



# SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

## SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

### MEETING AGENDA

**February 4, 2026**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District/Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency will hold a special meeting at **9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026**, at the Illy Lodge at Illy Sunnyslope Farms located at 3385 Truesdale Rd., Shandon, CA 93461. Virtual options are available for public participation.<sup>1</sup>

**Alternate Location:** Director Miller will participate in the meeting via video conference from 132 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

#### Virtual Options for Public Participation:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84563552575?pwd=g0wKK8L1fAurdongLUSEMCbBgCjGfh.1>

**Meeting ID:** 845 6355 2575 **Passcode:** 243139 **Dial:** (669) 900-6833

**To view supporting documents, go to:** <https://www.ssjwd.org/agendas-minutes>

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2025 SSJWD Special Meeting
  - b. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report – January 30, 2026
5. **Director’s Reports**
  - a. Next WRAC Meeting is February 4, 2026 at 1:30pm
6. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA)**
  - a. Update from SSJWD Consultants – Randy Diffenbaugh and Confluence Engineering Solutions
  - b. PRAGA Stakeholder Workshops – February 10<sup>th</sup> (in-person) and February 11<sup>th</sup> (virtual)
    - i. [Stakeholder Feedback Form](#)
  - c. Draft PRAGA Budget for FY 2026-27
  - d. PRAGA Funding Mechanisms
    - i. Option 1: Prop 26 (Water Code 10730)
    - ii. Option 2: Prop 218 with threshold (Water Code 10730.2)
  - e. PRAGA Stakeholder Representation
    - i. Option 1a: Formal Advisory Committee (subject to Brown Act)
    - ii. Option 1b: Stakeholder Working Group
    - iii. Option 2: Increase the Number of PRAGA Board Seats by four (2 per GSA; 8 total)
    - iv. Option 3: Increase the number of PRAGA Board Seats by three to provide representation for specific stakeholder categories (i.e. large/small pumpers, grazers, de minimis users; 7 total)
  - f. Update on MILR Program
  - g. Next PRAGA Board Meeting is February 18, 2026

<sup>1</sup> SSJGSA/SSJWD will make reasonable efforts to make the meeting accessible virtually; however, if one of the virtual options are unavailable due to technological issues, you are invited to take advantage of the other options, including in-person attendance.

**7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding SSJGSA/EPCGSA Community Outreach**

- a. Consider Proposal from Altum Aqua Logic for Stakeholder Workshops in Partnership with EPCGSA
  - i. Select Potential Date
- b. Discuss Success Metrics from SSJGSA/EPCGSA Newsletters and Next Steps with Tripepi Smith

**8. Discuss DWR's Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmer Groundwater Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program.**

**9. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting – March 25, 2026 at 9am**

**10. Adjourn**

*NOTE: In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), if you need special assistance to access the meeting room or otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact Bertoux & Co. 930 Nysted Dr. St. A Solvang, CA 93463 805-451-0841 [admin@ssjwd.org](mailto:admin@ssjwd.org). Notification of at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting will help enable reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting. Copies of Meeting Documents can be found on our District Website <https://www.ssjwd.org/> or requested by contacting Bertoux & Co. 930 Nysted Dr. St. A Solvang, CA 93463 805-451-0841 [admin@ssjwd.org](mailto:admin@ssjwd.org).*



# SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

## SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

### UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES December 8, 2025 Special Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) and Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) held a special meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 9:00am at the Illy Lodge at Illy Sunnyslope Farms located at 3385 Truesdale Rd., Shandon, CA 93461. As a courtesy, virtual options were made available for public participation. The agenda and all supporting documents were posted at <https://www.ssjwd.org/agendas-minutes>.

#### **I. Call to Order**

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Vice President Sinton called the meeting to order at 9:07am on Monday, December 8, 2025.

#### **II. Roll Call**

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Directors Present: Marshall Miller (remote attendance)  
Ray Shady  
Steve Sinton  
Matt Turrentine

Directors Absent: Willy Cunha

#### **III. Public Comment**

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No public comment.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

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The following motion was made by Director Turrentine, seconded by Director Shady, and passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

**MOTION – Approve the minutes from the September 24, 2025 Board meeting and the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report dated December 5, 2025, as presented.**

#### **V. Director’s Reports**

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A. WRAC Meeting – No report.

#### **VI. Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) & SGMA Implementation Updates**

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A. Re-Cap of PRAGA Special Meeting on December 1, 2025:

- Approval of the revised Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget – excludes projects and management actions
- Approval of fund request to GSAs to contribute \$300,000 to fund operations from January – June 2026.
- Draft Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget and funding mechanism options will be presented at the February 18, 2026 PRAGA Board meeting.
- Approval of Amendment 1 with Hallmark Group to provide Executive Director services through June 30, 2026.
- Approval of contract with Confluence Engineering to develop the GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2025.

