SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 1, 2025–2:00pm

City Hall, City of Sand City
1 Pendergrass Way, Sand City, CA 93955

To access the meeting virtually, please click on the Zoom link or copy/paste it into your browser:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81722809040?pwd=2kaQ9OcpsjTiyXvpPyXG89zRpL7W8k.1
Meeting ID: 817 2280 9040 **Passcode:** 124600
If your computer does not have audio, you can join the meeting via phone. To participate via phone, please call:
408 638 0968 US (San Jose) • 669 444 9171 US • 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
If you would like to comment on any item on the Agenda or any item not on the Agenda, please submit those in writing to our office or via email at watermasterseaside@sbcglobal.net by 10 a.m. on the day before the Board meeting. All submitted written comments will be provided to the Board and you may also comment during the meeting.

Watermaster Board
Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno
City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby – Chair
California American Water (CAW) – Director Tim O'Halloran
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone – Vice Chair
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director Alvin Edwards
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director John Gaglioti
City of Monterey – Council Member Kim Barber
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member Kim Shirley
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, District 4

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **ROLL CALL**

III. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**
Oral communications are on each meeting agenda in order to provide members of the public an opportunity to address the Watermaster on matters within its jurisdiction. Matters not appearing on the agenda will not receive action at this meeting but may be referred to the Watermaster Administrator or may be set for a future meeting. Presentations will be limited to three minutes or as otherwise established by the Watermaster. In order that the speaker may be identified in the minutes of the meeting, it is helpful if speakers state their names.

IV. **REVIEW OF AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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. **ORAL PRESENTATION –** None

VI. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Consider approving Fiscal Year (January–December) 2026 Annual Budgets:
   1. Administrative Budget 19
   2. Monitoring and Management Program and Operations and Capital Budgets..... 21
   3. Replenishment Assessment Fund Budget –No Action Required..... 35

B. Consider Approving the Proposed 2026 Replenishment Assessment Unit Costs for Natural Safe Yield and Operating Yield Overproduction 39

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Consider approval of the Revised Final Draft Update of the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan 41

IX. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS** (No Action Required)

A. Administrative Officer recruitment timeline and job description..... 73
B. Funding Assistance from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) for Assistance with Groundwater Modeling Work..... 77
C. Watermaster report of Water Year 2025 Quarter 3 Production of the Seaside Basin (April 1 – June 30, 2025) 79

X. **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

XI. **STAFF COMMENTS**

XII. **CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session of the Board is not planned but may be held if necessary for certain limited purposes authorized pursuant to the California Government Code.

XIII. The Watermaster will consider a motion to adjourn to the next regular Watermaster Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

This agenda was forwarded via email to the City Clerks of Seaside, Monterey, Sand City, and Del Rey Oaks; the Clerk of the Monterey Board of Supervisors, the Clerk to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District; the Clerk at the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey One Water, and California American Water Company for posting on or before September 25, 2025, per the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Section 54954.2 (a).

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
City of Sand City, City Hall, 1 Pendergrass Way, Sand City, CA 93955 (Hybrid)

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

II. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:
City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby, Chair
City of Monterey – Council Member Kim Barber
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone
Monterey County/Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root Askew
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director John Gaglioti
California American Water (CAW) – Director Tim O'Halloran
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director Alvin Edwards
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member Kim Shirley
Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno (participating remotely with voting privileges)

Others Present:
Bob Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager (TPM)
Laura Paxton, Watermaster Administrative Officer (AO)
Kevin Dayton, Watermaster Assistant
Nick McIlroy, Planning Manager, City of Sand City
Yuri Anderson, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Wendy Root Askew*
David Pezzini, Senior Project Engineer, CAW*
Greg McDanel, City Manager, City of Seaside*
Andreas Baer, Senior Engineer, City of Seaside
George Riley, Director, MPWMD
Rebecca Lindor, Director, MPWMD*
Karen Paull, Director, MPWMD*
David Stoldt, General Manager, MPWMD*
Mike McCollough, Assistant General Manager, MPWMD
Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer, MPWMD*
Jon Lear, Senior Hydrogeologist, MPWMD
Frances Farina, Attorney, DeLay and Laredo*
Jan Shriner, Director, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)
Sarah Hardgrave, Deputy General Manager, SVBGSA*
Georgina King, Montgomery & Associates*
Monica Lal, President, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Michael Groves, President, EMC Planning
Melodie Chrislock, Public Water Now*

An asterisk (*) signifies virtual attendance.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ian Oglesby thanked the City of Sand City and Mayor Mary Ann Carbone for arranging use of the Sand City Council chamber for Watermaster board meetings.

By voice vote, the board authorized Director Paul Bruno to participate remotely in the meeting as a voting board member. He participated remotely because of COVID-19 infection.

By voice vote, the board added Item VII.C to New Business, appointment of an ad hoc recruitment committee to fill the Administrative Officer position.

IV. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – There were no public communications.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on March 5, 2025
B. Minutes of Workshop meeting held on April 2, 2025
C. Check Register of Payments made March through July 2025
D. Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Reports through July 31, 2025
E. Retroactive approval of RFS No. 2025-04 with Montgomery & Associates

On a roll call vote, the board unanimously, on a 9-0 vote, approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

VI. ORAL PRESENTATION – Status of California American Water Company Desalination Project Satisfying California Coastal Commission Conditions

As representative of California American Water (CAW), Director O'Halloran outlined the status of the permit conditions allowing construction of the desalination component of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP). The California Coastal Commission Coastal Development Permit approved on November 17, 2022, required twenty conditions be met.

One of the most onerous of these 20 conditions is obtaining a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). This permit would authorize the discharge of brine effluent through the M1W outfall and modifications to that outfall to accommodate the discharge. CAW has worked for more than two years with the outfall owner—the Monterey One Water (M1W) regional wastewater and recycling agency—to design the outfall modifications and prepare the permit application. The permit application was submitted to CCRWQCB in June with permit issuance expected spring of 2026. Agreements between CAW and M1W need to be finalized for outfall improvements modifying ports, installing new ports for the discharge, and new pipeline lining.

In October 2025 CAW plans to begin work installing barrier fences and performing other biological mitigation, with grading to begin in November 2025.

Director Askew asked Director O'Halloran if there was a tracking system or spreadsheet available for public review regarding the status of fulfillment of the 20 conditions. Director O'Halloran responded that CAW is not required to do that; it only needs to inform the California Coastal Commission that it has satisfied all 20 conditions and therefore is going to begin construction. Director Askew felt the process of satisfying conditions is important and that the public should be informed in writing. Director O'Halloran was amenable to providing updates on condition progress at future meetings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Montgomery & Associates of the Draft Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) and Discussion of Revisions

Georgina King, Montgomery & Associates gave a slide presentation on the draft update to the Watermaster Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) for the Seaside Groundwater Basin. The original SIRP was approved by the Watermaster board in 2009 that is part of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Monitoring and Management Program (MMP), required in Section III.L.3.j(i) of the 2006 Adjudication Decision. The Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the draft at their July 19 and August 13 meetings, with that input incorporated into the draft update.

There are changes to five sections of the plan, including maps and data for monitoring wells, an addition to an indicator and an addition to contingency actions. The plan incorporates new geophysical data from induction data logging.

Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan will be completed after the update to the Seaside Basin groundwater model is completed in 2026.

Director Edwards stated that he wants the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board to review the draft report. TPM Jaques noted that the Watermaster's Technical Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from Decision parties including MPWMD, and so MPWMD has been involved in and has had access to updated SIRP documents the entire process.

Board members discussed which seawater intrusion model to use as the basis for Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan. Ms. King asserted that the Watermaster should rely on a more-detailed, individualized Seaside Basin groundwater model rather than a regional model such as the model under development for the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA). The Seaside Basin model would have the same level of detail as the model previously used for Pure Water Monterey. However, the updated Seaside Basin model could incorporate findings from the SVBGSA model once it is completed. In particular, the SVBGSA model would be helpful to determine Seaside Basin boundaries.

Board members agreed to direct Montgomery & Associates to make minor changes to the report: (1) clarifying that all three triggers are necessary for the contingency plan, (2)

removing the word "substantially" because it is not quantified, (3) changing the word "reduce" to the more powerful "reverse."

In response to Director Shirley's question about why the plan does not have more frequent references to the land-based electromagnetic geophysical data report, Ms. King stated that the survey has been completed but the consulting firm has not completed the final report.

Board members discussed how to evaluate the "benefit" of additional monitoring wells. Ms. King noted that drilling new monitoring wells would be expensive (perhaps $200,000 per well) and finding an ideal location—in fact, any location—would be difficult. Chair Oglesby pointed out that the board would determine the benefit, whether data was sufficient from the existing monitoring wells to make a Declaration of Seawater Intrusion and proceed to Part 2 of the Pumping Distribution Plan, without needing to drill a new well to collect additional data.

Director O'Halloran reported that CAW is identifying wells of concern based on increased gradients for pumping restrictions consideration. Pumping from wells to the east of General Jim Moore Boulevard are constrained by Pure Water Monterey restrictions, and increased pumping from wells to the west will exacerbate seawater intrusion. CAW plans to drill two new wells at Seaside Middle School; it takes two years to develop a well after an appropriate location is found.

Public Comment:
George Riley suggested that the Plan include a timeframe for replacement water and identification of the source of that replacement water.

Andreas Baer, City of Seaside had two requests: (1) include what pumping redistribution may look like if there is a Declaration of Seawater Intrusion, and (2) prepare a map of well locations and the associated data, with color coding to indicate improving or deteriorating conditions, so the public can see the comprehensive situation on one page. Mr. Baer was asked to submit his requests in writing to Watermaster TPM.
End Public Comment

The board directed Montgomery & Associates to bring back a new draft with the requested changes in a redline version, and then give other agencies 30 days to comment on the recommended final version.

B. Consider Appointing a Recruitment Committee to Fill Administrative Officer Position
Chair Oglesby appointed an ad hoc committee of Director Kim Shirley, Director Mary Ann Carbone, and himself to work with the City of Seaside Human Resources Department in finalizing a job description, creating a timeline for the hiring process, advertising the position, and filtering down applicants to the top few for board consideration. These steps in the process will be approved at the next board meeting on October 1, 2025.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

IX. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Watermaster report of Water Year 2025 Quarter 3 Production of the Seaside Basin (October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Monthly Update February through July 2025
C. Notice of CAW/Bishop Unit-McIntosh Amendment to Water Distribution Permit
D. Draft minutes of the Replenishment Ad Hoc Committee meeting held July 3, 2025

X. DIRECTOR REPORTS

Board member Kim Shirley requested that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act monthly updates, as soon as completed, be emailed by TPM Jaques directly to board members.

The October 1, 2025, board meeting will include approval of the 2026 Watermaster budgets and replenishment assessment unit costs

XI. STAFF COMMENTS – There were no staff comments.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m. to the Board meeting scheduled for October 1, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton, Board Secretary.

