

# PEASDUSTER

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Delta-Sierra Group Newsletter

January - March 2022

Visit us at [www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra](http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra)



Tesla Park Victory



**The volunteer members of Delta-Sierra Group  
sincerely wish you a Very Happy New Year.**

While that wish may sound obligatory, it is only due to this editor's lack of language skills that could make it more convincing! We really mean it.



We lost one member of our Executive Committee. Thankfully it was not due to COVID 19. But it was due to one grandchild and one more on the way. Steve and Claudia Harvath moved out of the area to beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico because that's where the parents of the grandchildren will be. We can't thank Steve enough for taking on our secretary position. So Steve, if you are reading this, there is an active Sierra Club in the Santa Fe area and if you need a reference, we can provide one.



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Things have been more chaotic and uncertain since March 2020 in this time of pandemic. For Delta-Sierra Group, our programs have been happening only occasionally even per Zoom, our outings have been on hiatus, we've done very little in-person outreach, and we pray that everyone has remained careful and healthy. Zoom has been a great pathway to continuing our outreach and I hope you will join us in the next few months for our upcoming presentations—a winter photo journey with Tim Viall through some of our state and national parks on Jan 21, a discussion of wildfire resilience in February, and Mike Wurtz in March talking about John Muir's Grand Yosemite.

We don't know when we will be meeting again in person but when we do, we hope you will consider opportunities to connect with us and other members. We are seeking people who might be interested in serving on our Executive Committee, if that's something you might want to contribute to please contact me.

Take care, stay safe, Margo Praus, Chair [margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)

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# **Climate Extremes: What's Next?**

**Saturday, January 8, 2022 @ 10:30 am-12 noon via Zoom  
Hosted by the League of Women Voters, San Joaquin County**

**This is a double header with two speakers on these topics:**

**Climate Change: A Case of Extremes as Well as Averages with Patricia MacEwen MA, Science Fiction Author, Marine Biologist, Forensic Tech (SPD), Scene of Crime Officer (UN), Physical Anthropologist**

**And**

**Preparing to be Prepared - Risks and Vulnerabilities with Shellie Lima, Director Emergency Operations, San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services.**

**Climate change is showing effects on every part of our Earth and it's happening faster than scientists have predicted. This is the first of a series of forums about Climate Change Extremes and what some solutions might be. The first episode in the series will include an overview of the changes that are occurring globally, how those changes are affecting our region, and how the people of the area will be affected.**

**Our speakers will discuss the far reaching changes that are occurring globally and how those changes are being felt more rapidly in California. What those physical changes are that have been exacerbated since the start of the Industrial Revolution. The cycles of extreme disasters are deadly, costly and becoming more frequent.**

**RSPV with this link:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdOGqrzspHNEhoBoD1Hk4MxO\\_7IQGLZir](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdOGqrzspHNEhoBoD1Hk4MxO_7IQGLZir)**

# Del Puerto Canyon

## Jewel of West Stanislaus County In Peril

January 21, 2022 7:00 PM  
Presented by Yokuts Group

Please join photographer and Patterson native Elias Funez, as he goes over the extensive history of Del Puerto Canyon paired with a visual collection of photos and videos he's taken over the years.

The presentation will discuss the current efforts of the Del Puerto Water District's plans to create a dam over the historic Gateway of the Del Puerto Canyon and what the Save Del Puerto Canyon group has done so far to oppose those plans and continue conversations to preserve this important natural and cultural area.

To attend this Zoom program, please email the Yokuts Chair, Anita Young, at [ayyoungbooks2@gmail.com](mailto:ayyoungbooks2@gmail.com) any time of the week before the event and she will send you the link.



Elias Funez prepared a very comprehensive article for *The Valley Citizen*, a local free newspaper where he discusses the history, geological importance, recreational opportunities and general plan for the area. His concerns are well justified when he writes that “The City of Patterson—which so far has chosen to remain relatively quiet about the dam—currently has plans showing growth and infrastructure in an area that would be in the dam's inundation zone. The city's general plan shows infrastructure supporting a population up to 55,000 people, including plans for a new I-5 interchange, right below the dam.” The population is currently 22,882. You may want to read his article. You can find it at this link:

<https://thevalleycitizen.com/del-puerto-canyon-then-and-now-a-controversy/>

## Winter Visits to our State & National Parks

Presentation by Tim Viall

Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 7 pm

Hosted by Delta-Sierra Group via Zoom

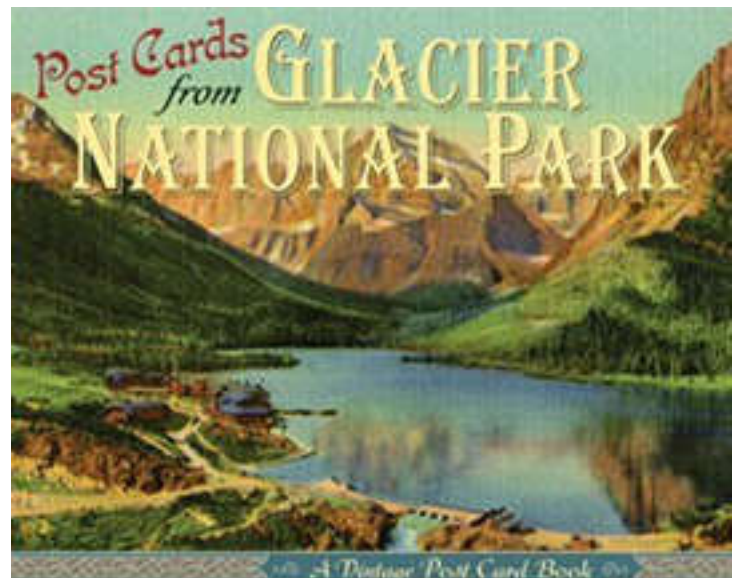


Join us for an enjoyable winter visit to nearby or more distant national or state parks presented by Tim Viall. He opens with photos and details of deep winter visits to Glacier and Yellowstone national parks in recent years, full of wildlife and lovely nearby Montana and Wyoming towns. And also includes winter options in closer-to-home national parks, such as Crater Lake, Lassen and Yosemite, and state parks like Calaveras Big Trees and