- January and February PRAGA Board meetings will be combined into one special meeting on February 18, 2026.
- Direction to PRAGA Staff to develop options for increased stakeholder engagement/representation and present at the February 18, 2026 PRAGA Board meeting.

**B. Discuss SSJGSA's plans for community outreach:**

SSJGSA and EPCGSA recently completed a contract with Tripepi Smith to develop and distribute four newsletters intended to inform stakeholders about SGMA and GSP implementation activities and updates. The Board expressed interest in continuing Tripepi Smith's services and has requested the development of measurable success metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the newsletter campaign.

In addition, the Board discussed the potential engagement of Altum Aqua Logic, in partnership with EPCGSA, to host a series of public workshops aimed at gathering direct feedback from groundwater users. These workshops would provide an opportunity to better understand stakeholder concerns, improve two-way communication, and inform future GSA actions. A scope of work and budget will be developed and brought back to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

Finally, the Board discussed the importance of aligning public relations and community outreach efforts with PRAGA and other partner GSAs to ensure consistent messaging, efficient use of resources, and a unified regional approach to stakeholder engagement.

**VII. Consider PRAGA's Request and Invoice for Financial Contribution**

PRAGA is requesting financial contributions from member GSAs to support continued operations through June 2026. SSJGSA's share of the contribution is \$63,000. The SSJGSA Board discussed the necessity of this contribution to ensure PRAGA can continue essential operations through the end of FY 2025-26, including required SGMA compliance activities, technical support, and administrative functions. The SSJGSA Board requested the following milestones from PRAGA.

- February 2026 – annotated draft budget for FY 2026-27
- March 2026 – outline of funding mechanism
- April 2026 – annotated final budget for FY 2026-27

The following motion was made by Director Turrentine, seconded by Director Shady, and passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

**MOTION – Approve the funding request from PRAGA in the amount of \$63,000 to support continued operations through June 2026.**

**VIII. Discuss Following Component of Multi-Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program Related to SSJWD's Assessment for FY 2026-27**

The Board discussed developing a policy to evaluate requests to change assessments from irrigated to non-irrigated acres, aligned with the upcoming Paso Robles Groundwater Basin MILR Program and Fallowed Land Registry Platform, which will document fallowed lands, support voluntary land repurposing to reduce groundwater use, and provide information for sustainable basin management. It is anticipated that Basin GSAs will use the Fallowed Land Registry Platform. Key considerations for SSJWD's policy include:

- Criteria for changing acreage status, including duration of fallowing, proof of fallowing, and enrollment in MILR Program.
- Timeline and procedure for reassessment if irrigation resumes.
- Timing of implementation of the Fallowed Land Registry and SSJWD access to the platform may not align with SSJWD annual schedule for levying FY 2026-27 assessments.

The Board directed SSJWD Staff to work with legal counsel to develop the framework for the policy.

**IX. Next Meeting**

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The regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 9am is cancelled. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 9am.

**X. Adjourn**

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Vice President Sinton adjourned the meeting at 10:18am.

**Accepted:**

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Stephanie Bertoux, Secretary  
February 4, 2026



# SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

## SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

### Secretary/Treasurer's Report: December 6, 2025 – January 30, 2026

Date: January 30, 2026

To: Shandon-San Juan Water District Board of Directors

From: Stephanie Bertoux, District Secretary/Treasurer/Assessor

#### Assessment Income

Assessments levied for FY 2025-26 totaling \$401,140.26 are due February 13, 2026.

- \$118,586.05 (30%) has been collected to date including \$43,819.41 received this period.
- \$282,554.21 (70%) is outstanding

#### Expenses

Expenses for the period totaled \$75,829.50

- SSJWD Expenses - \$12,829.50
- PRAGA - \$63,000 – Member GSAs made financial contributions to PRAGA to support continued operations through June 2026. SSJGSA's share of the contribution was approved by the SSJWD Board on December 8, 2025.

#### FY 2025-26 Budget v. Actual Summary

See attached YTD budget summary.

#### District Assets as of January 31, 2026

Total Cash Position: \$649,526.78

- Bank Balance: After paying expenses noted above (\$75,829.50), the District has a cash position of \$97,878.76
- Investment Account Balance: \$551,648.02
  - \$400,000 – initial investment authorized by SSJWD Board on July 1, 2024.
  - \$120,000 – investment authorized by SSJWD Board on January 22, 2025.
  - \$31,648.02 – earned July 1, 2024 – January 30, 2026 (reinvested)

#### SSJWD Municipal Service Review

LAFCO is responsible for conducting Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) on a routine basis for all districts within the County. LAFCO unanimously approved SSJWD's Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study at the public hearing on December 18, 2025. The study is posted on SSJWD's website.

#### Special District Financial Transaction Report

SSJWD's Special District Financial Transaction Report for FY 2024-25 is due February 4, 2026. SSJWD submitted the report on January 23, 2026.

