August 2024 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

### Department of Water Resources Releases Videos on Groundwater Recharge in California

Groundwater recharge is a crucial process for replenishing California's underground water reserves. During wet years, groundwater recharge helps balance and replenish groundwater basins for use during future dry and drought years. DWR has developed an informative video to help viewers understand the basics of groundwater recharge and how it supports California's water supply. This new video describes and illustrates the processes that allow water to percolate through soil and replenish underground aquifers. Please check out our video, [Groundwater Recharge in California – A Key Water Resilience Strategy](#), on [DWR's YouTube channel](#) to learn more about how groundwater recharge works and its importance for a sustainable water supply for California.

### DWR Releases First Paper on Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water: An Introduction

To help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) appropriately address depletions of interconnected surface water (ISW) in their Groundwater Sustainability Plans, DWR released the first in a series of three papers that will discuss the technical aspects of ISW and quantification of depletions of ISW due to pumping. These three papers will form the basis for a guidance document that DWR will publish for GSAs to consider when establishing ISW sustainable management criteria to manage depletions in their groundwater basins. Paper 1 and all subsequent ISW documents will be posted on [DWR's Best Management Practices and Guidance Documents](#) webpage under the heading of Guidance Documents. Papers 2 and 3 are expected to be released in August of 2024.

### DWR Releases Groundwater Recharge Guidance Documents

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

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

### DWR permit portal for Delta Conveyance Project

DWR has a "[permit portal](#)" to help with plans and projects for the [Delta Conveyance Project](#). The portal includes access to information and resources related to some of the more critical environmental [compliance and permitting processes](#). The new website has all relevant California Environmental Quality Act information, along with the [final environmental impact report](#). New [fact sheets](#) are available in English, Spanish and Chinese and cover topics such as soil testing, seismic resilience and project features. Several companion [videos](#) are also now available. **A Final EIR for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project was issued and approved in December of 2023.** Now that the environmental review is complete and the project has been approved, DWR will take the next steps to pursue numerous state and federal permits or authorizations, including those required by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, and compliance with state and federal Endangered Species acts. DWR will also continue to develop a Community Benefits Program. The Delta Construction Authority will provide a new cost estimate and a benefit-cost analysis in mid-2024.

- **New: SWRCB public hearing on the Delta Conveyance project 1/16/25.** This hearing will address the water rights change petition to add two new points of diversion and will be accepting public comment. [More info here.](#)

California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence

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The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading. For more information, visit the updated [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: [CalGW@water.ca.gov](mailto:CalGW@water.ca.gov).

## SGMA & Drought

Update Your GSA and GSP Manager Point of Contact Information in DWR's SGMA Portal

If your GSA and/or GSP Plan Manager Point of Contact (POC) is not current, or you are not sure, please visit the SGMA Portal to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. When logged in, the Portal allows edits to be made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to: [GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov](mailto:GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov).

## **NEW: Projects and Management Actions (PMA) Module for GSP reporting**

DWR is developing a new PMA module as part of the SGMA portal. DWR staff are entering the initial data based on GSPs and annual reports and will be reaching out to GSA's to QA the information prior to it going live around the end of October. The PMA Module is intended to assist agencies in satisfying the requirements of SGMA by providing a central location to track, document, and annually report on progress made toward implementing PMAs. A recording of a recent webinar with more details will be available on DWR's YouTube channel soon. Questions can be directed to [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).

## **Department of Water Resources Releases its Periodic Reviews of Nine Alternative GSPs**

On 6/27/24 DWR released nine periodic reviews of Alternatives (Alternatives) to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted by local agencies. Today's release includes the approval of nine Alternatives for the following basins: Pajaro Valley Subbasin, Coastal Plain of Orange County Basin, Llagas Area Subbasin, Santa Clara Subbasin, Mission Creek Subbasin, Niles Cone Subbasin, Livermore Valley Basin, Indio Subbasin, and Tahoe South Subbasin. These Alternatives are approved with recommended corrective actions that the agencies will need to address in their next periodic evaluation, due in December 2026. DWR's approval identifies that the Alternative substantially complies with the GSP Regulations and SGMA law, relying upon the best available science and information, and that implementation of the Alternative is likely to achieve or maintain the basin's sustainability goal. The periodic reviews and related materials can be found on the [SGMA Portal](#).

