



# Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

## Minutes

May 29, 2024, 9:09 a.m.  
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

### Members Present:

Daniel Bays  
Louis Brichetto  
Joseph Day  
Caitie Diemel

Christy McKinnon  
Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis  
Sean Roddy

Tim Sanders  
Edward Tobias  
Rod Vilas  
Terry Withrow

### Members Absent:

Rachelle Antinetti  
Larry Byrd

Vince Dkyzeul  
Cooper Rossiter

- I. Call to Order at 9:09am ( The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for May 29, 2024, Water Advisory Committee Meeting)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Roll Call
- V. **Action Items (subject to formal vote):**

A quorum of voting members was present

- I. Approval of January 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**VI. Informational Items (not subject to a formal vote):**

- I. Marina Deligiannis – Stantec, County Drought Resilience Planning Kick-Off Meeting:

The Stanislaus County Drought Resilience Plan will be developed in partnership with the County DER and OES Department and Stantec, under a technical services agreement awarded by the Department of Water Resources. The Plan will be a stand alone document to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells. The Plan will include the formation of a Drought and Water Shortage Task force responsible for providing input and feedback, to identify problems and solutions, and support Plan implementation and development with dissemination of task force findings and recommendations. The Plan will include a risk assessment based on data review and analysis and corresponding emergency response actions and long-term mitigation actions.
  
- II. James Dunbar, Business Development Manager – Lystek, Commercial Grade Biosolids Fertilizer:

Lystek technology transforms biosolids to a fertilizer and is a cost-effective alternative biosolids management option in use in certain areas of the state. The California Environmental Protection Agency Cal Recycle Department of Resources and Recycling and Recovery and has provide written information indicating that the product meets SB 1383 regulations as a reduction in landfill disposal as an organic waste reduction activity. Lystek would like to expand their sales and distribution area to Stanislaus County and requests that the County consider modifying County Ordinance to allow application of the product which may improve yields and reduce impact costs.
  
- III. Robert Kostlivy and Rachel Riess – DER, PFAS Toxicity and Drinking Water Standards:

Director Kostlivy shared a video about the use of biosolids on farms in Maine which was later linked to PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater which led to a new law that bans the spreading of sludge.

Mrs. Reiss gave an overview on Per-and Polyflouroalkyl Substances, (PFAS), which are linked to chronic health hazards from long term exposure, and that the State Water Board is implementing monitoring measures for PFAS to protect drinking water quality. PFAS are very stable in the environment and are resistant to breaking down in addition to remaining in the human body for long periods of time. PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are released into the ground or into lakes and rivers and can contaminate drinking water wells. The water board has issued notification and response levels for common PFAS compounds to manage issues with drinking water and water systems must comply with monitoring, reporting, and public notification requirements in addition to correcting drinking water standards within a specified time period.

IV. Christy McKinnon- DER, Revised 2022 Modesto Groundwater Subbasin GSP. Modesto irrigation District Long-Term Groundwater Replenishment Program:

Ms. McKinnon provided a presentation to the committee regarding the revised Modesto Subbasin GSP scheduled for a public hearing at the County BOS June 25, 2025, meeting date. The GSP has been revised to include additional analysis on the effects of beneficial users of groundwater from lowering the groundwater levels below the minimum thresholds and development of a domestic well mitigation plan to mitigate the impacts of dry wells caused by GSA management activities. The revised GSP included specific details of implementing feasible projects and management actions with demand management triggers, timelines and commitments to taking robust actions to ensure that declining trends in groundwater levels are stopped and reversed before reaching the projected interim milestone levels in order identify and stay on a feasible path to achieve sustainability.

Where possible, landowners are encouraged to participate in the Long-Term Groundwater Replenishment Program where 60,000 AF of water is available for replenishment in wet water years. The program is aimed on reduction reliance on pumping, promoting groundwater storage programs, provide flood control and protect the groundwater for future generations.

V. Louis Brichetto- Member District 1:

Mr. Brichetto provided recommendation for Stanislaus County prohibition on Out-of-Basin Water Transfers, recommendations for public water agency farmer-to-farmer water transfer policies and fiscal incentives to maximize use of surface water supplies. The committee was in support of addition of additional discussion and consideration of these issues as well as evaluation of the benefits for a whole-basin management approach at a future meeting date.

VI. Mike Tietze- East Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Update:  
Mr. Tietze provided an overview of the Overdraft Reduction Plan for the ETGSA. The GSA is developing recharge programs, a multi-benefit land repurposing program and a land retirement program to provide incentives to reduce demand in the ETGSA area of the Subbasin. The GSA will use an adaptive management approach based on triggers, course corrections, actions and intervention measures, a Groundwater Use Management Program in addition to a Well Mitigation Program to address the DWR incomplete determination and to demonstrate a feasible and robust path to achieve the Subbasin's sustainability goals.

VII. Christy McKinnon – DER, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Updates

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Upcoming Workshops:

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Stakeholder Workshop #1 – Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 4:30 p.m. Topic: SGMA Requirements, Draft Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Workshop #2 – Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 4:30 p.m. Topic: Introduction to the Brown Act and Draft Communications and Engagement Plan

Open House Presentation – September 25, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Public Review Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan

### Delta -Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Plan Updates:

The Northern Delta Mendota Region's has agreed to collectively work on a plan to address groundwater overdraft in the region.

On April 22, 2024, a Non-District Landowner Workshop was hosted by Stanislaus County and can be viewed at the link below:

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/dm-non-district-workshop-final-20240422.pdf>

On May 10, 2024, Webinar on the Draft Single GSP for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and Draft Chapters of the GSP are now available for public comment at the webpage below:

<https://deltamendota.org/draft-gsp-documents/>

There will be an additional upcoming workshop to be announced when the final GSP Chapters become available for public review

- V. Round Table Discussion:
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 12:15am
- VII. Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau,  
1201 L St. Modesto, Ca

\*Underlined items are Action Items subject to vote as described in the committee by-laws.