



STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT

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Special Eastern Water Alliance

Post Office Box 5157, Stockton, CA 95205

An Alliance of Water Districts, Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, and Stockton East Water District, located over the critically overdrafted Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

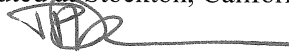
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Water Alliance will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at Stockton East Water District, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California

MEETING OF THE EASTERN WATER ALLIANCE

A) Call to Order	<u>Page No.</u>
B) Roll Call	
C) Public Comment	
D) Presentation and Action items:	01
1. Approval of Minutes	
a. Minutes 03/06/25	
2. Consider Adopting 2026 Multi-County Agency Biennial Notice	07
E) Unfinished Business	
F) New Business	
G) Agenda Planning for Next Meeting	
H) Closed Session	
1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9 – one case	
I) Adjournment	

Certification of Posting

I hereby certify that on September 2, 2026, I posted a copy of the foregoing agenda in the outside display case at the District Office, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California, said time being at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Water Alliance (Government Code Section 54954.2). Executed at Stockton, California on September 2, 2026.



Priya Ram, Director of Finance & Administration
Stockton East Water District

Assistance for the Disabled: If you are disabled in any way and need accommodation to participate in the meeting, please call Bianca Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant (209) 948-0333 for assistance so the necessary arrangements can be made.

Eastern Water Alliance (EWA)

Agenda Item: D-1a

Date: 09/03/26

Post Office Box 5157

Stockton, CA 95205

An Alliance of Water Districts, Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD), North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), and Stockton East Water District (SEWD), located over the critically over drafted Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin

Thursday, March 6, 2025 Minutes

MEETING OF THE EASTERN WATER ALLIANCE

- A) Call to Order: Director McGurk called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- B) Roll Call: A full quorum of the Eastern Water Alliance Board member were not present. Present at the Eastern Water Alliance Meeting were Directors Simpson, Colombini and McGurk. Also present were SEWD Assistant Manager Vega, District Engineer Evensen, Associate Engineer I O'Day, Administrative Assistant Rodriguez, and Legal Counsel Zolezzi, NSJWCD General Manager Schwabauer and Legal Counsel Spaletta. Directors Thompson, Sanguinetti and Roberts were absent.
- C) Public Comment: None
- D) Presentation and Action Items:
1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Minutes 12/13/24Director McGurk reported the minutes for 12/13/24 will be approved at the next Eastern Water Alliance Meeting.
 2. Woodward & Curran – Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan Presentation
- Katie Cole provided the Board with a presentation of the Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan as part of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Watershed Resilience Program, launched under the 2023 California Water Plan. The meeting aimed to seek commitments to participate in the project and to demonstrate the use of an online engagement platform. The Watershed Resilience Program builds upon the existing IRWM Program, emphasizing climate vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, watershed-scale collaboration, and inclusivity. The Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan seeks to strengthen the resilience of water resources for communities, economies, and ecosystems through integrated regional efforts.
- Attendees were informed about the key components of the plan, including watershed network coordination, climate change analysis, the development of adaptation and implementation strategies, and performance tracking. Participants were encouraged to contribute their specialized knowledge, particularly in areas related to watershed health and Tribal ecological knowledge, to help inform the plan's development and avoid unintended consequences.
- An online engagement platform was introduced to support collaboration. Stakeholders were asked to register and participate in future engagement activities scheduled for April and May. All engagement on the platform is publicly visible. The meeting concluded with a request for ongoing involvement to ensure the success and equity of the planning process.

3. Legal Counsel Jennifer Spaletta provided the Board with a management timeline explaining the following, between 2025 and 2026, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) will develop rules for demand management. In 2027, the GSAs will adopt enforceable demand management programs, followed by implementation by each GSA as needed starting in 2028. From 2029 through 2040, these programs will continue to be implemented annually as necessary. Throughout each year, groundwater conditions will be monitored and the benefits of the Projects and Management Actions (PMA) will be tracked. By 2040, the goal is to achieve groundwater sustainability.

To support this effort, it is necessary to determine a starting point and select a method to measure annual groundwater use. GSAs must agree on both the starting point and the measurement method to ensure consistent tracking of progress. Measurements will be conducted annually at both the GSA and parcel level.

The simplified calculation of groundwater use involves subtracting applied surface water (18 inches) and precipitation (12 inches) from crop evapotranspiration (36 inches), resulting in a net groundwater use of 6 inches. This net use is then multiplied by the irrigation efficiency factor of 1.3 to determine the total groundwater pumped, which amounts to 7.8 inches.

4. California Water Data Consortium – An Overview of the Groundwater Accounting Platform

Mike and Savannah from California Water Data Consortium presented the Board with a presentation on the Groundwater Accounting Platform (GAP). The agenda covered the platform's context, history, vision, live demonstrations, and practical use cases for both growers and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The platform's development began in 2018 through a collaboration between EDF, Sitka, and RRB, with multi-tenancy launched in 2023 and the first non-pilot users onboarded in 2024. The vision for GAP includes open-source accessibility, allowing GSAs to customize the platform with any consultant, manage multiple water accounts across GSAs, and select from a range of data sources based on local policies.

The platform provides tools for landowners such as a groundwater bank account interface and a fee calculator that supports scenario planning and land management. For GSAs, GAP supports implementation and management of groundwater allocations and aids policy discussions with data insights. Attendees were introduced to platform features through a virtual tour highlighting landowner and water manager experiences, as well as use cases involving various following scenarios. Contact information and a website link to groundwateraccounting.org were provided for further engagement and support.

Jennifer Spaletta inquired what the difference is between total Groundwater Supply and total Groundwater Usage. Savannah replied they are using ET data with the total groundwater supply being the allocation associated with the account and the total groundwater usage representing consumed water. Discussion followed.

5. Presentations Regarding ET Data To Estimate Groundwater Pumping
Ali Diba from DCSE provided the Board with a presentation on the estimation of groundwater pumping and recharge using GROWMAS and OpenET, led by Ali Diba,

Ph.D., P.E. from DCSE, a water resources engineering firm specializing in innovative solutions for governmental agencies. The presentation detailed the evolution and capabilities of tools like METRIC and OpenET for evapotranspiration (ET) estimation. DCSE's work includes a shift from in-house METRIC tools to using OpenET, an open-source platform providing field-level satellite-based ET data derived from multiple satellites and weather station models. OpenET has undergone significant validation and is used by numerous agencies and GSAs. GROWMAS, a portal built on OpenET data, estimates Net-To-From Groundwater (NTFGW) to determine net groundwater recharge or withdrawal. The platform integrates precipitation, surface water, ET, and parcel data, offering automated, customizable analytics accessible across devices. It eliminates the need for costly monitoring infrastructure while providing downloadable reports and multiple temporal resolutions. GROWMAS is already implemented in multiple GSAs and supports effective, scalable, and scientifically validated water resource management.

Legal Counsel Spaletta inquired whether Mr. Diba had calculated annual pumping or the District's net groundwater use. Mr. Diba responded that for every parcel in the District, they are evaluating evapotranspiration (ET), surface water supply, and precipitation.

6. Field-By-Field Evapotranspiration, Crop Type and Precipitation – Land IQ Approach and Results Presentation

Joel from Land IQ provided the Board with a presentation detailing their approach to field-by-field evapotranspiration (ET), crop type identification, and precipitation measurement. The focus was on understanding the difference between applied water, water that is pumped or diverted and typically measured via meters and consumed water, which is water that is evapotranspiration. Consumed water can be measured using crop coefficients or remote sensing technology. Importantly, applied water does not equal consumed water, and in most cases, the combination of applied water and precipitation exceeds actual consumption.

The presentation introduced a decision-tree approach designed to improve the accuracy and equity of water use reporting. Regulatory demands have been driving this shift, with California Water Boards acknowledging that satellite-based measurements of actual ET may be appropriate for estimating groundwater extractions. They also noted that self-estimates of groundwater use would be evaluated case-by-case, considering details like irrigation efficiency and the contribution of precipitation to consumptive use.