WATERMASTER CHECK REGISTER

	Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount
AUGUST 2025							
Administrative Fund	Check	08/08/2025	250719KDG	Klein DeNatale Goldner (Hughes)	July 2025 Invoice	Legal	-$2,070.00
	Check	08/08/2025	250725PA	Paxton Associates	July 2025 Invoice	Contract Staff	-4,000.00
							-6,070.00
Monitoring & Mgmt Ops Fund							
	Check	08/08/2025	250731BJ	Robert Jaques	July 2025 Invoice	Technical Project Manager	-7,437.50
						TOTAL AUGUST 2025	-7,437.50

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster

Budget vs. Actual Administrative Fund

Fiscal Year (January 1 - December 31, 2025)
Balance through August 31, 2025

	2025 Adopted Budget		Contract Amount	Year to Date Revenue / Expenses
Available Balances & Assessments				
Other Assessments	-			
FY (Rollover)	2,500.00			30,000.00
Admin Assessments	113,000.00			113,000.00
Replenishment Assessments	10,474.00			10,474.00
Available	**125,974.00**			**153,474.00**
Expenses				
Contract Staff	78,000.00		78,000.00	42,397.56
Legal Counsel			12,500.00	
General	12,500.00			2,884.50
Replenishment	10,474.00	*		2,670.00
				5,554.50
Filing fees and postage				-
Total Expenses	**100,974.00**		**90,500.00**	**47,952.06**
Total Available	25,000.00			
Dedicated Reserve	25,000.00			-
Net Available	**-**			**105,521.94**

** $10,474 Replenishment related legal and administrative costs will be covered by funds transferred into the Administrative Fund from the Replenishment Assessment Fund*

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster

Budget vs. Actual Monitoring & Management - Operations Fund

Fiscal Year (January 1 - December 31, 2025)

Balance through August 31, 2025

	2025 Adopted Budget Adjusted 10/1/25	Contract Encumbrance	Year to Date Revenue/Expenses
Available Balances & Assessments			
Operations Fund Assessment	$ 335,000.00	$ -	$ 335,000.00
Pass Through		-	4,902.00
FY 2022 Rollover (estimated)	143,973.00	-	188,000.00
Total Available	**$ 478,973.00**	**$ -**	**$ 527,902.00**
Appropriations & Expenses			
GENERAL			
Technical Project Manager*	$ 75,000.00	$ 75,000.00	$ 50,912.00
Contingency @ 10% (not including TPM)	45,692.00		
Total General	**$ 120,692.00**	**$ 75,000.00**	**$ 50,912.00**
CONSULTANTS (Montgomery; Web Site Database)			
Program Administration	$ 22,694.00	$ 22,694.00	$ 46,208.50
Production/Lvl/Qlty Monitoring	-		
Basin Management	175,000.00	37,481.00	
Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report	55,531.00	30,050.00	1,160.00
Total Consultants	**$ 253,225.00**	**$ 90,225.00**	**$ 47,368.50**
MPWMD			
Production/Lvl/Qlty Monitoring	$ 81,556.00	81,556.00	24,812.73
Pass Through 2024	-	-	-
Basin Management	-		-
Seawater Intrusion	-	-	-
Direct Costs	-	-	-
Total MPWMD	**$ 81,556.00**	**$ 81,556.00**	**$ 24,812.73**
CONTRACTOR (Martin Feeney)			
Hydrogeologic Consulting Services	$ 4,000.00	4,000.00	630.00
Production/Lvl/Qlty Monitoring		-	-
	$ 4,000.00	**$ 4,000.00**	**$ 630.00**
CONTRACTOR (Todd Groundwater)			
Hydrogeologic Consulting Services	**$ 4,000.00**	**$ 4,000.00**	590.00
CONTRACTOR (Subsurface Imaging)			
Hydrogeologic Consulting Services	**$ 15,500.00**	**$ 15,500.00**	-
Total Appropriations & Expenses	**$ 478,973.00**	**$ 254,781.00**	**$ 124,313.23**
Total Available	**-**		**403,588.77**

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster

Replenishment Fund

10/1/25

Water Year 2025 (October 1 - September 30) / Fiscal Year (January 1 - December 31, 2025)

Balance through August 31, 2025

Replenishment Fund		**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Assessment Water Year		WY 05/06	WY 06/07	WY 07/08	WY 08/09	WY 09/10	WY 10/11	WY 11/12	WY 12/13	WY 13/14	WY 14/15	WY 15/16
Unit Cost:	a	$1,132 / $283	$1,132 / $283	$2,485 / 621.25	$3,040 / $760	$2,780 / $695	$2,780 / $695	$2,780 / $695	$2,780 / $695	$2,702/$675.50	$2,702/$675.50	$2,702/$675.50
Cal-Am Water Balance Forward	b	**$ -**	**$ 1,641,004**	**$ 4,226,710**	**$ (2,871,690)**	**$ (2,839,939)**	**$ (3,822,219)**	**$ (6,060,164)**	**$ (8,735,671)**	**$ (6,173,771)**	**$ (3,102,221)**	**$ (676,704)**
Cal-Am Water Production (AF)	c	*3,710.00*	*4,059.90*	*3,862.90*	*2,966.02*	*3,713.52*	*3,416.04*	*3,070.90*	*3,076.61*	*3,232.10*	*2,764.73*	*1,879.21*
Cal-Am Water NSY Over-Production (AF)	d	*1,862.69*	*2,266.32*	*2,092.16*	*1,241.27*	*1,479.47*	*1,146.71*	*820.48*	*856.42*	*1,032.77*	*782.17*	-
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	e	$ 2,106,652	$ 2,565,471	$ 5,199,014	$ 3,773,464	$ 4,112,933	$ 3,187,854	$ 2,280,943	$ 2,380,842	$ 2,790,539	$ 2,113,414	-
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	f	**$ -**	$ 20,235	$ 8,511	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 154,963	$ 181,057	$ 281,012	$ 312,103	-
Total California American	g	***$ 2,106,652***	***$ 2,585,706***	***$ 5,207,525***	***$ 3,773,464***	***$ 4,112,933***	***$ 3,187,854***	***$ 2,435,907***	***$ 2,561,899***	***$ 3,071,550***	***$ 2,425,516***	***$ -***
CAW Credit Against Assessment	h	$ (465,648)		$ (12,305,924)	$ (3,741,714)	$ (5,095,213)	$ (5,425,799)	$ (5,111,413)				
CAW Unpaid Balance	i	***$ 1,641,004***	***$ 4,226,710***	***(2,871,690)***	***$ (2,839,939)***	***$ (3,822,219)***	***$ (6,060,164)***	***$ (8,735,671)***	***$ (6,173,771)***	***$ (3,102,221)***	***$ (676,704)***	***$ (676,704)***
City of Seaside Balance Forward	j	**$ -**	**$ 243,294**	**$ 426,165**	**$ 1,024,272**	**$ 1,619,973**	**$ 891,509**	**$ (110,014)**	**$ (773,813)**	**$ (1,575,876)**	**$ (2,889,325)**	**$ (3,346,548)**
City of Seaside Municipal Production (AF)	k	*332.00*	*287.70*	*294.20*	*293.44*	*282.87*	*240.68*	*233.72*	*257.73*	*223.64*	*185.01*	*195.16*
City of Seaside NSY Over-Production (AF)	l	*194.07*	*153.78*	*161.99*	*153.06*	*113.21*	*50.84*	*58.82*	*85.17*	*52.71*	*25.77*	*37.87*
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	m	$ 219,689	$ 174,082	$ 402,540	$ 465,300	$ 314,721	$ 141,335	$ 163,509	$ 236,782	$ 142,410	$ 69,630	$ 102,330
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	n	$ 12,622	$ 85	$ 4,225	$ 16,522	$ 20,690	$ -	$ 1,689	$ 27,007	$ 3,222	$ 38	$ 11,959
Total Municipal	o	***$ 232,310***	***$ 174,167***	***$ 406,764***	***$ 481,823***	***$ 335,412***	***$ 141,335***	***$ 165,198***	***$ 263,788***	***$ 145,631***	***$ 69,667***	***$ 114,290***
City of Seaside - Golf Courses (APA - 540 AFY)												
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	p	-	-	$ 131,705	$ 69,701	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	q	-	-	$ 32,926	$ 17,427	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Golf Courses	r	$ -	$ -	$ 164,631	$ 87,128	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total City of Seaside*	s	**$ 232,310**	**$ 174,167**	**$ 571,395**	**$ 568,951**	**$ 335,412**	**$ 141,335**	**$ 165,198**	**$ 263,788**	**$ 145,631**	**$ 69,667**	**$ 114,290**
City of Seaside Late Payment 5%	t	$ 10,984	$ 8,704	$ 26,712	$ 26,750	$ 15,737						
In-lieu Credit Against Assessment	u					$ (1,079,613)	$ (1,142,858)	$ (828,996)	$ (1,065,852)	$ (1,459,080)	$ (526,890)	$ (162)
City of Seaside Unpaid Balance	v	***$ 243,294***	***$ 426,165***	***$ 1,024,272***	***$ 1,619,973***	***$ 891,509***	***$ (110,014)***	***$ (773,813)***	***$ (1,575,876)***	***$ (2,889,325)***	***$ (3,346,548)***	***$ (3,232,420)***
Mission Memorial Park												
Mission Memorial Park Production (AF)	w			*20.80*	*26.40*	*12.80*	*22.40*	*27.00*	*24.95*	*24.89*	*17.97*	*13.67*
Mission Memorial Park NSY Over-Production (AF)	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	z	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Mission Memorial Park	aa	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Replenishment Fund Balance	bb	**$ 1,884,298**	**$ 4,652,874**	**$ (1,847,417)**	**$ (1,219,966)**	**$ (2,930,710)**	**$ (6,170,178)**	**$ (9,509,483)**	**$ (7,749,648)**	**$ (5,991,546)**	**$ (4,023,252)**	**$ (3,909,125)**
Replenishment Fund Balance Forward	cc	$ -	**$ 1,884,298**	**$ 4,652,874**	**$ (1,847,417)**	**$ (1,219,966)**	**$ (2,930,710)**	**$ (6,170,178)**	**$ (9,509,483)**	**$ (7,749,648)**	**$ (5,991,546)**	**$ (4,023,252)**
Total Replenishment Assessments	dd	$ 2,349,946	$ 2,768,576	$ 5,805,632	$ 4,369,165	$ 4,464,082	$ 3,329,189	$ 2,601,104	$ 2,825,688	$ 3,217,182	$ 2,495,183	$ 114,290
Total Paid and/or Credited	ee	$ (465,648)	$ -	$ (12,305,924)	$ (3,741,714)	$ (6,174,826)	$ (6,568,657)	$ (5,940,409)	$ (1,065,852)	$ (1,459,080)	$ (526,890)	$ (162)
Grand Total Fund Balance	ff	**$ 1,884,298**	**$ 4,652,874**	**$ (1,847,417)**	**$ (1,219,966)**	**$ (2,930,710)**	**$ (6,170,178)**	**$ (9,509,483)**	**$ (7,749,648)**	**$ (5,991,546)**	**$ (4,023,252)**	**$ (3,909,125)**

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
Replenishment Fund
Water Year 2025 (October 1 - September 30) / Fiscal Year (January 1 - December 31, 2025)
Balance through July 31, 2025

