

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster (Watermaster)
April 2, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bruno called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno, Chair
California American Water (“CAW”) – Director Eric Sabolsice
City of Seaside – Mayor Ralph Rubio
City of Del Rey Oaks – Mayor Jerry Edelen
City of Monterey – Mayor Charles “Chuck” Della Sala
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director Bob Costa
City of Sand City – Mayor David Pendergrass
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District – Director Jeanne Byrne, Alternate

Absent: Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Dave Potter

III. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2014 & 2015

Moved by Director Byrne, seconded by Mayor Rubio, and unanimously carried, to appoint Director Bruno as board chairman for calendar years 2014 and 2015.

Moved by Mayor Edelen, seconded by Mayor Pendergrass, and unanimously carried, to appoint Mayor Rubio as board vice chairman for calendar years 2014 and 2015.

Moved by Mayor Rubio, seconded by Director Costa, and unanimously carried, to appoint Watermaster CEO Evans as board secretary, and Assistant City Manager for the City of Seaside, Daphne Hodgson as board treasurer for calendar years 2014 and 2015.

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no requested changes to the agenda.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no public communications.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Consider Approval of Summary for Payments made during January, February and March, 2014 totaling **\$72,991.60**
- B.** Consider Approving Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Reports through March 31, 2014
- C.** Consider Approval of Contract with HydroMetrics Water Resources, Inc. to update and check the accuracy of the Seaside Groundwater Basin model, and perform recalibration if necessary (RFS No. 2014-03 to HydroMetrics)

Moved by Mayor Della Sala, seconded by Director Byrne, and unanimously carried, to approve the consent calendar as presented.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATION – None scheduled.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consider Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Memorandum of Understanding (December 3, 2008 MOU) between Watermaster and CAW regarding the granting of credits for Replenishment Assessments. Mr. Jaques reviewed the item staff report.

Moved by Mayor Rubio, seconded by Mayor Edelen, and unanimously carried, to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding between Seaside Basin Watermaster and California American Water regarding the granting of credits for Replenishment Assessments as presented.

- B. This item was taken up after item C below. Mr. Jaques reviewed the staff report on HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc. modeling of the Laguna Seca Subarea and introduced Mr. Derrick Williams of Hydrometrics who gave a presentation on the results of recent groundwater modeling. Mayor Edelen questioned the accuracy of the modeling with regard to the timeliness of the data used, and cautioned the questioning of the Natural Safe Yield in the LSS allowed by the Decision. Mr. Williams pointed out that the current model is a better tool for estimating safe yield than was available when the Decision was written. He stated that the wells beyond the east Basin boundary are a mix of private, golf course, and purveyor wells with no known limitations on pumping at this time; they are not within Water Management District jurisdiction, and are estimated to be pumping a total of 1,100 acre feet per year although there has been no formal verification of this amount.

Counsel Freeman stated that the judgment can only take into consideration those wells that were actually parties to the original Decision. He suggested contacting well owners outside of the east Basin boundary to advise them that it would be in the best interest of all well owners within and outside the adjudicated Basin to work together to determine the best pumping practices to avoid detriment to the groundwater supply. He felt that the issue was of such importance that the court should be notified as soon as possible, advising that modeling would be forthcoming and would undergo peer review prior to court submission.

Director Sabolsice noted that CAW has wells outside the east boundary of the Basin not within the adjudication that are independent of CAW's main system; he would research the acre-feet per year production from those Ambler and Toro wells. Production from the other systems that are not owned by CAW would need to be obtained to determine percentages of the 1,100 total acre-feet for each producer.

Moved by Director Sabolsice, seconded by Director Costa, and unanimously carried, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$6,518.82 which currently remains unspent in HydroMetrics' previously approved contract (RFS No. 2013-04 approved by the Board on September 4, 2013 for \$25,060) to perform further modeling of the Laguna Seca Subarea (LSS) to determine:

- 1. Whether reducing or eliminating pumping by Alternative Producers in the LSS would appreciably reduce the rate at which groundwater levels are falling in the LSS.**
- 2. The impact on groundwater levels in the LSS of pumping from outside the eastern and southeastern boundaries of the LSS.**
- 3. Have MPWMD, under their already-approved contract to provide general assistance to the Watermaster as requested, do further research on wells for which well drawdown and casing elevation data was not previously available for use in HydroMetrics' modeling of the LSS, and, if such data can be obtained, provide it to HydroMetrics for inclusion in the final modeling report.**

Moved by Mayor Della Sala, seconded by Mayor Rubio, and unanimously carried, to advise the court that modeling will be done during the next two months to determine if there is an impact on groundwater levels in the LSS due to pumping from outside the eastern and southeastern boundaries of the LSS.

- C. Discuss and consider providing letters of support for four potential projects that could provide additional sources of water to replenish the Seaside Basin to help to achieve protective water levels. This item was taken up by the board prior to item B above. Mr. Jaques reviewed the staff report on the item. Project 4 would not be a “project” per se, as it should not require construction of any new facilities. However, once CAW’s Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project becomes operational, if it is found that the desalination plant has unused capacity in its initial years of operation, it is recommended that the Board seek funds to purchase additional water from that plant to help replenish the Seaside Basin. Mayor Rubio encouraged the board to take a position and voice its support to lend credence to the potential projects.

Moved by Mayor Rubio, seconded by Mayor Edelen, and unanimously carried, to provide letters of support for the following four projects when requested by staff:

- 1. Seaside Basin ASR Expansion.**
- 2. Expanded MRWPCA/MPWMD Groundwater Replenishment Project (GWRP)**
- 3. City diversions of storm water to MRWPCA to increase GWRP quantities (including storm water from the City of Pacific Grove).**
- 4. Use of initially unused capacity in CAW’s Regional Desalination Plant.**

Mayors Edelen, Pendergrass and Rubio, and Director Byrne left the meeting at 3:09 p.m. prior to adjournment due to other appointments.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

X. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)

- A. Timeline Schedule of Milestone Dates (Critical date monitoring)
- B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting minutes from January 8th, February 12th, and March 12th, 2014 meetings.

XI. DIRECTORS’ REPORTS – Chair Bruno may host a Christmas party at his home this year.

XII. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENTS

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9th at 1:30 p.m. in the MRWPCA conference room.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – It was agreed that the next meeting would be a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) Board meeting room at 5 Harris Court, Building "D" on Ryan Ranch in Monterey at 2:00 p.m.

XIV. There being no further business, Chair Bruno adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.