

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
April 15, 2026**

The Governing Board of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) met in regular session in person at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Board Room at 9:00 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. Chairman de Graaf called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

PRESENT: Daniel de Graaf, City of Ripon
 Jaylen French, City of Escalon
 Robert Holmes, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
 Billy Van Ryn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
 Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

ABSENT: None

Also present were SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk; SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary Brandon Nakagawa; and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 – Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Holmes to approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: de GRAAF FRENCH HOLMES VAN RYN WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #2 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements through March 31, 2026

Ms. Denise Freiwald, SSJID Accountant, addressed the Board and gave a quarterly oral presentation of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Financial Statements through March 31, 2026. She provided detailed descriptions of the balance sheets, cash balances, accounts payable, bank reconciliation, statement of changes in net position, statements of members' capital, expense reimbursements to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and the SSJGSA 2026 budget balance to date of \$384,129.00 which is 91-percent (91%) remaining of the 2026 budget. Ms. Freiwald noted a significant decrease in the 2026 banking fees which totaled \$200.00 year-to-date.

Item #3 – Discussion on Recent Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Meetings

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary, addressed the Board and gave a recap of action and/or discussion at the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Board meeting held April 8. A copy of the ESJGWA agenda packet was provided in the SSJGSA agenda packet, Item #3.

Mr. Nakagawa detailed the ESJGWA's proposed 2026-2027 budget, noted the recommended member allocation for the SSJGSA of \$44,561.00, and explained the methodology used to calculate the member allocations which is based on groundwater pumping and population for each groundwater sustainability agency (GSA). He stated that staff would be requesting Board direction, during agenda Item #4, on whether to approve the proposed 2026-27 budget at the next scheduled ESJGWA Board meeting on June 10.

Mr. Nakagawa pointed out the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant fund balance, in the amount of \$2,652,878.00, which must be spent by the end of the 2026 calendar year. He noted the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) requirement for groundwater well monitoring per the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and stated that \$1,363,535.00 of the grant balance is allocated to well monitoring/monitoring improvements. Kleinfelder, Program Manager for the ESJGWA's well monitoring program, has begun the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for well drilling services within the GSA.

Mr. Nakagawa stated that the ESJGWA has assigned one (1) new well to be drilled and monitored by the SSJGSA outside of the Representative Monitoring Network (RMN), and listed potential sites within the GSA. All new ESJGWA well sites are anticipated to be secured in six to eight (6-8) weeks, with drilling to commence in August/September; and will be owned by and the responsibility of the GSA. Once the SSJGSA monitoring well location has been finalized, staff will present to the Board for approval.

Board discussion included ownership of the monitoring well (e.g. SSJGSA versus City), and a subsequent agreement between the SSJGSA and the City in which the monitoring well will be located.

Mr. Nakagawa commented on the discovery of DWR's SGMA portal lacking some ESJGWA data for the past several years. Historically, it has been the responsibility of San Joaquin County (SJC) Public Works to provide groundwater information for the portal, and the SJC Spring and Fall Groundwater Reports. The SJC 2025 Groundwater Reports contained questionable data errors and invalid comparisons. ESJGWA Executive Director Julia Berry has corrected the inaccuracies and/or added the missing data to the SGMA portal, and reassigned responsibility of uploading the groundwater data onto DWR's portal to ESJGWA. Mr. Nakagawa added that the next ESJGWA Board meeting in June will include a well mitigation program update including development and application process.

SSJGSA Director and ESJGWA Chairman Holmes acknowledged and commended Ms. Berry on the progress made in coordinating the GSAs towards the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update due in 2030, and added that SJC Board Supervisor Paul Canepa had attended that last two (2) ESJGWA Board meetings. He stated that there were no concerns expressed from the ESJGWA member agencies regarding the proposed 2026-27 budget.

Item #4 – Direction to SSJGSA Representatives to Approve Proposed ESJGWA 2026-27 Budget

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Van Ryn to direct the SSJGSA representatives to vote "yes" in approval of the proposed ESJGWA 2026-27 budget.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	de GRAAF FRENCH HOLMES VAN RYN WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #5 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:

- a) **Staff and Consultant Updates**
None
- b) **Technical Advisory Committee**
None
- c) **Member Reports**
None
- d) **Correspondence**
None

The Board convened to Closed Session at 9:45 a.m.

Special SSJGSA Counsel Valerie Kincaid joined the meeting, via the online Zoom meeting platform, at 9:55 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #6 – Closed Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:46 a.m. No reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Item #7 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board