PO Box 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635
sldmwa.org

Official Memorandum

To: SLDMWA Board of Directors and Alternates

From: Scott Petersen, Chief Strategic and Administrative Officer
Chris Linneman, Regional Drainage Coordinator
Orvil McKinnis, Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

Date: November 5, 2026

RE: Staff Report on Activity Agreements – October Update

Background

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for October 2026 regarding specified[1] Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

Integrated Regional Water Management Activity (IRWM) Summary

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.

The revised Amendment 8 request was executed on June 24, 2026, which extends the work completion date to January 30, 2027 and no funds to be requested after April 30, 2027.

Woodard & Curran's contract with SLDMWA ended on February 28, 2026. SLDMWA issued a contract amendment on March 13, 2026 extending the completion date through February 28, 2027 in order to complete all work through the grant agreement end date.

[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).

Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity

The Grassland Bypass Channel gates have remained closed since February of 2024 despite substantial rain events in February and March of this year. 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. Water Authority Staff is coordinating with GBA staff and consultants to begin the transition of the GBD Steering Committee Activity Agreement to the GBA. This month, a combined SLDMWA/GBA letter requesting change in discharger/third party representative status was sent to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. This letter will begin the process of officially shifting the responsibility of compliance with the two discharge orders to the GBA.

- 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.

- Mud Slough: Staff is working with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to acknowledge the completion of the Mud Slough Restoration Project per the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and the process is nearly complete.