

**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 am
DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2015
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 the meeting held on August 19, 2015.**
The Committee will consider approval of the Minutes of the above-mentioned 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, will present the report for the Committee's consideration.
- 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, will present the report for the Committee's consideration.
- 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, August 19, 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: Director Richard Ortiz, Director Claude Hoover, Public Member Dennis Sites and Director Deidre Sullivan
Members absent: Public Member Don Chapin and Public Member David Bunn

A quorum was established

2. **Public Comments**
None

3. **Approve the Minutes of the BMP Committee meeting held on February 11, 2015.**

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Hoover and Sullivan, the Committee approved the Minutes of the BMP meeting held on February 11, 2015.

4. **Consider receiving a report 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 Sullivan, the Committee received the report on the Agency's DRAFT "Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program" and directed Staff to incorporate the following into the draft:

- a. use the best science available in a basin study;

- b. **advocate water conservation (with regard to pumping, drilling, water usage, etc.); and,**
- c. **include natural environment enhancement in all projects.**

Public Comment: Walter Gibau and John Baillie of Jack T. Baillie Co.

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

The next scheduled meeting date is September 16, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The Committee would like to further discuss the DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program” report.

6. Adjournment @ 9:35 a.m.

Submitted by: Alice Henault

Approved on: _____

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

MEETING DATE:	September 16, 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Consider receiving a report on the actual construction of the Salinas River Diversion Facility that is a component of the Salinas Valley Water Project		
Consent ()		Action (X)	
Information ()			
SUBMITTED BY:	Brent Buche	PREPARED BY:	Robert Johnson
PHONE:	(831) 755-4860	PHONE:	(831) 755-4860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:		September 28, 2015	

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

Receive a report on the actual construction of the Salinas River Diversion Facility that is a component of the Salinas Valley Water Project

SUMMARY:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) has received inquiries as well as requests for clarification as to the actual construction / operation parameters of the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP), specifically centered on the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). This item presents facts regarding the SRDF and its delivery capabilities.

DISCUSSION:

The Agency has received inquiries as well as requests for clarification as to the actual construction / operation parameters of the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP), specifically centered on the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). These inquiries indicate concern from the public that the SVWP and more specifically, the SRDF are not built to the standards or capabilities described in documents that were used to: 1) describe the SVWP, and 2) provide the foundation for the Proposition 218 ballot measure.

One such inquiry came from the Salinas Valley Water Coalition in a letter dated June 29, 2015. This letter raised five overall areas of concern, with the second being the SVWP actual construction / operation parameters versus what was presented in the Proposition 218 documents. To quote the letter; “... *It is our understanding that there are various infrastructure components that in fact limit the manner in which the SVWP can be operated as originally envisioned. These ‘shortfalls’ need to be fully reviewed and analyzed, and a plan developed to remedy the limiting factors.*”

Attached is a memo that references the documents that were used to describe the SVWP, as well as the expected capabilities of the SRDF, and the changes to the initial design that were necessary to successfully complete the project.

The attached memo has ‘REVISED’ in the title; that is in regards to the memo document itself, not the SRDF capacity.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

No other County Department was involved with this item.

FINANCING:

Based on the current attached memo, there is not a financial component to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:	YES ()	NO (X)
FUNDING SOURCE:		
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:		
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Memo, "Salinas River Diversion Facility – REVISED"	
APPROVED:		
	_____ General Manager	_____ Date



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: April 23, 2015

TO: David E. Chardavoyne, General Manager

FROM: Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: Salinas River Diversion Facility Capacity - REVISED

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) has received questions as to the capacity of the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). Specifically, whether the SRDF was built to the same capacity as was described in the Salinas Valley Water Project Summary Report Prepared by RMC, Dated October 2001 (Summary Report) and again in the Salinas Valley Water Project Engineer's Report prepared by RMC, dated January 2003 (Engineer's Report). The latter document was used to support an assessment through the Proposition 218 process for the Salinas Valley Water Project. The Engineer's Report prepared for the Proposition 218 assessment ballot included capital costs adopted by a sub-group of the Salinas Valley Water Project Cost Allocation Committee.

