SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.
MEETING AGENDA

TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
333 E. CANAL DRIVE
BOARD ROOM 105
TURLOCK, CA 95380

Click here to join the meeting via Zoom (two-way participation)
Or to join by phone: 669-900-9128
Meeting ID: 972 3658 6079

ALTERNATE FORMATS OF THE AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. PERSONS WHO REQUIRE A DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES, SHOULD CONTACT THE COMMISSION SECRETARY, IN-PERSON AT THE ABOVE (TID) ADDRESS, OR BY PHONE AT (209) 883-8353, NOT LESS THAN 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR WHICH THE MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IS REQUIRED.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

3. **ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** (5 minutes per speaker)
This time is provided for the public to address the Commissioners on matters within the Authority's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. Speakers are encouraged to consult Member Management or Directors prior to agenda preparation regarding any Authority operation or responsibility, as no action will be taken on non-agenda issues.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide public comment in-person, through Zoom, or by using the phone option. If you wish to speak, please click the "Raise Hand" button in Zoom or press *9 on your phone, and wait until your name (or other identifying information) is called by the Commission Secretary.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Tuolumne County Superior Court – Case Number CV62094
Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding No.5013
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Fresno County Superior Court – Case No. 21CECG02632
Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding No. 5229
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Fresno County Superior Court – Case No. 23CECG04201
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)-(3)
Anticipated Litigation – one potential case
Potential future State Water Board Action
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

6. RECONVENE – REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

7. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2026

8. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT
Presentation and acceptance of the Treasurer's Report through September 30, 2026.
- Ashley Millsap, SJTA Treasurer

9. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2027 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE
Consider a resolution approving the SJTA 2027 Regular Meeting Schedule pursuant to Article 7, Section 7.1 of the SJTA Joint Powers Agreement.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

10. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE JOINT WATERSHEDS NETWORK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Consider a motion authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the SJTA and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (T-Stan IRWMA) for formation of a Joint Watersheds Network.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

11. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2027 WORK PLAN AND FISCAL YEAR BUDGET
Consider a resolution approving the SJTA 2027 Work Plan and Fiscal Year Budget.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

12. PHASE 2 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
Update on the SJTA Phase 2 Strategic Communications Program.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

13. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH EVOQUE COMMUNICATIONS FOR PHASE 3 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
Consider a motion authorizing a contract amendment with Evoque Communications for continued support of the Strategic Communications Program through December 31, 2027.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

14. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM
Update on SJTA's outreach and education efforts, including the Tuolumne River Cleanup and new educational website content.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

15. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Update on the Strategic Plan implementation and SJTA activities.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director

16. MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA

17. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2027 AT 10:00 A.M.

18. MOTION TO ADJOURN

SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY

Turlock, California
10 August 2026

The Commission Meeting of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority was called to order at 10:01 a.m. in regular session on the 10th day of August 2026, conducted in-person from the Turlock Irrigation District located at 333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA and via Zoom Webinar.

Present were the following representatives of the member agencies:

Glenn Spyksma – South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Michael Frantz – Turlock Irrigation District
Kate Stacy – City and County of San Francisco, Vice Chair
Robert Frobose – Modesto Irrigation District, Chair

DRAFT

During roll call, Secretary Land asked the Commissioners to confirm that the agenda was posted within the required timeframe at the remote teleconference locations, as listed on the agenda, and to report whether any members of the public were participating from those locations. All information was confirmed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION APPROVING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Stacy, seconded by Commissioner Spyksma, that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 11, 2026, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes:	Commissioners Spyksma, Frantz, Stacy, and Frobose
Noes:	None
Absent:	None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION APPROVING TREASURER'S REPORT

SJTA Treasurer Ashley Millsap presented the Treasurer's Report with activity through June 30, 2026, including interest earned, total expenditures, carryover, and cash reconciliations for the money market and checking accounts.

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Stacy, that the Treasurer's Report with activity through June 30, 2026, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes:	Commissioners Spyksma, Frantz, Stacy, and Frobose
Noes:	None
Absent:	None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

PHASE 2 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM UPDATE

SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee presented an update on Phase 2 Strategic Communications Program, including an overview of the preliminary results for the initial paid media campaign launched at the end of June 2026, planned next steps for the policymaker engagement program, and noted that a full report on the campaign results will be provided at the November Commission meeting.