### **Board Training & Certifications**

- Form 700s (Conflict of Interest Statements) are due April 1 of each year. Directors must file with the County of SLO and the FPPC.
  - County of SLO – file electronically with Netfile. Each Director should have received an email from the County. <https://www.netfile.com/filer> Select Local Filer Log In from the white, pull down Log-In Button in top right corner.
  - With SB1156 now in effect (as of January 1, 2025), Board members are required to file Form 700s with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) in addition to the County of SLO. The SSJWD account is set up. Each Director should have received an email from FPPC with log-in information. <https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>
- Ethics Training is required every two years. <https://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>.
- Anti-Sexual Harassment Training is required every two years. <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/shpt/>

Director	Form 700 – FPPC (Annually by April 1)	Form 700 – County of SLO (Annually by April 1)	Ethics Training (Every 2 Years)	Anti-Sexual Harassment Training (Every 2 Years)
Willy Cunha	Due April 1, 2026	Due April 1, 2026	Next Due Date 03/18/27	Next Due Date 03/18/27
Marshall Miller	Due April 1, 2026	Due April 1, 2026	<b>NEED TO COMPLETE</b>	<b>NEED TO COMPLETE</b>
Ray Shady	Due April 1, 2026	Due April 1, 2026	<b>NEED TO COMPLETE</b>	Next Due Date 09/23/26
Steve Sinton	DONE	DONE	Next Due Date 06/24/27	Next Due Date 12/12/27
Matt Turrentine	Due April 1, 2026	Due April 1, 2026	Next Due Date 05/07/27	Next Due Date 05/07/27

## SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

## BUDGET V. ACTUAL YTD

January 30, 2026

**58% of the year has elapsed**

INCOME	JULY 25-JAN 26	2025-26 BUDGET	PERCENTAGE OF INCOME COLLECTED	BUDGET REMAINING
Assessments (Collected)	\$118,586.05	\$401,140.26	30%	\$282,554.21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$118,586.05</b>	<b>\$401,140.26</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$282,554.21</b>
ANNUAL EXPENSES	2025-26 YTD ACTUALS	2025-26 BUDGET	PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET SPENT	BUDGET REMAINING
Accounting / Annual Audit	\$0.00	\$6,200.00	0%	\$6,200.00
Administration / Contract Labor				
Stephanie Bertoux, SSJWD Staff	\$6,843.75	\$17,500.00	39%	\$10,656.25
Randy Diffenbaugh, PRAGA Staff	\$9,525.00	\$25,000.00	38%	\$15,475.00
Bank Fees	\$0.00	\$30.00	0%	\$30.00
Board Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Checks/Stamps/QBO	\$0.00	\$105.00	0%	\$105.00
District General Election	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Insurance	\$2,478.84	\$2,600.00	95%	\$121.16
LAFCO Fees for Special Districts	\$0.00	\$910.00	0%	\$910.00
Legal Fees	\$16,654.57	\$25,000.00	67%	\$8,345.43
P.O. Box Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Public Notices	\$120.00	\$108.00	111%	(\$12.00)
Taxes Withheld (Bank Account)	\$0.00	\$10.00	0%	\$10.00
Website Fees/Email Accounts/Domain Name	\$0.00	\$1,067.70	0%	\$1,067.70
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>\$35,622.16</b>	<b>\$78,530.70</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>\$42,908.54</b>
GSP IMP., STUDIES, AND PROJECTS	2025-26 YTD ACTUALS	2025-26 BUDGET	PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET SPENT	BUDGET REMAINING
Applications to SWRCB	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Project Consulting	\$963.75	\$50,000.00	2%	\$49,036.25
Flood Water Capture & Recharge Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
GSP Economic Impact Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Monitoring Network	\$43,760.00	\$55,000.00	80%	\$11,240.00
On-Call Hydrogeologic Services	\$12,370.00	\$30,000.00	41%	\$17,630.00
PRAGA Budget - SSJGSA Share	\$126,000.00	\$0.00		(\$126,000.00)
PRAGA - Rural Domestic/De Minimis Users	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	0%	\$2,500.00
Public Outreach	\$2,682.50	\$12,882.50	21%	\$10,200.00
Public Funding Consultant	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PMAs AND STUDIES</b>	<b>\$185,776.25</b>	<b>\$150,382.50</b>	<b>124%</b>	<b>(\$35,393.75)</b>
TOTAL	2025-26 YTD ACTUALS	2025-26 BUDGET	PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET	BUDGET REMAINING
Expenses	\$221,398.41	\$228,913.20	97%	\$7,514.79
Contingency (10% of Expenses)	\$0.00	\$22,891.32	0%	\$22,891.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$221,398.41</b>	<b>\$251,804.52</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>\$30,406.11</b>





PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## Stakeholder Feedback Form

### Background/Instructions:

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) is hosting two public workshops in February 2026 to solicit public feedback on the topics the PRAGA Board will be considering at a Special PRAGA Board meeting on February 18, 2026. The Board would like to hear from you on these important issues. Please provide any feedback on the below topic/options below and return this form via email to [info@PasoRoblesAGA.org](mailto:info@PasoRoblesAGA.org) or via mail to PO Box 82, Paso Robles, CA 93447 by **February 4, 2026**.