The Summary Report references that the Proposed Project, the portion concerned now known as the SRDF, would have a capacity to pump an average of 9,700 acre feet per year (AFY), and up to 12,800 AFY, of Salinas River water to be diverted and delivered to the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) service area. The Summary Report also states that "...it appears a diversion capacity of 85 cfs is appropriate for the project..." The Engineer's Report reiterates these values.

Subsequent to the Proposition 218 ballot, Boyle Engineering Corporation was hired to design the SRDF. During the SRDF 30 percent design review, which included pumping capacity of 85 cfs, the cost estimate for such a facility was well beyond the SRDF budget as defined in the Engineer's Report. In an effort to bring the SRDF cost in line with its budget, among other things, the pumping capacity was reduced to 36 cfs under normal operating conditions with an option to pump up to approximately 48 cfs in exceptional situations. Under normal operations during the operating season of April 1 through October 31 (3 of the SRDF pumps running 24 hours per day, with the 4th pump on standby), the SRDF can pump a total volume of 15,280 AFY. Pumping of this annual volume from the SRDF has not occurred because such service area demand does not exist for river water because of the operational policy to maximize the use of recycled water.

In conclusion, although the instantaneous pumping capacity of the SRDF was reduced from 85 to 36 cfs, the total annual volume of river water the SRDF is actually capable of pumping (diverting) exceeds the annual volume of diversion described in the Engineer's Report (15,280 AFY vs. 12,800 AFY).

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

MEETING DATE:	September 16, 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Consider receiving an update on the Agency’s DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program”, 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:		September 28, 2015	

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

Receive an update on the Agency’s DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program”, 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. The DRAFT Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program is being developed by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) to provide a path forward, building upon the successes of the projects already implemented in the Salinas Valley.

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.

Seawater intrusion (SWI) has been an issue in the Salinas Valley for over 60 years. In 1946, the State of California provided a three-prong strategy to halt SWI. The Agency and its predecessor entity, the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, have been using this approach as a guide for project development and implementation, adapting each component of the solution to current times. The resulting suite of projects has been dubbed the, ‘Foundational Project Suite’, providing a foundation to solving SWI in the Salinas Valley.

The recently-passed SGMA has caused a new groundwater management paradigm to be put in place. One that is focused on long-term sustainability of water resources, and for the Salinas Valley, will require a new ‘suite’ of projects that will augment the ‘Foundational Project Suite’, and provide sustainable groundwater resources into the future.

The Agency is presenting this comprehensive sustainability program to basin sustainability, showing that there are a number of components necessary to complete the final comprehensive solution; however, it will take time to implement. Attached is a copy of the DRAFT

“Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program”.

The BMP Committee heard this item at their August 19, 2015, meeting and after discussion with the Committee, additional language was proposed, and has been incorporated into the version attached.

This document replaces the previously-presented “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Comprehensive Approach” document that was presented to both the Agency Board of Directors and Agency Board of Supervisors at a joint meeting on March 24, 2015.

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 the SGMA and how it relates to Monterey County.

FINANCING:

The extent to which the SGMA will affect 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. Therefore the financing of or from any activities related to new project implementation are unknown at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:	YES (X) UNKNOWN NO ()
FUNDING SOURCE:	To be determined
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:	BMP Committee directed staff to add text to the document at their August 19, 2015 meeting
ATTACHMENTS:	1. DRAFT “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program”
APPROVED:	 <hr/> General Manager Date



Monterey County Water Resources Agency
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901



DRAFT
**Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin
Sustainability Program**
2015

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Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Salinas Valley in Monterey County is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Revenue from the agricultural industry provides over \$4 billion annually to the State's economy. Water is critical to the success of agriculture, with groundwater being the majority of water utilized. Seawater intrusion (SWI) was identified in the Salinas Valley in the 1930's, and the State analyzed the situation and developed a three-prong approach to stopping seawater intrusion.