Replenishment Fund		2017	2018	2019	2020	WY 2021	WY 2022	WY 2023	WY 2024	Totals WY 2006 Through 2024	Budget WY 2025	Projected Totals Through WY 2025
Assessment Water Year		WY 16/17	WY 17/18	WY 18/19	WY 19/20	WY 20/21	WY 21/22	WY 22/23	WY 23/24		WY 24/25	
Unit Cost:	a	$2,872 / $718	$2,872 / $718	$2,872 / $718	$2,872 / $718	$2,947 / $737	$3,260/ $815	$3,461/ $865	$4,529/$1,132		$4,845/$1,211	
Cal-Am Water Balance Forward	b	**$ (676,704)**	**$ (491,747)**	**$ (48,797,949)**	**$ (47,979,852)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**		**$ (46,855,121)**	
Cal-Am Water Production (AF)	c	*2,029.51*	*2,229.45*	*2,120.22*	*2,245.88*	*1,664.04*	*1,648.71*	*1,569.60*	*1,594.25*	*50,853.59*		
Cal-Am Water NSY Over-Production (AF)	d	*64.40*	*374.65*	*284.85*	*334.21*	-	-	-		*14,638.57*		
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	e	$ 184,957	$ 1,075,995	$ 818,097	$ 959,859	-	-	-	-	$ 33,550,034	-	$ 33,550,034
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	f				164,872	-	-	-	-	$ 1,122,753	-	$ 1,122,753
Total California American	g	**$ 184,957**	**$ 1,075,995**	**$ 818,097**	**$ 1,124,731**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**-**	**$ 34,672,786**	**-**	**$ 34,672,786**
CAW Credit Against Assessment	h		$ (49,382,196)	-	-	-	-	-	-	$ (81,527,907)	-	$ (81,527,907)
CAW Unpaid Balance	i	***$ (491,747)***	***$ (48,797,949)***	***$ (47,979,852)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***
City of Seaside Balance Forward (120.28 AF)	j	**$ (3,232,420)**	**$ (3,142,500)**	**$ (3,022,249)**	**$ (2,919,806)**	**$ (2,802,831)**	**$ (2,708,829)**	**$ (2,661,184)**	**$ (2,661,184)**		**$ (2,661,184)**	
City of Seaside Municipal Production (AF)	k	*188.31*	*184.63*	*178.40*	*181.65*	*174.69*	*155.12*	*158.46*		*4,047.41*		
City of Seaside NSY Over-Production (AF)	l	*30.47*	*32.46*	*27.82*	*32.06*	*25.52*	*11.69*	-		*1,247.31*		
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	m	$ 87,512	$ 93,225	$ 79,893	$ 92,089	$ 75,197	$ 38,116	-	0.00	$ 2,898,358	0.00	$ 2,898,358
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	n	2,409	27,026	22,550	24,886	18,806	9,529	-	0.00	$ 203,263	0.00	$ 203,263
Total Municipal	o	$ 89,920	$ 120,251	$ 102,443	$ 116,975	$ 94,002	$ 47,645	$ -	0.00	$ 3,101,621	0.00	$ 3,101,621
City of Seaside - Golf Courses (APA - 540 AFY)												
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	p	-	-	-	-	-	-			$ 201,406		$ 201,406
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	q	-	-	-	-	-	-			$ 50,353		$ 50,353
Total Golf Courses	r	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 251,759		$ 251,759
Total City of Seaside*	s	**$ 89,920**	**$ 120,251**	**$ 102,443**	**$ 116,975**	**$ 94,002**	**$ 47,645**	**-**	**0.00**	**$ 3,353,380**	**0.00**	**$ 3,353,380**
City of Seaside Late Payment 5%	t									$ 88,887		$ 88,887
In-lieu Credit Against Assessment	u									$ (6,103,451)		$ (6,103,451)
City of Seaside Unpaid Balance	v	***$ (3,142,500)***	***$ (3,022,249)***	***$ (2,919,806)***	***$ (2,802,831)***	***$ (2,708,829)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***
Mission Memorial Park (APA - 31 AFY)												
Mission Memorial Park Production (AF)	w	*13.74*	*14.43*	*16.07*	*20.00*	*46.77*	*33.95*			*335.84*		
Mission Memorial Park NSY Over-Production (AF)	x	-	-	-		*15.77*	*2.95*			*18.72*		
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	y	-	-	-	-	$ 46,488	$ 9,608			$ 56,096		$ 56,096
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	z	-	-	-	-	11,626.00	2,401.97			$ 14,028		$ 14,028
Board Approved (5/4/22) Credit Against Assessment						(33,114.00)				$ (33,114)		$ (33,114)
$8,500 Applied to Admin Fund to cover expenses						(8,500.00)						
Mission Memorial Park Unpaid Balance	aa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$ -	-	$ -
Total	o	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ 16,500***	***$ 12,010***	***$ (16,500)***	***$ (12,010)***	***$ (0)***	***$ -***	***$ (0)***
Balance of Available Funds								***$ 16,500***	***$ 22,461***	$ 38,961	***$ 16,521***	
Total Replenishment Fund Balance	bb	**$ (3,634,247)**	**$ (51,820,198)**	**$ (50,899,658)**	**$ (49,657,952)**	**$ (49,563,950)**	**$ (49,516,305)**	**$ (49,538,853)**	**$ (49,528,315)**	**$ (49,477,344)**	**$ (49,532,702)**	**$ (49,532,702)**
Replenishment Fund Balance Forward	cc	**$ (3,909,125)**	**$ (3,634,247)**	**$ (51,820,198)**	**$ (50,899,658)**	**$ (49,657,952)**	**$ (49,563,950)**	**$ (49,516,305)**	**$ (49,522,353)**		**$ (49,532,702)**	
Total Replenishment Assessments	dd	$ 274,877	$ 1,196,246	$ 920,540	$ 1,241,706	$ 110,502	$ 59,655	$ -	$ -	$ 38,143,563	$ -	**$ 38,143,563**
Total Paid and/or Credited	ee		$ (49,382,196)			$ (16,500)	$ (12,010)			(87,659,868)		**(87,659,868)**
Total Paid for Replenishment Legal Services	ff							$ (6,049)	(10,349)	(16,398)	(16,521)	**(32,919)**
Grand Total Fund Balance	gg	***$ (3,634,247)***	***$ (51,820,198)***	***$ (50,899,658)***	***$ (49,657,952)***	***$ (49,563,950)***	***$ (49,516,305)***	***$ (49,522,353)***	***$ (49,532,702)***	***$ (49,532,702)***	***$ (49,549,223)***	***$ (49,549,223)***

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER **ITEM VI.D**
10/1/25

TO: Watermaster Board of Directors

FROM: Robert S. Jaques, Technical Program Manager

DATE: October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Monitoring and Management Program – Operations 2025 Budget adjustment for Montgomery and Associates services

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RECOMMENDATIONS:
Approve RFS No. 2025-05 with Montgomery & Associates.

BACKGROUND:
Included in the 2025 Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) there is a task to prepare an update to the Watermaster's Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP). Funding for that task was included in the 2025 M&MP Operations budget in the amount of $25,481.00, and Montgomery & Associates was authorized to perform this work under its Request for Service (RFS) No. 2025-03.

DISCUSSION:
The original SIRP updating budget has been exceeded for several reasons:

- One new component in the updated SIRP is *Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan*. That component involves using an updated version of the Watermaster's groundwater model. Because of the complexity of the model, considerably more consultation than anticipated with Montgomery & Associates' groundwater modeling expert was necessary in order to properly develop that component.
- The Board has shown a keen interest in ensuring that the updated SIRP accurately reflects the Board's desires and objectives. Considerably more time than anticipated was involved in developing language revisions to various components of the original draft of the updated SIRP to address input from Watermaster staff, TAC members, and Board members.
- Montgomery & Associates will be making a total of four presentations on the updated SIRP (two to the TAC and two to the Board) rather than the three presentations contemplated when the budget for this RFS was prepared.

As a result it will be necessary to augment the original amount authorized for this work by $12,000.

Request for Service (RFS) No. 2025-05 was prepared to provide this budget augmentation, and is on today's agenda for Board approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:
The General Hydrogeologic Consulting amount currently authorized to Montgomery & Associates under their RFS No. 2025-01 is $22,694. There is expected to be sufficient funding for that work such that $6,000 of this amount could be transferred to the work to update the SIRP to partially fund the augmentation of RFS No. 2025-03. The Contingency line-item in the 2025 M&MP Operations budget currently has $45,692 remaining in it. $6,000 can be transferred from the Contingency to complete the augmentation of RFS No. 2025-03. The result of making these budget transfers will not cause any increase in the Watermaster's 2025 M&MP Operations Budget.

ATTACHMENT: Montgomery & Associates RFS No. 2025-05

SEASIDE BASIN WATERMASTER
REQUEST FOR SERVICE

DATE: October 2, 2025

RFS NO. 2025-05
(To be filled in by WATERMASTER)

TO: Georgina King
Montgomery & Associates
PROFESSIONAL

FROM: Robert Jaques
WATERMASTER

Services Needed and Purpose: Update WATERMASTER's Seawater Intrusion Response Plan. See Scope of Work in Attachment 1.

Completion Date: All work of this RFS shall be completed not later than December 31, 2025.

Method of Compensation: Time and Materials (As defined in Section V of Agreement.)

Total Price Authorized by this RFS: $12,000.00 (Cost is authorized only when evidenced by signature below.) (See Attachment 1 for Estimated Costs).

Total Price may not be exceeded without prior written authorization by WATERMASTER in accordance with Section V. COMPENSATION.

Requested by: _____ Date:_____.
WATERMASTER Technical Program Manager

Agreed to by: _____ Date:_____.
PROFESSIONAL

ATTACHMENT 1

SCOPE OF WORK

RFS No. 2025-03 authorized PROFESSIONAL to prepare an updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) to replace the original SIRP that was prepared by HydroMetrics LLC in 2009. The detailed Scope of Work of that RFS No. 2025-03 was described in the Proposal from Montgomery & Associates dated June 24, 2024, which also provided a Schedule and Cost Estimate to perform the work. Part of the work of that RFS was to make three presentations on the updated SIRP, two to WATERMASTER's Technical Advisory Committee, and one to WATERMASTER's Board of Directors. Under the RFS after making those presentations PROFESSIONAL was to edit the draft updated SIRP to reflect requests made from WATERMASTER's Technical Advisory Committee and its Board of Directors and provide a final version of the updated SIRP to WATERMASTER.

The original SIRP budget has been exceeded for several reasons:

- Considerably more consultation than anticipated with PROFESSIONAL's groundwater modeling expert on the modeling aspects of Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan, was necessary.
- PROFESSIONAL will be making a total of four presentations (two to the TAC and two to the Board) rather than the three presentations contemplated when the budget for this RFS was prepared.
- Considerably more time than anticipated was involved in developing language revisions to various components of the original draft of the updated SIRP to address input from Watermaster staff, TAC members, and Board members.

The amount originally authorized by RFS No. 2025-03 was $25,481.00. It is now projected that the cost of the work to complete the update of the SIRP will $37,481.00.

This RFS No. 2025-05 increases the amount authorized for updating the SIRP by $12,000.00, bringing the total authorized amount for this work to $37,481.00.

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER **ITEM VII.A.1**
10/1/2025

TO: Watermaster Board of Directors

FROM: Laura Paxton, Administrative Officer (AO)

DATE: October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Fiscal Year (Calendar Year) 2026 Annual Administrative Fund Budget

RECOMMENDATION:
Consider approving the proposed 2026 Administrative Fund Budget.

DISCUSSION:
The court decision states that next fiscal year's budgets must be approved by the Board of Directors no later than the end of October each year in order for tentative budgets to be circulated to each adjudication Party "no earlier than November 1 and no later than November 15th each fiscal year.

The proposed 2026 Contractual Services budget amount of $84,000 is a $6,000 increase from the current year. In preparing for recruitment of a new Administrative Officer (AO) to begin January 1, 2026, a detailed monthly task list has been developed that determines generally 36 hours per month are required to administer Watermaster. The $84,000 proposed is in line with 36 hours per month at a pay rate of up to $195 per hour if the new AO has full qualifications/skills for the position, or would account for up to 56 hours per month at a rate of $125 per hour for lesser qualifications/skills and thus more time needed to fulfill the duties of the position.

Joe Hughes and Alex Dominguez, Watermaster legal counsel, are currently tasked with researching the Decision regarding aspects of Basin replenishment and it is anticipated this task will continue into 2026. Replenishment related services will be funded in 2026 by the estimated $8,112 remaining balance in the Replenishment Assessment Fund after 2025 expenditures. Estimated costs for the SNG matter, filing the Annual Report, and unforeseen services are proposed at $12,500 for 2026 non-replenishment related legal services.

The Budget and Finance Committee recommended board approval of the proposed 2026 Administrative Budget at its meeting on September 19, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:
An Administrative Fund Assessment of $57,200 is proposed: $84,000 (AO) + $20,612 (Legal) + $25,000 (Reserve) = $129,612 - $8112 (RA Fund) - $64,300 (Carryover) = $57,200

The assessments for the parties required to contribute to the Administrative Fund are:

California American Water 83.0%	$ 47,476
City of Seaside 14.4%	8,237
City of Sand City 2.6%	1,487
	$57,200

ATTACHMENTS
1) Proposed Administrative Fund Budget for FY (Calendar Year) 2026

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
Administrative Fund Budget
Proposed Budget September 19, 2025
Administrative Year 2026

	2025 Adopted Budget	2025 Estimated Total	2026 Proposed Budget
Assessment Income			
Rollover from previous year*	$ 2,500	$ 50,296	$ 64,300
Administrative Assessment	113,000	113,000	57,200
Replenishment Related Legal Costs**	10,474	4,000	8,112
Totals	125,974	167,296	129,612
Expenditures			
Contractual Services - Administrative	78,000	65,000	84,000
Legal Services - Administrative	12,500	10,634	12,500
Legal Services - Replenishment	10,474	2,362	8,112
Total Expenses	100,974	77,996	104,612
Total Available	25,000	89,300	25,000
Less Reserve	25,000	25,000	25,000
Net Available	$ -	$ 64,300	$ -

** Note: The Rollover balance of $50,296 was based on a detailed reconciliation of actual expenses from 2006 through July 31, 2025 of the Administrative Fund financial records held at the Watermaster office and estimations through the remainder of the 2025 year.*

*** Replenishment related legal and administrative costs will be covered by funds transferred into the Administrative Fund from the Replenishment Assessment Fund*

TO: Watermaster Board of Directors

FROM: Robert S. Jaques, Technical Program Manager

DATE: October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Approve the FY 2026 Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) and the FY 2026 M&MP Operations and Capital Budgets

- -

RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve the attached 2026 Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) and the FY 2026 M&MP Operations and Capital Budgets.