### Contact Information

Name/Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic: Stakeholder Representation

**Goal:** Implement a solution to improve stakeholder representation for PRAGA.

**Issue:** Stakeholders have expressed concern that they do not have adequate representation at PRAGA and their voices are not being heard which was specifically addressed by a stakeholder at the December 1, 2025 special PRAGA Board meeting.

### Potential Options:

#### Option 1a:

- a. **Description:** Establish a formal, Brown Act compliant, Advisory Committee to review items ahead of PRAGA Board meetings and provide direct feedback to the Board. Under this option, Committee members would provide formal recommendations to the Board and report on items at PRAGA meetings.
- b. **Key Considerations:**
  - Would need to consider Advisory formation issues (e.g. size of committee, how often it would meet, etc.)
  - Would provide a venue where issues could be discussed more thoroughly outside of the structure of the PRAGA Board “business meeting” format.
  - Establishing a new advisory committee would be an additional cost borne by those paying fees to administer PRAGA.

#### Option 1b:

- c. **Description:** Establish an informal stakeholder working group to review items ahead of PRAGA Board meetings on an as-needed basis to provide feedback to the Board on specific items. Under

this option, the stakeholder working group would submit feedback to staff that would be presented to the Board.

**d. Key Considerations:**

- This option would establish a mechanism that would be more flexible than establishing a formal Advisory Committee, but would be a lower cost to administer.
- Need to determine appointment process when a stakeholder working group is convened.

**Option 2:**

**a. Description:** Increase the number of PRAGA Board seats (currently four) by providing each Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with one additional seat (two per GSA, total of eight) where each GSA could appoint a new Director to increase Board diversity.

**b. Key Considerations:**

- Adding additional Board seats would require a change to the joint powers agreement (JPA) which could be costly and take several months to finalize.
- Each GSA would determine who is appointed to their additional seat.

**Option 3:**

**a. Description:** Increase the number of PRAGA Board seats by three (currently four, would result in seven seats) to provide representation for specific stakeholder categories (i.e. large/small pumpers, grazers, de minimis users, etc.).

**b. Key Considerations:**

- Adding additional Board seats would require a change to the joint powers agreement (JPA) which could be costly and take several months to finalize.
- Need to determine the stakeholder category reserved for each seat.
- Need to determine voting percentages.
- Need to determine the application/appointment process.
- Need to determine if minimum requirements for applicants apply.

**Which option best do you believe would best improve stakeholder representation? Please provide any feedback or comments regarding the options above.**

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## **Topic:** Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and Funding Mechanism

**Goal:** Develop a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 budget to administer PRAGA, and implement a funding mechanism to support those activities.

**Issue:** Paso was designated as a critically overdraft basin by the State and has to become sustainable by 2040 (along with 93 other basins throughout the State). To achieve sustainability, the PRAGA was formed to implement Paso Basin’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). To perform this work, PRAGA proposed a Prop 218 funding structure which was determined not successful on August 1, 2025. Following the failed Prop 218, stakeholders and the PRAGA Board have been discussing revisions to the budget and discussing funding options. Per the PRAGA joint powers agreement (JPA), a funding mechanism must be established by June 30, 2026, to avoid termination of the JPA, resulting in State intervention.

**FY 2026-2027 Budget**

A [draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget](#) is included for stakeholder feedback. While the previous proposed budget exceeded \$3 million annually (including costs for future projects), the below draft budget represents a minimum required SGMA compliance budget totaling approximately \$1.2 million. The PRAGA Board will be reviewing this draft budget on February 18, 2026 and is seeking feedback on the budget components. When commenting on specific budget components, please include the budget reference number.

**The PRAGA Board will be reviewing this draft budget on February 18, 2026 and is requesting feedback on the proposed budget components.** When providing feedback on specific budget components, please include the associated budget reference number.

