

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

Via Zoom Teleconference
February 3, 2021

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

X. ROLL CALL

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno – Chair
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director Wesley Leith
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member John Gaglioti
California American Water (CAW) – Director Christopher Cook
City of Monterey – Council Member Dan Albert – Vice Chair
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director George Riley
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Mary Adams

Absent: City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby

Others Present

Robert Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager (TPM)
Laura Paxton, Watermaster Administrative Officer (AO)
Sarah Hardgrave, Policy Analyst, Office of Supervisor Adams
Alvin Edwards, MPWMD
Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager, MPWMD
Maureen Hamilton, Water Resources Engineer, MPWMD
Tim O’Halloran, Engineering Manager, CAW
Catherine Stedman, CAW
Aiko Yamakawa, Attorney, CAW
Susan Schiavone

XI. SCHEDULE OF 2021-2022 WATERMASTER BOARD MEMBER

REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES: No action required - informational

XII. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021:

It was moved by Council Member Gaglioti and seconded by Council Member Albert to appoint Director Bruno as Board Chairperson. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Director Cook to appoint Council Member Albert as Board Vice Chairperson. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Adams and seconded by Council Member Gaglioti to appoint Administrative Officer Paxton as Secretary. Director Cook – Aye; Council

Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mayor Carbone and seconded by Director Bruno to appoint Council Member Gaglioti as Board Treasurer. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None

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

XV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved by Council Member Albert and seconded by Council Member Gaglioti to approve as presented the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held December 2, 2020. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

XVI. CONSENT CALENDAR

C. Consider Approving Summary of Payments made November 2020 through December 2020 totaling \$47,838.35

It was moved by Council Member Gaglioti and seconded by Mayor Carbone to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

XVII. ORAL PRESENTATION: None

VII. NEW BUSINESS: None

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

- A.** Update on water quality issues and background information about the Watermaster's Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP)
- B.** Discuss Potential Installation of a New Monitoring Well Between Monitoring Well FO-9 and the Pumping Depression in the Northern Coastal Subarea, and Other Alternatives

The board concurred to take up the two agenda items in one discussion.

Mr. Jaques read the SIRP seawater intrusion response trigger levels aloud:

1. Chloride concentrations must be higher than the chloride threshold value shown on Table 1 of the SIRP (titled "Chloride Threshold Values and Trend Analysis").
2. Sodium/chloride molar ratios must show a rapid drop, and be below the 0.86 molar ratio.
3. At least one of the following four trends or qualitative indicators must be apparent:
 - a. The Mann-Kendall statistical trend for chloride concentrations is increasing.
 - b. Evolution of seawater mixing is observed in Piper diagram(s).

- c. Change of Stiff diagram(s) shape from baseline conditions featuring prominent high chloride spike.
- d. Concentration maps indicate increasing chloride concentrations near the coast.

Mr. Jaques stated that 67 mg/L is the threshold value shown on Table 1 of the SIRP for well FO-09, and the well recently sampled at 90 mg/L. The sodium/chloride molar ratio had a somewhat rapid drop however consultants could not determine without more data if this was an ongoing trend or just part of a fluctuation and so could not state that this trigger had clearly been met. The Mann-Kendall statistical trend for chloride concentrations is clearly increasing so one of the four trends or qualitative indicators is apparent. The other of the four indicators of item 3 are not apparent or cannot be determined.

Director Riley inquired whether the fourth indicator of item 3 would ever be helpful since chloride concentration maps cannot be contoured due to the data being too scattered from well to well. Mr. Jaques did not know if future data would allow useful contouring.

Section 4.2 of the SIRP lists actions to be taken to address seawater intrusion. Director Cook felt that even though response is not triggered, there still could be actions for Watermaster to proceed with; it would be prudent to better understand the four criteria and how they were developed.

Mr. Jaques gave highlights from his report on potential installation of a monitoring well between Monitoring Well FO-09 and the pumping depression in the Northern Coastal Subarea. Mr. Jaques reported on the meeting held yesterday with hydrogeologists Martin Feeny and Gus Yates, Derrick Williams and Georgina King of Montgomery and Associates, Monterey County Water Resources Agency hydrologist Tamara Voss and Water Resources Technician Nicole Koerth, MPWMD Water Resources Manager Jon Lear, and CAW Engineering Manager Tim O'Halloran. Consensus from that meeting of experts was that the rising chloride levels in FO-09 and FO-10 are most likely caused by salt water that has intruded the shallow sand layers along the coastline. This intrusion is a known fact and has existed for a long time. The wells are not used for production so the intrusion has not been an issue. They surmised the intrusion is coming downward from the Dune Sands and is gradually penetrating into the underlying Paso Robles aquifer where it is now being seen in the FO wells. Rather than installing new monitoring wells, they recommended two courses of action to confirm their hypothesis. The first is to perform induction logging of both wells and compare the current results of the logging data with the electrical logging done when the wells were installed to see if there has been an increase in salinity over time to help determine the source. Induction logging continues quarterly at the wells however the comparison would be a one-time effort. The second course of action would be to perform geophysical transects involving making subsurface resistivity measurements to determine various subsurface water qualities. This method is not quantitative however it gives a conductivity picture, and would need to be done over multiple years to identify trends.