To ensure the accuracy of remote sensing estimates, Land IQ emphasized the importance of ground-truthing through independent validation and calibration. This effort avoids interpolation errors caused by cloud or smoke cover and allows for field-specific modeling. Their network includes 92 ground stations that use eddy covariance and surface renewal technologies, developed in collaboration with DWR and UC Davis. These stations measure both evapotranspiration and precipitation at a field level, supporting outreach and planning for growers, allocation programs, and demand management.

Monthly ET results are delivered to GSAs within 30 days of month-end, and the data are reviewed by independent advisors. This information supports water management, fee structures, and reporting. Crop type mapping is performed using the same methods

used for DWR reporting and is available in near real-time to support planning and irrigated acreage tracking.

Precipitation data are gathered from Land IQ's stations and public sources, then converted into spatial maps for monthly and annual use. This helps assign field-level rainfall values, supporting water budgeting and modeling efforts. Crop age, particularly for permanent crops like almonds, is also mapped. This provides another data layer that can influence water management strategies.

Land IQ offers growers direct access to agronomic scientists who help interpret ET and crop data. They provide monthly and seasonal results, highlighting trends such as cumulative ET by crop and age. Notably, results show variability in water use for crops like almonds due to differences in spacing, irrigation, and harvest timing.

An independent advisory group, composed of retired farm advisors and university researchers, has reviewed Land IQ's data monthly since 2021. This group continues to provide recommendations for improvements. The presentation also included a cost overview, noting that charges depend on acreage and crop complexity, with rates ranging from \$0.40 to \$0.80 per acre per year and a minimum commitment of three years. Land IQ is flexible with funding arrangements and may defer some costs.

As of 2025, both growers and GSAs have called for more frequent ET data to improve water management. Responding to this, Land IQ is developing a daily ET tool, launching by October 1, 2025. This tool will integrate grower input, separate precipitation from applied water, and provide near real-time field-level results. It will also include forecasting features to help growers manage toward specific targets.

The presentation concluded with examples of field-specific results, including comparisons of water received versus consumed for various orchards. These data further validated the accuracy of Land IQ's ET estimates and emphasized the impact of crop age and management practices.

7. Zanjero - Using OpenET To Inform Water Resource Management Solutions: A Consultant's Perspective Presentation

Greg Young from Zanjero provided a presentation to the Board titled Using OpenET to Inform Water Resource Management Solutions: A Consultant's Perspective. Zanjero is an advisory firm operating across the arid western United States, supporting water resource management efforts. Their primary motivation for using OpenET is its ease of access, cost-effectiveness for clients, quick data turnaround, and the accuracy needed to support policy-making and operational decisions at the regional level.

The presentation highlighted three practical applications of OpenET in Zanjero's consulting work. The first case involved the Merced Subbasin GSA and their Policy 1, which allows historic groundwater pumping for newly permitted wells without the requirement of direct metering. In this scenario, OpenET was used to estimate applied water for each field, enabling growers to accept capped applied water values. This approach also supported compliance with the Governor's Executive Order mandating that any new well be consistent with an adopted Groundwater Management Plan.

The second example focused on grower outreach within the Merced Subbasin GSA. OpenET data enabled growers to better understand their current evapotranspiration and estimated evapotranspiration of applied water (ETAW). The tool facilitated important discussions about how to achieve required reductions in water use. Starting in 2025,

OpenET will be integrated into allocation tracking systems as part of Merced's groundwater sustainability strategy. Given the legal obligation to reduce consumptive water use by over 100,000 acre-feet annually, this tool provides critical support. Growers can use OpenET to explore their parcels, review ET trends, assess monthly patterns, and understand intra-field variation and how it relates to their allocations.

