

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
August 19, 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 additional public access provided as a courtesy 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
Mike Weststeyn, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

ABSENT: Billy Van Ryn, 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 Kincaird, and SSJID Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #1 – Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2025

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

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #2 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements through July 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 July 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 \$328,130.00 which is 77-percent (77%) remaining of the 2026 budget.

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 August 12. A copy of the ESJGWA agenda packet was provided in the SSJGSA agenda packet, Item #3.

Mr. Nakagawa noted that an ESJGWA budget increase for \$167,000.00 had been approved for a new budget item “2025 Periodic Evaluation/Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Response.” The budget amendment will address meeting the requirements of the California Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) feedback/comments received regarding the ESJGWA GSP Update, by the October 2026 deadline. Draft responses were developed, addressing DWR’s six (6) areas of concern (e.g. data collection, groundwater sustainability, etc.), by the consulting firm Woodard & Curran (W&C) and reviewed by a group of the ESJGWA member agencies. It was noted that the topics of concern pertained to questions about the consultant’s approach in the GSP, and missing well data. Not providing the information and clarifications listed by DWR could produce a negative ruling of the GSP Update and place the ESJGWA on probationary status.

The draft responses to DWR will be presented to the ESJGWA Board on September 9. The deadline for the ESJGWA to submit DWR’s required revisions to the GSP is October 1. DRW will finalize status of all 2025 GSP Updates by January 2027.

Mr. Nakagawa noted that the ESJGWA Board adopted a resolution approving the amended and restated Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Program for Domestic Well Mitigation, on August 12. The original ESJGWA Resolution No. 24-02, adopted September 11, 2024, established a coordinated subbasin-wide program and an initial \$200,000.00 Dry Well Mitigation Fund. The updated, implemented program provides a single process for emergency, interim, and financial assistance when a domestic water supply well fails because of groundwater overdraft occurring after January 1, 2015. The amended program reinstates the six (6) month period for claims occurring between January 1, 2015 and August 12, 2026. The 6-month period to submit claims for this timeframe will expire on February 12, 2027.

Mr. Nakagawa explained that should an ESJGWA member agency (GSA) have a well that has gone dry, a claim must be submitted by the landowner (Applicant), and the well must be evaluated by the ESJGWA Technical Committee. The ESJGWA Board has the authority to approve or deny the submitted claim. The ESJGWA has already received a claim submitted for a well located on 8-Mile Road, in Stockton, which is currently under review by the Technical Committee.

The SSJGSA Board inquired if a landowner could sue for damages should the Technical Committee review and/or investigation determine that the cause of their dry well was due to overdraft from an adjacent well. Mr. Nakagawa responded that a party could not sue the ESJGWA, that an issue as such would be considered a civil matter, and that the ESJGWA’s role is to oversee groundwater levels and overdraft. SSJGSA Special Counsel Valerie Kincaid added that language established in the original Well Mitigation Program (Resolution 24-02) contained a disclaimer stating that the ESJGWA is not the cause nor bears responsibility for pumping.

Director Holmes noted that developing and implementing the Domestic Well Mitigation application process is a requirement of DWR, and that a lot of progress has been made in communications with DWR regarding the GSP Update within the last 6-8 months.

Mr. Nakagawa mentioned potential grant opportunities and highlighted the Watershed Resilience Grant Program which has funds ~\$92 million for watershed resilience planning and projects.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #4 – Various Reports to the Governing Board:

a) Staff and Consultant Updates

Zanjero, Inc.:

Mr. Nakagawa reported on the consultation work-to-date provided by Zanjero, Inc. (Zanjero), which was approved by the SSJGSA Board on December 17, 2025. He recapped the Consultant Services Agreement, with Zanjero, for Satellite Based Evapotranspiration (ET) analysis and support for work associated with groundwater modeling, surface water deliveries, and/or groundwater pumping.

Mr. Nakagawa noted that Zanjero's busy schedule has allowed little time to complete work on behalf of the SSJGSA, and added that Zanjero is also contracted with the ESJGWA and has prioritized their work. Mr. Nakagawa stated that he will contact Zanjero to ensure that the SSJGSA analysis is completed and data provided by the year end of 2026.

Board discussion included that Zanjero's work for the SSJGSA accounting framework should have been easily replicated based on historical and ET data already completed for Stockton East Water District, and the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District.

Well Monitoring Program:

Mr. Nakagawa reported on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant fund balance, the ESJGWA's Well Monitoring Program, and the status of an SSJGSA well to be drilled and monitored per ESJGWA requirements. SSJGSA Board discussion included ownership of the monitoring well (e.g. SSJGSA versus City), subsequent agreement between the SSJGSA and the City in which the monitoring well will be located, and an SSJGSA resolution identifying responsibility for future well-destruction costs.

- b) **Technical Advisory Committee**
None
- c) **Member Reports**
None
- d) **Correspondence**
None

The Board convened to Closed Session at 10:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #5 – Closed Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:42 a.m. No reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board