DRAFT

Commissioners and Ms. Lee discussed the campaign outreach videos, including positive feedback, the target audience for policymaker engagement, and whether the videos have been shared with the member agencies for posting on their respective websites and social media platforms.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee presented information regarding the Outreach and Education Program, including an overview of the program's focus on water stewardship, science, and collaborative management, and noted the technical content will be developed within the existing fiscal year budget.

Commissioners and Ms. Lee discussed positive feedback on the website updates and campaign outreach videos. Questions were raised regarding the draft educational program content related to providing additional information on water sources, the roles and responsibilities of member agencies, environmental stewardship, and opportunities for conservation efforts. A request was also made to include website traffic metrics in future reports.

RIVER CLEANUP EVENT

SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee presented information about coordination efforts

with Operation 9-2-99, which hosts Tuolumne River cleanup events on the second Saturday of each month, regarding opportunities for SJTA to sponsor and participate in a future river cleanup event on September 19 as part of the National Cleanup Day. She noted that SJTA is also considering a second cleanup event on the Stanislaus River in April as part of Love Our Cities.

Commissioners expressed positive feedback for participation in the river cleanup.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee spoke about continued coordination with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the Proposition (Prop) 4 Watershed Resilience Funding and the joint workshop planned for next month with the SJTA and the T-Stan IRWM to explore watershed efforts, common themes, and identify potential project opportunities in pursuit of Prop 4 funding.

Commissioners and Ms. Lee discussed opportunities to increase SJTA visibility through sponsorship and donations supporting Firewise communities within the watershed.

MOTION ADJOURNING TO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Spyksma, that the Commission meeting be adjourned to closed session at 10:30 a.m.:

DRAFT

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Tuolumne County Superior Court – Case Number CV62094
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Anticipated Litigation – one potential case
Potential future State Water Board Action
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

RECOVENE – REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

The Commission meeting was reconvened in open session at 10:46 a.m. with all Commissioners present as per the previous open session. At the request of Chair Frobose, Legal Counsel Valerie Kincaid announced there were no reportable action items from closed session.

MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA

There were none.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Stacy, seconded by Commissioner Frantz, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

DRAFT

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

_____
Secretary to the Commission of the
SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY

SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

MEMORANDUM

To:	San Joaquin Tributaries Authority
From:	SJTA Treasurer, Ashley Millsap
Issue:	**Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report**
Date:	November 04, 2026

Attached (or below) please find the Treasurer's Report with activity through September 30, 2026.

2026 Actual v. Budget

YTD as of September 30, 2026

	2026 Budget	2026 YTD Actual	Budget Variance	% of 2026 Budget YTD
Revenue				
Agencies Cash Call	$ 1,412,000.00	$ 1,412,000.00	$ -	
Interest Earned/Received	$ -	$ 10,815.52	$ 10,815.52	
Carryover	$ 817,256.03	$ 817,256.03	$ -	
Total Revenue	**$ 2,229,256.03**	**$ 2,240,071.55**	**$ 10,815.52**	
Expenditures				
Executive Director	$ 298,288.00	$ 215,700.71	$ (82,587.29)	72%
Administrative Costs	$ 418,600.00	$ 269,110.25	$ (149,489.75)	64%
Legal Costs	$ 935,125.00	$ 504,289.12	$ (430,835.88)	54%
Total Expenditures	**$ 1,652,013.00**	**$ 989,100.08**	**$ (662,912.92)**	**60%**
Revenue over Expenditures	**$ 577,243.03**	**$ 1,250,971.47**	**$ 673,728.44**	

Cash Reconciliation for Money Market Account

Balance as of 06/30/26:				**$ 534,556.72**
Receipts:				
	$ 500,000.00	Transfer		
	$ 4,434.74	Interest		
	$ 504,434.74			$ 504,434.74
Disbursements:				
	$ -	Transfer		
	$ -			$ -
Balance as of 09/30/26:			**Total Cash Balance:**	**$ 1,038,991.46**

