

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SALINAS RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING (BMP) COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Claude Hoover
Deidre Sullivan

David Bunn, Public Member
Don Chapin, Public Member
Dennis Sites, Public Member

TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DATE: Wednesday, January 13, 2016
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

A G E N D A

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment**
(Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker on matters within the jurisdiction of the Agency not listed on this agenda. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make statements on agenda items as the Committee considers them.)
- 3. Approve the Minutes of Meetings held on September 16, 2015 and October 14, 2015.**
The Committee will consider approval of the Minutes of the above-mentioned meeting.
- 4. Consider receiving an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation; and, providing direction to Staff.**
Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager, will present this item to the Committee.
- 5. Consider receiving a report on a component of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project: returning a portion of extracted water to the Salinas Basin, and providing direction to Staff.**
Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager, will present this item to the Committee.
- 6. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.**
The Committee will discuss and determine details for its next meeting.
- 7. Adjournment**

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL SALINAS RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) COMMITTEE**

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Claude Hoover
Deidre Sullivan

Dennis Sites, Public Member
Don Chapin, Public Member
David Bunn, Public Member

TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2015
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order @ 8:30 a.m.** by Committee Chair Richard Ortiz.

Members present: Directors Ortiz, Hoover and Sullivan; Public Members Sites, and Chapin

Members absent: Public Member Bunn

A quorum was established.

2. **Public Comments - None**

3. **Approve the Minutes of the BMP Committee meeting held on August 19, 2015.**

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Hoover and Sites, approved the Minutes of the BMP meeting held on August 19, 2015 with Committee Member Chapin abstaining as he did not attend the meeting.

4. **Consider receiving a report on the actual construction of the Salinas River Diversion Facility that is a component of the Salinas Valley Water Project.**

Brent Buche, Deputy General Manager, presented the report for the Committee's consideration.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Chapin and Hoover, received the report on the actual construction of the Salinas River Diversion Facility that is a component of the Salinas Valley Water Project.

5. **Consider receiving an update on the Agency’s DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program;” and, providing direction to Staff.**

Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager, presented the report for the Committee’s consideration.

Public Comment: Tom Virsik

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Sullivan and Ortiz, received the update on the Agency’s DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program;” and directed Staff to further clarify the report and include a funding status for each project noted in the report, and then bring the report back to the Committee for review.

5. **Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.**

The next scheduled meeting date is October 14, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The Committee would like to further discuss the DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program” report.

6. **Adjournment @ 9:55 a.m.**

Submitted by: Alice Henault

Approved on: _____

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL SALINAS RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) COMMITTEE**

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Claude Hoover
Deidre Sullivan

Dennis Sites, Public Member
Don Chapin, Public Member
David Bunn, Public Member

TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2015
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order @ 8:30 a.m.** by Committee Chair Richard Ortiz.

Members present: Directors Ortiz, Hoover and Sullivan; Public Members Sites, and Chapin. Public Member Chapin left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Members absent: Public Member Bunn

A quorum was established.

2. **Public Comments - None**

3. **Approve the Minutes of the BMP Committee meeting held on September 16, 2015.**

Committee Action: No action was taken as Minutes were inadvertently omitted from the Agenda packet.

(Item 5 was considered next on the Agenda.)

5. **Consider receiving an update on the Agency's DRAFT "Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program", and providing direction to Staff.**

Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager, presented the report for the Committee's consideration.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Hoover and Sites, received the update on the Agency's DRAFT "Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program".

4. **Consider receiving the report and recommending Agency Board of Directors approval and recommend to the Agency Board of Supervisors that it approve the Amended and Restated Water Recycling Agreement between Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency and Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Water Recycling Agreement”), and that it authorize the Agency Board of Supervisors Chair to execute the Water Recycling Agreement.**

David Chardavoyne, General Manager, presented this item to the Committee.

Public Comment: Rob Johnson read an email from Nancy Isakson, Salinas Valley Water Coalition.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Hoover and Sullivan, received the report and recommended further discussion of this item at the next Board of Directors meeting.

6. **Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.**

The next scheduled meeting date is November 18, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment @ 10:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Alice Henault

Approved on: _____

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – BMP COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE:	January 13, 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Consider receiving an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation, and providing direction to Staff.		
Consent ()		Action (X)	
Information ()			
SUBMITTED BY:	Robert Johnson	PREPARED BY:	Robert Johnson
PHONE:	(831) 755-4860	PHONE:	(831) 755-4860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:		January 25, 2016	

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

Receive an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and provide direction to Staff.

SUMMARY:

The recently-passed Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is complex legislation that changes the paradigm on how groundwater will be managed in California. By June 2017, a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) needs to be established for groundwater basins in California.

DISCUSSION:

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed into law the SGMA, which took effect on January 1, 2015. This act is complex, and clean-up language is expected, however in the meantime, entities that would be required to implement the SGMA need to embark on a series of steps to meet a timeline where the clock is already ticking.