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) and its predecessor entity, the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, have been using this strategy as a guide for project development and implementation, adapting each component of the solution to current times.

The three-prong strategy has been implemented over the years, with the last piece coming on-line in 2010. This foundational 'suite of projects' is now in place, and a time period to determine effectiveness is underway. Unfortunately, the last few years the State of California has been in severe drought, and there has not been enough water to fully utilize the project suite.

The recently-passed Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) has caused a new groundwater management paradigm to be put in place. One that is focused on long-term sustainability of water resources, and for the Salinas Valley, will require a new 'suite' of projects that will augment the foundational strategy, and provide sustainable groundwater resources into the future.

This new set of projects, the "Sustainability Project Suite", in conjunction with the foundational projects already in place in the Salinas Valley, will provide the water necessary to halt seawater intrusion, and furthermore, bring sustainability to the Salinas Valley by utilizing local water resources more effectively, without requiring extreme limitations on groundwater pumping for urban or agricultural uses.

The Agency is presenting this comprehensive solution to basin sustainability, showing that there are a number of components necessary to complete the final comprehensive solution; however, it will take time to implement. This document identifies the pieces of a comprehensive basin sustainability program that the Agency is recommending.

This document replaces the previously-presented "Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Comprehensive Approach" document that was presented to both the Agency Board of Directors and Agency Board of Supervisors at a joint meeting on March 24, 2015.



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INTRODUCTION

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) has developed this “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program” in response to need for the groundwater basin to be managed in a sustainable fashion, once a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is formed. This program focuses on four main points:

- Sustainability will be achieved
- Sustainability is not just about water resources
- Implement Physical Solutions versus Imposing Prescribed Restrictions
- Stay Committed to Completion

1.1 Objective

The objective of this Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program is to provide a pathway to sustainability through physical solutions that can be implemented over time, work as a suite of projects that together will: 1) halt seawater intrusion and 2) bring sustainability to the Salinas Valley by utilizing local water resources more effectively.

1.2 Background

The Salinas Valley in Monterey County is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Revenue from the agricultural industry provides over \$4 billion annually to the State’s economy. Water is critical to the success of agriculture, with groundwater being the majority of water utilized. Seawater intrusion (SWI) was identified in the Salinas Valley in the 1930’s, with the State Department of Public Works (predecessor to Department of Water Resources) preparing a study of the Salinas Valley in 1946. That study, “Bulletin 52”, provided a strategy to stop SWI in the Salinas Valley. That strategy entails a three-prong approach that involves:

- Develop a new water source;
- Move new water to the coast; and,
- Stop pumping at the coast.

The Agency and its predecessor, the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District have been using the strategy put forth in Bulletin 52 as a guide for project development and implementation. To date, the following projects have been constructed and implemented:

- New water source – Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs;
- Move water to coast – Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP); and,
- Stop pumping at the coast – Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project and the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project, jointly referred to as the “Monterey County Water Recycling Projects”

Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs were constructed in 1957 and 1967 respectively. The Salinas Valley Reclamation Project and the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) were completed around 1998; and these projects, in conjunction with the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) that was completed and operating in 2010, have reduced the pace of seawater intrusion in the Pressure 180-Ft. and Pressure 400-Ft. aquifers. However, the goal of halting seawater intrusion, as envisioned in Bulletin 52, has yet to be achieved.



This “suite of projects” is foundational to solving water issues in the Salinas Valley. This “Foundational Project Suite” can be augmented to increase the effectiveness of using local water resources to solve local water issues. As implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which is presented in more detail later in this document, moves forward, this program can be used as a guide for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for Salinas Valley Basin sustainability.

This document replaces the previously-presented “Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Comprehensive Approach” document that was presented to both the Agency Board of Directors and Agency Board of Supervisors at a joint meeting on March 24, 2015.