SUMMARY: The Watermaster Budget and Finance Committee at its September 19, 2025 meeting recommended the Board approve the attached 2026 Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) and the FY 2026 M&MP Operations and Capital Budgets.

Attached are the proposed M&MP Operations and Capital Budgets for 2026 and 2027. The Board has asked that two-year budgets be developed to alert the Board to potential changes in scope and/or cost in near future years. Only the 2026 budgets are before the Board for approval. The 2027 budgets are for information only. The following are comments and/or principal revisions from the 2025 M&MP Budget**:**

Technical Program Manager: The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the adjacent Monterey Subbasin was completed and submitted in early 2022 by the Salinas Valley Basin and the Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency completed and submitted GSPs for the other subbasins. There will continue to be regular meetings of their GSP-related committees that I either serve on representing the Watermaster, or monitor to keep the Watermaster informed on the topics discussed at those meetings. Also, there will likely be further work related to obtaining replenishment water for the Basin. Therefore, I anticipate that the 2026 workload will be similar to that of 2025, so the proposed line-item budget amount has been maintained at $75,000 in 2026.

Tasks Involving MPWMD and Montgomery & Associates: The scopes-of-work for both MPWMD and Montgomery & Associates are essentially unchanged from 2025. However, both will have hourly-rate increases in 2026, so the costs of the Tasks in which they are involved reflect somewhat higher dollar amounts in 2026 compared to 2025.

Tasks I.2.b.1, I.2.b.5, and I.4.e.1: All of these Tasks include the potential for installing additional monitoring wells. The need to install those wells will not be known until the Updated SIRP has been completed and approved by the Board. Hopefully that will occur in late 2025. The location of additional monitoring wells, if any are needed, would not be determined until the Seaside Basin Groundwater Model has been updated or replaced with a new model developed under Task I.3.a.1. That work will not be completed until late in 2026. Therefore, no new monitoring wells are expected to be installed in 2026.

Task I.2.b.8: This Task, which was added in 2025, has been carried on into 2026 to perform additional subsurface electromagnetic imaging in the vicinity of Sentinel Well No. 4, if the work performed in 2025 was found to be useful and beneficial in helping to determine if seawater is beginning to intrude inland in this location.

Task I.3.a.1: This is to update the groundwater modeling of the Seaside Basin, and was originally included in the 2025 M&MP. However, completion of the modeling work being performed in the adjacent Salinas Vally Basin has taken longer than originally expected, so this Task could not be performed in 2025 and has been moved to 2026. Significant changes in the understanding of the

hydrogeology of the Monterey Subbasin, which abuts the Seaside Basin, have been identified through work being conducted by the Salinas Valley Basin and Marina Coast Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. The Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrogeologic Model (SVIHM) and the Seawater Intrusion Model are now expected to be completed in late 2025. In order for the Watermaster to have a model to incorporate that new information and to more closely coordinate with the groundwater models in the adjacent subbasins, it may be desirable to update the Watermaster's modeling work in 2026. The existing Seaside Basin Model was last updated in 2018 at a cost of approximately $55K. However, that update only consisted of inputting more recent groundwater measurements (water level, production, etc.) but no changes to the actual model itself were made. The 2026 proposed updating work would be a much more complex and vigorous undertaking, with a commensurate significantly higher cost. The consultant (Montgomery & Associates) has provided a ballpark cost range of $100K to $150K to update the existing Seaside Basin Model. However, discussions with Montgomery and Associates and the TAC may lead to the conclusion that rather than simply updating the existing Seaside Basin Model, there may be a more useful and cost-effective way to prepare a model that incorporates the newer information and data and better integrates with the modeling being done in the other subbasins of the Salinas Valley Basin. The Budget includes $125K for this Task (midpoint of ballpark cost range). In the 2018 Model update, the cost was shared between the Watermaster, MPWMD, and M1W. The Watermaster paid 50% of the cost and the two other agencies collectively paid the other 50%. If this model updating work is undertaken in 2026, efforts will be made to again cost-share as was done with the 2018 update.

Task I.4.e.1: This new Task has been added to begin implementing the recommendations in the Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (Updated SIRP). The recommendations to be implemented will not be known until the Updated SIRP has been completed and approved by the Board. Hopefully that will occur in late 2025. Following discussions with Montgomery & Associates it does not appear that any significant work under this Task should be performed until the Groundwater Modeling update work of Task I.3.a.1 has been completed. Therefore, a place-holder amount to only perform preliminary work on Task I.4.e.1 has been included in the 2026 M&MP Operations Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:
For the Monitoring & Maintenance – Operations Fund:
An estimated $66,606 in unspent 2025 funds are expected to be carried over to 2026. An Operations Fund Assessment of $525,000 is proposed ($491,606 Ops Budget + $100,000 Ops Fund Reserve - $66,606 carryover = $525,000).

The assessments for the parties required to contribute to the Operations Fund are:

California American Water	91.0%	$477,750
City of Seaside	7.0%	36,750
D.B.O.	0.9%	4,725
Granite Rock	0.9%	4,725
Cypress Pacific	0.2%	1,050
Total Assessment:		$525,000

No Capital projects are anticipated to be undertaken in 2026, so this budget is $0.

ATTACHMENTS:
1. 2026 Monitoring & Management Program
2. 2026 and 2027 M&MP Operations Budgets
3. 2026 and 2027 M&MP Capital Budgets

FINAL DRAFT
Seaside Groundwater Basin
2026 Monitoring and Management Program

The tasks outlined below are those that are anticipated to be performed during 2026. Some Tasks listed below are specific to 2026, while other Tasks are recurring such as data collection, database entry, and Program Administration Tasks.

Within the context of this document the term "Consultant" refers either to a firm providing professional engineering or other types of technical services, or to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD). The term "Contractor" refers to a firm providing construction or field services such as well drilling, induction logging, or meter calibration.

M.1 Program Administration

M. 1. a Project Budget and Controls ($0)	Consultants will provide monthly or bimonthly invoices to the Watermaster for work performed under their contracts with the Watermaster. Consultants will perform maintenance of their internal budgets and schedules, and management of their subconsultants. The Watermaster will perform management of its Consultants.
M. 1. b Assist with Board and TAC Agendas ($0)	Watermaster staff will prepare Board and TAC meeting agenda materials. No assistance from Consultants is expected to be necessary to accomplish this Task.
M. 1. c., M. 1. d, & M.1.e Preparation for and Attendance at Meetings, and Peer Review of Documents and Reports ($23,220)	The Consultants' work will require internal meetings and possibly meetings with outside governmental agencies and the public. For meetings with outside agencies, other Consultants, or any other parties which are necessary for the conduct of the work of their contracts, the Consultants will set up the meetings and prepare agendas and meeting minutes to facilitate the meetings. These may include planning and review meetings with Watermaster staff. The costs for these meetings will be included in their contracts, under the specific Tasks and/or subtasks to which the meetings relate. The only meeting costs that will be incurred under Tasks M.1.c, M.1.d, and M.1.e will be: • Those associated with attendance at TAC meetings (either in person or by videoconference connection), including providing periodic progress reports to the Watermaster for inclusion in the agenda packets for the TAC meetings, when requested by the Watermaster to do so. These progress reports will typically include project progress that has been made, problem identification and resolution, and planned upcoming work. • From time-to-time when Watermaster staff asks Consultants to make special presentations to the Watermaster Board and/or the TAC, and which are not included in the Consultant's contracts for other tasks. Appropriate Consultant representatives will attend TAC meetings (either in person or by videoconference connection) when requested to do so by Watermaster Staff, but will not be asked to prepare agendas or meeting minutes. As necessary, Consultants may provide oral updates to their progress reports (prepared under Task M.1.d) at the TAC meetings. When requested by the Watermaster staff, Consultants may be asked to

	assist the TAC and the Watermaster staff with peer reviews of documents and reports prepared by various other Watermaster Consultants and/or entities.
M. 1. f QA/QC ($0)	A Consultant (MPWMD) will provide general QA/QC support over the Seaside Basin Monitoring and Management Program. These costs are included in the other tasks.
M.1.g Prepare Documents for SGMA Reporting ($2,694)	Section 10720.8 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires adjudicated basins to submit annual reports. Most of the documentation that needs to be reported is already generated by the Watermaster in conjunction with preparing its own Annual Reports. However, some information such as changes in basin storage is not currently generated and will require consultant assistance to do so. This task will be used to obtain this consultant assistance, as needed.

I. 2 Comprehensive Basin Production, Water Level and Water Quality Monitoring Program

I. 2. a. Database Management

I. 2. a. 1 Conduct Ongoing Data Entry and Database Maintenance/ Enhancement ($15,432)	The database will be maintained by a Consultant (MPWMD) performing this work for the Watermaster. MPWMD will enter new data into the consolidated database, including water production volumes, water quality and water level data, and such other data as may be appropriate. Other than an annual reporting of data to another Watermaster Consultant at the end of the Water Year, as mentioned in Task I.4.c below, no reporting of water level or water quality data during the Water Year is required. However, MPWMD will promptly notify the Watermaster of any missing data or data collection irregularities that are encountered. Under this Task, when requested MPWMD will also respond to requests from consultants and others for data from the database. At the end of the Water Year MPWMD will prepare an annual water production, water level, and water quality tabulation in Access format and will provide the tabulation to another Watermaster Consultant who will use that data in the preparation of the SIAR under Task No. I.4.c of the Monitoring and Management Program. No enhancements to the database are anticipated during 2026. Watermaster staff will maintain the Watermaster's website.
I. 2. a. 2 Verify Accuracy of Production Well Meters ($0)	To ensure that water production data is accurate, the well meters of the major producers were verified for accuracy during 2009 and again during 2015. No additional work of this type is anticipated during 2026.

I. 2. b. Data Collection Program	
I. 2. b. 1 **Site Representation and Selection** **($0)**	The monitoring well network review that was started in 2008 has been completed, and sites have been identified where future monitoring well(s) could be installed, if it is deemed necessary to do so in order to fill in data gaps. In 2026 the location(s) of additional monitoring wells may need to be identified, if additional monitoring wells are recommended and approved in the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) described under Task I.4.e.1. If this work is found to be necessary, the costs to perform it will be included in Task I.4.e.1.
I. 2 b. 2 **Collect Water Levels** **($23,932)**	Each of the monitoring wells will be visited on a regular basis. Water levels will be determined by either taking manual water levels using an electric sounder, or by dataloggers. The wells where the use of dataloggers is feasible or appropriate have been equipped with dataloggers. All of the other wells will be manually measured. This Task includes the purchase of one datalogger and parts for the datalogger to keep in inventory as a spare if needed.
I. 2. b. 3 **Collect Water Quality Samples.** **($39,862)**	As discussed in the 2018 Annual Report, water quality data will be collected quarterly from certain of the monitoring wells, but is no longer being collected from the four coastal Sentinel Wells. Because many years of data have shown essentially no change in aquifer water quality, beginning in WY2023 the frequency of induction logging of the Sentinel Wells was reduced to once per year. As discussed in the 2012 Annual Report, water quality analyses were expanded to include barium and iodide ions. Since these analyses have created more than 10 years of data, as discussed in the 2022 Annual Report the analyses were no longer being performed starting in WY 2023. They will only be resumed if the other water quality parameters are indicative of seawater intrusion. As discussed in the 2021 Annual Report, the frequency of sampling of SBWM-5 (the Camp Huffman well) has been reduced over the years. It is being sampled once every five years beginning in WY 2022. Water quality data may come from water quality samples that are taken from these wells and submitted to a State Certified analytic laboratory for general mineral and physical suite of analyses, or the data may come from induction logging of these wells and/or other data gathering techniques. The Consultant or Contractor selected to perform this work will make this judgment based on consideration of costs and other factors. Sampling equipment sits in the water column and may periodically need to be replaced or repaired. Accordingly, an allowance to perform maintenance on previously installed equipment has been included in this Task. Also, in the event a sampling pump fails or is found to be no longer adequate due to declining groundwater levels, an allowance of $950 to purchase a replacement sampling pump has been included in this Task.