Sugar Pine Point State Park, home to some of the cross-country ski trails used in the 1960 Winter Olympics.

Tim Viall spent his early career in advertising sales and management for five daily newspapers (Stockton Record, Sacramento Bee, Palo Alto Times Tribune, Spokesman Review, Toledo Blade), and 20 years as a nonprofit executive, retiring from Stockton's Emergency Food Bank nine years ago. For the past 8+ years, he has appeared in the Record newspaper each Tuesday as their regional travel writer, focusing on the valley, California and nearby Western states.

Here is the Zoom Link:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87466675424?pwd=TlFGVlNlNERCM3pPTjFpcEtuZHdkdz09>

## Wildfire Resilience

Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 7pm

Presented by Jessica Morse

Jessica Morse is the Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildland Resilience at the California Natural Resources Agency. She is coordinating California's approach to wildfire resilience including increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration and vegetation treatment. Jessica was the architect of the Governor's \$1.5 billion wildfire resilience strategy and developed the joint forest stewardship strategy between California the US Forest Service signed in 2020.

Prior to joining Governor Newsom's administration, Jessica spent nearly ten years in National Security working for the Defense Department, State Department and the US Agency for International Development. Her assignments included a year and a half in Baghdad, Iraq, as well as tours in India, Myanmar, and US Pacific Command.

Throughout her career she designed and executed innovative strategies across agencies and governments, including a strategy using renewable energy technology transfer as a catalyst for US defense engagement with India.

Jessica is a 5th generation Northern Californian. She and her family still own and manage their original homestead forestland in the Sierra foothills. Jessica is an outdoor enthusiast and can be found backpacking, skiing and fishing throughout the Sierra. She even hiked 500 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Ms. Morse holds a Masters of Public Affairs from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois.

Your Zoom Link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84381373065?pwd=dnRNZW1VaW9qc3BsRWJha2RSc2FTQT09>



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## John Muir's Grand Yosemite

Mike Wurtz

March 28, 2022 @ 7 pm via Zoom

Nineteenth-century naturalist John Muir made hundreds of drawings of Yosemite between 1869 and his death in 1914. Mike Wurtz, curator of the Muir collections at the University of the Pacific, will present some of Muir's drawings and tell Muir stories along with his own stories of finding Muir's drawing sites in Yosemite from his book, *John Muir's Grand Yosemite: Musings and Sketches*.



Internet Photo



Mike Wurtz is the Head of the University of the Pacific Holt-Atherton Special Collections and Archives. He oversees the use and preservation of the historical archives of nearly 500 collections such as the John Muir Papers, the George Moscone Collection, and Japanese American Internment during WWII collections. He holds Master's degrees in History and Library Science.

This is a link to the website where you can purchase his book:

<https://shop.yosemite.org/products/john-muir-s-grand-yosemite>

Certainly join us for this very special Zoom meeting by signing up at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88039856753?pwd=c2RoZDNQZkJMMW0zeUxKZGVUVXU4Zz09>

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## DURHAM FERRY

Members of the Delta-Sierra Group Executive Committee toured the wonderful San Joaquin County Office of Education for outdoor education center at Durham Ferry in late October. It is located within the 200 acre Durham Ferry State Recreation Area, Manteca California. This is a regional center for STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). It was a beautiful day. Onsite staff welcomed us and the tour was pleasant. We were able to walk the paths, see the dramatic oak trees, and enjoy a view of the meandering San Joaquin River.

D-SG made a donation to support the outdoor education efforts of the Office of Education both here at Durham Ferry as well as the newly acquired site at Sky Mountain near Placerville.

The hope of the SJCOE is to create a lending library of outdoor wear needed for the children, many of whom have never experienced snow. Boots, snow pants, jackets and mittens are being purchased to support the outdoor education being planned. Some of the staff were at Lincoln Center earlier on that day hosting a donation effort of lightly used children's snow gear. If you have children's snow gear you might donate or are interested in supporting the efforts, please contact Margo Praus at:

[margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)



