

**SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 7, 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
City of Monterey – Council Member Dan Albert – Vice Chair
City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director Wesley Leith
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
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Mary Adams (Alternate)

Absent: None

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
Aiko Yamakawa, Attorney, CAW
Sarah Hardgrave, Policy Analyst, Office of Supervisor Adams / Chair, Monterey Subbasin Committee
Yuri Anderson, Chief of Staff, District 4
Pascual Benito, Montgomery & Associates
Sheri Damon, City Attorney, City of Seaside
Will Pickering, General Manager, The Club at Pasadera (Pasadera)
Vince Balestreri, Pasadera
Brad Coleman, Golf Course Superintendent, Pasadera
Bob Rosenthal, Pasadera
Melodie Chrislock, Public Water Now
Nolan Fargo
John Tilley Lucas Quass
David P. Matt

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – There were no public communications.

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

It was moved by Mayor Oglesby and seconded by Director Riley to add to the agenda an item regarding The Club of Pasadera potential overproduction. Director Bruno – Aye; Mayor Oglesby – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Leith – Aye; Councilmember Albert – Aye; Supervisor Adams - Aye. Motion carried.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Consider Adopting Watermaster Resolution 22-03 finding that continuing Covid pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom directly impacts ability of board to meet safely in person
- B.** Consider Approving Minutes of Regular Board meeting held June 1, 2022

It was moved by Councilmember Albert and seconded by Mayor Carbone to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Bruno – Aye; Mayor Oglesby – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Director Leith – No; Councilmember Albert – Aye; Supervisor Adams - Aye. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Added item per Review of Agenda motion above)

The Club at Pasadera Avoidance of Replenishment Assessment

AO Paxton introduced the issue. The Club at Pasadera is an Alternative Producer as described in the Court Decision with a fixed production allocation of 251 acre-feet per year (AFY) that has not been exceeded since Amended Decision inception in 2007 through Water Year (October-September) 2021. Pasadera has under pumped on average 72AFY for a total of approximately 1,080AF. In this Water Year 2021-22 that ends September 30th, Pasadera is on course to exceed its allocation by up to 15 acre-feet that would incur an Overproduction Replenishment Assessment totaling \$55,276.80. Pasadera has been monitoring usage closely and keeping in touch with AO, and is now coming to the board preemptively seeking relief from the potential assessment due to the unexpected hot weather this month and to extenuating operational circumstances that have occurred over the course of the current water year. Mission Memorial Park (MMP), an Alternative Producer to the Adjudication, earlier in the year sought relief from replenishment assessment due to its over production of allocation in water year 2021 to green its cemetery grounds. In comparison, MMP had no extenuating circumstances for its overproduction and had recently relandscaped requiring intensified watering. Pasadera General Manager and its Golf Course Superintendent are in attendance requesting allowance to accrue any overproduction through the end of this month to the 2022-23 allocation allotment of 251AF available October 1, 2022. (Laguna Seca Golf Resort has graciously offered to transfer 15AF of its still available allocation to Pasadera however Alternative Producers are not allowed to apply water to any property besides their own.) Watermaster staff finds no wording in the Decision that prohibits accruing overproduction to a future water year. There is no material injury to the Basin foreseen to occur from this arrangement. After hearing from Pasadera, it was recommended that the Board consider the information from The Club at Pasadera and render a decision on the request to accrue the potential overproduction or relieve replenishment assessment.

The Club at Pasadera General Manager, Will Pickering, addressed the board, seeking relief from assessment amenable to the Watermaster board. Golf Course Superintendent, Brad Coleman provided information on circumstances beyond the recent hot weather that has led to potential overproduction, and detailed water savings plans for the upcoming water year and for the foreseeable future that will allow it to under pump its allocation even more. Mr. Rosenthal gave details of the pursuit to obtain 15 acre-feet from other sources. Director Cook emphasized the need to examine each of these types of situations individually and that he would not look favorably upon a repeat occurrence by the same producer. Director Riley after the vote asked for the weighted calculation to be provided. The motion below reflects the vote results with the designated weight of each board member as per the Decision.

It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Mayor Oglesby to deny The Club at Pasadera relief from overproduction assessment with the proviso if a standard producer willing to provide them 15 acre-feet is found the fee would be waived/rescinded. Director Bruno – No (1/2 vote); Mayor Oglesby – Aye (2 votes); Director Cook – No (3 votes); Councilmember Gaglioti – No (1 vote); Mayor Carbone – No (1 vote); Director Riley – Aye (2 votes); Director Leith – No (1/2 vote); Councilmember Albert – No (1 vote); Supervisor Adams – Aye (2 votes). Motion failed.

It was moved by Councilmember Gaglioti and seconded by Director Leith to approve adding 15 acre-feet to The Club at Pasadera 2021/22 allocation if necessary to be repaid by reducing by 15 acre-feet its 2022/23 allocation to 236 acre-feet. Director Bruno – Aye; Mayor Oglesby – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – No; Director Leith – Aye; Councilmember Albert – Aye; Supervisor Adams – (showed connected to meeting however there was no response to the vote call). Motion carried.