I. 2. b. 4 Update Program Schedule and Standard Operating Procedures. ($0)	All recommendations from prior reviews of the data collection program have been implemented. No additional work of this type is anticipated in 2026.
I. 2. b. 5 Monitor Well Construction ($0)	A well to replace Monitoring Well FO-9 Shallow, which in 2021 was found to have a leaking casing, was installed in 2023. In 2026 additional monitoring wells may need to be installed, if additional monitoring wells are recommended and approved in the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) described under Task I.4.e.1. If new monitoring wells are approved for construction, the costs associated with that work will be included in the 2026 M&MP Capital Budget.
I. 2. b. 6 Reports ($2,112)	This task was essentially eliminated starting in 2020 by having the data collected by MPWMD under tasks I.2.b.1, I.2.b.2, and I.2.b.3 reported in the SIAR under Task I.4.c. The work remaining under this task is for MPWMD to prepare and provide the data appendix to the Consultant that prepares the SIAR. No formalized reporting on a quarterly basis is required. However, MPWMD will promptly notify the Watermaster and the Consultant that prepares the SIAR of any missing data or data collection irregularities in the water quality and water level data collected under Tasks I.2.b.2 and I.2.b.3.
I.2.b.7 SGMA Data Submittal ($3,168)	In 2025 the Department of Water Resources created a portal into which adjudicated basins can submit their "voluntary well" data, which in the past has been submitted into the State's CASGEM system. In 2026 on the Watermaster's behalf MPWMD will compile and submit data on the Watermaster's "Voluntary Wells" into the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) groundwater management database. The term "Voluntary Well" refers to a well that does not have its data reported into the CASGEM system, but for which the Watermaster obtains data. This will be done in the format and on the schedule required by the Department of Water Resources under the SGMA.
I.2.b.8 Perform Subsurface Electromagnetic Imaging ($15,500)	The 2023 induction logging revealed gradually increasing conductivity in some of the shallower formations near the coastline. In 2025 subsurface electromagnetic imaging in the vicinity of Sentinel Well No. 4 was performed. Depending on the usefulness and value of that work, additional subsurface electromagnetic imaging may be performed in 2026.
I. 3 Basin Management	
I. 3. a. Enhanced Seaside Basin Groundwater Model (Costs listed in subtasks below)	The Watermaster and its consultants use a Groundwater Model for basin management purposes.

I.3.a.1 **Update the Existing Model** **($125,000)**	The Model, described in the report titled "Groundwater Flow and Transport Model" dated October 1, 2007, was updated in 2009 in order to develop protective water levels, and to evaluate replenishment scenarios and develop answers to Basin management questions. The Model was again updated in 2014. In 2018 the Model was recalibrated and updated. Work is being performed by the Salinas Valley Basin and Marina Coast Groundwater Sustainability Agencies on the hydrogeologic modeling of the Monterey Subbasin. Significant changes in the understanding of the hydrogeology of that subbasin are being identified, and an updated model of that subbasin is expected to be completed in late 2025. In order for the Watermaster's Model to incorporate that new information and to more closely coordinate with the updated Monterey Subbasin model, An evaluation of the most cost-effective means of either modifying or replacing the existing Seaside Basin model was performed in late 2025. It is anticipated that the recommendations resulting from that evaluation will be implemented starting in 2026.
I. 3. a. 2 **Develop Protective Water Levels** **($0)**	A series of cross-sectional models was created in 2009 in order to develop protective water levels for selected production wells, as well as for the Basin as a whole. This work is discussed in Hydrometrics' November 2009 report titled *"Seaside Groundwater Basin Modeling and Protective Groundwater Elevations,"* and is posted on the Watermaster's website. As discussed in Attachment 10 of the 2013 Annual Report, further work was started in 2013 to refine these protective water levels, but it was found that the previously developed protective water levels were reasonable. If appropriate, these protective water levels will be updated, and/or protective water levels will be developed for additional wells, , as part of the work of Task I.3.c. or I.4.e.
I. 3. a. 3 **Evaluate Replenishment Scenarios and Develop Answers to Basin Management Questions** **($40,000)**	Modeling performed to date indicates that the solution to the problem of water levels in the Seaside Basin being below Protective Water Levels will be to inject replenishment water. Two projects are planned that have the potential to provide additional water for Basin replenishment. The first is the Pure Water Monterey Expansion (PWMX) Project for which construction bids were solicited in 2023 and is projected to become operational in 2025. The PWMX Project will increase the capacity of the existing 3,500 AFY PWM Project by 2,250 AFY. The second is the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project's (MPWSP) desalination plant which is still in the design and permitting stage. The proponent of the MPWSP, California American Water, anticipates starting construction of the desalination plant in October 2025 and the plant becoming operational in 2028. Growth is built into each of these projects' plant capacity, and the full capacity of these plants will likely not all be needed for some years into the future. During the time period that these projects would have excess capacity, they could potentially provide water for Basin replenishment.

	Montgomery & Associates agrees that injection is the quickest way to bring groundwater levels up in the Seaside Basin. Modeling performed in 2022 and 2023 found that on average between 1,000 and 3,700 AFY of replenishment water will need to be needed, depending on future water demands and rainfall. Modeling performed in 2014, 2015, and 2016 led to the conclusion that groundwater levels in parts of the Laguna Seca Subarea will continue to fall, even if all pumping within that subarea is discontinued, because of the influence of pumping from areas near to, but outside of, the Basin boundary. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Corral de Tierra subarea of the Monterey Subbasin includes projects to help to alleviate this problem, but they will be insufficient to completely alleviate it. This Task includes a $40,000 allowance to perform further modeling or analyses pertaining to Basin management issues if so directed by the Watermaster Board.
I. 3. b. **Complete Preparation of Basin Management Action Plan** **($0)**	The Watermaster's Consultant completed preparation of the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) in February 2009. The BMAP serves as the Watermaster's long-term seawater intrusion prevention plan. The Sections that are included in the BMAP are: Executive Summary Section 1 – Background and Purpose Section 2 – State of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Section 3 – Supplemental Water Supplies Section 4 –Groundwater Management Actions Section 5 – Recommended Management Strategies Section 6 – References
I. 3. c. **Refine and/or Update the Basin Management Action Plan** **($0)**	In 2019 the BMAP was updated based on new data and knowledge that has been gained since it was prepared in 2009. No further work of this type is anticipated in 2026. However, although no funds are budgeted for this Task in 2026, since the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the adjacent Monterey Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin was completed in early 2022, at some point it may be appropriate to further update the BMAP to reflect the impacts of implementing that GSP.
I. 3. d. **Evaluate Coastal Wells for Cross-Aquifer Contamination Potential** **($0)**	If seawater intrusion were to reach any of the coastal wells in any aquifer, and if a well was constructed without proper seals to prevent cross-aquifer communication, or if deterioration of the well led to casing leakage, it would be possible for the intrusion to flow from one aquifer to another. An evaluation of this was performed in 2012 and is described in Attachment 10 of the 2012 Annual Report.

	In 2021 the Watermaster TAC examined the feasibility of performing conductivity profiling of certain of the near-coastal wells that were evaluated in the 2012 Memorandum, as a method of determining if any of those wells was allowing downward migration of intruded water from the shallow dunes aquifer to enter the Paso Robles aquifer. However, it was concluded that conditions in those wells would make it infeasible to perform such work. No further work of this type is anticipated in 2026.
I.3.e. **Seaside Basin Geochemical Model** **($10,000)**	When new sources of water are introduced into an aquifer, with each source having its own unique water quality, there can be chemical reactions that may have the potential to release minerals which have previously been attached to soil particles, such as arsenic or mercury, into solution and thus into the water itself. This has been experienced in some other locations where changes occurred in the quality of the water being injected into an aquifer. MPWMD's consultants used geochemical modeling to predict the effects of injecting Carmel River water into the Seaside Groundwater Basin under the ASR program. In 2019 a geochemical evaluation of introducing advance-treated water from the Pure Water Monterey Project was performed. That evaluation concluded that there would be no adverse geochemical impacts as a result of introducing that water into the Basin. A similar evaluation of the impact of introducing ASR water also concluded that there would be no adverse geochemical impacts. An evaluation of introducing desalinated water will be performed, if the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project's desalination plant proceeds into the construction phase. If the geochemical evaluation of injecting desalinated water indicates the potential for problems to occur, then Montgomery and Associates may use the Watermaster's updated groundwater model, and information about injection locations and quantities, injection scheduling, etc. provided by MPWMD and/or California American Water for this project, to develop model scenarios to see if the problem(s) can be averted by changing delivery schedules and delivery quantities. This Task includes an allowance of $10,000 to have Montgomery and Associates perform such modeling, if necessary. If the modeling predicts that there may be adverse impacts from introducing desalinated water, measures to mitigate those impacts will be developed under a separate task that will be created for that purpose when and if necessary.

I. 4 Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (formerly referred to as the Seawater Intrusion Contingency Plan)

I. 4. a. **Oversight of Seawater Intrusion Detection and Tracking** **($0)**	Consultants will provide general oversight over the Seawater Intrusion detection program under the other Tasks in this Work Plan.

I. 4. c. **Annual Report- Seawater Intrusion Analysis** **($36,346)**	At the end of each water year, a Consultant will reanalyze all water quality data. Water level and water quality data will be provided to the Consultant by another Consultant (MPWMD) in MS Access format. The Consultant will put this data into a report format and will include it as an attachment to the Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report. If possible, semi-annual chloride concentration maps will be produced for each aquifer in the basin. Time series graphs, trilinear graphs, and stiff diagram comparisons will be updated with new data. The induction logs will be analyzed to identify changes in seawater wedge locations. If subsurface electromagnetic imaging is performed in 2026 under Task I.2.b.8, information from that work will be used to supplement this data. All analyses will be incorporated into an annual report that follows the format of the initial historical data report. Potential seawater intrusion will be highlighted in the report, and if necessary, recommendations will be included. The annual report will be submitted for review by the TAC and the Board. Modifications to the report will be incorporated based on input from these bodies, as well as Watermaster staff.
I. 4. e. **Refine and/or Update the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan** **($0)**	Due to the observation of increasing conductivity in the 2023 induction logging in some of the shallower formations near the coastline, it was determined that in 2025 it would be appropriate to update the 2009 SIRP. The updated SIRP was completed in late 2025 and includes the incorporation of data that was obtained since 2009 and technology and techniques that make the SIRP more practical and useful.
I. 4. e.1 **Implement Recommendations in the Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan** **($25,000)**	The updated SIRP contains recommendations for proactive actions the Watermaster could take to make in advance of the actual detection of seawater intrusion, to make it possible to more rapidly implement the SIRP, if seawater intrusion is subsequently determined to be occurring. This new Task is intended to provide funds to begin taking some of those preliminary actions, if deemed beneficial. It is not expected that significant implementation actions, if any, will start being undertaken until 2027, after the Seaside Basin Groundwater Model has been updated.
I. 4. f. **If Seawater Intrusion is Determined to be Occurring, Implement Contingency Response Plan** **($0)**	The SIRP will be implemented if seawater intrusion, as defined in the SIRP, is determined by the Watermaster to be occurring.

