

**SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday July 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Roberts Union Farm Center
4925 W. Howard Road
Stockton, CA 95206
www.southdeltawater.org
[Board may take action on any listed item.]**

Records are located and can be inspected at 1806 W. Kettleman Lane Suite L, Lodi, CA

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2. Consideration of Adoption of Amended Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan**
 - A. Open Public Hearing
 - B. Staff Report
 - C. Public Comments
- 3. Public Comments**

DATED: July 12, 2022

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact South Delta Water Agency staff at (209) 663-9148 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

STAFF REPORT/BACKGROUND:

In 2014 the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) which required each groundwater basin to form a Sustainable Groundwater Agency or Agencies (“GSA ’s”) to prepare and adopt a Sustainable Groundwater Plan (“GSP”). The plans are required to analyze each basin and adopt measures to achieve sustainability within 20 years.

Pursuant to this legal mandate, 18 GSA’s were formed for the Eastern San Joaquin Basin, which together partnered as the Eastern Groundwater Authority. In 2017, these GSA’s produced a final GSP, which as per the controlling statutes was presented to the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) for review.

DWR’s review of the GSP resulted in the identification of a few inadequacies. These inadequacies have been addressed by the GSA’s, their technical and legal staff and consultants which has resulted in an Amended GSP. That Amended GSP must be adopted by all 18 GSA’s to be effective, and then transmitted to DWR for final approval. Although not anticipated for our GSP, the failure to adequately comply with the law can result in the State Water Resources Control Board taking charge of the basin and mandating actions to achieve sustainability.

The SDWA GSA includes only a small portion of the entire SDWA; lands within the Agency on the east side of the San Joaquin River (see attached map). There are very few users of groundwater in those areas east of the San Joaquin River and within the SDWA boundaries, and the use of groundwater there has been found to not materially affect the groundwater in the area. Those areas are downslope of eastern parts of the County and the groundwater levels are basically constant. The San Joaquin River is a “gaining stream” in this area indicating no groundwater overdraft exists.

The GSP includes many projects anticipated or being undertaken by the other GSA’s in the basin, and those projects are anticipated to achieve sustainability in the required time frame. If those projects do not occur or are not successful in achieving sustainability, the other GSA’s (not SDWA GSA) will consider actions to reduce or limit groundwater extraction. SDWA GSA is not proposing any projects or any control/limitaitons on groundwater use. If local use should significantly increase, actions might need to be taken but only after further public input.

The changes from the 2017 GSP include redefining when “undesirable results” occur and addressing surface subsidence. These will be explained further at the hearing.

To find the Amended Plan visit <http://esjgroundwater.org/Documents/GSP>