IX. ORAL PRESENTATION – none

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

i. Results of Additional Analyses of the Replenishment Water Modeling Work

TPM Jaques gave highlights from his transmittal. Pascual Benito, Ph.D., Senior Hydrogeologist, Montgomery and Associates provided an Executive Summary of Replenishment Modeling & Analysis of Alternate Supply & Demand Assumptions and presented slides. Baseline scenario included 700 acre-feet per year (AFY) CAW payback plus 1,000AFY additional replenishment. Basin water level sensitivity to drought and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) injection was evident in modeling results.

Director Cook noted the significant difference between Baseline Scenario replenishment need of 1,000AFY versus Scenario 1 replenishment need of 3,700AFY. Director Riley requested presentation charts be labeled and pages be numbered; Kmart should be re-labeled Home Depot. He surmised from the presentation that injection closer to the coast would be more protective of the Basin, and that the value of adding i.e., 1,000AFY and losing 500AFY to outflow would equate to paying twice for recharge water; varying injection times and locations appears to optimize retention. Director Carbone commented on the need for a wet water source no matter assumptions or scenarios put forth. Melodie Chrislock, Public Water Now, inquired if the amount of water annually lost from the Basin was known, to which Mr. Jaques estimated 1,100AFY for both inland and northern subarea boundaries. Mayor Oglesby left the meeting at this point.

David Stoldt, MPWMD General Manager expressed objection to continued use of the CAW Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) as a basis for modeling assumptions. He felt much thought needed to be given before using the ASR field for additional injection due to capacity and commitment constraints, stating additional infrastructure may be needed. Mr. Tilly addressed the board stating he felt the detailed analysis provided important information: that hoping for rain and delivery of contracted amounts from ASR and PWM&X creates potential for failure. The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project was determined to need all three components – ASR, PWM&X, and desalination – to ensure Peninsula communities have a sufficient and sustainable water supply, something ASR and PWM&X alone have been demonstrated not to achieve. A healthy Seaside Basin protected from seawater intrusion should be of top priority since without it, storage of injected or in-lieu water supplied by the 3-faceted water project could not occur. Director Riley expressed his concern with the loss of Seaside Basin groundwater into the Monterey Subbasin and felt expanded interaction with surrounding basins should be undertaken. He felt Watermaster should focus on the financing of any additional water supply.

Director Gaglioti pointed out the purpose of the report was to understand how the Basin responds to certain environmental conditions; what is unfortunate is that the results are presented as a time series: follow a certain scenario and protective levels will be reached in “x” years without any proactive measures taken. The report serves to quantify the amount of replenishment needed if other sources are found, important data yet an aside from the growing realization that another water source is needed independent from rain, especially as the drought continues and is forecasted in future years. Director

Gaglioti noted that the modeling assumptions, formulated over many months with MPWMD and other expert input, are conservative, padded by using the lower end project delivery values and higher demand values. Mr. Jaques summed up that the report and the surrounding basins' inability to achieve sustainability has led him to believe Basin protective water levels will never be achieved. Further, he supported Director Riley's past suggestion that the Basin be abandoned to recharge naturally and water supply be shifted to a non-native source. He felt desalination was the only viable non-native source.

It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Mayor Carbone to accept the Consolidated Technical Memorandum on the Results of Additional Analyses of the Replenishment Water Modeling Work. Director Bruno – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Councilmember Albert – Aye; Director Leith – Aye; Supervisor Adams – (no response to the vote call). Motion carried.

ii. Results from Flow Direction/Flow Velocity Modeling and Recommend Additional Analysis Due to the length of the current meeting, this item was deferred to a future board meeting.

iii. Consider Approval of Consulting Services for Replacement of Well FO-9 Shallow
Mr. Jaques gave highlights of his transmittal. Director Gaglioti noted there were likely grant funds available to other agencies for the project (Watermaster is not eligible to receive grants).

It was moved by Councilmember Albert and seconded by Councilmember Gaglioti to approve Montgomery & Associates RFS No. 2022-05 to provide consulting services for replacement of Monitoring Well FO-9 Shallow. Director Bruno – Aye; Director Cook – Aye; Councilmember Gaglioti – Aye; Mayor Carbone – Aye; Director Riley – Aye; Councilmember Albert – Aye; Director Leith – Aye; Supervisor Adams – (no response to the vote call). Motion carried.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Monterey County Board of Supervisors Invitation to Speak at Regional Water Forum September 20th.
Chair Bruno noted he would ensure that a Watermaster representative would be present.

IX. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)

- A. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting minutes July 27 (review on website at <https://www.seasidebasinwatermaster.org/sbwmARC.html>) and Draft August 10, 2022**
- B. Watermaster Report of Production third quarter Water Year 2022 (April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022)**
- C. Watermaster Correspondence to MPWMD/PWM/CAW regarding Well ASR-01 Issues**
- D. Informational - Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Budget & Finance Committee Staff Report regarding SGMA \$7.6 Million Round 1 Implementation Grant**

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS – Director Riley requested a document detailing the history of Watermaster replenishment be drawn up, perhaps by convening a strategic or goals workshop, to aid in the board member knowledge succession process. He felt the need for a corporate knowledge succession process. Director Cook reported that the Coastal Commission deemed the desalination component of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project application complete; a hearing will be scheduled. Director Bruno announced a Watermaster Christmas party to be held at his home on December 15th at 6:00 p.m.

XI. STAFF COMMENTS – There were no staff comments.

XII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - July 6, 2022 - 2:00 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.