

**South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Meeting
Manteca, California
December 17, 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
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, 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 October 15, 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 – Discussion and Adoption of the 2026 Annual Budget

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator and SSJGSA Secretary, addressed the Board and stated that the proposed SSJGSA 2026 budget was presented at the October 15, 2025 board meeting with instruction for Directors to take the preliminary budget back to their respective agencies for review.

Mr. Nakagawa stated that the preliminary 2026 Budget totals \$422,300.00 in appropriations based on historical/projected costs and anticipated activity levels, accounting for a 9.4-percent (9.4%) increase over 2025. He noted that staff had not received comments and/or feedback from the SSJGSA Members and/or from their respective agencies.

Board discussion included the probability of increased Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) 2026 membership dues, based on a slight increase in the ESJGWA budget for the Executive Director salary as well as costs associated with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance (e.g. consultants, projects).

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt the SSJGSA 2026 Annual 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

Item #3 – Consider Approval of Consultant Services Agreement with Zanjero, Inc. for Satellite Based Evapotranspiration Analysis and Support for a Not to Exceed Cost of \$35,000.00

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding approval of a Consultant Services Agreement with Zanjero, Inc. (Zanjero) for Satellite Based Evapotranspiration (ET) analysis and support. He noted that the SSJGSA 2026 Budget, which was just approved by Board action in the previous agenda item, had allocated \$85,000.00 for technical consulting which includes \$35,000.00 for work associated with groundwater modeling, surface water deliveries, and/or groundwater pumping.

Mr. Nakagawa recapped Zanjero Senior Principal Greg Young’s presentation to the SSJGSA board, on October 15, that outlined methods used to help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) estimate annual groundwater pumping using publicly available satellite data. He named Member GSAs in the ESJGWA currently utilizing Zanjero’s methods including the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), Stockton East Water District (SEWD), and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD).

Mr. Nakagawa detailed Zanjero’s proposal to perform an analysis of SSJID’s agricultural service areas for years 2020 through 2024 including field-level crop surveys, surface delivery water data, and estimates of effective precipitation. He added that the scope of work includes a task to coordinate with other GSAs within the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin on an agreed upon method to use the ET data for annual reporting on groundwater pumping through project actions and demand reduction.

Staff recommended that the Board approve a Consultant Service Agreement with Zanjero for satellite-based ET analysis and support for a not to exceed cost of \$35,000.00.

Board discussion included ownership of groundwater data for cities within District boundaries; criteria for APNs analyzed (e.g. field usage, crop data); and SSJID’s 55,000 acres of irrigated land.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Van Ryn and seconded by Director Holmes to approve a Consultant Services Agreement with Zanjero, Inc. for satellite-based Evapotranspiration analysis and support for a not to exceed cost of \$35,000.00.

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 #4 – Discussion Regarding Monitoring Well Drilling Locations

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding potential monitoring well drilling sites within SSJGSA boundaries, in accordance with the ESJGWA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) requirements. He stated that the ESJGWA has funds allocated to drill up to eleven (11) monitoring wells within the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, therefore the ESJGWA is requesting potential sites be submitted by its member GSAs. Once well drilling sites have been finalized, a Request for Proposal process will commence to seek drilling contractors. Potential construction is estimated to begin in Spring 2026.

Mr. Nakagawa named two (2) viable sites within SSJGSA boundaries including a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station on Doak Boulevard in Ripon, and the Ripon Community Center. He added that Kleinfelder, Inc. proposed six (6) sites, in response to the ESJGWA’s request, and identified Mavis Stouffer Park in Ripon as a potential monitoring well location. Mr. Nakagawa noted that the City of Ripon owns the properties associated with all the three proposed wells, allowing for easy clean up, access, and monitoring. He listed the attributes for each of the three named sites.

Board discussion included conducting site visits to the proposed well locations; ownership of the monitoring wells (e.g. City versus SSJGSA); and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and Access Agreement between the City of Ripon and the SSJGSA.

Item #5 – Discussion on Recent Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Meetings

Mr. Nakagawa reported that 2026 will be year two (2) of Director Holmes’ term as the ESJGWA Board Chair. He added that the ESJGWA is headed in a good direction under the leadership of Ms. Julia Berry as Executive Director.

Director Holmes stated that the ESJGWA Board meetings have been well attended, with the “GSA Spotlight” a successful and informative addition. The “GSA Spotlight” for January and February 2026 have already been voluntarily scheduled. The implementation phase of the GSP has begun, consisting of twenty-five (25) action items. He noted that one of the action items is the development of a Domestic Well Mitigation Policy which will entail defining and implementing the application process.

SSJGSA Board discussion included a seemingly incomplete SGMA portal lacking ESJGWA data for the past several years. Ms. Berry is researching accountability for this monitoring oversight, and consideration is being given to engage Condor Earth Technologies, Inc. to accurately monitor groundwater wells, moving forward. San Joaquin County (SJC) Public Works has historically provided groundwater information for the SGMA portal, and the SJC Spring and Fall Groundwater Reports, though the 2025 Groundwater Reports, contain questionable data errors and invalid comparisons.

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #6 – 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 9:31 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item #7 – Closed Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:34 a.m. No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Item #8 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board