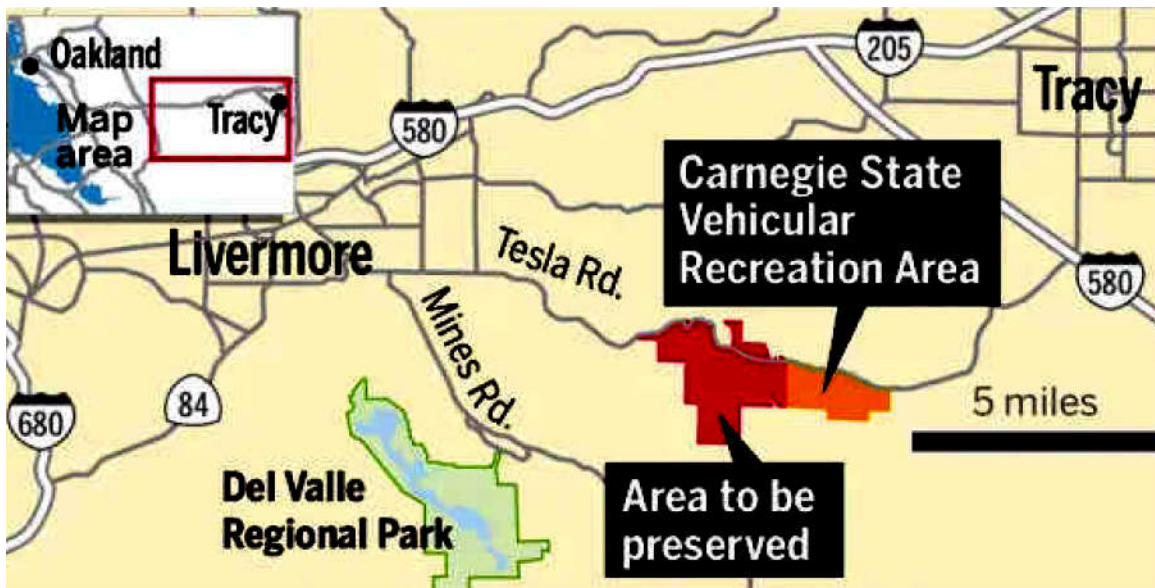
**Left to Right: Nan Ballot, Margo Praus, Paul Plathe, staff person, Jim Marsh, host Tamara Basepayne, Dick Abood, Jeri Bigbee, and staff person.**



## TESLA PARK - AN ENVIRONMENTAL SAVE

Never mind what some people think: that Tesla Park was named after the car company with the same name, which moved to Austin, Texas. Nope. In 1855 coal was found at the beginning of Corral Hollow Canyon, 12 miles southeast of Livermore. Tesla, California emerged as a coal town with a population of 1500 at its peak and 200 buildings, albeit small ones, but died to become a forgotten ghost town in 1911. (Note: The cover photos and all other photos come from the Friends of Tesla Park website.)

After a long struggle Tesla Park is a reality. Nearly 3100 acres (4.84 square miles) of open space near Livermore will be preserved as a state park under the \$31 million deal. It will be off limits to off-road vehicles. This critical wildlife bottleneck corridor was what the 20 year battle was about – the threat of expansion of the existing Carnegie Off-Highway Motor Vehicular Recreation Area next door. Carnegie covers 4,675 acres of land southeast of Livermore, next to Tesla-Corral Hollow Road. The eastern third of that land has been open to off-road vehicle use for many years.



We have to thank the tireless efforts of Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Senator Steve Glazer and their staff who remained committed to Tesla Park. Let's not forget Governor Newsom who signed AB 155 and SB 155 bills and trailer bills. Last, they were also supported by you, the Sierra Club, coordinating each needed step according to one news report.

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"Sierra Club California and our local allies have advocated for decades to protect Tesla Park," said Brandon Dawson, director of the Sierra Club California. "This agreement represents a major victory for environmentalists across the state."



Carnegie Off-Road Park

Now for a one minute history lesson: Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area was created decades ago and in 1998 \$9 million from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund was used to purchase the area called Tesla Park. CSVRA has been a haven for all terrain vehicles that effectively destroy all the terrain. While third time can be charm, proponents for expanding off-road vehicle use into Tesla Park tried three times to get a judge to approve their Environmental Impact Report and failed three times.

Friends of Tesla Park, Alameda County and several environmental groups like the Sierra Club had to convince the California legislator to come up with \$29.8 million and a million in change to reimburse the trust fund. That number included \$11 million to create a state vehicular recreation area elsewhere. (Would Bakersfield, home to Valley Fever, be a great place to start?)

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Internet Photos

Tesla Park is special with its irreplaceable archeological and spiritual Native American sites, including ceremonial and burial sites. It is home to considerable biodiversity including 42 special wildlife species, such as the golden eagle, California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog.



Thank you legislators, environmentalists and Sierra Club.

Editor's Note: Sometimes I think we forget about the value of land we can just leave in its natural state. Ask yourself if your position would change if Tesla Park was converted to a giant well-groomed golf course. It was still in its natural state when my brother and I visited Carnegie about 1963. I wanted to find a brick.

As we hiked along a trail to the abandoned brick factory location, some kid who was 12 or 13 years old was buzzing up and down the same trail on his tote goat. Back then, a tote goat was a clumsy analog version of a modern sleek dirt bike. You could buy a kit and just add an old lawn mower engine to make it go. We disliked the fact that we had to get off the trail to avoid being hit. Well, he buzzed off, so we were at peace again. However, as we crossed a low lying ridge, there was the boy standing next to his tote goat which was on fire. He was crying. I'm sure we had no kind words to comfort him. I did find my brick. I wonder what happened to it.



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## Native Grass Demonstration Restoration Project

Jim Marsh may be out of place in a world where attention spans last approximately 7.86 nanoseconds and serious independent study is something you do as punishment. But as Editor, I've been given the privilege of exploring the interworking of Jim's mind and creating an article from Jim's own notes with his permission! Here is what he has written. I'm sure some of our readers will fully appreciate the exquisite language he uses and understand the value and intensity of his work.



Readers may or may not be interested to see some examples of the raw material from which my rambling tales to the Delta-Sierra Group Executive Committee have been drawn. But some of this context for you might help in organizing or introducing their presentation in the Peatduster. I have been monitoring the Native Grass Demonstration Restoration Project site at the University Of Pacific located in Stockton.