Cash Reconciliation for Checking Account

Balance as of 06/30/26:			**$ 1,243,801.02**
Receipts:			
	$ -	Cash Call ()	
	$ -	Transfer	
	$ -		$ -
Disbursements:			
	$ 386.83	Bank Fees/Checks	
	$ 25,832.09	Media Buys	
	$ 101,412.41	EKI Environment & Water	
	$ 75,541.90	Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP	
	$ 54,454.23	EVOQUE	
	$ 2,000.00	Sacramento River Watershed Program	
	$ 3,000.00	Water Education Foundation	
	$ 500,000.00	Transfer to Money Market	
	$ 762,627.46		$ (762,627.46)
		Checking Balance as of 09/30/2026:	**$ 481,173.56**
Outstanding Disbursements			
	$ 45,361.80	EKI Environment & Water	
	$ 43,521.05	Media Buys	
	$ 26,430.00	EVOQUE	
	$ 106,008.00	Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP	
	$ 1,540.00	AgNet Media Inc.	
	$ 7,500.00	CalMatters	
	$ 25,000.00	Port of Stockton	
	$ 255,360.85		$ (255,360.85)
		Total Adjusted Checking Balance:	**$ 225,812.71**
		Total Money Market Balance:	**$ 1,038,991.46**
		Total Cash Balance as of 09/30/2026:	**$ 1,264,804.17**

SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

MEMORANDUM

To:	SJTA Commission
From:	SJTA Executive Director, Andree Lee
Issue:	**2027 Regular Meeting Schedule**
Date:	November 4, 2026

This memorandum provides an overview of the proposed San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) regular meeting schedule for 2027.

Background

Pursuant to Article 7, Section 7.1 of the of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the Commission shall hold at least one regular meeting each calendar quarter at a time and place set by the Commission, and such other times as may be determined by the Commission.

Proposed 2027 Regular Meeting Schedule:

Monday, February 8, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 10, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, August 9, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, November 8, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.

Regular meetings of the SJTA will be held at the Turlock Irrigation District Board Room located at 333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA, unless agendized otherwise.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Approve the Proposed 2027 Regular Meeting Schedule

Attachment

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 1

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2027

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 7, Section 7.1 of the of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the Commission shall hold at least one regular meeting each calendar quarter at a time and place set by the Commission, and such other times as may be determined by the Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority that the following regular meeting schedule be approved for 2027:

Monday, February 8, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 10, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, August 9, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, November 8, 2027 at 10:00 a.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the official meeting location for regular meetings is the Turlock Irrigation District Board Room located at 333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA, unless otherwise agendized or determined by the Commission.

Moved by Commissioner , seconded by Commissioner , that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

The Chair declared the resolution _____.

I, Jennifer Land, Secretary of the Commission of the SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY, a California joint powers agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a special meeting of said Commission thereof duly called and held at Turlock Irrigation District office held on the 4th day of November, 2026.

_____
Secretary to the Commission of the
SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY

SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

MEMORANDUM

To:	San Joaquin Tributaries Authority
From:	SJTA Executive Director, Andree Lee
Issue:	**Joint Watersheds Network Memorandum of Understanding**
Date:	November 4, 2026

This memorandum summarizes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (T-Stan IRWMA) for formation of a Joint Watersheds Network. SJTA is requesting authorization to enter into the MOU to support watershed-scale collaboration and to jointly position for funding through the Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Program.

Background

In alignment with SJTA's Strategic Goals to "Collaborate" and "Cultivate Relationships" with other San Joaquin River stakeholders, SJTA has been coordinating with T-Stan IRWMA to explore opportunities to improve watershed resilience and jointly position for funding. Specifically, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be issuing grants through the upcoming Watershed Resilience Grant Program in two areas: 1) Conservation Implementation grants for capital projects with a water savings benefit (concept proposals due early 2027) and 2) Watershed Resilience Planning+ grants for collaborative development of watershed resilience plans and implementation of priority projects (concept proposals expected to be due late 2027).

For the Watershed Resilience Planning+ grant, DWR requires formation of a "watershed network" with complete watershed coverage and cross-sector collaboration. T-Stan IRWMA covers the upper region of the Tuolumne and Stanislaus watersheds and has a diverse membership (including Tribes, environmental groups, and the Forest Service); therefore, a partnership between SJTA and the T-Stan IRWMA aligns with both the DWR grant program requirements and SJTA's overarching goals.