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# DRAFT Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Budget Components		FY 25-26 Budget <i>Approved on 12-1-25</i>	DRAFT FY 26-27	
Program Administration				
SGMA-Required				Budget Notes
1	Annual Report	\$102,000	\$100,000	Required by DWR. Cost based on recent proposals.
2	GSP Fifth Year Evaluation	\$0	\$10,000	2025 eval already submitted to State, next eval not due until 2030. Money to interact with DWR on any questions, clarifications, meetings on eval, if received.
3	GSP Amendment	\$0		No current plan to amend the GSP.
4	Groundwater Model Use/Update	\$0		Contemplated to be funded by grant funding.
5	Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance, DWR Upload	\$0	\$140,860	Total = 113 wells. 49 transducers. Data upload and groundwater conditions reports.
6	Establish SMCs & MT Exceedance Investigation		\$20,000	RFP for on-call tech support services to perform tech analysis and recommended options for well exceedances.
7	Data Management System (DMS)	\$0	\$0	Recommend deferring until FY 27-28 (fallowed land platform may address this need).
8	ET Ag Water Usage Program (LandIQ)	\$100,000	\$100,000	Monthly evapotranspiration data for the basin.
	SGMA-Required Subtotal	\$202,000	\$370,860	
Administrative				
9	Executive Director & Support Staff	\$253,446	\$216,000	Assume monthly meetings (does not include Advisory Committee costs).
10	Legal Counsel	\$215,471	\$144,000	Assume monthly meetings (does not include Advisory Committee costs).
11	Insurance	\$21,084	\$22,000	Develop audit policy and engage Auditor for FY 25-26 + 2 months (14 months total); RFP, etc.
12	Grant Development	\$0	\$60,000	Costs to develop and submit 2 grant applications (potential Prop 4 grant opportunity).
13	Technical Consultant(s)			
14	SCI Prop 218 Development (did not pass on Aug 1st)	\$34,151	\$0	SCI work to support Prop 218 (did not pass).
15	Land IQ Prop 218 Support & On-Call Svcs (did not pass on Aug 1st)	\$35,000		Contract approved on 8-18-25 for \$35k. \$21,350 for Prop 218 (did not pass) ET support, and \$13,650 for on-call services (if needed).
16	Funding Mechanism Development/Implementation for FY 26-27 (Fee Consl	\$50,000	\$50,000	Costs to develop and implement a Funding Mechanism for FY 26-27.
17	Land IQ ET Data Revision for Fee		\$15,000	
18	Administration of Fee (Prop 26 or 218)		\$30,000	Costs to implement either a Prop 26 or 218. Will be lower cost if a Prop 26.
19	Public Education and Outreach Program	\$46,000	\$35,000	Assumes PR firm is selected to perform outreach activities for PRAGA.
20	Website Management	\$6,000	\$6,000	Monthly website cost = \$500 through Streamline, billed annually in May
21	GW Fee Billing & Collection	\$0	\$40,000	Direct bill landowners if Prop 26/218 implemented in FY 25-26. Develop RFP or HG to adminster. Estimate based on 1,200 landowners.
	Adminstrative Subtotal	\$661,152	\$618,000	
	Program Administration Subtotal	\$863,152	\$988,860	
Projects and Management Actions				
Regulatory Programs				
22	Domestic Well Impact Mitigation Program	\$0	\$50,000	Costs for potential program development.
23	Address Additional GSP Data Gaps	\$0	\$0	Address DWR periodic eval feedback if received in FY 26-27.
24	Well Verification & Registration Program	\$0	\$7,000	Grant/County developing program; still in development. Costs to coordinate with County agencies on well verification/registration program and maintain records.
Demand Management Programs				
25	Demand Reduction and Water Supply Programs	\$0	\$0	No projects currently identified.
26	Fallowed Land Registry Program (Formerly labeled MILR)	\$0	\$0	Fallow land registry platform development covered by grant; Platform administration covered by county.
	Projects and Management Actions Subtotal	\$0	\$57,000	
	Subtotal	\$863,152	\$1,045,860	
25	Contingency (i.e. Prudent Reserve)	\$81,800	\$104,586	Board directed to use 10% on 8-18-25. Renamed from "Prudent Reserve" to "Contingency".
	Total	\$944,952	\$1,150,446	

## Funding Mechanism Options

A funding mechanism needs to be established to collect money to allow PRAGA to implement the GSP and the two primary options to funding Groundwater Sustainability Agencies as described in the California Water Codes sections 10730 are listed below.

### Option 1: Prop 26 (Water Code 10730)

- a. **Description:** This option would set a fee by dividing the approved FY 2026-2027 budget amount by the August 2024 through July 2025 groundwater use calculation (determined by Land IQ's satellite-based evapotranspiration methodology) and charging groundwater extractors based on their consumed groundwater use for the 12-month period. A report describing the basis of the charge would be posted online, noticed to parcel owners, and following a PRAGA public rate hearing, the Board could adopt a charge via resolution.
- b. **Key Considerations:**
  - A review process would be set for the ET data for each parcel on which landowners would be charged to allow landowners to make any corrections to the data.
  - Need to determine if de minimis users (those using less than 2 AF) should be exempt from charge.
  - Need to determine penalty fees.
  - Need to determine the method of charging pumpers (direct bill vs. tax roll).
  - This option is simpler and cheaper to administer but does not require a landowner protest.
  - This charge setting process would need to occur on an annual basis and would be directly connected with the current Fiscal Year budget.

**Option 2:** Prop 218 (Water Code 10730.2) with threshold (only impose fees on water users using over a specific AF amount annually).

