



**Stanislaus County  
Water Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

February 22, 2023 9:05 a.m.  
Stanislaus Farm Bureau

**Members Present:**

Joe Alamo  
Rachelle Antinetti  
Louis Brichetto  
Caitie Diemel

Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis  
Sean Roddy  
Cooper Rossiter

Tim Sanders  
Edward Tobias  
Christy McKinnon  
Terry Withrow

**Members Absent:**

Daniel Bays  
Larry Byrd  
Francisco Canela

Erika Durrer  
Vince Dykzeul  
Richard Gemperle

Rob Kostlivy  
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 February 22, 2023 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 October 26, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the October 26, 2022, meeting were presented by the Vice Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Tim Sanders

Second: Joe Alamo

Vote: Unanimous

## **VI. Selection of WAC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023**

Current WAC Chair Daniel Bays and Vice-Chair Tom Orvis were nominated to serve in their existing positions for the 2022 calendar year.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Edward Tobias  
Second: Jim Mortensen  
Vote: Unanimous

## **VII. Informational Items**

### **I. Christy McKinnon for Courtney Carpenter, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist – NOAA National Weather Service Outlook and Forecast**

Most of the groundwater subbasin areas within Stanislaus County have received at least 13-15 inches of precipitation this year to date. Portions of the County northern triangle region have received up to 30.21 inches of precipitation, which is above average. On February 21, 2023, we saw the precipitation levels increase by %175 in addition to above average water levels recorded in most of the major state reservoirs.

Stanislaus County was included in a large portion of California that has been declared to be in an extreme drought these past three years and has since been reclassified as being in moderate drought in areas to abnormally dry in other areas. The Climate Prediction Center expects ENSO-neutral conditions to begin within the next couple of months and California's water supply will be dependent on the individual storms that are to come.

If you have question or would like to be added to partner emails list, please contact: NWS Sacramento [Courtney.carpenter@noaa.gov](mailto:Courtney.carpenter@noaa.gov). A Forecaster can be reached 24/7 (916) 979-3045 or [nws.sacramento@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.sacramento@noaa.gov).

### **II. Laura Ramos, Deputy Executive Officer – San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program, (CAP)**

The San Joaquin Valley Water CAP promotes collaborative efforts by building coalitions among stakeholders and interested parties to develop one vision for water to represent the collective San Joaquin Valley. The CAP uncommon dialogue was initiated in 2010 by Fresno State, Stanford University, and other Stakeholders State when the first conversation began and included over 50 participants.

CAP decision making rules were approved by over 70 plenary group members with a goal of as close to unanimous consent as possible to make decisions through caucuses, not individual organizations, to ensure mutually beneficial

outcomes to promote safe drinking water, sustainable water and agriculture, ecosystem health, consistent policies, and increase local government resources by using the best available and sound science. The CAP includes representatives from safe drinking water advocates agencies, Environmental NGO's, local governments, farmers and the agricultural industry, and other public water agencies.

Successful collaboration is achieved by empowering facilitative leadership, and engaging all parties to have open, transparent, communication, build mutual trust and grow relationships between stakeholders to solve problems, establish common ground and share the benefits as the program is further developed and moves forward.

**III. Debbie Montalbano, Turlock Irrigation District - Turlock Subbasin Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant SGMA Implementation Round 2**

DWR released a competitive grant solicitation for eligible applicants on a subbasin wide basis that could include multiple projects and components per submittal to support GSP implementation. The West Turlock GSA applied for SGMA 2 grant funding for projects and other GSP implementation activities on behalf of the Turlock Subbasin. Eighty-two applications were submitted to the Department which has estimated that the awards will be announced by August of 2023. The application for the Turlock Subbasin included a request for funding to support planning activities for the development of a subbasin wide recharge master plan that would create a roadmap and a clear plan for developing sustainable water resources through water recharge projects within the Turlock Subbasin. Funding awarded for the project would support modeling, on-site analysis, the installation of monitoring wells, development of pilot projects, and public outreach.

**IV. Julia Stornetta – General Manager- Stanislaus East Mutual Water Company [stornettagroup@gmail.com](mailto:stornettagroup@gmail.com)**

The Stanislaus East Mutual Water Company is a private mutual benefit corporation formed and funded by individual landowners. It was created in response to the unavailability of surface water for conjunctive water use. As a mutual water company, the landowners have formed an entity that can contract with irrigation and water districts to import surface water and be eligible to receive grant funding. Currently, the Mutual Water Company includes approximately 17,000 gross acres in Stanislaus County. The structure of the company is a 5-member board of directors that holds monthly meetings, and supporting staff: general manager, engineering team and legal counsel. Members of the Stanislaus East Mutual Water Company are eligible to participate in applying for grant funding, receive communication in monthly meetings, participate in contracting efforts for surface water supplies, and are represented at agency meetings. The membership is currently open to

landowners in the non-district east areas. The cost is \$8 an acre but may decrease when there are more members to share the costs.

[Stanislaus East Mutual Water Company January 25, 2023 \(stancounty.com\)](#)

**V. Gordon Enas – Modesto Irrigation District -Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement (TRVA)**

Gordon Enas provided an update on the TRVA which includes the possibility of SWRCB amendment to the 2018 Water Quality Control Plan, (WQCP) to incorporate the TRVA. In Spring 2023, the SWRCB would issue a draft Scientific Basis Report, hold a public workshop, and accept written comments on the draft Scientific Basis Report. In Fall of 2023 the Report would be submitted for peer review, a draft staff report issued by the SWRCB for the 2018 WQCP amendment to incorporate the TRVA for public review and comment. In Winter/Spring 2024, final draft staff report would be issued, an additional workshop held and SWRCB to consider TRVA for adoption. Any final TRVA will be required to be reviewed and approved by the District Board of Directors.

[PowerPoint Presentation \(stancounty.com\)](#)

**VI. Christy McKinnon – Stanislaus County Non-District East Landowner Event**

The focus of the workshop was to provide an overview of SGMA and to discuss government options for landowners in the non-district east management area of the Modesto Subbasin based on agricultural needs. Stanislaus County gave a discussion regarding the responsibility of the County to oversee management of the groundwater resources within the management area of the non- district east as specified by the current Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the subbasin. Ensuring compliance with the GSP is in addition to the County's responsibility for enforcing the groundwater ordinance which was created in response to and to parallel with development and provisions identified in SMGA. The intent of the Ordinance is to protect Stanislaus County residents from undesirable results that occur from the unsustainable extraction of groundwater resources. A system for reviewing non-exempt well permits has been created by the Department of Environmental Resources and includes compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act to evaluate the environmental impacts of issuing non-exempt and discretionary non de-minimus well permits.

[Landowner-event1.pdf \(stancounty.com\)](#)

**VII. Christy McKinnon – East Turlock GSA – Upcoming March 7, 2023, ETSGSA Workshop Regarding Pumping Management, Metering, Fees, Credit and Trading Pilot Program.**

[etsgsa\\_newsletter.pdf \(stancounty.com\)](#)  
[Untitled \(9 x 6 in\) \(stancounty.com\)](#)

**VIII. Round Table Discussion:**

Rachelle Antinetti requested that an update is provided regarding the Riverbank Army Ammunition Facility and that information about recharge projects, in Merced and Kerns County is provided at upcoming meetings and what are some of the struggles that these projects are facing.

**IX. Meeting adjourned: 11:11am**

**Scheduling of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau, 1  
201 L St., Modesto

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