## Resource Guide for Funding SGMA Implementation

DWR released its [Resource Guide for Funding Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Implementation](#) (3/2/24 release). The purpose of this high-level funding resource guide is to provide GSAs with information that will support the selection and development of self-funding streams for funding SGMA implementation. This funding primer outlines common funding mechanisms available to GSAs and provides a general approach that agencies can consider when developing a funding mechanism. Those earlier in the funding selection process may find this document most useful. The guide also provides a high-level overview of federal, state, and local funding opportunities to support SGMA implementation.

## Groundwater well permitting report

The various approaches being used to comply with California's well-permitting requirements are summarized in a [new report from DWR](#). The report looks at ways well-permitting agencies and groundwater sustainability agencies are meeting executive order requirements for lessening the effects of intense drought conditions. There is also information on perspectives shared by some small communities, examples of local agency compliance

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measures, and observations of groundwater conditions that occurred during the time the actions were taken. The document includes recommendations for a future policy bill as well.

### Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Guidance

On October 30, 2023, DWR released its [Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments](#), which provides guidance to GSAs preparing these documents under SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The Department also released a [Frequently Asked Questions and Available Resources](#) document that provides commonly asked questions and answers about Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and GSP Amendments. These resources do not create any requirements or obligations for GSAs; the information is intended to clarify the necessary content of the documents already required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations.

### 'Be Well Prepared' Initiative and Website

May 17, 2023, DWR released the [Be Well Prepared initiative](#). DWR is providing tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater and experiencing climate-driven weather extremes, to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies. The Be Well Prepared initiative focuses on domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their well. [The website includes resources and information](#) that every well owner should know and understand about: groundwater conditions, well maintenance, water quality, assistance, and additional articles, videos and resources. A [new flyer](#) from DWR provides the four initial steps for well owners to take if they think their well has gone dry. This flyer is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).

### 'Drinking Water Well Impacts' Guidance and 'Water Shortage Planning' Brochure

April 7, 2023: DWR released the [Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts](#) guidance document and technical assistance. This guidance document supports GSAs to fully consider and appropriately address potential impacts to drinking water well users during SGMA implementation. There is an [online accompanying toolkit](#). The Department also released a brochure, called [Alignment and Coordination: Water Shortage Planning](#) for Rural Communities and Sustainable Groundwater Management. This brochure encourages voluntary collaboration between counties and GSAs as they coordinate their respective responsibilities for drought and water shortage planning efforts, for rural communities under Senate Bill 552, and the long-term sustainability goals of groundwater basins under SGMA.

### SB552: DWR's Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool

As part of its technical assistance to support SB 552 implementation, DWR developed the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) to provide the foundational data and information statewide to counties for their water shortage risk assessment.

### Dry Well Susceptibility Map

The DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, has developed an interactive mapping tool, called the Dry Well Susceptibility Tool. This tool identifies areas within groundwater basins that may be prone to water supply shortages in drinking water wells. State and local agencies and well owners can use this tool to anticipate where wells may go dry based on historical conditions to inform drought preparedness decision-making. To use this tool, navigate to [California's Groundwater Live website](#) and click the [Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility tab](#). A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, [is available here](#).

### Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). Information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and [a list of resources](#) are included on the

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webpage. The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish. Local agencies can now sign up to receive notifications of any dry wells reported in their area. To sign up please email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).

**2020 Statewide Crop Mapping data** was released in March of 2023 and includes multi-cropping information. The 2020 final and 2021 and 2022 (new Feb 2024) provisional datasets includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California. The data can now be accessed at the following locations: [CA DWR Land Use Viewer](#) (viewing and downloading); [CNRA Webpage](#) (viewing and downloading); on the [SGMA Data Viewer](#) (viewing) and the [California State Geportal](#) (viewing and downloading).

**InSAR subsidence data** is now available through April 1 of 2024 and can now be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#).

### Facilitation Support Services (FSS): Funding still available

- GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation
- More information [can be found here](#). Written translation services available in 8 languages for outreach materials (5,000 word maximum).
- DWR has a **new Verbal Interpretation service available to GSA's**. Real-time interpretive services are available to GSAs for virtual, hybrid, or in-person meetings in support of GSP implementation with the goal of engaging underrepresented communities within basins and encouraging equal access for non-fluent English speakers during the implementation of GSP's. If you are interested in learning more or receiving support from an interpretation team email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).