Following an initial planning meeting between SJTA and T-Stan IRWMA members on September 10th, the SJTA General Managers confirmed interest in continued collaboration and directed SJTA to take a lead role in advancing next steps, including developing a governance structure for the watersheds network and identifying project concepts to jointly advance for funding applications.

MOU Overview

SJTA's Executive Director has worked with SJTA legal counsel and T-Stan IRWMA staff to develop a draft MOU and membership framework for the Joint Watersheds Network (attached). As detailed in the MOU, the network is proposed to be governed by a Board of Directors (composed of all Commissioners from the SJTA Commission and two members from the T-Stan IRWMA) and an Advisory Group with broader representation. Additional members can be added to the Board through unanimous vote.

It is envisioned that the Advisory Group will meet quarterly and provide recommendations to the Board, which will also meet quarterly (likely in tandem with existing SJTA Commission meetings). SJTA will act as the administrator and lead entity on funding applications, working closely with T-Stan staff to jointly plan and facilitate meetings.

The Board and the Advisory Group will strive to make decisions by consensus. The MOU outlines what it means for a decision to be reached by consensus and includes a voting process if consensus cannot be reached. This approach is modeled after T-Stan IRMWA's process, which has helped them collectively secure funding for more than a dozen projects.

The attached MOU reflects input from the SJTA General Managers and the T-Stan IRWMA Board of Directors, who authorized T-Stan IRWMA management to finalize and execute the MOU with SJTA.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

In parallel with developing the MOU, SJTA and T-Stan have scheduled the next Joint Watersheds Network meeting for November 2. The focus of this next meeting will be establishing priorities for the group and discussing implementation-ready conservation projects, which will inform development of one or more concept proposals for the upcoming Conservation Implementation Grant (due early 2027). Outcomes from the November 2 Joint Watersheds Network meeting will be shared at the November 4 SJTA Commission meeting.

Additionally, SJTA and T-Stan IRWMA will work together to identify data gaps, planning topics, and projects that could be jointly advanced through a collaborative planning process for a Watershed Resilience "Planning+" grant application (concept proposals due late 2027)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and execute the Joint Watersheds Network MOU with T-Stan IRWMA.

Attachment

- Final MOU between SJTA and T-Stan IRWMA for Watershed-Scale Collaboration and to Jointly Position for Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Funding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BY AND BETWEEN THE SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY AND THE TUOLUMNE-STANISLAUS INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR WATERSHED-SCALE COLLABORATION AND TO JOINTLY POSITION FOR WATERSHED RESILIENCE FUNDING

RECITALS

WHEREAS the Parties are members of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority ("SJTA") and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority ("T-Stan"), joint powers authorities designed to effectuate the Parties' common purpose of protecting and enhancing the Stanislaus and Tuolumne watersheds and the Parties' respective water supplies; and

WHEREAS the Parties desire to establish a new Joint Watersheds Network, building upon established groups and frameworks, to support watershed-scale planning and projects and pursue associated funding.

NOW, **THEREFORE**, the Parties, in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements herein contained, do agree as follows:

I. GOVERNANCE

A. The Joint Watersheds Network will be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors (Board) shall consist of all Commissioners of the SJTA Commission and two members from T-Stan (one each from Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties). Additional Board members may be appointed by unanimous vote of the existing Board. Each member of the Board shall have one vote.
    a. The Board may oversee planning and coordination activities and funding for the Joint Watersheds Network entities through the SJTA and T-Stan budgets.
    b. The Board may direct staff on applications for funding opportunities and approve funding requests for studies and funding applications.
    c. The Board may approve priorities and institutional structure.

B. The Joint Watersheds Network Advisory Group (Advisory Group) includes representatives of parties designated to represent an interested organization within the watersheds.
    a. The Advisory Group provides input to shape group priorities and outcomes.
    b. The SJTA will designate one representative from each member agency according to its own procedures.
    c. The T-Stan will designate representatives to fill five (5) seats and will strive for representation from: two (2) special districts, one (1) Tribe, one (1) the U.S. Forest Service, and one (1) environmental non-governmental organization (NGO).
    d. Additional Advisory Group representatives may be appointed and approved by the Board to provide full watershed coverage across diverse interests, such as representation from Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).
    e. Each seat may have one designated alternate.

f. Members will notify [the Lead Entity] in writing of their designated representatives, alternates, and any future changes.
g. The Advisory Group will meet quarterly or as determined by the Advisory Group.