1.3 Challenges

As the Salinas Valley Basin moves towards sustainability, challenges will arise concerning water rights, fair apportionment, as well as possible litigation – that could stall the process for years, which could lead to the GSA missing deadlines, which could cause the state to trigger adjudication.



FIGURE 1 - SALINAS VALLEY SUBBASINS AS PER STATE BULLETIN 118



SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

On September 16, 2014 Governor Brown signed a three-bill package known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The legislation allows local agencies to customize groundwater sustainability plans to their regional economic and environmental needs. SGMA creates a framework for sustainable, local groundwater management for the first time in California history.

"A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally. Local agencies will now have the power to assess the conditions of their local groundwater basins and take the necessary steps to bring those basins in a state of chronic long-term overdraft into balance."
– Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

2.1 Background

The three bills that make up the SGMA are [AB 1739](#) by Assembly Member Roger Dickinson, and [SB 1319](#) and [SB 1168](#) by Senator Fran Pavley.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

- Provides for sustainable management of groundwater basins
- Enhances local management of groundwater consistent with rights to use or store groundwater
- Establishes minimum standards for effective, continuous management of groundwater
- Provides local groundwater agencies with the authority, technical, and financial assistance needed to maintain groundwater supplies
- Avoids or minimizes impacts for land subsidence
- Improves data collection and understanding of groundwater resources and management
- Increases groundwater storage and removes impediments to recharge
- Empowers local agencies to manage groundwater basins, while minimizing state intervention

SGMA requires local agencies to: 1) establish a new governance structure, known as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), and 2) develop groundwater sustainability plans for groundwater basins or sub-basins that are designated as medium or high priority.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a Strategic Plan for its Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program which will implement the new and expanded responsibilities identified in the SGMA. Some of these expanded responsibilities include: 1) developing regulations to revise groundwater basin boundaries; 2) adopting regulations for evaluating and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and coordination agreements; 3) identifying basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft; 4) identifying water available for groundwater replenishment; and 5) publishing best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater.

Improved groundwater management will provide protection against drought and climate change, and contribute to water supply dependability that will be independent of weather. California, Monterey County, and the Salinas Valley depend on groundwater for a majority of its annual water supply, and sustainable groundwater management is essential to establish and maintain reliable and resilient water systems.



2.2 Implementation Time line

SGMA will be implemented over the next 20 years and has multiple processes moving along parallel tracks. Here is a list of the major milestones in the overall SGMA process:

- For Successful Implementation –
 - Formation of GSA 6/30/2017
 - Completion of GSP for critically overdrafted basins 1/31/2020
 - Completion of GSP for all other basins 1/31/2022

If these deadlines are achieved on time, there will be no state intervention in that specific basin. If they are not achieved by the deadlines contained in the Legislation, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will intervene:

- SWRCB Intervention Time line –
 - No GSA formed 6/30/2017
 - Inadequate / no GSP in critically-overdrafted basins 1/31/2020
 - Other basins, inadequate / no GSP, and basin in long-term overdraft 1/31/2022
 - GSP is inadequate / significant depletions of interconnected streams 1/31/2025