- a. **Description:** This option would charge groundwater extractors using more a specified AF amount annually. This option would set a charge by establishing a 5-year budget projection and establishing different rates for different user classifications as described in a cost of service study. A notice of the proposed groundwater charge would be distributed to affected landowners who would have the opportunity to protest the proposed charge. For this charge to pass, less than a majority protest must be achieved which would be determined at a public hearing. If the charge is successful, the charge would be assessed to parcel owners according to their water consumed water use for the August 2024 through July 2025 period. For agricultural users, this would be determined by Land IQ's satellite-based evapotranspiration methodology.
- b. **Key Considerations:**
  - A review process would be set for the ET data for each parcel on which landowners would be charged to allow landowners to make any corrections to the data.
  - Need to determine if de minimis users (those using less than 2 AF) should be exempt from charge.
  - Need to determine penalty fees.
  - Need to determine the method of charging pumpers (direct bill vs. tax roll).

- This option is more complex and expensive to administer and does provide for a landowner protest.
- The cost of service study would set the maximum charge that could be assessed in a given year (within the 5-year window), but the PRAGA Board would need to pass a charge each year, which could be less than the maximum amount, on an annual basis.

**Which funding mechanism approach do you believe is most appropriate for funding PRAGA GSP implementation?** Please provide any feedback or comments regarding the funding mechanism options above.

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January 16, 2026

Hilary Graves  
c/o Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District  
*Delivery via email only*

Re: Proposal for Services

Dear Ms. Graves:

Altum Aqua Logic, LLC ("Altum") is pleased to submit this proposal for consulting services to Estrella-El Pomar-Creston WD ("EEPCWD"). If executed by EEPCWD, this letter and any subsequent modifications contemplated herein will constitute an agreement between EEPCWD and Altum to be construed in accordance with California law. This letter and any subsequent modifications contemplated herein will describe the proposed terms of our engagement commencing on the date of execution and ending on March 1, 2026 and will be our entire agreement with respect to Altum's engagement for the services described below.

### **Scope of Services**

EEPCWD has asked Altum to participate in a series of small group discussions to take place over the course of a single day in February 2026. At the time of this proposal, a date has not been selected for these conversations. Altum and EEPCWD will work together to mutually identify a suitable date for the services to be provided.

EEPCWD shall arrange for a venue and invite personnel of their choosing. EEPCWD shall identify topics of interest and share those topics with Altum prior to the small group discussions.

Altum will provide EEPCWD and invited guests with strategic guidance on water-related subjects of interest with emphasis on opportunities and threats relative to SGMA implementation in the Paso Robles Area Subbasin. We anticipate that subjects will be wide-ranging but will focus on SGMA-compliance basics, observations and lessons learned in other California subbasins, and an overview of State Water Resources Control Board authorities under SGMA.

### **Fees and Billing**

Altum's fee for the proposed Services would be \$1,500 payable within 30 days of the completion of the small group discussion. This will be the total amount due to Altum. We do not charge for routine expenses such as normal long-distance telephone calls, automobile travel within California, and in-house photocopying. Should we anticipate a need to incur extraordinary out of pocket expenses in connection with our work for EEPCWD, we would obtain approval in advance and bill them to you at our cost.

We reserve the right to impose a late charge of 0.833% per month on all amounts not paid within 30 days. In the event any legal action or collection activity is necessary to enforce the terms of

this agreement, EEPCWD agrees to pay reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred by us in attempting to collect the amount due.

### **Information and Work Product**

We take our obligations to safeguard your private information seriously, so we want to take this opportunity to confirm our commitment to maintaining the confidentiality of your personal information. No voluntary disclosure of any of your data or information not already part of the public domain will be made without your permission unless we are legally required to make such disclosure. Please remember however, that communications between us are not privileged. We will promptly advise EEPCWD if any of your information is requested of us.

Upon full and final payment of all amounts due to Altum in connection with this engagement, all right title and interest in the deliverables (including, but not limited to, reports, notes, and other documents, including all documents on electronic media) that contain confidential information provided by, or pertaining to, EEPCWD (“Client Property”) will become the sole and exclusive property of EEPCWD.

Except for Client Property, Altum will retain sole and exclusive ownership of all right, title, and interest in all of Altum’s work papers, proprietary information, information and documents developed by Altum, information and documents based upon publicly available data, processes, methodologies, know-how, and software (the “Altum Property”), including such information as existed prior to the delivery of the services under this agreement and, to the extent such information is of general application, anything that Altum may discover, create, or develop during the performance of the services under this agreement.

To the extent Altum’s deliverables to EEPCWD contain Altum Property, upon full and final payment of all amounts due Altum in connection with this engagement, EEPCWD shall have a non-exclusive, non-assignable, royalty-free, perpetual license to use such Altum Property in connection with the deliverables and the subject of the engagement and for no other or further use without Altum’s express, prior written consent. Altum’s deliverables are to be used solely for the purposes intended by this engagement and may not be disclosed, published, or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

### **Other Matters**

You should know that we provide similar services to others. Altum will always endeavor to treat everyone fairly and equitably. Altum will not (and cannot) provide legal, engineering, or lobbying services.