C. The Board and the Advisory Group will strive to make decisions under this MOU by consensus. A decision is reached by consensus when every member agrees to it, or when a member who has concerns chooses not to object after those concerns have been heard. Before a decision is made, each member will share the information it has that is relevant to the decision, explain its views clearly, and listen to the other members' views. Each member will try in good faith to find a solution that works for everyone. A member who disagrees must say so and must explain its reasons and, where it can, suggest an alternative. A member who does not respond is treated as agreeing. Members may conditionally endorse a proposal meaning they support it but need to bring it to their governing body for formal approval. Any of these actions still constitutes consensus. A member may oppose a proposal which results in no consensus.

a. The Advisory Group provides recommendations to the Board of Directors and does not have decision-making authority.
b. A quorum of six (6) representatives from the Advisory Group, including at least two (2) from each of SJTA and T-Stan, is required to make recommendations.
c. If consensus cannot be reached, the Advisory Group will forward the recommendation along with a summary of differing views.
d. When decisions are before the Board, if no consensus is reached, those Board members who oppose will be asked to indicate whether they believe there is sufficient potential for compromise to recommend referral back to the Advisory Group for continued discussion. If this is not agreed upon, the Board may submit the decision to a vote. The necessary vote to act on an item by the Board is 70% or more of a quorum of the Board members. A quorum of the Board constitutes more the half of the Board members and must include at least two SJTA Board members and at least one T-Stan Board member.

D. The SJTA will act as the Administrator and Lead Entity.
a. Facilitate group activities, along with additional stakeholder outreach and engagement.
b. Lead preparation of funding applications and administration of grant funds.

E. The T-Stan will co-facilitate the Joint Watersheds Network.
a. Support group coordination, outreach and engagement.
b. Support grant application preparation.

II. RESPONSIBLITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. General responsibilities of the Parties are as follows:
a. Work cooperatively to develop project studies.
b. Commit staff time to work with staff from other Parties and consultants in conducting project studies.
c. Share relevant engineering, permitting regulatory and operations information regarding facilities and permits with other Parties in furtherance of the project

studies.

d. Provide access to facilities and operational data that may be needed to support project studies.
e. Provide support to any consultants that need access to specific information or data held by the Parties. The Parties designate the SJTA as the Contracting Entity under this MOU.
f. The Contracting Entity shall be responsible for entering into contracts with consultants to facilitate the project studies and grant applications. The Contracting Entity shall conduct a consultant procurement process that satisfies its own internal consultant procurement policies/criteria and includes all Parties in the selection of consultants. All Parties will have equal representation in the selection process. Once consultants are selected by the Parties, and only after the Parties have funded the project studies, shall the Contracting Entity enter into a contract with a consultant on behalf of its members and the Parties.
g. The Parties acknowledge that if one or more Parties move forward with individual projects or concepts apart or separately from this MOU, those projects are not subject to the terms of this MOU.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Nature of this MOU. This MOU in no way: (i) impairs any Party from continuing its own planning or project implementation; (ii) limits a Party from exercising its statutory or regulatory authority in any matter; (iii) infers that a Party's governing body or management will act in any particular manner on a project; or (iv) gives any of the Parties any authority over matters within the jurisdiction of any other Party. This MOU is a statement of mutual intention, and it is not intended to be legally binding. Without limiting the foregoing, nothing in this MOU creates any legal rights, obligations, benefits, or trust responsibilities, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by a Party against any other Party, a Party's officers, or any person.

B. Effective date and term of MOU. Execution of this MOU by all Parties will commemorate the intent of the Parties to perform as described herein. This MOU will remain in effect until mutually terminated by the Parties.

