

Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Program for Domestic Well Mitigation

(draft 07/31/26, approved by the ESJGWA on August 12, 2026)

PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY LIMITS: This Program provides emergency, interim and financial mitigation for domestic water supply wells that have been determined to have failed due to groundwater overdraft conditions occurring since January 1, 2015. Claims brought that accrued between January 1, 2015 and the adoption of this policy shall be brought within six months of the adoption of this policy.

- 1. DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND:** The Authority established in 2024 a DRY WELL MITIGATION FUND (FUND) with a funding target in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00).
 - 1.01** Initial funding shall be raised from GSA Member dues as part of the Authority's annual budget and apportioned to Member GSAs using the Authority's annual budget allocation formula.
 - 1.02** By action of the Authority Board of Directors, the Fund may be replenished by utilizing reserves or additional Member dues as part of the Authority's annual budgeting process or as a budget amendment.
 - 1.03** Should the Fund fall below ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00), GSA Members will meet and confer in good faith to determine the appropriate funding mechanism, replenishment amount, and GSA Member allocation methodology prior to Fund replenishment.
- 2. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND CLAIMS ASSISTANCE:** Authority and GSA Members shall assign staff or representatives (collectively herein referred to as "staff") to engage in public outreach to give notice to domestic well owners and residents of their right to request assistance under this Program, and how to apply for assistance.
 - 2.01 Outreach:** Staff will perform outreach to populations likely to require assistance under this Program and create fliers and website links to publicize this Program. Information shall be made available at appropriate locations such as County Environmental Health Departments and GSA offices . Information will be distributed to GSAs to make available via GSA websites, GSA social media channels and to their respective local organizations. The Authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations to assist with outreach.
 - 2.02 Development of an Application for Assistance:** Staff will develop a simple application for residents applying for assistance under this Program. Pertinent information submitted with the application form may include contact information, location of the well, age of the well, well construction information such as total depth of the well, screen intervals, annular seal depth, and date the well first failed to produce water or meet water quality standards. Applicants will be strongly urged to provide evidence such as official lab results related to water quality concerns, declarations from a licensed well driller identifying the cause of the well failure (if available), and all other evidence in applicant's possession that the failure was

caused by overdraft pumping (i.e. depth to water measurements, nearby wells, etc.).

2.03 Filing Applications for Assistance: Staff will assist residents with filing the request for assistance called for in this Program. The Authority may also contract with non-governmental organizations to assist residents with filing claims.

2.04 Government Claims Act Notice: Filing an application under this Program does not constitute presentation of a claim under the California Government Claims Act (Government Code Section 900 et seq.) and does not extend, toll, or substitute for any deadline applicable to a claim against the Authority or a Member GSA, including the six-month presentation deadline under Government Code Section 911.2. This notice shall be printed conspicuously on the application form. Staff assisting an applicant under this Section shall not represent, orally or in writing, that filing an application preserves or extends any such deadline.

3. CLAIMS PROCESS:

3.01 Limitations Period: All claims brought under this Program must have accrued after January 1, 2015. Claims brought that accrued between January 1, 2015 and the adoption of this policy shall be brought within six months of the adoption of this policy. The limitations period for claims brought after the adoption of this policy shall be the limitations process and period provided by the California Government Tort Claims Act (Government Code Section 810 and following).

3.02 Technical Review Committee: A Technical Review Committee will be formed to review each application under this Policy. The Technical Review Committee shall consist of the following members:

3.02.1 The District Engineer for the GSA where the well is located.

3.02.2 A licensed engineer hired by the Authority on an eligibility list prequalified through a request for qualifications process.

3.02.3 A registered Environmental Health Specialist from the County Environmental Health Department in which the well is located.

3.02.4 The well owner, agent (i.e. well driller, independent consultant, attorney, or designated representative), or environmental justice advocate selected from a list compiled by the ESJGWA Board of Directors.

4. Interim Remedies: The Authority will work with County Office of Emergency Services where the well is located, other non-governmental agencies, or directly with vendors to ensure the applicant is provided an interim water supply to all applicants with a reasonable facial complaint for damages. The Authority may elect to contract with a vendor to provide services. An interim water supply consists of bottled water intended to meet drinking water and cooking needs while the claim is reviewed and processed. If the claim is approved, the Authority will ensure that an interim water supply will continue until the selected mitigation is complete.

5. Claims Subject to Mitigation: The following claims are eligible for mitigation assistance under this Program:

5.01 Well Failures caused by declining water levels that were caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

5.02 Well Failures due to water quality problems caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015. Water quality problems means well water that exceeds State or Federal maximum contaminant levels at the time of the well failure. Water quality problems that are not the result of overdraft pumping shall not be subject to mitigation under this Program. Eligibility for an alternative water supply such as bottled water may be available through CV-Salts.