12:22 pm @ T6... in the shade of the Holly Oak : 5 MIN. of A.S.

. It is impossible to find a still spot near T10 and so here... in the company of that stoic coyote melon that romps off in all directions here every summer after the Massacre of the Mowers. It is never the worse for wear and now has many tennis ball sized melons. These are not on every stem but it appears the stems with any melons have not one or two but one approximately every 3 or 4 leaf nodes. \*\*What might account for this very regular pattern I wonder? \*\*

12:45 pm...time to go.



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The bulk of the planting on this naturally irrigated plot was done in December 2012. It occurred to me at that time that walking the site regularly might be interesting.

I was told by one of the restoration biologists that such projects such as those that depending entirely on natural water regimes and not artificial irrigation during the first years, cannot be expected to yield significant signs of successful establishment and expanding growth of desired native plant species for seven to ten years.



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With that in mind I have now been walking the site from about 100 meters downstream of the UOP footbridge to about 25 meters downstream from the Pacific Avenue bridges on the southern floodplain of the Calaveras River weekly for what will be 9 years in February, 2022. That's just under 450 visits each of approximately 2 hours in duration.

During those walks I typically take between 80 and 150 photos. My best guess is that I have in excess of 20,000 digital images archived. About 5 to 10% of these are of the quarterly photo surveys I collect to document floral conditions and changes on the site. But the vast majority are simply of things I find interesting, beautiful, unusual or otherwise photogenic.

I also make sketches and take notes of things that catch my eye. On my office shelf now are 8 notebooks comprised entirely of notes exclusively from my visits at the UOP plot. This is essentially a category of an amateur's nature journal. However, since I have some background and experience in field biology, botany, entomology and ornithology,



I believe at least some of my observations have some merit as anecdotal data with regard to assessing the progress of the restoration efforts that begun almost a decade ago.

07.17.21 Scene/Eucalypts:  
The first two are cropped from actual page as you'd come upon it were you leafing through that particular notebook. The Editor used his magic Photoshop to size them for this newsletter.



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09.03.21 Coyote Melon: This is a sample of an observation in my own scrawl. "T6" and "T10" are my shorthand for locations on the site which is marked off by 11 transects numbered T0-T10 with T0 at the downstream end and each 50 meters apart. And so T6 is one transect past the midpoint of my weekly walks

There's a couple of oak trees close at hand providing shade on warm days such as this day where I often sit and write a few notes. Nearby is the coyote melon I refer to which despite its annual subjection to the Massacre of the Levee Maintenance Department Mowers thrives on year after year. It has become something of an old friend. (See Page 13.)



"5 Min. of A.S." denotes a weekly ritual during which I force myself to sit down for 5 minutes of absolute stillness and jot down whatever comes to mind. It's usually about something I've seen along the way but not necessarily.

I try to sit each day at a different transect site to get different views. On this day it was T10's turn but it is always so noisy under the Pacific Avenue Bridges that I often retreat to a quieter location. On this early afternoon that was back to T6 and that cool shade. A sharp-eyed reader of my journal may find that my 5 minutes of absolute stillness went from 12:22 pm to 12:45 pm, 23 total minutes. Once I had disciplined myself to actually stop and sit for just 5 minutes each walk, I noticed the stops frequently went on much longer. Stop and smell the mugwort plant - goal accomplished.

11.23.20 Fall Mugwort: Speaking about our native mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), it has a fragrant of sage by midfall.

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12.08.20 (X2) Fall Gumplant and the appearance of native gumplant by late fall. See Page 24. Because this hardy perennial sometimes produces blooms year 'round in our locality it is a major draw for pollinators, small sweat bees (genus *Lasioglossum*).

**Editor's Note:** It is impossible to review Jim Marsh's work without keeping an open browser handy to explore what he is writing about. Take the genus of bees listed as *Lasioglossum* just mentioned. According to one website, there are about 280 species in North America and approximately 87 species in California. While common, they are frequently overlooked because of their small size. These genera are commonly called "sweat bees" because they are known to be attracted to human sweat, which they drink for its salt content.

We welcome the text and sketches Jim Marsh provided for publication in the Peatduster. Please be aware that this personal intellectual property may not be further reproduced without written permission from Jim. You may contact him via our email address shown on Page 26.



Photo: Knute Momberg

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**There Is A Song**, a folk song, performed by a band called The Good Ol' Persons. It tells the story of a woman who was loved, so deeply loved. But she was blind; she couldn't see, and now that person is gone from her life. The song title is a metaphor for this next article and it's called "*You Don't Miss Your Water 'till Your Well Runs Dry.*"

The California Department of Water Resources lists 972 wells going dry in 2021. That's up 1000 percent from the previous year. Since reporting started in 2013, the number of dry wells in our state has hit 3757. In this next article our Conservation Chair discusses the process and status of groundwater in San Joaquin County.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Update - December 2021** by Mary Elizabeth

The 2014 California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that critically overdrafted groundwater basins, like the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin in San Joaquin County submit to the Department of Water Resources a plan to achieve sustainability (outflows = inflows) by 2040. The final Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was submitted in January 2020 giving the 16 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) 20 years to effect changes towards groundwater sustainability. In addition to sustainable groundwater uses, the law requires in the meantime that GSAs enact management practices that must avoid undesirable results, such as "significant and unreasonable" depletion of groundwater aquifers, degraded water quality or land subsidence.