C. Amendments. Modifications or amendments to the terms of this MOU shall be in writing and executed by all Parties.

D. Relationship of Parties. Execution of this MOU does not create a new legal entity with a separate existence from the individual Parties. This MOU also does not result in the joint exercise of powers as set forth in California Government Code section 6500 et seq. This MOU neither expands nor is in derogation of those powers and authorities vested in the Parties, or any of them, by applicable laws, statutes, or regulations, nor does it modify or supersede any other applicable interagency agreements existing as of the date of this MOU.

E. Funding and Availability of Funds. Funding by the Parties is subject to final funding being approved by the governing bodies of the Parties. Nothing in this MOU is intended or shall be construed to authorize or require the obligation, appropriation, reprogramming, or expenditure of any funds by any Party as permitted by applicable law.

F. Modification of MOU. This MOU may only be modified by the written mutual agreement of the Parties, duly signed by their authorized representatives.

G. Withdrawal and Termination. This MOU may be terminated through consent of all Parties. Any Party may withdraw from this MOU with 30 days of written notice to all other Parties.

H. Effect of MOU. This MOU in no way restricts the Parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

Signatures

SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

MEMORANDUM

To:	SJTA Commission
From:	SJTA Executive Director, Andree Lee
Issue:	**FY 2027 Work Plan and Budget**
Date:	November 4, 2026

This memorandum provides an overview of the proposed San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Work Plan and Budget. SJTA is seeking (1) input from the Commission to ensure alignment with priorities and (2) approval of the Proposed 2027 Work Plan and Budget.

Historical SJTA Budgets

Since 2019, SJTA total budgets have ranged from $1.4M to $1.65M and total cash calls have ranged from $950,000 to $1.52M ($190,000 to $379,000 per member). Legal expenditures have historically constituted the most significant portion of the budget, averaging 73% of the total operating budget for the past 8 years. Cash calls per agency increased beginning in 2023 due to the reduced number of members.

The 2026 SJTA budget was $1.65M with a total cash call of $1.41M (about $353,000 per member); the cash call was $240,000 lower than the budget as it was offset by carryover from 2025.

Proposed 2027 Work Plan

The draft 2027 Work Plan builds upon the work completed in 2026 and includes actions in support of all Strategic Plan objectives. Key activities proposed for 2027 include:

- Implementation of SJTA's Communications and Outreach (Phase 3 of the Strategic Communications Program), which may include quarterly newsletters, policy handouts, continued social media engagement, educational content (e.g., additional web pages or story maps), search engine optimization, and other as-needed support;
- Strengthening and expanding relationships through regulator communication, participation in industry forums, and ongoing engagement with policymakers;
- Continued implementation of the Joint Watersheds Network to provide a platform for information sharing, relationship building, and watershed resilience planning;

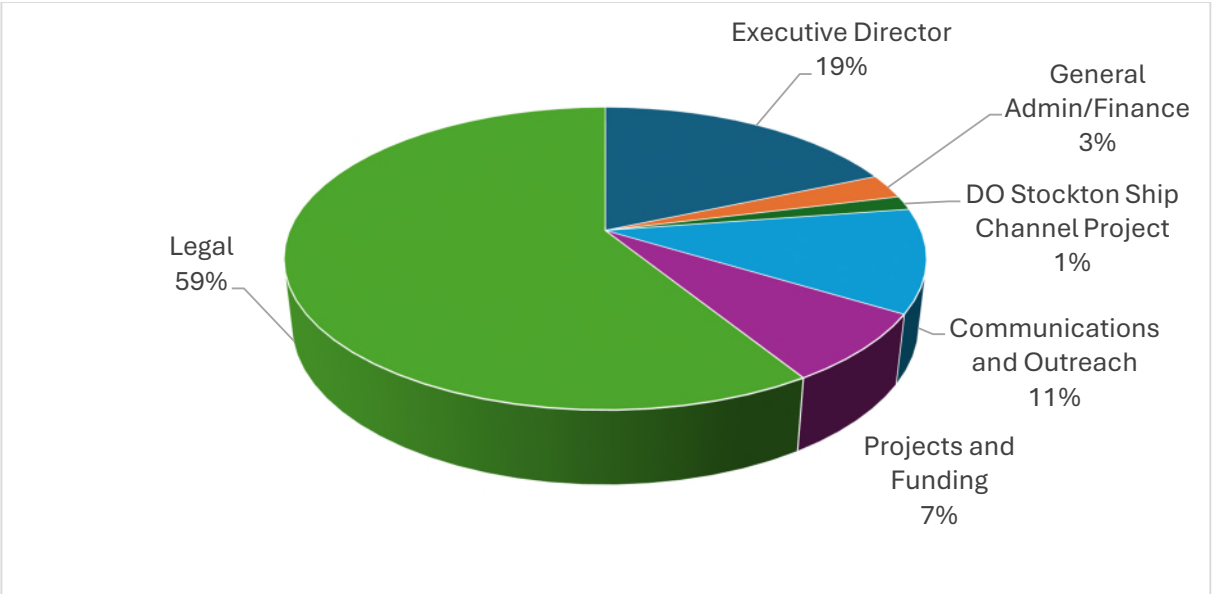
- Facilitating joint efforts to position for and obtain funding, including Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience funding and additional funding to support educational program development and watershed stewardship;
- Expanding river cleanup events;
- Developing, in coordination with SJTA agencies, project concepts and facilitating selection of a subset of project concepts for further development;
- Implementing identified stakeholder engagement activities, including hosting tours, sponsoring and exhibiting at industry events, and engaging in industry forums; and
- Supporting consideration of potential modifications to SJTA's membership structure and outreach to potential members.