Monitoring and Management Program Operations Budget
For Tasks to be Undertaken in 2026

Task	Subtask	Sub-Subtask	Cost Description	CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS[3]					Total	Comparative Costs from 2025 Budget
				MPWMD	Montgomery & Associates	Todd Groundwater	Martin Feeney	Contractors or Other Consultants		
			Labor							
			Technical Project Manager	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$75,000	$75,000
M.1 Program Administration										
	M.1.a		Project Budget and Controls	$0				$0	$0	$0
	M.1.b		Assist with Board and TAC Agendas	$0				$0	$0	$0
	M.1.c, M.1.d, & M.1.e		Preparation for and Attendance at Meetings and Peer Review of Documents and Reports[8]	$0	$15,220	$4,000	$4,000	$0	$23,220	$20,570
	M.1.f		QA/QC	$0				$0	$0	$0
	M.1.g		SGMA Documentation Preparation	$0	$2,694	$0	$0	$0	$2,694	$3,124
I.1 Initial Phase 1 Monitoring Well Construction (Task Completed in Phase 1)										
I.2 Production, Water Level and Quality Monitoring										
	I. 2. a.		Database Management							
		I. 2. a. 1.	Conduct Ongoing Data Entry/ Database Maintenance and Respond to Data Requests[15]	$15,432				$0	$15,432	$19,650
		I. 2. a. 2.	Verify Accuracy of Production Well Meters	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 2. b.		Data Collection Program							
		I. 2. b. 1.	Site Representation and Selection[14]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 2. b. 2.	Collect Water Levels[5][6]	$23,932	$0	$0	$0	$0	$23,932	$21,644
		I. 2. b. 3.	Collect Water Quality Samples and Perform Sentinel Well Induction Logging[1][5]	$39,862	$0	$0	$0	$0	$39,862	$32,382
		I. 2. b. 4.	Update Program Schedule and Standard Operating Procedures.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 2. b. 5.	Monitor Well Construction[14]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 2. b. 6.	Reports	$2,112	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,112	$3,792
		I. 2. b. 7.	CASGEM Data Submittal for Watermaster's Voluntary Wells	$3,168	$0	$0	$0	$0	$3,168	$4,320
		I.2.b.8	Perform Subsurface Electromagnetic Imaging	$0	$0	$0	$0	$15,500	$15,500	$15,500
I.3 Basin Management										
	I. 3. a.		Enhanced Seaside Basin Groundwater Model	(Costs Shown in Subtasks Below)						
		I. 3. a. 1	Update the Existing Model[11]	$0	$125,000	$0	$0	$0	$125,000	$125,000
		I. 3. a. 2	Develop Protective Water Levels[12]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 3. a. 3	Evaluate Replenishment Scenarios and Develop Answers to Basin Management Questions[10]	$0	$40,000			$0	$40,000	$40,000
	I. 3. b.		Complete Preparation of Basin Management Action Plan	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 3. c.		Refine and/or Update the Basin Management Action Plan[7]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 3. d		Evaluate Coastal Wells for Cross-Aquifer Contamination Potential	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 3. e		Seaside Basin Geochemical Model[13]	$0	$10,000	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000
I.4 Seawater Intrusion Contingency Plan										
	I. 4. a.		Oversight of Seawater Intrusion Detection and Tracking[17]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 4. b.		Analyze and Map Water Quality from Coastal Monitoring Wells	(Costs Included Under I.4.a)						
	I. 4. c.		Annual Report- Seawater Intrusion Analysis[16]	$0	$36,346	$0	$0	$0	$36,346	$30,050
	I. 4. e.		Refine and/or Update the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan[2]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$25,481
		I.4.e.1	Implement Recommendations in the Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan[14]		$25,000				$25,000	$0
	I. 4. f.		If Seawater Intrusion is Determined to be Occurring, Implement the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan[9]	(No Costs are Included for This Task, as This Task May Not be Necessary During 2025. If it Does Become Necessary, Use of Contingency Funds or a Budget Modification Will Likely be Necessary)						
		TOTALS CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS		**$84,506**	**$254,260**	**$4,000**	**$4,000**	**$15,500**	$362,266	$351,512
								SUBTOTAL not including Technical Program Manager =	$362,266	$351,512
								Contingency (not including Technical Program Manager) @ 15%[4]=	$54,340	$52,727
								Technical Program Manager =	$75,000	$75,000
								TOTAL=	**$491,606**	**$479,239**

Footnotes:

(1) Under this Subtask the Watermaster will contract with MPWMD to perform the Sentinel Well induction logging work and to perform the other portions of the work of this Subtask. The Sentinel Wells will be induction logged once per year (in September).

(2) The response plan was updated in 2025.

(3) Within the context of this document the term “Consultant” refers to a private consultant providing professional engineering or other types of technical services. The term “Contractor” refers to a firm providing construction or field services such as well drilling or meter calibration.

(4) Due to the uncertainties of the exact scopes of some of the larger Tasks listed above at the time of preparation of this Budget it is recommended that a Contingency of 15% be included in the Budget.

(5) The MPWMD portion of these Tasks includes:

For Task I.2.b.2: (1) $570 for vehicle mileage costs for both this Task and Task I.2.b.3 and (2) $850 to purchase a replacement datalogger (if necessary).

For Task I.2.b.3: (1) $7,488 for laboratory analytical costs, (2) $250 for CO2 bottles to run the sample pumps, (3) $950 to purchase a replacement low flow sampling pump (if necessary), (4) $808 of administrative support costs for preparing billings and processing invoices from the water quality laboratory, and (5) $3,000 for Pacific Surveys to set up a temporary pulley system for induction logging in the event they cannot locate their van adjacent to the wells they are logging.

(6) Does not include costs for MPWMD to collect water level data or water quality samples from wells other than those that are part of the basic monitoring well network, i.e. for private well owners who have requested that the Watermaster obtain this data for them. Costs to obtain that data are to be reimbursed to the Watermaster by those well owners, so there should be no net cost to the Watermaster for that portion of the work under these Tasks.

(7) The BMAP was updated in 2018, and no further work on this Task is anticipated in 2026.

(8) This cost is for Montgomery and Associates, Todd Groundwater, and Martin Feeney to provide hydrogeologic consulting assistance to the Watermaster, beyond that associated with performing other specified Tasks, when/if requested to do so by the Technical Program Manager. This work may include, but not be limited to, participation in conference calls and reviewing documents prepared by others.

(9) If work under this Task is found to be necessary, it will need to be funded through the Contingency line item or by a Budget transfer.

(10) This Task is included to provide funds for the Watermaster to perform modeling and other investigative work to aid in making Basin management decisions that the Board may wish to perform in 2026.

(11) The Model was last updated and recalibrated in 2018, but that work did not include any change to the Model itself, only inputting more recent groundwater data and then recalibrating it for a best match with field measured well data. The proposed 2026 update would incorporate new hydrogeologic data from multiple sources, along with more recent groundwater data, in order to more closely match the data being used in the models for adjacent Monterey Subbasin of the greater Salinas Valley Basin.

(12) The protective water levels developed in 2009 were examined in 2013 to see if they needed to be updated. It was concluded that the 2009 protective levels were still satisfactory for Basin management purposes, and that no revisions were needed. No work under this Task is anticipated in 2026.

(13) This was a new Task that was started in 2018, and was completed for the PWM AWT water in 2019. Funds allocated for this Task in 2026 would only be used if geochemical modeling is performed in 2026 for the MPWSP desalination plant water, and if that modeling indicates the need to have Montgomery and Associates use the Seaside Basin groundwater model to provide additional information needed by the geochemical model to develop miitgation measures for any adverse water quality impacts the geochemical model predicts could occur from introducing desalinated water into the Basin.

(14) If the updated SIRP under Task I.4.e recommends installing additional monitoring wells, and if the Board directs that such wells be installed in 2026, the cost to identify the number, type, and location of those wells will be covered under Task I.4.e.1. The cost of constructing those wells will be covered in the M&MP Capital Budget.

(15) Watermaster staff will maintain the Watermaster's website and post documents on it. It includes $2,760 for MPWMD to respond to requests from consultants and others for data from the database (that would only be expended if needed).

(16) MPWMD's costs to assist in this Task are included in its costs under Task I.2.b.6.

(17) MPWMD's and Montgomery & Associates' costs to provide oversight in this Task are included under their other Tasks.

Monitoring and Management Program Preliminary Estimated Operations Budget For Tasks to be Undertaken in 2027											Comparative Costs from 2026 Budget
Task	Subtask	Sub-Subtask	Cost Description	CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS[3]					Total	
				MPWMD	Montgomery & Associates	Todd Groundwater	Martin Feeney	Contractors or Other Consultants		
				Labor						
			Technical Project Manager	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$75,000	
M.1 Program Administration										
	M.1.a		Project Budget and Controls	$0				$0	$0	$0
	M.1.b		Assist with Board and TAC Agendas	$0				$0	$0	$0
	M.1.c, M.1.d, & M.1.e		Preparation for and Attendance at Meetings and Peer Review of Documents and Reports[8]	$0	$12,947	$4,000	$4,000	$0	$20,947	$23,220
	M.1.f		QA/QC	$0				$0	$0	$0
	M.1.g		SGMA Documentation Preparation	$0	$3,218	$0	$0	$0	$3,218	$2,694
I.1 Initial Phase 1 Monitoring Well Construction (Task Completed										
I.2 Production, Water Level and Quality Monitoring										
	I. 2. a.		Database Management							
		I. 2. a. 1.	Conduct Ongoing Data Entry/ Database Maintenance and Respond to Data Requests[15]	$15,895				$0	$15,895	$15,432
		I. 2. a. 2.	Verify Accuracy of Production Well Meters	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 2. b.		Data Collection Program							
		I. 2. b. 1.	Site Representation and Selection[7]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 2. b. 2.	Collect Water Levels[5][6]	$24,650	$0	$0	$0	$0	$24,650	$23,932
		I. 2. b. 3.	Collect Water Quality Samples and Perform Sentinel Well Induction Logging[1][5]	$41,058	$0	$0	$0	$0	$41,058	$39,862
		I. 2. b. 4.	Update Program Schedule and Standard Operating Procedures.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 2. b. 5.	Monitor Well Construction[7]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 2. b. 6.	Reports	$2,175	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,175	$2,112
		I. 2. b. 7.	CASGEM Data Submittal for Watermaster's Voluntary Wells	$3,263	$0	$0	$0	$0	$3,263	$3,168
		I.2.b.8	Perform Subsurface Electromagnetic Imaging[15]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$15,965	$15,965	$15,500
I.3 Basin Management										
	I. 3. a.		Enhanced Seaside Basin Groundwater Model	(Costs Shown in Subtasks Below)						
		I. 3. a. 1	Update the Existing Model[11]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$125,000
		I. 3. a. 2	Develop Protective Water Levels	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I. 3. a. 3	Evaluate Replenishment Scenarios and Develop Answers to Basin Management Questions[10]	$0	$40,000			$0	$40,000	$40,000
	I. 3. b.		Complete Preparation of Basin Management Action Plan	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 3. c.		Refine and/or Update the Basin Management Action Plan[14]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 3. d		Evaluate Coastal Wells for Cross-Aquifer Contamination Potential	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 3. e		Seaside Basin Geochemical Model[13]	$0	$10,000	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000
I.4 Seawater Intrusion Contingency Plan										
	I. 4. a.		Oversight of Seawater Intrusion Detection and Tracking[17]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	I. 4. b.		Analyze and Map Water Quality from Coastal Monitoring Wells	(Costs Included Under I.4.a)						
	I. 4. c.		Annual Report- Seawater Intrusion Analysis	$0	$30,952	$0	$0	$0	$30,952	$36,346
	I. 4. e.		Refine and/or Update the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan[2]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		I.4.e.1	Implement Recommendations in the Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan[7]		$35,000				$35,000	$25,000
	I. 4. f.		If Seawater Intrusion is Determined to be Occurring, Implement the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan[9]	(No Costs are Included for This Task, as This Task May Not be Necessary During 2027. If it Does Become Necessary, Use of Contingency Funds or a Budget Modification Will Likely be Necessary)						
			TOTALS CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS[12]	**$87,041**	**$132,116**	**$4,000**	**$4,000**	**$15,965**	$243,123	362266
								SUBTOTAL not including Technical Program Manager =	$243,123	$362,266
								Contingency (not including Technical Program Manager) @ 15%[4]=	$36,468	$54,340
								Technical Program Manager =	$75,000	$75,000
								TOTAL=	**$354,591**	**$491,606**

Footnotes:

(1) Under this Subtask the Watermaster will contract with MPWMD to perform the Sentinel Well induction logging work and to perform the other portions of the work of this Subtask. The Sentinel Wells will be induction logged once per year (in September).

