

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
Wednesday, November 6, 2024 Hybrid
City of Sand City, City Hall, 1 Pendergrass Way, Sand City, CA 93955

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

II. ROLL CALL

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno
City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby, Chair
California American Water (CAW) – Alternate Director David Pezzini
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone, Vice Chair
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director George Riley
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director John Gaglioti
City of Monterey – Council Member Kim Barber
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member Kim Shirley

Absent: Monterey County/Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

Others Present:

Bob Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager (TPM)*
Laura Paxton, Watermaster Administrative Officer (AO)
Nancy Dayton, Watermaster Assistant Administrative Officer
Piet Harmon, General Manager, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA)*
Sarah Hardgrave, Deputy General Manager, SVBGSA
Remleh Sherzinger, General Manager, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)
Patrick Breen, MCWD
Aiko Yamakawa, CAW*
Jessica Riley, Finance Director, City of Seaside*
Dan Meewis, Deputy City Manager, City of Seaside
Andreas Baer, Senior Engineer, City of Seaside
Maureen Hamilton, MPWMD*
Jon Lear, MPWMD*
Jeanne Colletto, Monterey Resident*
Christopher Bunn, President, Salinas Basin Water Alliance*
An asterisk (*) signifies virtual attendance.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – There were no public communications.

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – The closed session item was deferred to the next scheduled regular board meeting due to legal counsel unable to attend today’s meeting.

V. ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Piet Harmon, General Manager and Sarah Hardgrave, Deputy General Manager of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) presented slides and responded to questions regarding coordination with Seaside Groundwater Basin on issues of mutual interest. General Manager Hardgrave welcomed Watermaster TPM Jaques to the Monterey Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Committee as a voting member.
- B. Remlah Sherzinger, General Manager, Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, presented slides and responded to questions regarding coordination with Seaside Groundwater Basin on issues of mutual interest.

Go to <https://seasidegroundwaterbasinwatermaster.wpcomstaging.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/24-1106-Watermaster-board-meeting-presentations-by-SVBGSA-MCWD-1.mp3> for an audio of the presentations.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held August 7, 2024
- B. Summary of Payments made in September, 2024
- C. Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Reports through August 31, 2024

It was moved by Director Shirley, seconded by Director Barber, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider approving adjustments to the 2024 Administrative Fund Budget

It was moved by Director Barber, seconded by Director Carbone and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve as presented adjustments to the 2024 Administrative Fund Budget.

- B. Consider Approving Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budgets:
 1. Proposed Administrative Fund Budget
 2. Proposed FY 2025 Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) and M&MP Operations Budget; 2024 Budget Transfer to Evaluate Options for Updating the Groundwater Model in 2025; and Montgomery & Associates RSF No.2024-03 to Evaluate Options for Updating the Groundwater Model
 3. Proposed 2025 Replenishment Assessment Fund Budget –No Action Required

It was moved by Director Bruno, seconded by Director Gaglioti, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve as presented Fiscal Year 2025 Administrative Fund Budget; Monitoring and Management Program; a 2024 Budget Transfer to Evaluate Options for Updating the Groundwater Model in 2025; and Montgomery & Associates RSF No. 2024-03 to Evaluate Options for Updating the Groundwater Model.

4. Consider Approving the Proposed 2025 Replenishment Assessment Unit Costs for Natural Safe Yield and Operating Yield Overproduction.

It was moved by Director Riley, seconded by Director Shirley, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve the Proposed 2025 Replenishment Assessment Unit Cost of \$4,845.21 for Natural Safe Yield Overproduction and \$1,211.30 for Operating Yield Overproduction.

- C. Consider approving Water Year 2025 Declaration of Unavailability of Artificial Replenishment Water (Water Years 2025 Production Allocations and Basin Storage Allocations attached)

It was moved by Director Shirley, seconded by Director Pezzini, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve the Water Year 2025 Declaration of Unavailability of Artificial Replenishment Water as presented.

