

**SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER (Watermaster)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monterey One Water Board Room, 5 Harris Court, Building “D”
Ryan Ranch, Monterey, California
December 4, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno - Chair
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member John Gaglioti
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone
California American Water (CAW) – Director Christopher Cook
City of Monterey – Council Member Dan Albert
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director George Riley

Absent: City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director Troy Thompson
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Mary Adams

Others Present

Watermaster Technical Program Manager – Robert Jaques
Watermaster Administrative Officer – Laura Paxton
Tim O’Halloran, Engineering Manager, CAW
Georgina King, Senior Hydrogeologist, Montgomery and Associates
Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager, MPWMD
Sheri Damon, City Attorney, City of Seaside
Scott Ottmar, Senior Engineer, City of Seaside
Sarah Hardgrave, Policy Analyst, Office of Supervisor Adams
Russ McGlothlin, Counsel, City of Seaside (via phone)

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA: There were no requested changes to the agenda.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Director Riley, seconded by Mayor Carbone and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held October 2, 2019.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Consider approving the Board and Technical Advisory Committee schedule of meetings for 2020
- B. Consider approving Summary of Payments October - November 2019 totaling \$23,438.16
- C. Consider approving Fiscal (Calendar) Year 2019 Financial Reports through October 31, 2019

Director Cook requested to pull item B from the calendar for further discussion.

Moved by Council Member Albert, seconded by Council Member Gaglioti and unanimously carried to approve items A and C of the consent calendar as presented.

Director Cook inquired whether Watermaster expenditures are available in a form listing time spent and cost per task. Ms. Paxton affirmed that invoices submitted to Watermaster list time spent and cost per task, and that financial reports and invoices could be provided upon request. Director Cook felt the paragraph format of reporting expenditures to the board was sufficient as long as documents with time per task cost breakdown can be provided upon request.

Moved by Director Cook, seconded by Mayor Carbone and unanimously carried to approve item B of the consent calendar as presented.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATION: Georgina King, Montgomery & Associates, Watermaster consultant presented the 2019 Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report that examines the health of the Seaside Groundwater Basin (Basin) for indication of seawater intrusion occurring or imminent. The last three samples from monitoring well FO-9 shallow sampled within this water year indicate a greater concentration of chloride anions than in previous water years, up 20-30 mg/l sustained through the year. This remains in the realm of natural fluctuation however the well will be monitored closely, and sampling will be increased from 2 times per year to quarterly if results yield over 80 mg/l. In the Northern Coastal Subarea, where most production occurs in the Basin from the deep aquifer, groundwater levels during production are 70-80 feet below sea level, recovering to approximately 25' below sea level when static. Laguna Seca Subarea (LSSA) elevations are declining .6 feet per year in both deep and shallow wells.

Ms. King felt current production is not sustainable—most aquifer elevations are well below protective metrics. Although monitoring of Basin water chemistry and elevations throughout the years has not indicated seawater intrusion occurring, conditions are ripe. The Basin is critically over drafted per Sustainable Groundwater Management Act standards. Natural recharge is relatively minimal. Seawater intrusion is not possible to predict; achieving protective water levels is the proactive measure in place. Injecting water into the coastal area and leaving it in place would be the best course of action in defense of seawater intrusion. Ms. King noted that basin jurisdictional boundaries give the impression of a confined “tub” however in reality basins are not geologically confined. There is inflow and/or outflow occurring across subareas and at basin boundaries as with inflow/outflow to/from LSSA.

Director Gaglioti emphasized the Watermaster directive to mitigate Basin overdraft and then sustain protective water levels. Director Bruno noted that completion of the desalination plant would provide water to leave in the Basin. Director Riley felt a new source of Basin recharge water was the only solution to achieving protective groundwater levels. Mr. Jaques received information from Department of Water Resources that adjudicated basins are not eligible for project grant funding however MPWMD-submitted Basin projects might be eligible. Director Cook requested that staff and/or TAC explore further the opportunity for Basin project grant funding. He felt with Natural Safe Yield determined by modeling to be more realistically 2,370 AF per year versus the Decision’s 3,000 AF per year, even more production ramp down and recharge is needed to achieve protective groundwater levels. Construction of an intertie to Ryan Ranch and Bishop wells in LSSA is anticipated in February 2020 to address declining water levels in that subarea. Ms. Hardgrave addressed the board suggesting that Watermaster engage with the developing Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) in planning the management of basins bordering LSSA and the Northern Inland Subarea respectively. Mr. Jaques noted he has been in communication with MCWD with regard to Watermaster receiving data collected the next two years during the development of the Coral de Tierra area groundwater

sustainability agency. Director Riley commended Watermaster, the equivalent of a sustainable groundwater management agency, being established 10+ years prior to the current State mandate.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider Approving the Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report for 2019. The complete SIAR is posted on the Watermaster website at <http://www.seasidebasinwatermaster.org>

Moved by Council Member Gaglioti, seconded by Director Riley and unanimously carried, to approve the Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report for 2019.

- B. Declaration of Unavailability of Artificial Replenishment Water for Water Year 2020.

Moved by Mayor Carbone, seconded by Council Member Gaglioti and unanimously carried, to adopt the Declaration of No Artificial Replenishment Water Available for Water Year 2020.

- C. Discuss/Consider Approval of City of Seaside (City) Application for In-lieu Storage. An Order on Motion dated October 25, 2019 from Judge O'Farrell determined that the proposed program is consistent with the terms of the Decision and approved the City's in-lieu storage proposal. Director Cook questioned the disposition of amounts of water stored by the City in excess of Standard and Alternative Production demand, if the excess would be distributed to other Standard Producers at water year end under the City's Alternative Producer designation. Russ McGlothlin, counsel for the City clarified that what is proposed and approved by the judge is the City using its Alternative Production Allocation as the mechanism for in lieu storage of water up to the City Standard Production storage allocation until recovered at a later date left open by the Decision, regardless of demand. If recovery of the stored water poses a threat to Basin health, the City and Watermaster would address to best protect the Basin as per agreement terms.

Moved by Director Riley, seconded by Council Member Gaglioti and unanimously carried, to approve the City of Seaside Application for In-lieu Storage.

Counsel McGlothlin requested Watermaster staff prepare the storage agreement using the agreement with CAW and MPWMD for Storage and Recovery of Water from the Pure Water Monterey Project as a template.

- D. Discussion/Consider Approving the Watermaster Annual Report for Water Year 2019. Mr. Jaques advised the complete draft version is posted on the Watermaster website at <http://www.seasidebasinwatermaster.org> and reflects input from the TAC. The 2019 Annual Report will be filed with the Court by January 15th.

Moved by Council Member Gaglioti, seconded by Mayor Carbone and unanimously carried, to approve the Watermaster Annual Report for Water Year 2019 as submitted.

- X. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

XI. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- A. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) draft minutes from November 20, 2019 meeting.
- B. Watermaster report of production of the Seaside Basin through Water Year 2019 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019)
- C. Replenishment Fund Assessment calculations and 2019 Standard Producer Assessments

XII. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Director Bruno reported that he had submitted Watermaster Resolution 19-01 adopted at the October 2, 2019 board meeting expressing support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Desalination Plant and Related Facilities to the California Coastal Commission for consideration at its November 14th hearing, and spoke in support at the meeting.

XIII. STAFF COMMENTS: The January 1, 2020 board meeting on New Year's Day will not be held.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE: **The next meeting of the Watermaster board will be held Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Monterey One Water board room at 5 Harris Court, Building "D" on Ryan Ranch in Monterey at 2:00 p.m.**

XV. There being no further business, Chair Bruno adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.