The draft 2027 Work Plan, which details specific activities to further each strategic plan objective, the associated level of effort (as a percent of total time) for the Executive Director team, and the proposed contract services budgets, is provided in Exhibit A.

Proposed 2027 Budget

The proposed 2027 SJTA Budget, provided in Exhibit A, totals $1.67 million. A draft budget breakdown by expenditure category is shown in Figure 1 below. Of the total budget, approximately 59% ($985,250) is allocated to legal expenses. The remaining 41% ($689,000) is allocated to other activities, including Executive Director services, implementation of the Strategic Communications Program, outreach and engagement, project development, and other administrative costs. The Proposed Budget represents a 1% increase from 2026, with lower expenditures on strategic communications and increased expenditures on outreach, project development, legal, and funding efforts.

Figure 1: Proposed 2027 SJTA Budget by Category



Estimated 2026 Carryover

The expected cash carryover from 2026 to 2027 is estimated to be approximately $800,000 based on year-to-date expenditures.

Estimated 2027 Cash Call

It is proposed that the 2027 cash call be offset by applying a portion of the 2026 carryover to fund the 2027 budget. Two options are presented below for consideration:

1. Low End Cash Call: Total cash call of $1,060,000, or $265,000 per member. This total cash call anticipates that $614,000 of the anticipated 2026 carryover will be applied to the 2027 budget; approximately $186,000 of carryover will be maintained as a cash reserve.
2. High End Cash Call (recommended): Total cash call of $1,200,000, or $300,000 per member. This total cash call anticipates that $474,000 of the anticipated 2026 carryover will be applied to the 2026 budget; approximately $326,000 will be maintained as a cash reserve.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Approve the Proposed 2027 Work Plan; and
2. Approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget with a recommended member agency cash call of $300,000.

Attachment

- Proposed Budget (Exhibit A)
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 2

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY 2027 WORK PLAN AND 2027 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Proposed 2027 Work Plan includes actions in support of SJTA's Strategic Visioning Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 11, Section 11.1 of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the Commission shall approve a budget before the beginning of each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the SJTA Treasurer in coordination with the SJTA Executive Director have developed a proposed budget for fiscal year 2027 totaling $1.67 million in expenses (as detailed in Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2027 will result in a cash call of $300,000 from each member agency (as detailed in Exhibit A) for operation of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority and associated business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority that the proposed work plan and budget for fiscal year 2027 in the amount of $1.67 million are hereby approved, along with a cash call of $300,000 from each member agency. The cash call payment due date will be January 31, 2027 or an alternate date as determined by the Commission.

Moved by Commissioner , seconded by Commissioner , that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

The Chair declared the resolution _____.

I, Jennifer Land, Secretary of the Commission of the SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY, a California joint powers agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a special meeting of said Commission thereof duly called and held at Turlock Irrigation District office held on the 4th day of November, 2026.