- D. Consider approving the following Professional Service Contracts for Fiscal Year 2025:

1. Two Contracts with Montgomery & Associates, Inc. – one for \$15,964 to provide ongoing and as-requested general hydrogeologic consulting services during the year, and the second for \$30,050 to prepare the Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report (SIAR) for 2025
2. One Contract with Martin Feeney – for \$4,000 to provide on-call/as-requested hydrogeologic consulting services for 2025
3. One Contract with Todd Groundwater – for \$4,000 to provide on-call/as-needed hydrogeologic consulting services for 2025
4. One Contract with MPWMD – for \$82,556 to perform monitoring and other work on the 2025

- Seaside Groundwater Basin Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP), including Sentinel Wells induction logging previously performed by Martin Feeney
5. One Contract with Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Rosenlieb and Kimball, LLP – for \$22,964 to provide Watermaster legal services for 2025

It was moved by Director Barber, seconded by Director Shirley, and unanimously carried 8-0 to approve the Professional Services Contracts for Fiscal Year 2025 as presented.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider Replenishment Water Quantity Needed

TPM Jaques' report specifies that, conservatively, the Seaside Basin will need 3,600 AFY of water to be injected and not extracted in order to achieve protective elevations. Doing so will prevent the risk of seawater intrusion in the Basin. In addition, "booster" injections will likely be needed following periods of drought. To achieve protective elevations in less than ten years, it appears that each additional 500 AFY of replenishment water added to the basin will reduce the time to achieve protective elevations by approximately one year. TPM related that the TAC considered the technical reports prepared by Watermaster consultants and determined that in light of expected future climatic conditions of less rainfall and bigger droughts, the range of 1,000 to 3,600 AFY is a range of probable needs. However, the more conservative set of assumptions for future rainfall and recharge conditions suggest that setting a target of 3,600 AFY would be wise. There is no way to predict if 3,600 AFY would actually be enough.

Director Riley questioned whether 36,000 AFY of replenishment over ten years, and not a lower number, was the appropriate target. He felt a plan for funding the purchase of replenishment water, identifying specific projects and partners, and establishing the cost of projects and replenishment water were necessary components of a decision by the board on target AFY replenishment. Director Riley was in favor of setting a target range of 1,000 to 3,600 AFY as a more realistic goal than a static 3,600 AFY.

Director Gaglioti stated that the Basin is the critical infrastructure in water supply on the Peninsula; that 3,600 AFY is the updated scientific number that quantifies achieving protective elevations to guard against seawater intrusion that would destroy it; and that the TAC considered empirical climatic data over the last 100 years that clarified the trend of drier years over the last 25 years is clearly now the norm.

Director Bruno offered that injecting replenishment water along the coast could help create a short-term protective barrier to seawater intrusion and allow the Basin to begin to reach protective elevations. He felt establishing a specific target should not be dependent upon identifying funding sources. The TAC worked closely with consultants over a year using modeling results to establish a data set consistent with reality resulting in the more conservative figure of at least 3,600 AFY of replenishment needed to more assuredly reach Basin protective levels in 10 years.

Director Oglesby stated that establishing a guiding number is a separate decision from choosing or paying for specific projects. The Watermaster could consider projects to provide any part of the 3,600 AFY. Moving forward, it is important to rely on the science from reports prepared by our consultants, and on information shared by other agencies. The 3,600 AFY represents a guiding number for discussion, documentation, and planning. The Board should focus on a number rather than a range.

Director Shirley inquired as to whether the “Summary of Updated Replenishment Water Analysis” is current and reliable. TPM Jaques responded that consultants provided minor updates in September, 2024; the main conclusions did not change. Assumptions that the analysis is based on most likely will not change in the foreseeable future.

It was moved by Director Riley, seconded by Director Barber, and unanimously carried 8-0 to adopt 3,600 AFY replenishment as the safety measure for future planning purposes to achieve protective groundwater levels in the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

IX. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)

- A. Minutes of October 7, 2024 Replenishment Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
- B. Watermaster report of production of the Seaside Basin through Water Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)
- C. 2024 Calculated Replenishment Assessments – There was no overproduction and no assessments for WY 2024.
- D. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Monthly Update for August, 2024

X. DIRECTOR REPORTS – Director Bruno announced that invitations have been emailed for the annual Watermaster Holiday party on December 12, 2024. Director Carbone and Director Oglesby thanked the Watermaster staff and TAC for their work on Item VIII., Replenishment Water Needed. Director Gaglioti felt the item was a basis for community outreach to City Councils etc.; staff was directed to schedule a Public Awareness Committee meeting after the first of the year with the board encouraged to provide input into the presentation.

XI. STAFF COMMENTS – Watermaster received a copy of correspondence included in today’s agenda packet on page 145 from City of Seaside City Attorney to Marina Coast Water District General Manager requesting MCWD reasonably serve existing customers. Administrative staff recommended that the December 4, 2024, Board meeting be cancelled for lack of business.

It was moved by Director Barber, seconded by Mayor Carbone, and unanimously carried 8-0 to cancel the December 4, 2024, board meeting and reconvene January 8, 2025.

XII. CLOSED SESSION – The Closed Session item will be taken up at the next board meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton, Board Secretary