Overdrafted groundwater basins occur when more water is pumped out (extracted) than is recharged (natural percolation). The valley groundwater levels represent waters that originated over thousands of years and in large part due to melting of glaciers that covered large areas of the Sierra Nevada range. The Delta-Sierra Group submitted comments during the preparation of the GSP, and participated in meetings offering comments, and advocated and participated in stakeholder engagement opportunities including submitting written comments. Several other non-governmental organizations including Clean Water Action, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, Local Government Commission, American Rivers, and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance all submitted written comments on the GSP.

Written comments can be found at the DWR SGMA Portal for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/comments/47>  
The Department of Water Resources has two years to review the submitted plan and consider comments before making a finding of adequacy of the plan to achieve the goals of the SGMA.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is the agency that will intervene if the Department of Water Resources finds the plan inadequate and insufficient modifications are proposed and implemented. In August 2021, the SWRCB weighed in on the plan submitted by the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority created by the 16 GSAs. A chart listing the GSAs within the subbasin is located on Page 24.

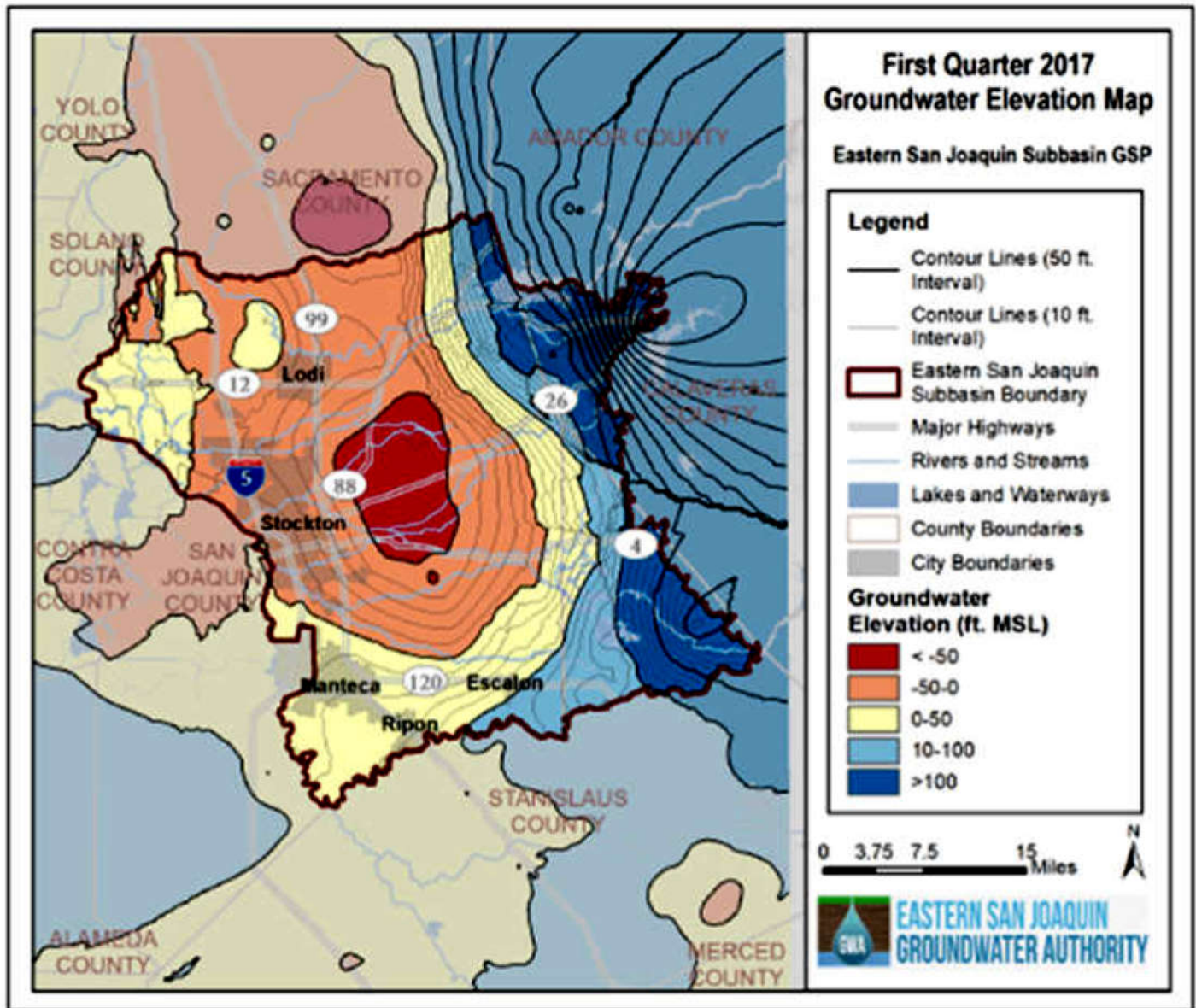
Many of the SWRCB comments are echoes of comments submitted by non-governmental organizations. The SWRCB comments include concerns regarding the number of drinking water wells and populations which will experience undesirable effects under the plan's minimum threshold. The GSP proposed a minimum threshold protective of approximately 90 percent of domestic wells. In the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin there are over 10,000 domestic wells. The GSP did not include a well mitigation program for wells that go dry due to localized over-pumping allowed in compliance with the existing GSP measures.

