

**SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 1, 2022 Via Zoom Teleconference**

I. CALL TO ORDER – Director Bruno called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

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
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director George Riley
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member John Gaglioti

Absent: City of Monterey – Council Member Dan Albert – Vice Chair
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root-Askew
City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby

Others Present:

Robert Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager (TPM)
Laura Paxton, Watermaster Administrative Officer (AO)
Michael Paxton, Assistant AO
Alvin Edwards, Chair, MPWMD Board of Directors
David Stoldt, MPWMD
Jonathan Lear, MPWMD
Maureen Hamilton, MPWMD
Tim O’Halloran, Engineering Manager, CAW
Aiko Yamakawa, Attorney, CAW
Josh Stratton, External Affairs, CAW
Susan Schiavone, Seaside resident
Melodie Chrislock, Public Water Now
Yuri Anderson, Chief of Staff, District 4

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

A vote may be taken to add to the agenda an item that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline pursuant to the requirements of Government Code Section 54954.2(b). (A 2/3-majority vote is required).

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Consider Approving Minutes of Regular Board meeting held May 4, 2022
- B.** Consider Approving Summary of Payments made April 2022 in the amount of \$13,813.10
- C.** Consider Approving Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Reports through April 30, 2022
- D.** TAC Recommendation to the Board Regarding Preparing a Sustainable Yield Analysis
- E.** Results from March 2022 Induction Logging of the Sentinel Wells and Recommendation to Reduce Frequency of Induction Logging

Director Riley requested Item D be pulled.

It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Councilmember Gaglioti to approve consent calendar Items A, B, C, and E as presented. Director Bruno – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

Director Riley was satisfied with clarification on Item D that a Sustainable Yield Analysis was not being recommended at this time.

It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Councilmember Gaglioti to approve consent calendar Item D as presented. Director Bruno – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Leith – Aye. Motion carried.

VI. ORAL PRESENTATION – None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

- i. Initial Findings from Replenishment Water Modeling Work and Recommendation to Perform Additional Replenishment Water Analyses**

TPM Jaques gave highlights from his transmittal, and referenced the recently received correspondence dated May 25, 2022, from Mr. Stoldt of MPWMD challenging the revised modeling assumption that proposes a reduction of Pure Water Monterey’s (PWM) delivery amount to 4,600 acre-feet per year (AFY). According to Mr. Jaques, the revised assumption transpired as follows: at the January 2022 TAC meeting, Mr. Lear reported that the latest Water Purchase Agreement contained water supply guarantees from Monterey One Water (M1W) including terms for delivery of a minimum allotment of 4,600AFY to CAW; there was no mention made at the TAC meeting that failure to deliver 5,750AFY would constitute an event of default of that Agreement. Mr. Stoldt also sent correspondence by email on May 27, 2022, that Mr. Jaques felt contained a misstatement regarding CAW’s Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), that such a plan is merely a regulatory filing with no review or comment by the State, and seldom does the public or MPWMD have sufficient time to review and comment on it before it is filed. Mr. Jaques’ research on the Department of Water Resources website contradicts Mr. Stoldt’s statement. He found that the plans are required by the State’s Water Code to be prepared by large urban water suppliers to support their resource planning to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs. The Water Code requires that development of UWMPs be coordinated with water management agencies prior to and during preparation, and requires a 60-day minimum public review period during development of the UWMP to solicit input on the plan. Cal Am fulfilled this requirement and adopted its plan in June of 2021.

Director Bruno inquired of TPM Jaques if the assumptions were agreed upon by the TAC members and whether any TAC members expressed concern that numbers in the assumptions might not be accurate. Jaques recalled that members felt the information that would be provided by performing the additional analysis would serve to “book end” the likely range of the Basin’s replenishment water needs, i.e., the amounts needed under both optimistic (MPWMD supply/demand) and potentially more realistic (CAW) sets of future conditions. The proposed additional work was discussed over several TAC meetings and was passed unanimously by the TAC at its May meeting. Jaques noted that Jon Lear, the TAC chair, was not present at that meeting and gave no advanced notification he would not be attending. Councilmember Gaglioti, who is on the TAC, stated that MPWMD was intimately involved in the crafting of the

additional work over the course of TAC meeting discussions. He felt the revised assumptions better indicated likely conditions.