The Agency Board of Directors (BOD) directed the Agency to be the GSA for the Salinas Valley. Further direction by the Agency Board of Supervisors (WRABOS) had Agency staff initiate at public process to gain stakeholder input. After three meetings in January 2015, other stakeholder groups indicated that they would prefer a more expansive process. Based on that input, a “Consortium” of the County, the Agency, the Cities of the Salinas Valley (represented by the City of Salinas), as well as three representatives from the agricultural industry: the Grower-Shipper Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Salinas Valley Water Coalition was created to initiate a facilitated process.

A Request for Proposals for facilitation services was released and a facilitator has been selected. The facilitator has been performing interviews with key stakeholders, and compiling the information they have gathered. The first public meeting/workshop will be January 21, 2016 at the Monterey County Government Center, Monterey Room (second floor), running from 4pm to 6pm.

Another GSA-related activity occurring is related to basin boundaries. The Agency is looking at refining the boundaries of specific basins. The Agency will be proposing to modify or seek clarification of boundaries of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and the Pajaro Groundwater Basin. Attached to this report is a letter from the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster (the Seaside Basin is adjudicated), seeking collaboration between the Seaside Basin and the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin managers regarding water sustainability issues.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Monterey County Counsel’s office as well as the Monterey County Resource Management Agency has been involved in the discussions regarding SGMA.

FINANCING:

The extent to which SGMA will affect the budget is unknown at this time. It is believed that the State would provide funding for the development of basin sustainability plans, and there would be fees and other revenues that would come from the enactment of the SGMA.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:	YES (X) UNKNOWN NO ()
FUNDING SOURCE:	To be determined
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:	
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Letter dated December 18, 2015 from Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
APPROVED:	 <hr/> General Manager Date

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER

2600 Garden Road, Suite 228, Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 641-0113

December 18, 2015

Supervisor Simon Salinas, Chair
Monterey County Board Of Supervisors
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
168 W. Alisal, 3rd Floor
Salinas, Ca 93901

Subject: Request for Collaboration with the Seaside Basin Watermaster to Seek Mutually Acceptable Solutions to the Falling Groundwater Levels in Both the Laguna Seca Subbasin and the Corral de Tierra Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Basin (as Defined in Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 118)

Honorable Chair Salinas:

The Seaside Basin Watermaster was created by the Adjudication Decision rendered by the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Monterey in 2007 under Case No. M66343. The purpose of the Watermaster is to administer and enforce the provisions of the Adjudication Decision. Simply stated, the Watermaster is to manage the adjudicated Seaside Basin such that it is protected against incurring "Material Injury" defined in the Decision as including but not being limited to "...seawater intrusion, land subsidence, excessive pump lifts, and water quality degradation."

Groundwater modeling conducted for the Watermaster by its consultant, HydroMetrics WRI, and reported in the Technical Memorandum from HydroMetrics dated July 28, 2014, led to the conclusion that even if all pumping within the Laguna Seca Subarea (LSSA) of the adjudicated Seaside Basin were to be halted, groundwater elevations in the easternmost portion of the LSSA would continue to fall. This indicates that pumping from wells outside of the LSSA prevents the subarea from achieving stable groundwater elevations. This influence was evaluated by running multiple scenarios with varying pumping from wells outside the LSSA. It was found that well pumping to the east of the LSSA has a significant impact on groundwater levels in the eastern portion of the LSSA and prevents achieving stable groundwater elevations in that portion of the LSSA.

This modeling work concluded that there will need to be significant pumping reductions both inside and outside of the LSSA to halt groundwater level declines throughout the LSSA. A study was prepared for Monterey County Resource Management Agency by Geosyntec Consultants in July 2007 titled "El Toro Groundwater Study." The El Toro Planning Area, which was the focus of this Study, is located within the Corral de Tierra Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Basin, as defined in DWR's Bulletin 118. In the Executive Summary from that report there are several statements that pertain to and/or tend to confirm the findings of the HydroMetrics modeling of the LSSA, and which are supportive of this work, specifically:

On page ES-1 the study states "*...water supply for the El Toro Planning Area is derived entirely from groundwater and major portions of the El Toro Planning Area subareas are hydrogeologically contiguous as are the aquifer systems beneath the northwest portion of the El Toro Planning Area and the adjacent Laguna Seca portion of the Seaside Basin along Highway 68.*" On this same page of the study it states "*Decline of groundwater levels in some El Toro Planning Area wells during the 1980s, and the findings of a 1991 technical report (Staal, Gardner & Dunne, 1991) resulted in the County imposing a B-*

8 zoning overlay in November 1992 to portions of the El Toro Planning Area due to potential water supply limitations. The B-8 zoning limits development to single-family dwellings on existing lots of record since 1991." Also on this page it states "Both the 1991 and 1996 reports, however, cautioned that demand approaches supply in most of the planning subareas and that build-out demand would exceed some estimates of supply."

On page ES-4 the study states "...decline in groundwater levels has been documented in the Laguna Seca area (Yates et al., 2002), which borders the El Toro Planning Area to the west along Highway 68 and is hydrogeologically contiguous."