The third example involved the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), which is using OpenET to evaluate historical monthly evapotranspiration trends. This work incorporates the DWR crop layer to define irrigated parcel boundaries and uses estimates of effective precipitation along with efficiency factors to derive ETAW and applied water values. Additionally, surface water delivery records are used to estimate how much applied water originates from groundwater sources. The district uses this information to support policy discussions related to SGMA compliance and sustainable groundwater use on both a broad and parcel-specific level.

Legal Counsel Spaletta emphasized that the Stockton East Water District (SEWD), North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD) will need to reach an agreement on which OpenET platform to use in order to ensure consistent data and uniform results across all districts.

E) Unfinished Business

F) New Business

G) Agenda Planning for Next Meeting:

The next Eastern Water Alliance is scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

H) Adjournment: Director McGurk adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan M. Vega
Secretary

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2026 Multi-County Agency Biennial Notice

Name of Agency: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone No. _____

Email: _____ Alternate Email: _____

Counties within Jurisdiction, or for Charter Schools, Counties in which the School is Chartered:
(if more space is needed, include an attachment):

No. of Employees* _____ No. of Form 700 Filers* _____

**Including board and committee members*

Accurate disclosure is essential to monitor whether officials have conflicts of interest and to help ensure public trust in government. The biennial review examines current programs to ensure that the agency's code includes disclosure by those agency officials who make or participate in making governmental decisions.

Please identify which statement accurately describes your agency's status.

This agency has reviewed its conflict of interest code. The current code designates all positions which make or participate in making governmental decisions. The designated positions are assigned accurate disclosure categories that relate to the job duties of the respective positions. The code incorporates FPPC regulation 18730 so that all relevant Government Code Sections are referenced.

This agency has reviewed its conflict of interest code and has determined that an amendment is necessary. An amendment may include the following:

New positions which involve the making or participating in the making of decisions which may foreseeably have a material impact on a financial interest

Current designated positions need renaming or deletion

Statutorily required provisions of the code need to be addressed

Disclosure categories need revision

Verification (to be completed if no amendment is required)

This multi-county agency's code accurately designates all positions that make or participate in the making of governmental decisions. The disclosure assigned to those positions accurately requires that all investments, business positions, interests in real property, and sources of income that may foreseeably be affected materially by the decisions made by those holding designated positions are reported. The code includes all other provisions required by Government Code Section 87302.

DRAFT

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Date

All multi-county agencies must complete and return this notice, including those agencies whose codes are currently under review. Please return this notice no later than **October 1, 2026** to the FPPC at biennialnotice@fppc.ca.gov or 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, CA 95811.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE
EASTERN WATER ALLIANCE
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

The Political Reform Act (Government Code Sections 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730) which contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing it may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Exhibits designating officials and employees and establishing disclosure categories shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the Eastern Water Alliance.

Designated employees shall file their Statements of Economic Interests with the Eastern Water Alliance. The Eastern Water Alliance's records are maintained at the Stockton East Water District in Stockton, California.

EXHIBIT “A”
DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES AND POSITIONS

The following are not covered by the code because they must file under section 87200 and, therefore, are listed for informational purposes only:

- Directors and their alternates
- Treasurer

An individual holding one of the above listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance regarding his or her filing obligations if the individual believes that the position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a positions is covered by section 87200.

The following positions entail the making or participation in the making of decisions that may foreseeably have a material effect on their financial interests.

Designated Positions

Legal Advisor
Consultants

Disclosure Categories

1, 2, 3
*

* Consultants shall be included in the list of designated employees and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code subject to the following limitations:

The Chairperson of the Alliance may determine in writing that a particular consultant, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that are limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements described in this section. Such written determination shall include a description of the consultant’s duties, and based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Chairperson’s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code.

EXHIBIT “B”
DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

1. All interests in real property located in whole or in part, within, or not more than two (2) miles outside, the jurisdiction.
2. All investments and business positions in business entities, and income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, from any source which is (1) a private water company; or (2) an entity or person engaged in farming, real estate development or an owner of real property.
3. All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, which provide services, supplies, materials, machinery or equipment of the type utilized by the Alliance.