_____
Secretary to the Commission of the
SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY

Exhibit A - 2027 Proposed Budget

		2027 Budget
Expenditures		
Executive Director	**$**	**310,220**
Admin Staff Cost	$	25,000.00
Website & Branding Update	$	3,600.00
DO Stockton Ship Channel Project	$	25,000.00
Banking and CPA Expenses	$	5,000.00
Court and Record Fees	$	10,000.00
Stakeholder Engagement and Public Outreach	$	60,000.00
Strategic Communications Program	$	125,000.00
Other Consultant Expenses	$	125,000.00
Administration Costs	**$**	**378,600.00**
Legal Costs	**$**	**985,250**
Total Expenditures	**$**	**1,674,069.52**
Total Cash Call	**$**	**1,200,000**
Cash Call by Agency	**$**	**300,000.00**
Carryover Applied to 2027 Budget	*$*	*474,069.52*
Estimated Carryover Remaining	*$*	*325,930.48*
Total Budget increase from 2026:		*1%*

SJTA San Joaquin TRIBUTARIES Authority

MEMORANDUM

To:	San Joaquin Tributaries Authority
From:	SJTA Executive Director, Andree Lee
Issue:	**Phase 3 Strategic Communications Program**
Date:	November 4, 2026

This memorandum summarizes the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Strategic Communications Program (Program) Phase 3 scope of work. SJTA is requesting authorization to negotiate a contract amendment with Evoque Communications to support implementation of the Phase 3 Program.

Background

SJTA's Strategic Plan includes two goals related to communications: a "One Voice" goal to elevate the identity and effectiveness of SJTA by developing a unified voice, and a "Tell the Story" goal to increase awareness and understanding of the widespread benefits from the water systems and resources managed by SJTA members.

In support of these goals, SJTA initiated development of the Program in April 2025. Phase 1 of the Program (July 2025 – February 2026) included stakeholder research, message development, and media plan scoping. Phase 2 (which launched in February 2026 and is nearly complete) has focused on implementation of the media plan and targeted outreach, including paid media and preparation of earned media materials. An update on the Phase 2 Program, including outcomes from the paid media campaign, will be presented at the November 4th Commission Meeting.

Implementation of the Phase 2 Program has been led by Evoque Communications, whom SJTA selected through unanimous recommendation by the Communications Working Group (CWG) following a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. To build on the success of the Phase 2 Program, SJTA recommends retaining Evoque to provide continued Strategic Communications support through 2027.

Phase 3 Budget and Scope of Work

As recommended by the SJTA General Managers and the CWG, the proposed 2027 Budget includes $125,000 for Phase 3 of the Program. The Phase 3 Scope of Work (attached) is anticipated to include quarterly newsletters, policy handouts, continued social media engagement, educational content (e.g., additional web pages or story maps), search engine optimization, and other as-needed support. Although the

proposed budget does not include additional media buys, Evoque could set up Google Ads to run for free under Google's non-profit grant, which provides up to $10k/month of free ads.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with Evoque Communications to provide as-needed strategic communications support for the Phase 3 Program up to a total allowable budget of $125,000.

Attachment

- Draft Evoque Communications Scope of Work for 2027

Evoque Communications Scope of Work – 2027

Evoque Communications will provide as-needed services, as directed by SJTA. Anticipated activities include:

- Development of a quarterly newsletter, summarizing key accomplishments of SJTA, to be distributed via email.
- Development of outreach materials (e.g., policy handouts) to be shared with policymakers and partner organizations.
- Development of event materials (e.g., flyers)
- Search engine optimization (SEO) support, such as refining existing content on STJA's website, and tracking relevant metrics to monitor and improve website traffic.
- Developing and publishing social media posts (e.g., LinkedIn).
- Preparing additional web content as part of SJTA's educational program (e.g., modules on "Understanding the San Joaquin Tributaries" and "Statewide Water Management Context")
- Preparing content for new Tuolumne-Stanislaus Watersheds Resilience Network (e.g., overview handout, new webpage on STJA's website).
- Setting up Google Ads (to run for free under Google's nonprofit grant, which provides up to $10k/month of free ads).

Work will be performed on a time and materials basis up to a total allowable budget of $125,000. This budget will not be exceeded without prior authorization from Client.