5.03 Well failure due to subsidence caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

6. Claim Administration:

6.01 Notice of Claim: Claims must be submitted in the form of a completed application to:

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County
PO BOX 1810
Stockton, CA 95201

In-person:
Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95201

Via Email:
ESJgroundwater@sjgov.org

6.02 The Executive Director of the Authority is authorized to summarily reject any claim if and only if, the well failure can be remedied by replacing failed electrical or mechanical pump components without needing to re-drill the well.

6.03 The Technical Review Committee shall have authority to conduct its own investigation of the evidence including contracting with hydrogeologists and well drillers, researching county well records and requesting records from the applicant.

6.04 The Technical Review Committee will draft a written technical memorandum recommending how, whether and to what extent to mitigate a claim, if any, within 30 days of receipt of the application together with any additional information requested by the Technical Review Committee, or request additional time to investigate the claim.

- 6.05** The Technical Review Committee will forward its Technical Memorandum and Recommendation for funding/mitigation to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will issue a written decision on the Claim within 60 days of receipt of the Technical Review Committee's memorandum. The written decision will be provided to the Claimant via mail at the address located in the Application on the date it is issued.
- 6.06** The Executive Director may decide to provide complete or partial mitigation for a particular Claim based on a determination of the percentage of responsibility for the well failure related to groundwater pumping as opposed to other contributing factors, such as the age or construction of the well.
- 6.07** A Claimant may appeal a decision of the Executive Director by submitting a written appeal to the GWA Board Chair within 30 days of the mailing date of the Executive Director's decision. The appeal shall contain a copy of the original application, the Technical Memorandum, and the Executive Director's decision, and shall state the basis for the appeal.
- 6.08** The GWA Board Chair shall agendize the appeal for the next quarterly GWA Board meeting that is at least 15 days after receipt of the appeal and provide written notice and the agenda to the appellant.
- 6.09** The GWA Board of Directors shall act on the appeal and issue a written decision. The decision of the GWA Board of Directors is final. There is no further administrative appeal within the Authority.
- 6.10 Open Session and Applicant Privacy:** All Board review, deliberation, and action on individual applications under this Section shall occur in open session in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq.). No closed session shall be held for this purpose. To protect applicant privacy, agendas and materials distributed to the public shall refer to applicants by application number rather than by name, and shall redact personal contact information and financial figures from any writing made available to the public, consistent with Government Code Section 54957.5.

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Domestic Well Mitigation Program
Application for Assistance

Applicant Information	
Contact Name:	
Phone Number:	
Street Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	
Assessor Parcel Number (APN):	
Well Location (Approximate GPS Coordinates)	
Latitude:	Longitude:

Interim Water Supply	
Are You Requesting an Interim Water Supply?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Number of Occupants in the Home:	

Well Construction Information	
Date Constructed (if Known) :	
Is a Well Completion Report (e.g. Driller's Log) Available?	☒ Yes (Attach Record if Available) ☐ No
Casing/Well Depth (ft):	
Perforated/Screened Interval(s) Depth (ft):	
Annular Seal Depth (if known) (ft):	
Casing Material:	Casing Diameter (in):
<i>Please attach photos of the well with your application clearly showing the well location and appurtenances (e.g. tank, motor, etc.)</i>	

Pump Information (if Known)	
Pump/Intake Depth (ft):	
Pump Age (Known or Estimated):	
Typical Discharge Rate (gpm):	
Last Pump Test Date (Attach Record if Available):	
Last Service Date (Attach Record if Available):	

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Domestic Well Mitigation Program
Application for Assistance

Well Failure Information	
Date Failure Occurred:	
Issue:	☐ No Flow ☐ Pump Failure ☐ Breaking Suction ☐ Other
Comments/Description:	
Declaration of Well Driller and/or Pump Contractor	
<i>A declaration from a licensed well driller and/or pump contractor identifying and attesting to the cause of the well failure is not required, but may be included in the space below or attached to this application.</i>	
Contractor Company Name:	
Contact Name:	Contact Phone:
Contractor Address:	
Contractor License Number:	
Signature:	

Applicant	
By signing this application, I am providing permission to access my property and agree to provide information relevant to the investigation of the well failure to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority and member agency staff and its contractors as requested and/or as required in the Domestic Well Mitigation Policy adopted September 2024, and amended August 2026. I certify that the information provided on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that there are penalties for willfully and knowingly giving false information on an application for Federal, State, and/or Local Agency funds.	
Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

Please complete and return your application to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority to either of the following:

By Email	By Mail
esjgroundwater@sjgov.org	Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority PO Box 1810 Stockton, CA 95201