Currently, new wells are permitted in San Joaquin County of any size if they meet minimal setback and construction requirements. This creates a situation that puts well users without financial resources to drill a new well, to hope that their neighbor does not drill a deeper and bigger well that draws down the groundwater levels below their well's depths. This type of permitting is called ministerial as opposed to discretionary permitting which permits wells if there is available groundwater and if existing users will not be harmed. The SWRCB suggested that GSAs request that permitting agencies, in San Joaquin County that is Environmental Health, forward permit requests for new wells, enlargement existing wells, or reactivation of abandoned wells for approval by GSAs as allowed under the SGMA.

The Figure 2-37 from the Final GSP (next page) shows where the cone of depression - greatest groundwater overuse - is thought to be located and indicated with a red color.

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Figure 2-37: First Quarter 2017 Groundwater Elevation



This figure leads to the impression that there is one large area in the Subbasin that is overdrafted; however, there are other localized areas that are overdrafted which are difficult to assess due to the limited amount of groundwater wells used to measure groundwater levels.

The SWRCB also expressed concerns regarding outreach to small water systems that rely on groundwater, monitoring of interconnected surface waters, as well as reliance of proposed GSP projects, to alleviate overdrafted conditions, on new or amended surface water rights.

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The Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued correspondence in November 2021 indicating that staff had substantially completed an initial review of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin GSP and identified potential deficiencies which may prevent approval. The DWR letter stated that materials submitted to the DWR to address deficiencies must be part of an amended GSP. The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority must justify the addition of any supplementary materials included in the amended GSP. This revised GSP will be posted on the DWR SGMA Portal and available for public review. The potential deficiencies include the following as well as possible corrective actions:

**Potential Deficiency 1.** The GSP lacks sufficient justification for identifying those undesirable results for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface waters can only occur in consecutive non-dry water year types. The GSP also lacks sufficient explanation for its chronic lowering of groundwater levels minimum thresholds and undesirable results.

**Potential Deficiency 2.** The GSP does not provide enough information to support the use of the chronic lowering of groundwater level sustainable management criteria and representative monitoring network as a proxy for land subsidence.

The DWR letter also stated that these potential deficiencies do not necessarily represent all deficiencies or discrepancies that DWR may identify in the January 2020 Eastern San Joaquin GSP. These deficiencies, if not addressed, could lead to a determination that the GSP is incomplete or inadequate, based on available information. The Department of Water Resources will issue a final determination as described under the SGMA regulations, no later than January 29, 2022. The deficiencies would need to be addressed within a period not to exceed 180 days from the date of notification.

Interested people should sign up to receive notifications of meetings at: <http://www.esjgroundwater.org/Get-Connected> and monitor information of meetings that should be posted in advance at: <http://www.esjgroundwater.org/Agendas>

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## Funding Issues

Another topic which is under discussion by the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority is funding based on water use. Existing funding of compliance reporting has relied on Zone 2 Property Assessments and a uniform funding scheme despite the fact that some Groundwater Sustainability Agencies using more groundwater than others (see summary table). The postponement until now of these important governance and funding discussions creates a situation of urgency which will likely preclude widespread public outreach and consideration of beneficial users' comments.

The deficiencies related to individual GSA water budgets casts serious doubts about how funding allocations will be made so that basin-wide monitoring and implementation activities are accomplished. Metering of large agricultural wells was not proposed nor is a requirement for permitting. A frequent comment of stakeholders has been: "Why should we fund someone else's misuse and lack of planning when we have been funding efficiency improvements all along." A table summarizing ground water pumping based on available estimates, acreage, population, and possible fees to implement projects proposed to achieve sustainability follows for reference and consideration.

## Domestic Wells and Small Water Systems

As the state grapples with drought conditions and surface water allocations, wells are going dry in San Joaquin County and throughout the state. The Department of Water Resources has established a website to help keep track of dry wells: <https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report>

In November 2021, the Groundwater Authority for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin submitted the following comments on proposed SGMA funding measures to DWR. There are non-SGMA related items in the application evaluation criteria, which should be removed. These include, but are not limited to Question 6 – addressing impacts to small water systems or private shallow domestic wells, and addressing the needs to the SWRCB's SAFER Program and Question 7 – addressing Human Right to Water (AB 685).

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The Delta-Sierra Group submitted comments in November 2021 to the Groundwater Authority Steering Committee and DWR Grant Program Manager: “Impacts to domestic wells relating to off site contamination sources and decreased groundwater levels should be considered under SGMA and efforts put forth to mitigate in order to obtain sustainability for these indicators. Our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities that have water supplies impacted by these indicators must be considered for extra funding opportunities.

The Groundwater Authority’s position that domestic well supply limitations should not be considered as a basis for funding selection is objectionable. I believe that the Groundwater Authority can view these funding constraints as an opportunity to more effectively consider domestic well impacts and develop a groundwater sustainability plan that considers all stakeholders.” If you are interested in getting involved with groundwater sustainability in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin please contact Mary Elizabeth at [melizabeth.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:melizabeth.sierra@gmail.com)



