



**Stanislaus County  
Water Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

October 26, 2022 9:05 a.m.  
Stanislaus Farm Bureau  
And Hybrid  
Zoom Video Conference

**Members Present:**

Rachelle Antinetti  
Daniel Bays  
Louis Brichetto  
Larry Byrd  
Caitie Campodonico

Vince Dykzeul  
Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis  
Sean Roddy  
Cooper Rossiter

Tim Sanders  
Edward Tobias  
Rob Kostlivy  
Christy McKinnon  
Terry Withrow

**Members Absent:**

Joe Alamo  
Francisco Canela

Erika Durrer  
Richard Gemperle

Rod Vilas

**I. Called to Order at 9:05 a.m.** (The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for the October 26, 2022 Water Advisory Committee meeting)

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Upon request of Vice Chairperson Tom Orvis, the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Public Comment**

No public comment

**IV. Roll Call**

A quorum of voting members was present.

**V. Approval of September 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the September 21, 2022, meeting were presented by the Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Tim Sanders  
Second: Cooper Rossiter  
Vote: Unanimous

**VI. East Turlock GSA Upland Pipeline Project Update – Sarah Woolf.**

Sarah Woolf provided an update on projects that are being worked on by the East Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in the Turlock Subbasin. The Upland Pipeline Project includes constructing a physical pipeline that may or may not be pressurized. There is a contract to purchase 1700 acre feet of water from Merced Irrigation District when an excess supply of water is available.

Highline Canal Historical Replenishment Parcels in Stanislaus County: Highline Canal traverses through the East Turlock GSA Management Areas. There are historical properties in the area that are receiving water from the Turlock Irrigation District, (TID). West Turlock and East Turlock GSAs are contacting property landowners that are eligible to receive this water supply to ask if they are willing to participate in the project. TID has agreed to provide up to 5000 acre feet of water to eligible properties for recharge opportunities. Delivery to eligible properties has not previously reached that amount. Project priorities will be designated based on GSA identified benefits to the subbasin.

The GSA is also working to fund separation of the combined irrigation systems on properties so that water can be received on both District and non-district lands in order to reduce pumping.

**VII. Threfall Ranch Project Update – Christy McKinnon.**

On October 4, 2022, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to adopt the Threfall Ranch Reservoir Project as an approved project to be included in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and to determine that the project is consistent with the GSP. The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) has added the project to a “living” list of projects in the GSP. On Oct 20, 2022 the ESJGWA Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the list of projects and determined which ones would be included in the subbasin wide grant application for the Sustainable Groundwater Management-Round 2 grant funding opportunity. Unfortunately, this project didn’t make the list and will not be included in the application submitted by the ESJGWA for the upcoming grant opportunity. There were concerns expressed among the ESJGWA and the TAC members that the project would not score high enough when evaluated to compete successfully with the other subbasin applications. Members expressed concerns with water right ownership and project benefits to disadvantaged communities and benefits across the subbasin. The project could be further developed to transfer credits to areas with disadvantaged communities in addition to contributing to subbasin wide benefits.

**VIII.** Tuolumne River Trust – Peter Drekmeier.

<https://www.tuolumne.org/>

The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir owned by the City of San Francisco and located within Yosemite National Park delivers water to 2.7 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. Don Pedro Reservoir delivers water to 200,000 acres of prime farm land in Stanislaus County and separates the upper Tuolumne River from the lower Tuolumne River. The lower Tuolumne River meets the La Grange Dam and there have been concerns that the dam impedes salmon migration and needs appropriate fish passage improvements. In an average year only 21% of Tuolumne River water reaches the San Joaquin River due to current policies and we have seen the salmon population declining. Historically more than a million salmon spawned in the Central Valley's rivers each year.

Half of the water that falls on California drains out through the San Francisco Bay-Delta which is the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas. Higher flows are critically important for migration of baby fish trying to get them out into the waters of the protected Delta as quickly as possible to ensure their survival. Delta flows are insufficient to support native Delta fishes in today habitats. To preserve the native fish species, in 2018 the State Water Board's Bay Delta Plan adopted 40% unimpaired flows to be maintained between February and June for the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers.

How do we get water from the peak years and store it somewhere? The Tuolumne River Trust recognizes that there are great water resources opportunities in promoting groundwater recharge projects that can contribute to refilling groundwater storage basins. Collective cooperation is needed among water management entities to reach sustainability goals, implement conservation measures, and improve infrastructure. The South San Joaquin Irrigation District is using water efficient practices and replaced lower-value, water intensive crops with higher value ones while increasing crop yield by 30%.

The Tuolumne River Trust has fostered partnerships with local and regional entities to support the Tuolumne River Parkway, the Dos Rios Land Acquisition, the La Grange Area Habitat Restoration, Dennett Dam Removal and is celebrating 10 years of success.

**IX.** Self-Help Enterprises Emergency Drought Services – Christy McKinnon.

Services Provided by Self-Help Enterprises in Stanislaus County with qualifications:

- Interim Water – Tanks and Hauled Water Program: Installation of a 2500 gallon water storage tank and regular delivery of potable water to eligible households.
- Emergency Bottled Water Program - Regularly delivered bottled water to eligible households enrolled in a qualifying emergency services program.
- Private Domestic Water Well Abandonment, Repair, Replacement and Connection Grant Program - Up to \$60,000 in grant funds to assist with a permanent solution for households that have lost access to water due to a dry private domestic water well.
- Water Quality Program - Water testing and filtration system installation for eligible households experiencing contamination issues or concerns with their private domestic water well.

Eligibility Requirements (individual programs may have specific or separate requirements):

- Property must be located in one of our nine service areas (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus or Tulare County).
- Primary household water source must be a private domestic water well located on the parcel OR household must be a participant in a shared well agreement.
- Must provide verification of property ownership.
- Must provide verification of occupancy (for tenant occupied residences when applicable).
- Income may not exceed 80% of Area Median Income at time of application via Self Certification (programs may have different income qualification requirements – contact our Drought Support Line for more information).
- Must submit a complete application.
- For water well grant funds, households must provide a minimum of one estimate for well replacement, repair or connection (if applicable).

For additional information households may contact the following departments directly:

Drought Support Line: 559-802-1685  
Water Well Line: 559-802-1289  
Bottled Water Line: 559-802-1284  
Water Quality Line: 559-802-1285

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/drywell.shtm>

**X.** Schedule for upcoming WAC meetings – Christy McKinnon.

**XI. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.**

**Scheduling of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, Feb 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau,  
1201 L St., Modesto

PREPARED BY:  
Rebeca Padilla, CA III  
Christy McKinnon, Groundwater Resources Manager