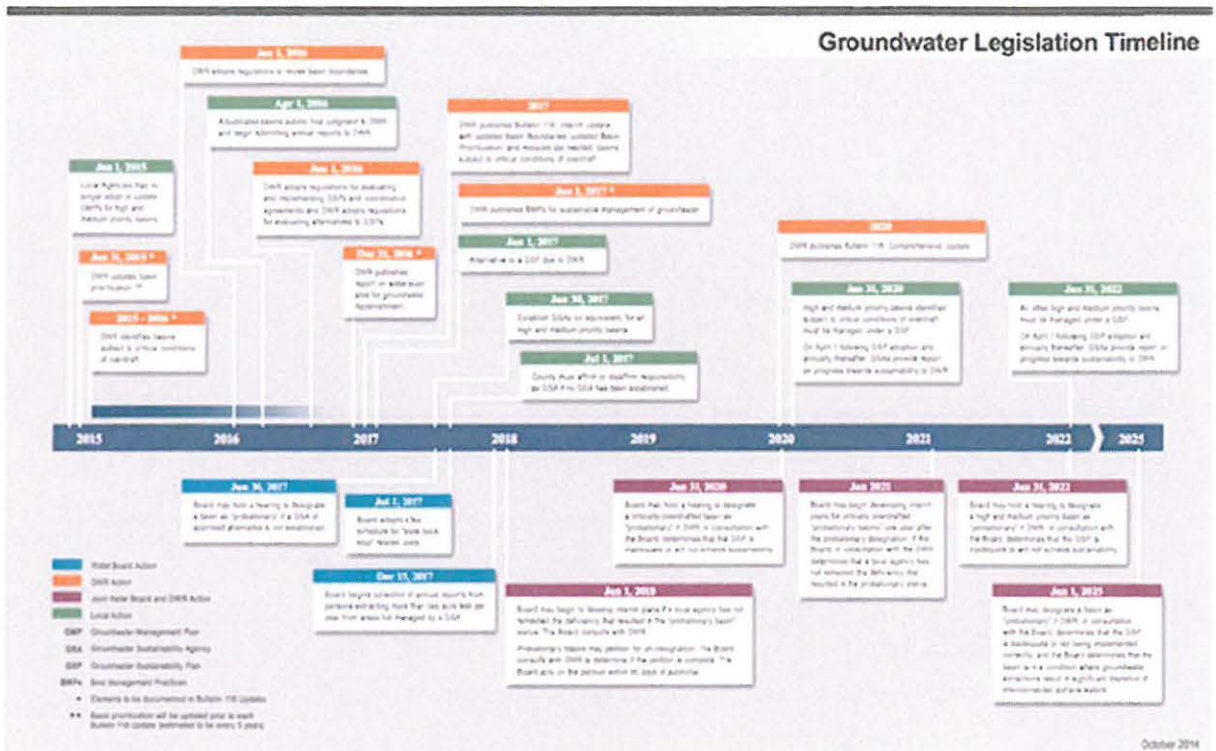


FIGURE 2 - SGMA LEGISLATION TIME LINE



2.3 Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation options

The GSA for the Salinas Valley Basin is not determined at this time. Currently there is a facilitated, public process underway that will result in a GSA for the Basin. For information sake, the various GSA formation options (as described in the SGMA) are as follows:

- Any local agency, or combination of local agencies, overlying a basin may elect to be a GSA for that basin, or
- A combination of agencies may form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), or use a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other type of legal agreement to become the GSA.

A local agency, as defined in SGMA, is a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibility within a basin. A listing of eligible local agencies includes:

- County of Monterey
- Agency
- Cities of Salinas, Soledad, Gonzales, Greenfield and the City of King
- Water Districts such as: Marina Coast Water District; San Ardo Water District, and the San Lucas County Water District
- Community Services Districts (if they have water supply authority)

This section will be updated as the GSA formation process moves forward until a GSA is established.



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COMPREHENSIVE SALINAS VALLEY BASIN SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The Agency's Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program (Program) is designed to build upon the success of the "Foundational Project Suite". The Agency has developed this comprehensive approach to present an additional suite of projects that comprise the final comprehensive solution to sustainability; however they will take time to implement.

3.1 Guiding Principles

This Program is based on a series of Guiding Principles that serve to steer the implementation of projects within the proposed "Sustainability Suite" in a manner that provides for sufficient stakeholder input (community engagement), development of appropriate environmental documentation, evaluation of the impacts of the respective projects and the procuring of sustainable funding.

The Guiding Principles for the Program are:

- Utilize the best science and scientific methods practicable to determine basin sustainability
- Build upon the success of the Foundational Project Suite
- Incorporate the Agency Community Engagement Plan to provide ample opportunities for stakeholder input
- Evaluate the benefits of each project on its own merits, and as part of the Sustainability Suite
- Include a natural environment enhancement component in each proposed project
- Advocate water conservation (with regards to pumping, drilling, water usage, etc.) when developing Sustainability Program
- Develop sustainable funding sources for the Sustainability Suite, including routine and emergency operations and maintenance costs.

