

**Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County
Flood Control and Water Conservation District Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 16, 2025**

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Advisory Water Commission (AWC) meeting was held at the San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center and commenced at approximately 1:00 p.m. Selinda Centeno of San Joaquin County Public Works conducted roll call, which was taken for members only.

Commissioners and Alternates in attendance: Dante Nomellini Jr., Travis Kahrs, Dotty Nygard, Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand, Charlie Starr, Steve Schwabauer, Scot Moody, John Holbrook, Keith Bussman, Mary Elizabeth, Michael Panzar, Will Price, Christopher Neudeck, Dominick Gulli, and Richard Atkins.

II. Approval of February 19, 2025, Minutes:

Commissioner Christopher Neudeck motioned to amend February minutes to recognize Commissioner Mary Elizabeth's written comments regarding SB-552.

Second: Scot Moody

The vote was unanimous.

III. Discussion/Action Items

- A. **Mokelumne River Integrated Conjunctive Use Program (MICUP) Update-** Presentation by Robert Grangberg from Grangberg Associates, he spoke on the update to the groundwater sustainability plan, the Water Availability Analysis (WAA) modeling using ESJWRM v3.0 and DSM2 continues to support CEQA and water rights processes. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is scheduled for circulation soon. Additionally, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) grant activities are on track to be completed by October 2025. Following that, a petition to amend Application 29835 will be submitted to reflect updated water use and storage plans. Coordination between EBMUD and WID remains active to manage the diversion agreement for 48,000 acre-feet between July and October.
- B. **Mossdale Urban Flood Risk Reduction Project Update-** Mr. Prasad introduced the project and thanked the community for their support on the Mossdale Urban Flood Risk Reduction Program (and Lathrop/ Manteca Feasibility Study) through passage of the Mossdale Overlay Assessment District. Mr. Curry provided an overview of the Program, which has a goal of reducing flood risk to the Mossdale Tract area, enhancing resilience to climate change, and improving habitat in the area. The Program safeguards 55,000 people and 45 critical facilities from flooding. The levees will be upgraded to 200 years of protection. SJAFCA and the Department of Water Resources/ Central Valley Flood Protection Board will be advancing the Manteca Dryland Levee Extension Project, as the first increment of the Program. Mr. Curry showed three restoration sites which may help achieve restoration objectives of the Program. The Draft EIR will be released in

October 2025 for public review and will also be posted on SJAFCA's website (<https://www.sjafca.org/>). The final EIR is tentatively scheduled for May 2026. The Project is currently at the design stage, with construction starting mid-2027.

- C. Mr. Curry discussed the Lathrop and Manteca Feasibility Study conducted by the USACE in partnership with SJAFCA and the CVFPB/ DWR. The Feasibility Study is evaluating the Program for potential federal investment in flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration. Elements of the Mossdale UFRR project that move forward should get cost-share credit under federal effort. The Floodplain Management Planning effort was described to the Advisory Commission. Mr. Curry advised that interagency planning effort is required as part of the federal feasibility study. Regional planning agencies will need to identify potential measures (including policies) for local implementation that will reduce the impacts of future residual flooding and enhance natural floodplain values in conjunction with the federal project. The FMP will be guided by an interagency group to develop and implement an action plan to achieve the plan's goals. SJAFCA will continue to hold meetings in the region to advance Floodplain Management Planning effort in the region to satisfy the requirements of the Program and guide Program delivery.
- D. **Flood Resilience Ordinance Update-** Ashley Couch provided an update on the Flood Resilience Ordinance modernization project, emphasizing efforts to clarify ordinance language in coordination with attorneys and consultants. The draft language has been reviewed and is now ready for adoption, ensuring alignment with federal and state regulations while maintaining current enforcement practices.
- E. **Fall 2024 Groundwater Report Findings-** Venki Narasimhalu from San Joaquin County Water Resources presents the Fall 2024 Groundwater Monitoring Report, covering 200+ wells across two subbasins and three monitoring areas, including river and reservoir observations. Rainfall varied by location; Camanche Reservoir peaked at 95% capacity, New Hogan at 76%, and New Melones at 87%, with the latter two ending slightly below their starting levels. Groundwater elevations and water quality were assessed, noting increased TDS, chloride, and nitrate levels.

IV. Staff Reports

- A. **SJAFCA** –Glenn Prasad reports progress on multiple flood risk reduction projects. The Smith Canal Gate Project is nearing completion, with FEMA certification and county operations and maintenance training underway. The Lower San Joaquin River Project Phase 1 – TS30L Increment is under construction. Phase A Shima Tract increment is currently in design stage. The Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project is at the feasibility study state, with the study concluding in May 2026.
- B.
- C. **San Joaquin County** – Ashley Couch reports that the SB552 update, requested by Mary Elizabeth, will be postponed until the next meeting due to the absence of Director of Emergency Operations, Tiffany Cacho, who is on vacation. He also mentioned that stream and precipitation gauges will be replaced and utilized.

V. Public Comment - Brandon Nakagawa comments on AB14-13 being introduced.

VI. Commissioner Comments – Dom Gulli presents a potential future agenda item on invasive bamboo growth along the Calaveras River, from Pershing Avenue to the San Joaquin River, which could impact channel capacity. Fritz proposes the county research whether the issue falls under county or state jurisdiction and report to the chairman to determine if it should be added to the agenda. Mary Elizabeth requests updates on the well mitigation program and nonprofit nitrate testing efforts. Fritz suggests the topic is better suited for GWA, and Chairman Holbrook notes the irrigated lands program is outside the committee’s purview.

VII. Future Agenda Items-

- A. Wells Within Purview
- B. Calaveras Channel Capacity

VIII. Adjournment – 2:16pm