



Official Memorandum

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To: SLDMWA Board of Directors and Alternates

From: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Chris Linneman, Regional Drainage Coordinator
Orvil McKinnis, Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

Date: April 9, 2026

RE: Staff Report on Activity Agreements – March 2026

Background

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for March 2026 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

Integrated Regional Water Management Activity (IRWM) Summary

The Roundtable of Regions met to determine potential paths forward for the IRWM Program in the future, given the limited amount of funding provided in Proposition 4 for IRWM Activities (\$100M), and has released a transition plan that may be of interest to member agencies².

Westside San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRMWP)

Self-Help Enterprises has prepared a draft Community Water Needs Assessment for disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Westside San Joaquin IRWM Region, incorporating revisions from staff. The Assessment is being updated to identify and prioritize the most critical drinking water needs for DACs in the region, especially during drought years. The revised draft will be distributed to an IRWM Activity Agreement Member subcommittee for review and input prior to completion, which is anticipated by the end of the fiscal year.

At present, all tasks for the Proposition 1 IRWM grant are on schedule. An amendment request letter for Amendment 7 was submitted to DWR to accommodate construction delays for both CCID and Westlands. The requested amendment would extend the agreement end date to June 30, 2026 with no funds to be requested after September 30, 2026. DWR has granted the amendment request and the term of the grant

¹ For the sake of completeness, this includes those Activity Agreements that have been approved by the Board of Directors, but not yet signed by all interested members and/or participants (i.e., the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Activity Agreement, the Exchange Contractors 2019-2023 Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Agreement).

² Request from Authority staff.



has been extended to June 30, 2026. Closeout documents have been sent to DWR for the CCID project, leaving only the Westlands project needing project completion.

Staff has executed a contract with The Ferguson Group for grant support to support implementation of IRWM projects in the region. Staff will be rolling out the introduction to the program for member agencies for calls for projects throughout the region to be aggregated into a master list to seek funding support and anticipates advancement of this effort beginning this month.

Staff intends to produce a master list of member agency projects, with the intention of using this list to identify funding opportunities, as well as programs that need additional funding support, to assist in guiding educational efforts related to infrastructure funding to advance member agency and Water Authority priority projects.

Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity

Despite the recent storm activity, the Grassland Bypass Channel gates have remained closed since February of 2024 despite substantial rain events in February and March of this year. Storm events at the end of December caused the Grassland Basin Authority to pump water into the Short-Term Storage Basins to prevent discharge through the Grassland Bypass Project, which continued until January 13. Selenium concentrations in Mud Slough and the San Joaquin River remain below the water quality objective.

Grassland Basin Program Activities

- General administration: Review and approve consultant billing. Field review of drainage conditions and correspondence with SJRIP manager. Correspondence with Regional Board staff occurred as required. The FY26/27 budget was adopted at the December meeting.
- Compliance Monitoring: Monitoring in compliance with the 2019 revised WDRs and 2019 Use Agreement is a continuous and daily effort. Regular flow, water quality and toxicity monitoring are required at eight locations at a frequency that varies from monthly to daily.
- Grassland Drainage Area Coalition: Work continues to provide coverage for farmers within the Grassland Drainage Area for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.