On page ES-5 the study states "Downward trends for the majority of long-term hydrographs indicate that the rate of groundwater pumping from the El Toro Primary Aquifer System exceeds the rate of groundwater replenishment. Compilation of trend analyses for long-term hydrographs clearly shows groundwater overdraft conditions in the northern portion of the El Toro Planning Area near Highway 68, where the majority of pumping occurs." Also on that page of the study it states "Water level data compiled and reviewed for this study indicates that the primary aquifer system in the El Toro Planning Area is in overdraft."

On page ES-6 the study provides a number of recommendations, one of which is to "Establish a formal collaborative groundwater management program for the Laguna Seca and El Toro Planning Areas because they are hydrogeologically contiguous."

This Study informed the County some years ago about the overdrafted condition of the El Toro Planning Area's groundwater supply aquifers, and of that aquifer's hydrogeologic connection to the Laguna Seca Subarea's groundwater supply aquifer. Imposing the B-8 overlay was a step taken by the County to reduce future groundwater demands, but apparently did not have any impact on demands that existed prior to the 1991 imposition of that overlay – consequently most of the development in that area has not been affected by the overlay.

Since the work done by the Watermaster and by the County both concluded that the adjudicated Laguna Seca Subarea and the Corral de Tierra Subbasin are hydrogeologically connected, and that both of these areas are experiencing declining groundwater levels which cannot be sustained without ultimately causing Material Injury, it is clearly desirable, and in fact imperative, for the County and the Watermaster to collaborate to seek and implement mutually acceptable solutions to the problem of falling groundwater levels in both of these areas.

The purpose of this letter is to ask the appropriate County department to immediately commence discussions with the staff of the Watermaster with the objective of developing such solutions. On policy matters please contact Mr. Dewey Evans, Executive Officer. On technical matters please contact Mr. Robert Jaques, Technical Program Manager.

We look forward to working with you and your staff toward implementing measures that will protect the groundwater basins within our respective jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



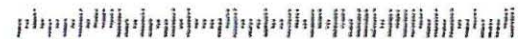
Paul Bruno
Chairman of the Board
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
2600 GARDEN ROAD, STE 228
MONTEREY CA 93940



SUPERVISOR SIMON SALINAS, CHAIR
MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTEPEY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
168 W. ALISAL, 3rd FLOOR
SALINAS CA 93901

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**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – BMP COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE:	January 13, 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Consider receiving a report on a component of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project: returning a portion of extracted water to the Salinas Basin, and providing direction to Staff.		
Consent ()		Action (X)	
Information ()			
SUBMITTED BY:	Robert Johnson	PREPARED BY:	Robert Johnson
PHONE:	(831) 755-4860	PHONE:	(831) 755-4860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:		January 25, 2016	

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

Receive a report on a component of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project: returning a portion of extracted water to the Salinas Basin, and provide direction to Staff.

SUMMARY:

The Cal-Am Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project continues to move forward on a number of fronts, one being the development of a solution to returning a portion of the extracted water to the Salinas Basin. Work still needs to be completed determining how much of the water extracted is to be returned to the Salinas Basin; however having a solution to return the portion of water that is extracted needs to be worked out before the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project can go online.

DISCUSSION:

The Cal-Am Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP) continues to move forward on a number of fronts, one being the development of a solution to returning a portion of the extracted water to the Salinas Basin (Basin). While Cal-Am feels that the MPWSP source water production is not likely to injure Basin groundwater resources, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) Act authorizes the Agency to prohibit the exportation of groundwater outside of the Basin. Therefore, for Basin water to be used as source water for the MPWSP, a determination of the amount of Basin water extracted needs to occur, and subsequently returned to the Basin.

On a related note, the Castroville Community Services District (CCSD) has been informing the Agency Board of Directors (BOD) of drastically falling water levels in their supply wells for the last two years. Also, the CCSD has experienced water quality degradation, primarily from increased salinity. The CCSD provides municipal and domestic water services to the Town of Castroville. Castroville’s water use (recently) is about 800 acre-feet annually; though historically the water use has been closer to around 1000 acre-feet annually.

The proposed solution is to provide the CCSD with the water to be returned to the Basin, thus fulfilling the Agency Act requirement to not export any water from the Basin. Additionally, any water produced and delivered that is above what the CCSD capacity can effectively utilize will then be delivered to the Agency's Castroville Seawater Intrusion (CSIP) Project. A great deal of work still needs to occur before this option is accepted and subsequently implemented.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Currently no other County department has been involved in this effort. If this proposal becomes the solution, the County's Resource Management Agency, County Counsel, and the Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau may be brought into the picture.

FINANCING:

Financing is still being worked out, though there are differing computational methodologies that depict varying costs per acre-foot of water and infrastructure costs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:	YES ()	NO ()
FUNDING SOURCE:		
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:		
ATTACHMENTS:		
APPROVED:		
	_____	_____
	General Manager	Date