**Welcome to beautiful Mendocino. Please bring your own water. We have none.**

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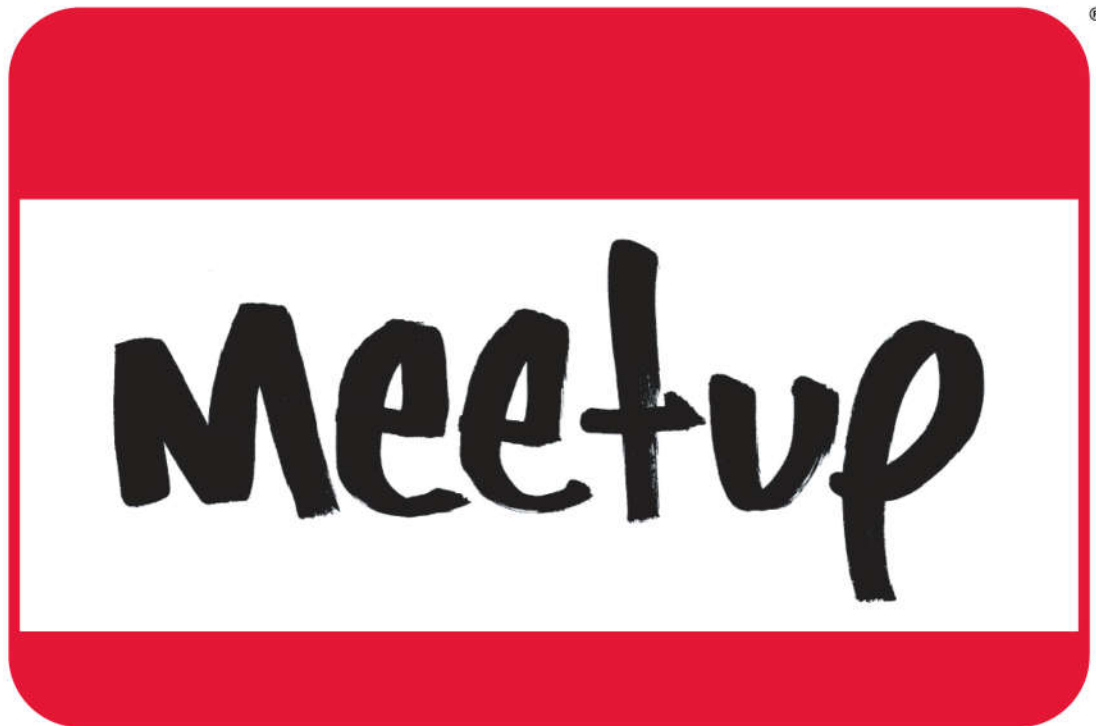
## Summary of Groundwater Pumping based on available estimates, acreage, population, and possible fees to implement projects necessary to implement projects and policies to comply with SGMA

GSA Name	# Parcels	Total Pumping-Projected (AFY)	Acres	% Pumping	Population (2017)	% Pop	Costs @ State Rate (\$55/AF)	Local Fee Possible (\$5/AF)	Land Use
Eastside SJ GSA	?	63,500	126,000	7.9%	10,498	1.8%	\$ 3,492,500	\$ 317,500	Agricultural: Calaveras County Water District, Stanislaus County, and Rock Creek Water District (1,800 acres).
Linden County Water District	569	485	3,000	0.1%	2,819	0.5%	\$ 26,675	\$ 2,425	Urban 1,800 residents
Lockeford CSD	898	1,153	800	0.1%	1,558	0.3%	\$ 63,415	\$ 5,765	Urban 3,200 residents
Oakdale Irrigation District	582	39,952	31,000	5.0%	1,890	0.3%	\$ 2,197,360	\$ 199,760	Agricultural – supplier of surface water to Urban and Agricultural
South Delta Water Agency	929	4,532	18,000	0.6%	7,136	1.2%	\$ 249,260	\$ 22,660	Agricultural surface water users, groundwater unusable due to high salinity
Central Delta Water Agency	463	9,611	73,000	1.2%	1,629	0.3%	\$ 528,605	\$ 48,055	Agricultural
Woodbridge Irrigation District	1,227	31,238	29,000	3.9%	8,488	1.4%	\$ 1,718,090	\$ 156,190	Surface water supplier within and outside of boundary
San Joaquin County GSA No. 1	5,560	74,448	51,000	9.3%	16,859	2.8%	\$ 4,094,640	\$ 372,240	Agricultural with unincorporated community service districts
San Joaquin County GSA No. 2	12,039	8,183	7,000	1.0%	39,779	6.6%	\$ 450,065	\$ 40,915	Urban – 42,000 connections – County MOA <sup>1</sup> with California Water Service, an investor-owned utility
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	1,688	138,809	73,000	17.4%	8,047	1.3%	\$ 7,634,495	\$ 694,045	Agricultural
City of Lodi	19,488	14,520	9,000	1.8%	58,174	9.7%	\$ 798,600	\$ 72,600	Urban 4,565 population density/mile <sup>4</sup>
City of Manteca	24,189	18,985	13,000	2.4%	64,279	10.7%	\$ 1,044,175	\$ 94,925	Urban 3,784 population density/mile
Stockton East Water District	5,577	165,025	101,000	20.6%	41,134	6.9%	\$ 9,076,375	\$ 825,125	Agricultural and finished urban water supplier from surface water
South San Joaquin Irrigation District	12,260	60,031	64,000	7.5%	38,080	6.4%	\$ 3,301,705	\$ 300,155	Agricultural surface water users, groundwater unusable due to high salinity
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	7,159	146,158	149,000	18.3%	21,977	3.7%	\$ 8,038,690	\$ 730,790	Agricultural: Approximately 50% is irrigated land
City of Stockton GSA	80,807	23,035	39,000	2.9%	277,120	46.2%	\$ 1,266,925	\$ 115,175	Urban 4,730 population density/mile



**Stockton, Modesto & Sonora Sierra Club Groups**  
**Find us at this active link:**

<https://www.meetup.com/S-M-S-SierraClub/members/28813452/>



**We have been in operation since October 2011 and now have 2168 members.**



**Please practice & promote the responsible use of ecosystems & resources.**

## Executive Committee

Please use the following email address to contact any members of your Executive Committee or volunteers. In the subject line please include the name of the person or persons you wish to contact.