We cannot make any promises or guarantees about the outcome of the matters as to which you have asked us to assist you, and nothing in this letter or in our statements to you should be so construed. When we provide you our opinion as to the probable outcome of any matter, it is with the understanding that our opinion is just that, and not a promise or guarantee. We cannot make any warranty, either express or implied, as to any recommendations or professional advice.



We provide services on a wide variety of water-related matters to other clients, some of whom are or may in the future operate in the geographic business areas in which you are operating or may operate. By executing this agreement, you are acknowledging that we are free to work with those other clients on matters unrelated to you and that it is possible that we might take positions on behalf of other clients that are not consistent with yours. We will, of course, at all times avoid overt conflicts of interest.

Altum's liability to EEPCWD for any claim or action arising in connection with services provided to EEPCWD, whether in tort, contract, strict liability, or otherwise, is limited to \$50,000 or the amounts paid to Altum by EEPCWD, whichever is greater.

This agreement shall not be assigned by party without the prior written consent of the other, which may be withheld for any reason.

**Approval**

If the foregoing meets with your approval, please sign and date one copy of this agreement and return it to us. Please retain the other copy for your records. We will begin working with you immediately upon your execution of this agreement.

If you have any questions concerning our fee and expense arrangements or procedures or the scope of our services, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stacie Ann Silva

SAS

Accepted terms and conditions for engagement of Altum Aqua Logic, LLC effective \_\_\_\_\_:

EEPCWD Representative

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

## SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

### SSJGSA-EPCGSA Newsletter Performance Metrics

#### Agenda Item 7.b.

#### Aggregate Total and Percentages

 Emails sent

**1,307**

 Delivered

**1,222**

 Open rate

**61%**

 Click rate

**6%**

 Bounced

**85**

 Unsubscribed

**2**

#### Data per Newsletter

	Sends	Open Rate	Click Rate	Bounce Rate
November 2025 (Meeting Update)	266	59%	4%	8%
November 2025	267	59%	5%	7%
July 2025	266	66%	5%	7%
February 2025	255	61%	5%	5%
October 2024	251	61%	11%	4%



## What is the URCTA Program?

The mission of the Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program is to support Underrepresented Communities (URCs), California Native American (Federally and Non-Federally Recognized) Tribes and Small Farmers within groundwater regulated basins with the assessment of water-related needs, risks, and vulnerabilities and to provide focused groundwater-related technical assistance to resolve them.

### SERVICES PROVIDED



Ground Level Monitoring



Analyzing long-term water supply and demand



Aquifer Testing



Analyzing and facilitating water transfers



Analyzing well interference



Supporting in funding and grant application processes



Identifying water supplies



Determine fire flow requirements



Analyzing existing groundwater well conditions



Design of water systems including production, treatment, distribution and storage



Rehabilitating and/or Replacement of water storage tanks



Preparation of project plans and specifications



## FACT SHEET

### Background

Within the State of California, Tribes and underrepresented communities (URCs) face many challenges accessing clean, affordable water supplies such as groundwater, especially during droughts. In 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched the Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program. The program aims to help identify communities throughout California with water supply issues and provide technical assistance services to small farmers, small communities and underserved areas across the state.

DWR has contracted Dudek and partnered with The Water Foundation and nonprofits Community Water Center, Self-Help Enterprises, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon; the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Davis Law School, and other partners.

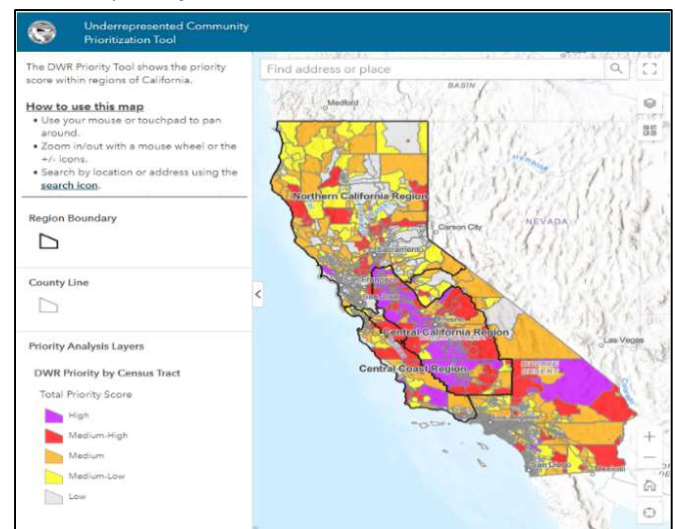
### Overview

The program's mission is to support Underrepresented Communities, California Native American Tribes (Federally and Non-Federally Recognized) and Small Farmers within Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulated basins, including those that are medium, high and critically overdrafted priority. The URCTA Program identifies eligible communities throughout California with water supply challenges such as dry groundwater wells, water shortages, or poor water quality with the assessment of water-related needs, risks, and vulnerabilities and to provide focused

groundwater-related technical assistance to resolve them.