(2) The response plan is not expected to be updated in 2027.

(3) Within the context of this document the term "Consultant" refers to a private consultant providing professional engineering or other types of technical services. The term "Contractor" refers to a firm providing construction or field services such as well drilling or meter calibration.

(4) Due to the uncertainties of the exact scopes of some of the Tasks listed above at the time of preparation of this Budget, it is recommended that a 15% Contingency be included in the Budget.

(5) A portion of this cost is for maintaining sampling equipment that was installed in prior years.

(6) Does not include costs for MPWMD to collect water level data or water quality samples from wells other than those that are part of the basic monitoring well network, i.e. for private well owners who have requested that the Watermaster obtain this data for them. Costs to obtain that data are to be reimbursed to the Watermaster by those well owners, so there should be no net cost to the Watermaster for that portion of the work under these Tasks.

(7) If the updated SIRP under Task I.4.e recommends installing additional monitoring wells, and if the Board directs that such wells be installed in 2027, the cost to identify the number, type, and location of those wells will be covered under Task I.4.e.1. The cost of constructing those wells will be covered in the M&MP Capital Budget. A placeholder amount of $5,000 for that work has been included in this Task for 2027. If the Board authorizes modeling work to be done to carry out any of the other recommendations in the updated SIRP, they would be charged to this Task. At the time of preparation of this estimated 2027 Opearations Budget no Board decision on this matter had been made, so a placeholder amount of $30,000 for that work has been included in this Task for 2027.

(8) For Montgomery and Associates, Todd Groundwater, and Martin Feeney to provide hydrogeologic consulting assistance to the Watermaster, beyond that associated with performing other specified Tasks, when requested to do so by the Technical Program Manager.

(9) If work under this Task is found to be necessary, it will need to be funded through the Contingency line item or by a Budget transfer.

(10) This Task is included to provide funds for the Watermaster to perform modeling and other investigative work to aid in making Basin management decisions that the Board may wish to perform in 2027.

(11) The Model is expected to be unpdated in 2026, and is not expected to be updated in 2027.

(12) Includes a 3% inflation factor on most annually recurring costs in the 2026 Budget, except the Technical Program Manager cost which has no inflation factor applied to it.

(13) Work on this Task may not be performed in 2026, so work on this Task may need to be rebudgeted in 2027.

(14) Depending on any modeling work that is performed in 2026 using the updated Seaside Basin Groundwater Model under Task I.3.a.1, it may be desireable to update the BMAP in 2027.

(15) If the Board authorizes performing additional Subsurface Electromagnetic Imaging, as recommended in the updated SIRP, that work would be charged to this Task.

Monitoring and Management Program Capital Budget
For Tasks to be Undertaken in 2026

No Capital projects are anticipated to be undertaken in 2026, so this budget is $0.

Monitoring and Management Program Capital Budget
For Tasks to be Undertaken in 2027

See Note below regarding potentially installing additional monitoring wells in 2027 with a placeholder amount of $400,000 for that work.

Note: If the updated SIRP under Task I.4.e of the M&MP Operations Budget recommends installing additional monitoring wells, and if the Board directs that such wells be installed in 2027, the cost of constructing those wells will be covered in the 2027 M&MP Capital Budget. A placeholder amount of $400,000 for that work has been included in the Capital Budget for 2027.

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
Replenishment Fund Proposed Budget
Fiscal (Calendar) Year 2026

	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Total	2026 Proposed Budget
Assessment Income			
Mission Memorial Park*	$ 10,474	$ 10,474	$ 8,112
Totals	10,474	10,474	8,112
Expenditures			
Legal Services - Replenishment	10,474	2,362	8,112
Total Expenses	10,474	2,362	8,112
Total Available	-	8,112	-

** Mission Memorial Park overproduced in Water Years 2021 and 2022 for a total assessment of $28,510; $20,390 has been expended to-date for Legal replenishment related services (Funding Mechanism)*

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster

Replenishment Fund 10/1/25

Water Year 2026 (October 1 - September 30) / Fiscal Year (January 1 - December 31, 2026) Page 1

PROPOSED BUDGET

Replenishment Fund		**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Assessment Water Year		WY 05/06	WY 06/07	WY 07/08	WY 08/09	WY 09/10	WY 10/11	WY 11/12	WY 12/13	WY 13/14	WY 14/15	WY 15/16
Unit Cost:	a	$1,132 / $283	$1,132 / $283	$2,485 / 621.25	$3,040 / $760	$2,780 / $695	$2,780 / $695	$2,780 / $695	$2,780 / $695	$2,702/$675.50	$2,702/$675.50	$2,702/$675.50
Cal-Am Water Balance Forward	b	**$ -**	**$ 1,641,004**	**$ 4,226,710**	**$ (2,871,690)**	**$ (2,839,939)**	**$ (3,822,219)**	**$ (6,060,164)**	**$ (8,735,671)**	**$ (6,173,771)**	**$ (3,102,221)**	**$ (676,704)**
Cal-Am Water Production (AF)	c	*3,710.00*	*4,059.90*	*3,862.90*	*2,966.02*	*3,713.52*	*3,416.04*	*3,070.90*	*3,076.61*	*3,232.10*	*2,764.73*	*1,879.21*
Cal-Am Water NSY Over-Production (AF)	d	*1,862.69*	*2,266.32*	*2,092.16*	*1,241.27*	*1,479.47*	*1,146.71*	*820.48*	*856.42*	*1,032.77*	*782.17*	-
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	e	$ 2,106,652	$ 2,565,471	$ 5,199,014	$ 3,773,464	$ 4,112,933	$ 3,187,854	$ 2,280,943	$ 2,380,842	$ 2,790,539	$ 2,113,414	-
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	f	**$ -**	$ 20,235	$ 8,511	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 154,963	$ 181,057	$ 281,012	$ 312,103	-
Total California American	g	***$ 2,106,652***	***$ 2,585,706***	***$ 5,207,525***	***$ 3,773,464***	***$ 4,112,933***	***$ 3,187,854***	***$ 2,435,907***	***$ 2,561,899***	***$ 3,071,550***	***$ 2,425,516***	***$ -***
CAW Credit Against Assessment	h	$ (465,648)		$ (12,305,924)	$ (3,741,714)	$ (5,095,213)	$ (5,425,799)	$ (5,111,413)				
CAW Unpaid Balance	i	***$ 1,641,004***	***$ 4,226,710***	***(2,871,690)***	***$ (2,839,939)***	***$ (3,822,219)***	***$ (6,060,164)***	***$ (8,735,671)***	***$ (6,173,771)***	***$ (3,102,221)***	***$ (676,704)***	***$ (676,704)***
City of Seaside Balance Forward	j	**$ -**	**$ 243,294**	**$ 426,165**	**$ 1,024,272**	**$ 1,619,973**	**$ 891,509**	**$ (110,014)**	**$ (773,813)**	**$ (1,575,876)**	**$ (2,889,325)**	**$ (3,346,548)**
City of Seaside Municipal Production (AF)	k	*332.00*	*287.70*	*294.20*	*293.44*	*282.87*	*240.68*	*233.72*	*257.73*	*223.64*	*185.01*	*195.16*
City of Seaside NSY Over-Production (AF)	l	*194.07*	*153.78*	*161.99*	*153.06*	*113.21*	*50.84*	*58.82*	*85.17*	*52.71*	*25.77*	*37.87*
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	m	$ 219,689	$ 174,082	$ 402,540	$ 465,300	$ 314,721	$ 141,335	$ 163,509	$ 236,782	$ 142,410	$ 69,630	$ 102,330
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	n	$ 12,622	$ 85	$ 4,225	$ 16,522	$ 20,690	$ -	$ 1,689	$ 27,007	$ 3,222	$ 38	$ 11,959
Total Municipal	o	***$ 232,310***	***$ 174,167***	***$ 406,764***	***$ 481,823***	***$ 335,412***	***$ 141,335***	***$ 165,198***	***$ 263,788***	***$ 145,631***	***$ 69,667***	***$ 114,290***
City of Seaside - Golf Courses (APA - 540 AFY)												
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	p	-	-	$ 131,705	$ 69,701	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	q	-	-	$ 32,926	$ 17,427	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Golf Courses	r	$ -	$ -	$ 164,631	$ 87,128	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total City of Seaside*	s	**$ 232,310**	**$ 174,167**	**$ 571,395**	**$ 568,951**	**$ 335,412**	**$ 141,335**	**$ 165,198**	**$ 263,788**	**$ 145,631**	**$ 69,667**	**$ 114,290**
City of Seaside Late Payment 5%	t	$ 10,984	$ 8,704	$ 26,712	$ 26,750	$ 15,737						
In-lieu Credit Against Assessment	u					$ (1,079,613)	$ (1,142,858)	$ (828,996)	$ (1,065,852)	$ (1,459,080)	$ (526,890)	$ (162)
City of Seaside Unpaid Balance	v	***$ 243,294***	***$ 426,165***	***$ 1,024,272***	***$ 1,619,973***	***$ 891,509***	***$ (110,014)***	***$ (773,813)***	***$ (1,575,876)***	***$ (2,889,325)***	***$ (3,346,548)***	***$ (3,232,420)***
Mission Memorial Park												
Mission Memorial Park Production (AF)	w			*20.80*	*26.40*	*12.80*	*22.40*	*27.00*	*24.95*	*24.89*	*17.97*	*13.67*
Mission Memorial Park NSY Over-Production (AF)	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	z	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Mission Memorial Park	aa	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Total Replenishment Fund Balance	bb	**$ 1,884,298**	**$ 4,652,874**	**$ (1,847,417)**	**$ (1,219,966)**	**$ (2,930,710)**	**$ (6,170,178)**	**$ (9,509,483)**	**$ (7,749,648)**	**$ (5,991,546)**	**$ (4,023,252)**	**$ (3,909,125)**
Replenishment Fund Balance Forward	cc	$ -	**$ 1,884,298**	**$ 4,652,874**	**$ (1,847,417)**	**$ (1,219,966)**	**$ (2,930,710)**	**$ (6,170,178)**	**$ (9,509,483)**	**$ (7,749,648)**	**$ (5,991,546)**	**$ (4,023,252)**
Total Replenishment Assessments	dd	$ 2,349,946	$ 2,768,576	$ 5,805,632	$ 4,369,165	$ 4,464,082	$ 3,329,189	$ 2,601,104	$ 2,825,688	$ 3,217,182	$ 2,495,183	$ 114,290
Total Paid and/or Credited	ee	$ (465,648)	$ -	$ (12,305,924)	$ (3,741,714)	$ (6,174,826)	$ (6,568,657)	$ (5,940,409)	$ (1,065,852)	$ (1,459,080)	$ (526,890)	$ (162)
Grand Total Fund Balance	ff	**$ 1,884,298**	**$ 4,652,874**	**$ (1,847,417)**	**$ (1,219,966)**	**$ (2,930,710)**	**$ (6,170,178)**	**$ (9,509,483)**	**$ (7,749,648)**	**$ (5,991,546)**	**$ (4,023,252)**	**$ (3,909,125)**

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster — 10/1/25

Replenishment Fund — Page 2

Water Year 2026 (October 1 - September 30) / Fiscal Year (January 1 - December 31, 2026)

