

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
July 16, 2025**

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

ABSENT: Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Also present were SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary Brandon Nakagawa, Special SSJGSA Counsel Valerie Kincaid, and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 – Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2025

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

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #2 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements through June 2025

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 June 30, 2025. 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 2025 budget balance to date of \$235,252.00.

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

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary, addressed the Board regarding Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) business, and announced the recent hire of Ms. Julia Berry as the ESJGWA Executive Director. He stated that the ESJGWA Executive Committee (EC), consisting of ESJGWA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) member representatives from Lockeford Community Services District (LCSD), North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), Stockton East Water District (SEWD), San Joaquin County (SJC), and SSJGSA, met with three (3) consultants regarding satellite groundwater data collection services. The PowerPoint presentations from Land IQ, MLJ Environmental, and Zanjero were included in the Agenda Item #3 Staff Report.

Mr. Nakagawa explained the scope of services proposed by the three data collection consultants and their experience with other GSAs. He stated that early discussions at the ESJGWA level included the value of contracting a groundwater data collection consultant versus the expense; usage of satellite data to improve the groundwater model; that all the ESJGWA GSAs should utilize the same satellite data collection for consistency; and whether all GSAs can handle the financial obligation to obtain a groundwater data consultant. Mr. Nakagawa also noted plans for the ESJGWA to develop a Groundwater Pumping Reduction Plan by a November 2027 deadline, as promised to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Mr. Nakagawa introduced ESJGWA Executive Director Julia Berry, who was attending the meeting via the online Zoom meeting platform. Ms. Berry addressed the Board and provided background of her experience with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) since 2016, forming three (3) GSAs, managing two (2) California water districts, graduating from California Polytechnic State University with a degree in agriculture, and growing up on a family-owned farm. She concluded by stating that she looks forward to meeting and working with the ESJGWA member agencies.

Mr. Nakagawa provided an update on the ESJGWA Board approving the proposed 2025-2026 Budget on July 9, totaling \$3,357,000.00 in appropriations, which are offset by a projected carryover of \$2,467,247.00 from the fund balance, \$225,000.00 contribution from SJC Water Investigation Zone No. 2, and \$664,753.00 in GSA Member contributions. Notable expenses include the Executive Director compensation, groundwater data collection, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report to DWR, and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expenditures (e.g. monitoring well drilling, instrumentation, data gaps). The SSJGSA 2026 Member Contribution to the ESJGWA will be \$44,561.00 which is formulated based upon groundwater pumping and population.

Mr. Nakagawa announced that the SSJGSA is slated to give its “GSA Spotlight” Presentation at an upcoming ESJGWA Board meeting. The “GSA Spotlight” allows a selected GSA the opportunity to highlight their agency’s history, services, groundwater status, and plans for the future. Topics to consider for SSJGSA’s presentation could include the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP), the South County Water Supply Project, and the Canyon Tunnel Project.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #4 – 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 9:32 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #5 – Closed Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:24 a.m. No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board