**dsg-news@comcast.net**

**Chair & Program Chair; SJC Climate Action Committee:  
Margo Praus**

**Vice & Membership Chair, SJCOG-CAC : Paul Plathe**

**Treasurer & Chapter Delegate: Richard Abood**

**Secretary: Open**

**Conservation, Groundwater Sustainability & Outings  
Chair; Chapter Delegate Alternate & Web Master:  
Mary Elizabeth**

**Committee Member: Knute Momberg**

**Non-Voting Volunteers:**

**Newsletter Editor: Robert Evans**

**Friends of the Calaveras: Jim Marsh**

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District: Ned Lebia**

The expiration of Executive Committee member terms are as follows: Margo and the Secretary position terms expire December 2022. Knute and Dick terms expire December 2023. Paul and Mary terms expire December 2024. (The Chair, Vice Chair and Chapter Delegates must be Executive Committee members.)

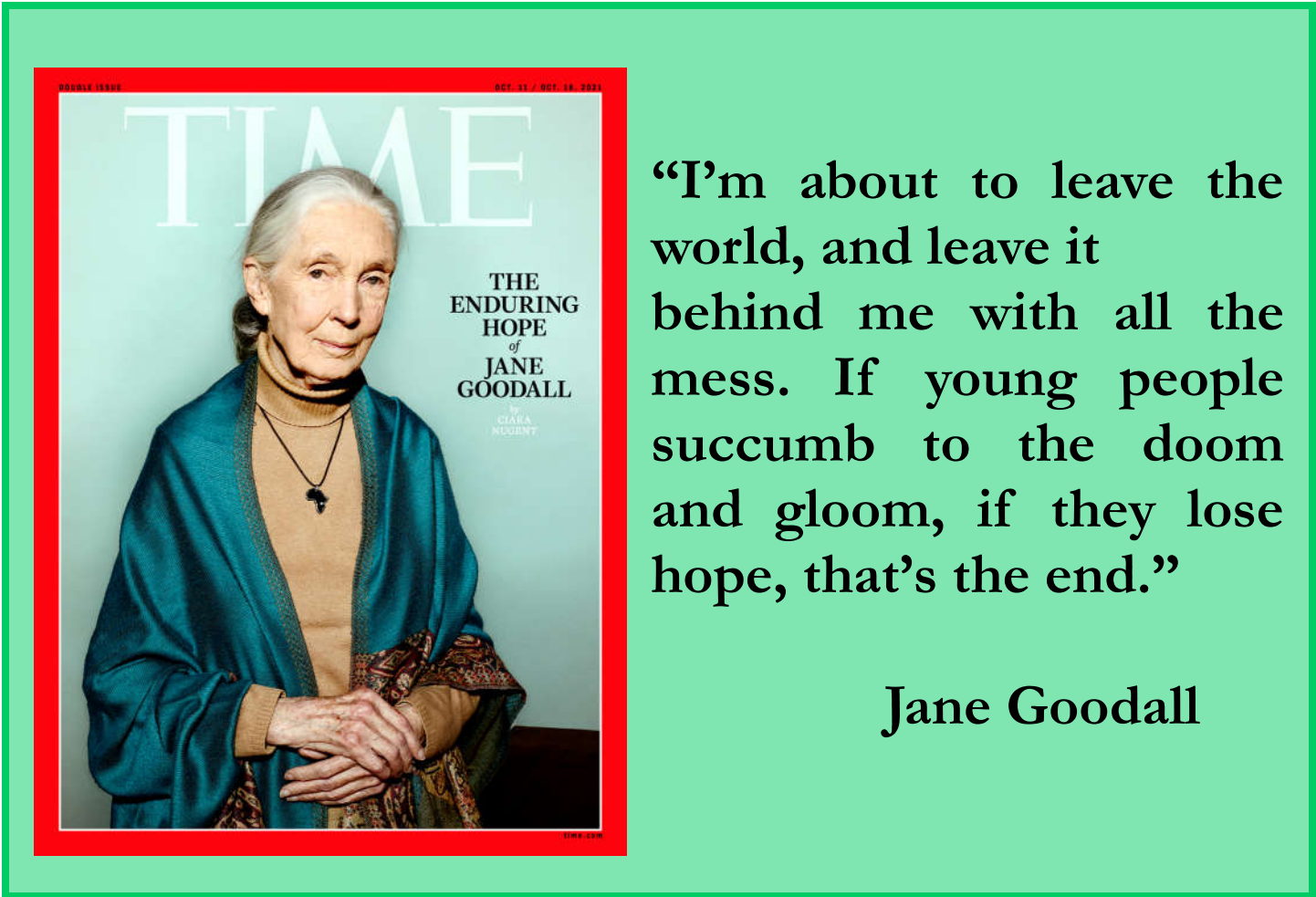
**Please practice & promote the responsible use of ecosystems & resources.**



DELTA-SIERRA GROUP  
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**THE LAST PAGE**

**Pzzzt  
Please mail or  
forward a copy  
of the Peatdster  
to your friends.**



**“I’m about to leave the world, and leave it behind me with all the mess. If young people succumb to the doom and gloom, if they lose hope, that’s the end.”**

**Jane Goodall**

**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**