Director Gaglioti inquired if the percolation of seawater from the dunes sands into the Paso Robles formation would be termed a manmade or natural process. Mr. Jaques responded that it appears to be a collective over-pumping result. Director Gaglioti pointed out that qualitative data would give indication of trends whereas quantitative data would give the degree of harm done; he felt collection of both was important, to be performed as a testing regime. Supervisor Adams inquired whether if the monitoring well was installed, could it be collaborative and a cost share with Marina Coast Water District (MCWD). Mr. Jaques responded that during development of the

MCWD Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Marina Ord area of the Monterey Subbasin, Mr. Jaques with Watermaster consultants have repeatedly pointed out the need for installation of more monitoring wells north of the Seaside Basin boundary in the southern part of the Monterey Subbasin boundary where few wells exist. Cost sharing has not been discussed. As it now stands, well installation would be funded by Watermaster Standard Producer assessments. Location of the well could be in the City of Seaside golf course area where permitting restrictions and interference with the monitoring equipment by pipe and power lines would be minimal.

Director Riley inquired whether the induction logs in the coastal wells are helpful or could they be modified to be more useful. Mr. Jaques responded that although design of the wells due to cost limitations precludes taking water samples for quality data, it is useful to monitor induction log readings for indications of increasing conductivity and thus seawater intrusion.

Director Cook noted that modeling results could be subject to interpretation for political maneuvering—he would want a firm objective level of confidence in modeling results and data integrity from the modeling consultants.

Director Bruno felt the TAC needed to coordinate with hydrogeologists to gather more data and perform various sensitivity analyses such as what if certain water supply projects, if any, do not come to pass. Is the SIRP adequate now that the difficulty is known in bringing a water supply project on line? Are the triggers sensitive enough with that in mind? Mr. Jaques stated he could have the consultants review the SIRP to determine if it needs to be updated in terms of triggers, responses, and any other aspect considering accumulated years of data. Mr. Jaques suggested the hydrogeologist that authored the SIRP review and comment on it to the TAC to incorporate into a TAC-recommended board presentation. Mr. Jaques gave a rough timeline range of one to two months until board presentation.

It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Director Cook to direct staff to 1.) perform induction logging comparison of wells FO-09 and FO-10 and, 2.) have Watermaster consultants Montgomery and Associates use groundwater level data already obtained to map groundwater flow in the area of concern. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

- C. Direct Staff regarding obtaining additional water to recharge the Basin in order to raise groundwater levels.

Director Riley noted that Watermaster was tasked with funding the filling of the over-drafted basin to protective groundwater elevations. The Replenishment Fund established for that purpose as currently structured he felt presented an imaginary calculation, and the data used to establish it may be incorrect. He called for a group of perhaps local agency representatives, staff, or policymakers to be appointed to “reimagine” the fund. Chair Bruno agreed that an ad hoc committee or a Watermaster Budget and Finance Committee meeting with guests be scheduled to discuss the matter. Supervisor Adams felt the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project (PWMX) could address any of the CDO shortfalls in the near-term while an expanded regional desalination approach is developed. If a more regional project is developed for meeting water supply needs, PWMX could be considered as the source for long-term replenishment of the basin which would be far less expensive and more cost effective than CAW desalination would be.

Director Riley suggested the board consider broader concepts, that long-term planning consider a water supply that does not make use of or depend on the basin. Current projects use the basin more and more. Perhaps the basin has a life expectancy, maybe only 10 years. If so, a short time is left to find a water supply option. Director Riley and Director Cook agreed that focus should be on how best to manage the basin now: review Natural Safe Yield, consider alternatives, determine best pumping redistribution, layout a timeline, etc. and then look to the future once near-term steps are addressed. Director Cook cautioned engaging in water supply project discussion, a politically divided topic, when addressing this issue, and hoped instead for the board to concur on immediate steps to take.

Legal Counsel Campbell summed up the board's obligation to maintain the basin in a viable state in perpetuity – responsibility does not end and cannot be transferred elsewhere.

Moved by Director Cook and seconded by Director Riley to have staff present a timeline of actions to be taken now based on the four criteria in Section 4.2 of the 2009 Seawater Intrusion Response Plan for mitigating seawater intrusion (i.e., lowering Natural Safe Yield, consider alternatives, determine best pumping redistribution) and further explore base protection options. Director Cook – Aye; Council Member Albert – Aye; Council Member Gaglioti; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Supervisor Adams – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Bruno – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

IX. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

A. Watermaster report of production of the Seaside Basin first quarter Water Year 2021 (October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020)

XI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Director Riley arranged for General Manager Stoldt to give a presentation to the League of Women Voters on February 10, 2021 the topic being future water supply and the CAW buy out. Chair Bruno thanked the board for re-electing him chair.

XII. STAFF COMMENTS: None

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: The board consented to canceling the March 3, 2021 board meeting. The next meeting of the Watermaster board is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

XIV. There being no further business, Chair Bruno adjourned the meeting at 3:43p.m.