3.2 Projects Involved

These projects are interrelated and when fully implemented, could cumulatively result in the additional water necessary to halt seawater intrusion and achieve Salinas Valley Basin (Basin) sustainability:

- Source Water Development and Water Recycling Project – 9,000 acre-feet (CSIP Expansion);
- Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project – 20,000 acre-feet; 59,000 acre-feet additional storage spillway modifications at San Antonio;
- Permit 11043 Utilization – amount of water to be determined; and,
- Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program (short-term) – removal of river channel vegetation that is currently using at least 40,000 acre-feet of water annually.
- Salinas River Management Program (long-term) – development of a "holistic" approach to river system management

These projects, in conjunction with projects already in place in the Salinas Valley, will provide the water necessary to halt SWI. Moreover, they could meet the requirements of the SGMA without requiring cutbacks in groundwater pumping for users of Salinas Valley Basin groundwater.



3.3 Individual Project Information

- **Source Water Development and Water Recycling Project**

- Parties will work together jointly to develop multiple source waters to expand CSIP and create a supply of water for the Peninsula's Groundwater Replenishment Project.
- Phase I would deliver 5,292 acre-feet per year to the Growers and 4,320 acre-feet per year to the Peninsula by 2017 to allow for a reduced-size desalination plant.
- Sources include agricultural wash water from Salinas's industrial ponds, Salinas's stormwater, Reclamation Ditch, Tembladero Slough, Blanco Drain and Monterey's stormwater.
- Commitment to work on Phase II by 2025 for CSIP activities only, equally another 3,754 acre-feet.

- **Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project**

This project has been a top regional priority; identified in the July 1991 Boyle Engineering report entitled *Monterey County Water Capital Facilities Plan*. In addition to increasing water quantity for drought protection in the region, the Project will provide additional flood control benefits, due to the slow fill rate at San Antonio Reservoir.

The project consists of an 12,000-foot long, 10-foot diameter tunnel with a location in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties connecting the Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs located in the Salinas Watershed HUC 1806005, plus spillway modifications to add 60,000 acre-feet of storage in San Antonio Reservoir.

Benefits include an increase in total controlled releases, modeled at an annual average of 20,686 acre- feet/year, as well as a 60% reduction in the number of spill events, which equates to a 52% reduction in annual average flood volume from the reservoirs.

The current multi-year drought has resulted in limited flow in the Salinas River which has caused a sense of urgency around the Project and the fact that it should be constructed as soon as feasibly possible.

- **Water Rights Permit #11043 Utilization**

Water Rights of 135,000 acre-feet on an intermittent basis is a critical piece of the Agency's solution to seawater intrusion. Pursuant to a July 2013 Settlement Agreement between the Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board, the Agency filed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report for a project to utilize this water that is currently not being utilized.

The Agency, to get to the NOP and the basis for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a project, went through a series of stakeholder meetings (Regional Advisory Committee) to gain insight and input from the public on how to utilize the water



allocated to Water Rights Permit #11043. The NOP did not describe a specific project, though it did describe project components that would need to be analyzed. The EIR process will evaluate alternative projects and determine the preferred project, or projects, for utilization of the Water Rights Permit #11043 water.

- **Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program / Salinas River Management Program**

It is estimated that there is approximately 40,000 to 60,000 acre-feet of water annually evapotranspired from non-native invasive vegetation in the Salinas River. This is water that could be utilized for aquifer recharge into the groundwater basin, thus helping combat SWI. Removing overgrown vegetation from the river channel also mitigates flooding damage potential. Maintenance activities occurred from 1997 – 2008 and in 2014.

