

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

Via Zoom Teleconference
September 2, 2020

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

II. ROLL CALL

City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby
Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno – Chair
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director Wesley Leith
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
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Mary Adams

Absent: City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member John Gaglioti

Others Present

Watermaster Technical Program Manager – Robert Jaques
Watermaster Administrative Officer – Laura Paxton
Tim O’Halloran, Engineering Manager, CAW
Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager, MPWMD
Maureen Hamilton, Water Resources Engineer, MPWMD
Mike McCullough, External Affairs, Monterey One Water
Patrick Breen, Water Resources Manager, Marina Coast Water District
Aiko Yamakawa, Attorney, CAW
Alison Imamura, Associate Engineer, Monterey One Water

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 and seconded by Supervisor Adams to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held February 5, 2020. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Consider approving Summary of Payments January through July 2020 totaling \$118,824.66
- B.** Consider approving Fiscal (Calendar) Year 2020 Financial Reports through July 31, 2020
- C.** Consider approving a 2020 budget transfer of \$5,000 from Monitoring and Management – Operations Fund *Evaluate Replenishment Scenarios* line-item to *Program Administration* line-item to cover anticipated additional consulting assistance needed from Montgomery & Associates in the remainder of 2020
- D.** Consider approving a 2020 budget transfer of \$10,000 from Monitoring and Management – Operations Fund *Contingency* line-item to *Technical Program Manager* line-item
- E.** Direct staff to seek grant assistance to fund recharge of the Seaside Groundwater Basin

Moved by Council Member Albert and seconded by Mayor Carbone to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye.

IX. ORAL PRESENTATION: None

X. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider approving 2021 Annual Budgets January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Ms. Paxton gave highlights of the proposed 2021 Administrative Fund Budget. Director Riley requested to be kept apprised of the process for obtaining Watermaster legal services.

Moved by Council Member Albert and seconded by Director Cook to approve the 2021 Administrative Fund Budget as presented. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye.

Mr. Jaques gave highlights from his transmittal to the board on the proposed 2021 Monitoring and Management Work Plan and Operations Fund Budget.

Moved by Director Riley and seconded by Council Member Albert to approve, as presented, the 2021 Monitoring and Management Work Plan; Operations Fund Budget; and Capital Fund Budget (unfunded). Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Mayor Oglesby – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye.

B. Consider approving Professional Service Contracts for Fiscal Year 2021.

Mr. Jaques gave highlights from his transmittal to the board.

Moved by Mayor Carbone and seconded by Supervisor Adams to approve, as presented, the 2021 Professional Services Contracts:

- 1. Two Contracts with Montgomery & Associates, Inc.: \$17,320 for providing ongoing and as-requested general hydrogeologic consulting services; and \$26,310 to prepare the Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report (SIAR) for 2021**
- 2. Two Contracts with MPWMD: \$51,118 and \$3,915, both pertaining to monitoring and other 2021 M&MP work (with correction to “Detailed Scope of work for RFS No. 2021-01,” changing the date in the first sentence to September 2, 2020)**
- 3. Two Contracts with Martin Feeney: \$4,000 to provide on-call/as-requested hydrogeologic consulting services; and \$18,000.56 to perform 2021 Sentinel Wells induction logging (with correction to “Detailed Scope of work for RFS No. 2021-01,” changing the date in the first sentence to September 2, 2020)**
- 4. One Contract with Todd Groundwater: \$4,000 to provide on-call/as-needed hydrogeologic consulting services in 2021.**

Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Mayor Oglesby – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye.

- C. Consider Approving the Proposed Replenishment Assessment Unit Costs for Natural Safe Yield and Operating Yield Overproduction for Water Year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Mr. Jaques gave highlights from his transmittal to the board. Information was not available for all current project costs; adjustments may be needed once current information is received.

Moved by Director Riley and seconded by Council Member Albert to adopt a Replenishment Assessment Natural Safe Yield Unit Cost of \$2,947 per acre-foot and an Operating Yield Unit Cost of \$737 per acre-foot for Water Year 2021. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Mayor Oglesby – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye.

- D. Discussion of Projected Impacts to Seaside Basin Groundwater Levels Resulting from the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project or an Expansion of the Pure Water Monterey Project.

Mr. Jaques gave highlights from the corresponding board transmittal and summarized information from the attachments: a staff report titled *Impacts of Possible Groundwater Replenishment Scenarios*; and excerpts from prior reports and agenda transmittals. He found that previous modeling indicates injecting on the order of 1,000 acre-feet per year of additional water into the Seaside Basin for 25 years, along with the existing original Pure Water Monterey (PWM) Project and either the desalination plant or the PWM Expansion Project, may be necessary to achieve protective groundwater elevations at all Basin locations within 25 years.

Director Riley stated the purpose of developing water supplies is to provide potable water to the public, not to protect the Basin. Watermaster is challenged with trying to protect the Basin by leveraging developing water supply sources. Director Cook noted PWM, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), and PWM Expansion (if completed) all store water in the Basin. He felt prevention of seawater intrusion from contaminating stored potable water disallows prioritizing supply over Basin health. Director Bruno felt Seaside Basin protection would not be addressed—especially since the Basin and its damage is underground and cannot be seen by the public—until potable supply need is fulfilled. Therefore, any form of supply is important in addressing Basin health.

Director Riley encouraged a discussion on strategy of use if projects produce more than is demanded. There would, however, be a cost for the “extra” water: Watermaster should consider fronting the cost of protective water and develop a financial plan, or at the least have staff investigate financing options. Council Member Albert felt Watermaster’s charge was not financial but managerial, oversight of the Basin to avoid harm.

Director Riley noted his support of a desalination plant 15+ years from now. Supervisor Adams noted her support of a desalination project developed decades from now on a regional scale that would benefit the entire County.

Mr. Jaques reminded the board that the Decision allows CAW credit against its Replenishment Assessment (RA) balance for funds expended to develop a water supply project. Once the desalination plant is operational, regardless of the credit on the RA books, CAW is contracted with Watermaster to pay back to the Basin, 700 AFY over 25 years, all the water it has overproduced since conception of Watermaster in 2006. This pay back would be in jeopardy if the CAW desalination plant or the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project were not built.

XI. OLD BUSINESS: None

XII. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- A. Technical Advisory Committee minutes from March 11, June 10, and July 8, 2020 meetings
- B. Budget and Finance Committee draft minutes from August 18, 2020 meeting
- C. Watermaster report of production of the Seaside Basin through the 3rd quarter of Water Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)
- D. Correspondence expressing support of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

XIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: None

XIV. STAFF COMMENTS: Mr. Jaques inquired whether the level of detail in the agenda packets is what the board desires, or rather summaries with links to voluminous documents provided on the Watermaster website. Director Bruno would like the transmittals/staff reports provided as print-alone documents with back up documents provided for non-printed reading. Director Cook requested TAC information that comes before the board be 5-minute presentations with simplified graphs and charts.

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Watermaster board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

XVI. There being no further business, Chair Bruno adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.