Director Riley questioned the feasibility of the coastal desalination plant being operational by 2030. Councilmember Gaglioti felt the urgent need for an additional source of replenishment water at the current rate of pumping could quickly force feasibility. Director Riley felt Watermaster had ample information on the issue without conducting further analyses. Staff responded to Director Riley's inquiry on Seaside Basin outflow or "leakage" stating the amount is influenced by conditions in adjacent basins and is estimated to be ~1,300AFY. Director Cook expressed his support for updating and defining replenishment water needs, and felt the assumptions that considered potential drier years ahead were realistic.

Susan Schiavone of Seaside questioned why additional replenishment water needs analyses would be performed based on what she felt were false assumptions with inaccuracies that would result in false data. She disputed CAW supply and demand figures and 2030 desalination plant startup, and felt the money to perform the proposed analyses would be better spent in purchasing an increased amount of PWM water injected into the Basin derived from what she claimed to be yet unused wastewater in the area, or by implementing CAW's 700AFY in-lieu replenishment now and not waiting for desalination plant startup.

Melodie Chrislock, Public Water Now, felt Watermaster already knows the Basin is over drafted and questioned the expenditure for further analyses instead of pursuing a solution. She was not convinced that the CAW desalination plant would be producing by 2030, and encouraged buying more PWM water injected into the Basin.

David Stoldt, MPWMD General Manager, stated the failure of the PWM project to deliver 5,750AFY would be an event of default under the proposed water purchase agreement and felt it nonsensical in the proposed analyses to reduce the yield to 4,600AFY. His recalling of the timeline of public review of the CAW Urban Water Management Plan was there were 7 days in June 2021 from public notice to approval of the plan with no public comment brought into the approved plan. He disagreed with some of the assumptions in the CAW UWMP.

Director Riley inquired as to the demand figure that would be used in the analyses – Director Cook recalled in its UWMP the amount of 14,000AFY in 2045 but would need to confirm. Mayor Carbone, who sits on the MIW Board and is involved with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), has realized that recycled water will be part of the overdraft solution but not all of it. The State is mandating area cities to add 33,000 housing units that equates to an additional 6,000AFY of water—solutions need to be found very soon, irrespective of from where or whom. Director Riley felt the Watermaster is not in any position to solve the problem on its own. The study may give bounds of replenishment need however it will not provide a solution. Watermaster could join in efforts beyond its boundaries such as with the Salinas Valley Basin and Marina Coast Water District GSAs that have proposed projects, or the MPWMD effort to modify the Section 2 rule that forbids allocation for affordable housing. He felt these are ways to support solutions instead of performing more analyses. Director Leith stated as a member of the TAC he had reservations on supporting the analyses due to modeling skepticism—the need, assumptions made, and lack of contribution to the solution—and felt he would abstain or vote no due to wanting to discuss it further at the board level.

It was moved by Councilmember Gaglioti and seconded by Mayor Carbone to approve the TAC recommendation to 1. Approve Montgomery & Associates RFS No. 2022-04 to perform additional replenishment water analyses; and 2. Fund the costs of this work from Task I.3.a.3, Task I.3.e, and the Contingency line-item in the Watermaster's 2022 Monitoring and Management Program Operations Budget. Director Bruno – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Nay; Director Leith – Nay. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)

- A. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting minutes April 27 (review on website at <https://www.seasidebasinwatermaster.org/sbwmARC.html>) and Draft May 11, 2022
- B. Watermaster Report of Production second quarter Water Year 2022 (Jan 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2022)
- C. Correspondence from Watermaster to Department of Water Resources re: Final Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Monterey Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin
- D. Correspondence Between CAW, Pure Water Monterey and MPWMD regarding ASR-01
- E. Mission Memorial Park Replenishment Assessment Update

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS – Director Bruno reported on the meeting he attended May 27th with discussion between CAW, M1W, and MPWMD of the ASR-01 well. Watermaster has a Storage and Recovery Agreement with the parties. No action or resolution resulted from the meeting and talks are ongoing. Director Riley thanked Director Bruno and TPM Jaques for the well-done letter sent to the Department of Water Resources.

XI. STAFF COMMENTS – Ms. Paxton gave an update on the status of Mission Memorial Park's replenishment assessment, reporting that they opted to pay the \$25,000 fee in one lump sum.

XII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - July 6, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm