

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 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**

City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby, Chair

City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone, Vice Chair

Monterey County/Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

City of Monterey – Council Member Kim Barber

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno

Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director John Gaglioti

California American Water (CAW) – Director Tim O’Halloran

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director George Riley

City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member Kim Shirley

***All Directors Present***

***Others Present:***

Nancy Dayton, Watermaster Assistant Administrative Officer

Alex Dominguez, Watermaster Legal Counsel\*

Bob Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager (TPM)

Yuri Anderson, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Wendy Root Askew\*

Andreas Baer, Senior Engineer, City of Seaside

Patrick Breen, MCWD\*

Maureen Hamilton, MPWMD\*

Georgina King, Montgomery & Associates\*

Alex Lorca, Fenton Keller\*

Jessica Riley, Acting Finance Director, City of Seaside\*

Deborah Roberts

David Stoldt, General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District\*

*An asterisk (\*) signifies virtual attendance.*

**III.** Schedule of Watermaster Board Member Representative and Alternate appointments for 2025-2026 Informational only. Representatives for agencies in red type are not yet confirmed. (The City of Monterey meanwhile confirmed Barber/Williamson as Watermaster appointed representative and alternate.)

**IV. ELECTION OF WATERMASTER BOARD 2025 OFFICERS**

A. Chairperson (Must be member of the Board of Directors)—Currently Mayor Oglesby

***It was moved by Director Carbone and seconded by Director Bruno to nominate Mayor Oglesby as Board Chair.***

The Board concurred to vote once for all positions.

B. Vice Chairperson (Must be member of the Board of Directors)—Currently Mayor Carbone

The Board concurred to take a separate vote for the contested position of Vice Chair.

***It was moved by Director Riley and seconded by Director Barber to elect Director Shirley as Vice Chair: Director Oglesby-Nay; Director Carbone-Nay; Director Askew-Aye; Director Barber-Aye; Director Bruno-Nay; Director Gaglioti-Nay; Director O’Halloran-Nay; Director Riley-Aye; Director Shirley-Aye. Motion failed 4-5.***

***It was moved by Director Gaglioti and seconded by Director Bruno to elect Mayor Carbone as Vice Chair: Director Oglesby-Aye; Director Carbone-Aye; Director Askew-Aye; Director Barber-Aye; Director Bruno-Aye; Director Gaglioti-Aye; Director O'Halloran-Aye; Director Riley-Aye; Director Shirley-Aye. Motion carried 9-0.***

- C. Secretary (Need not be a member of the Board of Directors)—Currently Admin. Officer Paxton

***It was moved by Director Askew and seconded by Director Bruno to nominate Laura Paxton as Board Secretary.***

- D. Treasurer (Need not be a member of the Board of Directors)—Currently Supervisor Askew

***It was moved by Director Gaglioti to nominate Director Shirley as Board Treasurer. Director Shirley chose not to accept the nomination. Director Gaglioti withdrew his nomination.***

***It was moved by Director Shirley and seconded by Director Barber to nominate Director Askew as Board Treasurer.***

***It was moved by Director Askew and seconded by Director Barber to elect Mayor Oglesby as Chair, Laura Paxton as Secretary, and Wendy Root Askew as Treasurer for the year 2025: Director Oglesby-Aye; Director Carbone-Aye; Director Askew-Aye; Director Barber-Aye; Director Bruno-Aye; Director Gaglioti-Aye; Director O'Halloran-Aye; Director Riley-Aye; Director Shirley-Aye. Motion carried 9-0.***

V. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – There were no public communications.

VI. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – There were no announcements or requested changes to the agenda.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATIONS – None

#### VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on November 6, 2024
- B. Board and TAC Schedule of Meetings for 2025
- C. Summary of Payments made in October, November, and December, 2024
- D. Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Reports through November 30, 2024

Director Riley requested Item D be pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

***It was moved by Director Askew, seconded by Director Barber, and unanimously carried 9-0 to approve Consent Calendar Items A, B, and C as presented.***

In response to Director Riley's inquiry regarding CAW credit requests and its credit balance in the Replenishment Assessment Fund, TPM Jaques and Director Bruno stated that CAW first obtains approval from the PUC for desalination plant expenditures before submitting a request for credit to the Watermaster for its consideration and approval.

***It was moved by Director Riley, seconded by Director Barber and unanimously carried 9-0 to approve Consent Calendar item D as presented.***

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider Approving Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report for 2024. The Executive Summary is included in the Board agenda packet. The complete SIAR is posted on the Watermaster website at: <https://seasidegroundwaterbasinwatermaster.wpcomstaging.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/WY2024-Seawater-Intrusion-Analysis-Report-for-posting.pdf>

TPM Jaques remarked that the SIAR examines the health of the Basin and assesses any indication of seawater intrusion that is occurring or imminent. Georgina King of Montgomery & Associates presented slides and answered questions.

Director Barber asked for clarification on the increased conductivity in Sentinel Wells 1, 2, and 4 in the Paso Robles Formation and how that and the leaking casings of the SNG well could affect seawater intrusion into the Seaside Basin. Ms. King explained the Paso Robles Aquifer that outcrops to the ocean has very coarse sediment that allows groundwater and seawater to flow more quickly. Continued pumping from wells in the area with groundwater levels 30' below sea level could trigger seawater intrusion that would be irreversible and groundwater quality prior to intrusion could never be restored.

In response to Director Riley, Ms. King explained that a damaged or poorly constructed well would allow seawater to flow vertically however, due to stratigraphy, seawater is more likely to intrude horizontally. Director Riley asked whether geophysical studies are scheduled to better determine the extent of the zone of higher conductivity (indication of possible imminent seawater intrusion). TPM Jaques confirmed the work is in the approved budget with the contract scheduled for TAC approval in February and to the Board for approval in March after which work will begin. Watermaster needs to obtain clearance from State Parks and SNG property owners. John Lear of MPWMD has been assisting Watermaster with obtaining approval from State Parks to access their land, and Director Askew offered her office to assist with State Parks access. Watermaster is pursuing legal action to have the SNG well repaired or destroyed; however, SNG is involved in litigation that prohibits any work on the well.

Director Gaglioti inquired whether the Cone Penetration Test (CPT) would provide quantitative data. Ms. King noted the CPT will provide quantitative chloride concentration values. The CPT and logging induction from the same coarse zone will provide valuable data on the correlation between chloride concentrations and induction log values. TPM Jaques will request a presentation of CPT to the TAC.

Director Oglesby recommended that the Watermaster Board determine a plan of action based on feedback and recommendations from TAC experts and use its authority to implement strategies beyond collecting data, studying the Basin, and relying on processes currently in place. Director Askew suggested a plan to identify new source water, conservation, calculating Natural Safe and Sustainable Yields, carry-over credits, leave-behinds, etc. to mitigate triggering the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) should be separate from the SIRP; she suggested the updated SIRP should include a detailing of this preemptive strategies and actions plan. Directors Shirley and Barber requested that the discussion/development of these strategies and actions be a board agenda item.

***It was moved by Director Askew, seconded by Director Shirley, and unanimously carried 9-0 to approve the 2024 Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report as presented.***

- B. Consider Approving Water Year 2024 Watermaster Annual Report. The body of the Draft 2024 Annual Report is included in the Board agenda packet. The complete Final version is posted at: <https://seasidegroundwaterbasinwatermaster.wpcomstaging.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ENDORSED-FINAL-2024-Watermaster-Annual-Report.pdf>

TPM Jaques stated Watermaster submits an Annual Report to the Court after the end of each Water Year to fulfill one of its obligations under the Court Decision that created the Watermaster. The document summarizes and provides information on all of the Watermaster's principal activities. The TAC reviewed a preliminary draft of the Annual Report and made no revisions.

Director Askew requested that p. 5 of the Annual Report be edited to reflect that Supervisor Mary Adams served as Director Askew's alternate on the Watermaster Board of Directors for 2024. Directors Askew and Riley suggested the Board's pursuit of a mechanism to obtain water and generating the funding to purchase it should be included. TPM Jaques recommended including information about efforts to attain sustainability in the 2025 Annual Report after the Board has developed policies and strategies to proactively sustain the Basin as discussed earlier.

***It was moved by Director Askew, seconded by Director Riley, and unanimously carried 9-0 to approve the 2024 Annual Report with the addition of Supervisor Mary Adams serving as Supervisor Askew's alternate to the Board, and with the addition of the statement: The Watermaster acknowledges that as an adjudicated basin the Seaside Basin is not required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to prepare and carry out a Groundwater Sustainability Plan. However, the Watermaster takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the Seaside Basin. Seawater intrusion remains a threat to the Basin and is a regular topic of conversation for our body. The Watermaster recognizes its responsibility to monitor sea water intrusion to prevent harm to the Basin. The Watermaster's Board is engaged in discussion about actions necessary to bring the Seaside Basin into sustainability and expects to provide future updates to the Court regarding this issue.***

Director Oglesby requested that Directors Shirley and Barber state the issues they would like to see on the next Board agenda: Director Shirley requested discussion on Producers' Carryover Credits, the ability of the Watermaster to discount water, i.e., withholding credits, the process for doing so, and estimations of the quantity of water discounting could leave for the Basin. Director Barber requested a work plan discussion and actions for the Board. Director Askew supported discussion on conservation and establishing a clear number for Natural Safe Yield as they related to sustainability.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS—None**

## **XI. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)**

- A. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) draft meeting minutes from November 13, 2024
- B. Watermaster report of Water Year 2024 Quarter 4 Production of the Seaside Basin (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)
- C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Monthly Update September, October, and November, 2024. Director Shirley noted the positive outcome of TPM's application to serve on the SVBGSA Implementation Committee and expressed her appreciation for TPM's updates to the Board.

**XII. DIRECTOR REPORTS** – Director Riley requested that Watermaster Board agendas list the Chair and Vice Chair first and then other members alphabetically. Director Riley and Director Oglesby expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Director Bruno's Watermaster holiday party.

**XIII. STAFF COMMENTS** – Staff recommended that the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) convene on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 10:00 am at Sand City Hall Council Chambers.

After discussion, the Board determined to meet on February 5, 2025 for its scheduled Regular Board Meeting.

**XIV. CLOSED SESSION** – The Board met in Closed Session with Legal Counsel Alex Dominguez pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(4) to discuss one item. No reportable action was taken.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to the next Regular Board meeting scheduled for February 5, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton, Board Secretary*