### URC Prioritization Tool

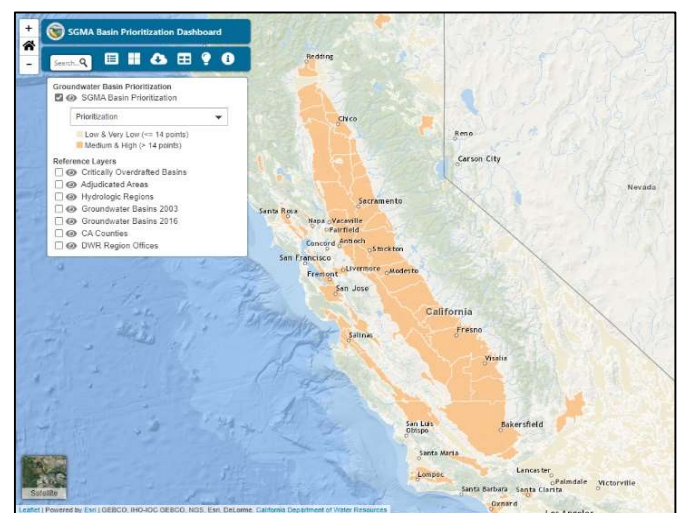
Using the online URC Prioritization Tool, DWR can assist with determining URCs from mapped areas that incorporate data including Median Household Income, threats to groundwater, access to drinking water, and water quality issues.



[Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program \(URC TA Program\)](#)

### SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard

Areas identified to be in a groundwater regulated basin will be identified using the SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard that





Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers  
**Groundwater Technical Assistance  
(URCTA) Program**



includes data on California's 515 Groundwater Basins defined in Bulletin 118. [SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/urctaprogram/sgma-basin-prioritization-dashboard)

### Technical Assistance Services

The URCTA Program can provide onsite engineering, geologic, hydrologic, and other technical services. These services can include Preliminary Engineering Design and Hydrogeologic Studies regarding groundwater wells, water and wastewater systems upgrades and consolidations, and water storage for fire suppressions. Specific examples of the types of services include:

- Analysis of existing well conditions, well interference, groundwater conditions, long-term water supply and demand, and groundwater impacts (for depletion, land subsidence, groundwater dependent ecosystem depletion, etc.).
- Analysis to identify water supplies, facilitate water transfers, and relevant applications needed.
- Assistance in monitoring groundwater levels, including instrumentation installation, soil moisture monitoring, groundwater quality testing, and training.
- Design of water systems including production, distribution, treatment, and storage, including determination of fire flow requirements.
- Facilitation on groundwater sustainability information and communication and expert witness testimony.

- Preparation of project plans and specifications for water wells, pumps and water storage tank solutions (well location, design, and construction oversight).
- Other technical assistance determined case-by-case.

### URCTA Program Eligibility

DWR can assist in determining eligibility for the URCTA Program within a groundwater basin that is regulated by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

### Where to Obtain Information

URCTA Program Page  
<https://water.ca.gov/urctaprogram>

For further information about the URCTA Program, interested parties can contact [URCTA@water.ca.gov](mailto:URCTA@water.ca.gov).



If you have any questions or concerns regarding Tribal Affairs, please contact [tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov](mailto:tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov).





# URCTA Program Step-by-Step

The URCTA Program collaborates with California Native American (Federally and Non-Federally Recognized) Tribes and Underrepresented Communities to assess Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation needs, risks, and vulnerabilities. Explore our step-by-step guide to learn more. **Services are provided free of charge.**

**1** Initial Engagement with the California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**NEEDS**

- Groundwater level monitoring
- Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply
- Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)
- Identifying well interference
- Analyze additional water supply
- Identify existing well condition using downhole video log
- Rehabilitation of water storage tank
- Long-term water supply and demand analysis
- Assess and help to facilitate water transfers

**PROPOSED ASSISTANCE**

**2** Initial Site Visit, Meeting and Needs Assessment with the California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer.

**3** Initial Summary Report of Site Visit/Needs Assessment and Outline of Proposed Technical Assistance with the California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer.

**4** Technical Assistance Services for the California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer start when an agreement between all parties is reached.

**5** The California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer has regular check-in meetings with Dudek, the Technical Assistance provider, on behalf of DWR throughout the process.

**6** Any deliverables, e.g., preliminary engineering reports, design documents, well reports, etc. will be reviewed for comment by the California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer. Comments will be provided to Dudek for revisions before finalization. This process may be repeated until all deliverables are finalized.

**7** Before any project is closed out, a final site visit and meeting will occur and include the California Tribe, Community, and/or Small Farmer, Dudek and DWR.



**Scan to Learn More**  
[www.water.ca.gov/urctaprogram](http://www.water.ca.gov/urctaprogram)  
Email: [URCTA@water.ca.gov](mailto:URCTA@water.ca.gov)



**DUDEK**