The Agency manages the program which allows individual property owners to remove vegetation and sediment from portions of the Salinas River Channel, since after the devastating 1995 floods. When the USACE RGP five-year permit expired in 2008, regulators required a new approach to the program.

A new multi-objective approach was developed which joins participants together in a cohesive fashion, forming River Management Units (RMUs), to manage stream maintenance efforts for specific stretches of the river. This program is thought to last about five years, with the Salinas River Management Program building on the success of the RMUs.

The Salinas River Management Program is planned to change the paradigm from Stream Maintenance to River Management. The program is designed to provide a holistic approach to river management for the Salinas River, involving a number of stakeholders and interest groups to come up with a plan and program that is built upon consensus. This program is thought to take roughly seven to ten years to develop and implement.

3.4 Timeline Graphic

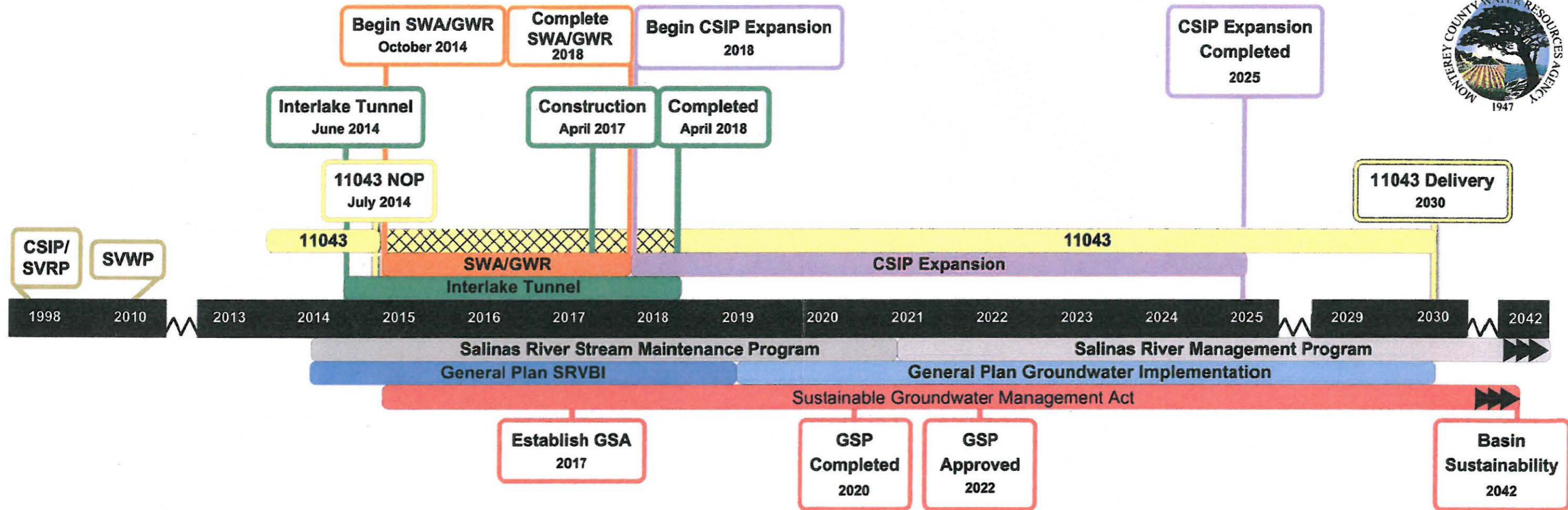
On the following page is a graphic time line that depicts how each of these projects fit within the time frame of SGMA implementation.



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Comprehensive Salinas Valley Basin Sustainability Program



- (CSIP) Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project/
(SVRP) Salinas Valley Reclamation Project
(SVWP) Salinas Valley Water Project
- (SWA/GWR) Source Water Agreement/Ground Water Replenishment
- General Plan (SRVBI) Salinas River Valley Basin Investigation
- General Plan Groundwater Implementation
(address seawater intrusion and falling groundwater levels by 2030)