PROPOSED BUDGET - Continued

Replenishment Fund		2017	2018	2019	2020	WY 2021	WY 2022	WY 2023	WY 2024	Budget WY 2025	Totals WY 2006 Through 2024	Budget WY 2026	Projected Totals Through WY 2025
Assessment Water Year		WY 16/17	WY 17/18	WY 18/19	WY 19/20	WY 20/21	WY 21/22	WY 22/23	WY 23/24	WY 23/24		WY 23/24	
Unit Cost:	a	$2,872 / $718	$2,872 / $718	$2,872 / $718	$2,872 / $718	$2,947 / $737	$3,260/ $815	$3,461/ $865	$4,529/$1,132	$4,845/$1,211		$4,935/$1,234	
Cal-Am Water Balance Forward	b	**$ (676,704)**	**$ (491,747)**	**$ (48,797,949)**	**$ (47,979,852)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**	**$ (46,855,121)**		**$ (46,855,121)**	
Cal-Am Water Production (AF)	c	*2,029.51*	*2,229.45*	*2,120.22*	*2,245.88*	*1,664.04*	*1,648.71*	*1,569.60*	*1,594.25*		*50,853.59*		
Cal-Am Water NSY Over-Production (AF)	d	*64.40*	*374.65*	*284.85*	*334.21*	-	-	-			*14,638.57*		
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	e	$ 184,957	$ 1,075,995	$ 818,097	$ 959,859	-	-	-	-	-	$ 33,550,034	-	$ 33,550,034
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	f				164,872	-	-	-	-	-	$ 1,122,753	-	$ 1,122,753
Total California American	g	**$ 184,957**	**$ 1,075,995**	**$ 818,097**	**$ 1,124,731**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**-**	**-**	**$ 34,672,786**	**-**	**$ 34,672,786**
CAW Credit Against Assessment	h		$ (49,382,196)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$ (81,527,907)	-	$ (81,527,907)
CAW Unpaid Balance	i	***$ (491,747)***	***$ (48,797,949)***	***$ (47,979,852)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***	***$ (46,855,121)***
City of Seaside Balance Forward (120.28 AF)	j	**$ (3,232,420)**	**$ (3,142,500)**	**$ (3,022,249)**	**$ (2,919,806)**	**$ (2,802,831)**	**$ (2,708,829)**	**$ (2,661,184)**	**$ (2,661,184)**	**$ (2,661,184)**		**$ (2,661,184)**	
City of Seaside Municipal Production (AF)	k	*188.31*	*184.63*	*178.40*	*181.65*	*174.69*	*155.12*	*158.46*			*4,047.41*		
City of Seaside NSY Over-Production (AF)	l	*30.47*	*32.46*	*27.82*	*32.06*	*25.52*	*11.69*	-			*1,247.31*		
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield Considering Alternative Producers	m	$ 87,512	$ 93,225	$ 79,893	$ 92,089	$ 75,197	$ 38,116	-	0.00	0.00	$ 2,898,358	0.00	$ 2,898,358
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	n	2,409	27,026	22,550	24,886	18,806	9,529	-	0.00	0.00	$ 203,263	0.00	$ 203,263
Total Municipal	o	$ 89,920	$ 120,251	$ 102,443	$ 116,975	$ 94,002	$ 47,645	$ -	0.00	0.00	$ 3,101,621	0.00	$ 3,101,621
City of Seaside - Golf Courses (APA - 540 AFY)													
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	p	-	-	-	-	-	-				$ 201,406		$ 201,406
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	q	-	-	-	-	-	-				$ 50,353		$ 50,353
Total Golf Courses	r	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -			$ 251,759		$ 251,759
Total City of Seaside*	s	**$ 89,920**	**$ 120,251**	**$ 102,443**	**$ 116,975**	**$ 94,002**	**$ 47,645**	**-**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**$ 3,353,380**	**0.00**	**$ 3,353,380**
City of Seaside Late Payment 5%	t										$ 88,887		$ 88,887
In-lieu Credit Against Assessment	u										$ (6,103,451)		$ (6,103,451)
City of Seaside Unpaid Balance	v	***$ (3,142,500)***	***$ (3,022,249)***	***$ (2,919,806)***	***$ (2,802,831)***	***$ (2,708,829)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***	***$ (2,661,184)***
Mission Memorial Park (APA - 31 AFY)													
Mission Memorial Park Production (AF)	w	*13.74*	*14.43*	*16.07*	*20.00*	*46.77*	*33.95*				*335.84*		
Mission Memorial Park NSY Over-Production (AF)	x	-	-	-		*15.77*	*2.95*				*18.72*		
Exceeding Natural Safe Yield - Alternative Producer	y	-	-	-	-	$ 46,488	$ 9,608				$ 56,096		$ 56,096
Operating Yield Overproduction Replenishment	z	-	-	-	-	11,626.00	2,401.97				$ 14,028		$ 14,028
Board Approved (5/4/22) Credit Against Assessment						(33,114.00)					$ (33,114)		$ (33,114)
$8,500 Applied to Admin Fund to cover expenses						(8,500.00)							
Mission Memorial Park Unpaid Balance	aa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$ -	-	$ -
Total	o	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ 16,500***	***$ 12,010***	***$ (16,500)***	***$ (12,010)***	***$ -***	***$ (0)***	***$ -***	***$ (0)***
Balance of Available Funds									***$ 6,049***	***$ 20,398***	$ 20,398		
Total Replenishment Fund Balance	bb	$ (3,634,247)	$ (51,820,198)	$ (50,899,658)	$ (49,657,952)	$ (49,563,950)	$ (49,516,305)	$ (49,516,305)	$ (49,510,256)	$ (49,495,907)	$ (49,495,907)	$ (49,495,907)	$ (49,495,907)
Replenishment Fund Balance Forward	cc	**$ (3,909,125)**	**$ (3,634,247)**	**$ (51,820,198)**	**$ (50,899,658)**	**$ (49,657,952)**	**$ (49,563,950)**	**$ (49,516,305)**	**$ (49,510,256)**	**$ (49,499,907)**		**$ (49,495,907)**	
Total Replenishment Assessments	dd	$ 274,877	$ 1,196,246	$ 920,540	$ 1,241,706	$ 110,502	$ 59,655	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 38,143,563	$ -	**$ 38,143,563**
Total Paid and/or Credited	ee		$ (49,382,196)			$ (16,500)	$ (12,010)				(87,659,868)		**(87,659,868)**
Total Paid for Replenishment Legal Services	ff							$ 6,049	10,349	4,000	20,398	8,112	**28,510**
Grand Total Fund Balance	gg	***$ (3,634,247)***	***$ (51,820,198)***	***$ (50,899,658)***	***$ (49,657,952)***	***$ (49,563,950)***	***$ (49,516,305)***	***$ (49,510,256)***	***$ (49,499,907)***	***$ (49,495,907)***	***$ (49,495,907)***	***$ (49,487,795)***	***$ (49,487,795)***

TO: Watermaster Board of Directors
FROM: Laura Paxton, Administrative Officer
DATE: October 1, 2025
SUBJECT: Water Year 2026 Overproduction Replenishment Assessment Unit Costs for Water

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RECOMMENDATION: Consider adopting a Replenishment Assessment Unit Cost of $4,962 and $1,241/AF for Natural Safe Yield and Operating Yield Overproduction, respectively, for Water Year 2026.

BACKGROUND: Per page 33 of the Decision, "The per acre-foot (AF) amount of the Replenishment Assessments shall be determined and declared by Watermaster in October of each Water Year in order to provide Parties with advance knowledge of the cost of Over-Production in that Water Year." Thus, the per acre-foot amount determined by the Board on or before October of 2025 will be used to calculate Replenishment Assessments for pumping that occurs during Water Year 2026 (October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026).

For Water Years 2014, 2015, and 2016 the Board adopted a Replenishment Assessment Unit Cost of $2,702/AF for Natural Safe Yield Overproduction. This unit cost was developed starting with Water Year 2014 by taking the average of the Base Unit Cost ($/AF) of the four potential water supply projects that the Board felt were the most likely to be implemented. For Water Year 2017 the Board adopted a revised Replenishment Assessment Unit Cost of $2,872. This revised Unit Cost was calculated using updated unit cost data for the three projects which the Board at that time felt were the most likely to be implemented. The number of projects was reduced from four to three, because when the WY 2017 Unit Cost was being calculated, it was determined that two of the previous four projects (Regional Desalination and the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Projects) would be part of a combined project referred to as the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (MPWSP). The unit cost for Water Year 2017 was carried over to the three subsequent Water Years because no updated cost data was available for those projects, and no other viable projects could be identified. In 2020, a blended unit cost value was provided for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project based on a reduced size desalination plant offset by water to be provided by the Pure Water Monterey Project. Based on the updated Pure Water Monterey Project's unit cost, the blended unit cost for that combined project was updated from $4,591/AF to $4,817/AF, resulting in a Water Year 2021 Replenishment Assessment Unit Cost of $2,947/AF. In 2022, a blended unit cost value was calculated for the MPWSP based on an updated PWM unit cost for 3,500AF of potential volume from the project. The blended unit cost for that combined project was updated from $4,817/AF to $4,948/AF. For purposes of the 2022 Replenishment Assess Unit Cost calculation, $2,808 was used as the RUWAP cost/AF. In 2023, a blended unit cost value was calculated for the MPWSP based on an updated PWM and PWMX unit cost for an increased 5,750AF of potential volume from both projects. The blended unit cost for the combined projects was updated from $4,948/AF to $4,872/AF. At the September 9, 2023 Watermaster Board meeting, Director Riley submitted a document requesting that every category of water be flow weighted instead of the current calculation method established in 2017 that blends the Base Unit Cost ($/AF) value for the MPWSP with the Base Unit Cost for the Pure Water Monterey Project (PWM) based on a reduced size desalination plant offset by water to be provided by PWM. The Committee, and subsequently the Board adopted Director Riley's method of calculation of the unit costs of $4,529/AF and $1,132/AF for Water Year 2024. That calculation method has continued since. The 2025 calculations included updated PWM/PWMX, ASR, and RUWAP actual and estimated project costs with $4,845/AF and $1,211/AF unit costs approved.

DISCUSSION: The attached 2026 Table of calculations includes updated PWM/PWMX, ASR, and RUWAP actual and estimated project costs. No updated estimated project costs were received from California American Water for the desalination plant. The proposed Replenishment Assessment Unit Costs would therefore be $4,962/AF and $1,241/AF for Natural Safe Yield and Operating Yield Overproduction, respectively, for Water Year 2026. The Budget and Finance Committee recommended board approval of the proposed 2026 Unit Costs at its meeting on September 19, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS: 2026 Unit Cost Data Table

WATER YEAR 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026)

ANTICIPATED UNIT COSTS OF WATER COULD POTENTIALLY BE USED FOR REPLENISHMENT OF THE SEASIDE BASIN

POTENTIAL SOURCE OF REPLENISHMENT WATER	POTENTIAL DATE REPLENISHMENT WATER COULD BECOME AVAILABLE	POTENTIAL VOLUME OF WATER THAT COULD BE SUPPLIED BY THE PROJECT (AFY) [1]	BASE UNIT COST ($/AF)	BASE UNIT COST YEAR
Regional Desalination[2]	2028	6,250	$6,147	2021
Pure Water Monterey and PWMX	2020 (PWM) 2025 (PWMX)	5,750	$4,356	2025
Seaside Basin ASR Expansion [3]	2021	1,000	$1,984	2025
Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project [4]	2021	1,400-1,700	$4,356	2025

(6,250X$6,147) + (5,750X$4,356) + (1,000X$1,984) + (1,550X$4,356) / 14,550 = $4,962.31 2026 Natural Safe Yield Overproduction Unit Cost/AF

$4,962.31 / 4 = $1,240.47 Operating Yield Overproduction Unit Cost/AF

FOOTNOTES:

(1) For the Regional Desalination Project this is the total amount of water from this source which could potentially come to the CAW distribution system, based on the desalination plant having a 6.4 MGD capacity which is equivalent to 7,169 AFY. Only a portion of this amount might be available as initially unused capacity that could be used to help replenish the Seaside Basin. For the RUWAP this is the total amount of non-potable water from this source. Only a portion of this amount might be used for in-lieu replenishment of the Seaside Basin. For the ASR Expansion Project this is the additional amount of water that could potentially be provided by this project (see footnote 4). For the PWM and PWMX this is the quantity of water that is being planned at this time by CAW for inclusion in its Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

(2) Base unit cost data based on PUC filing documents and provided by Dave Stoldt of MPWMD. The unit cost was confirmed in August 2021 by Ian Crooks of Cal Am as being the latest unit cost available for this project. For 2025, Tim O'Halloran requested the $6,147 continue to be used because plant design and acquisition of construction bids are still underway. No new cost information is available.

(3) The 1,000 AFY of potential water that this project could supply would be in addition to the 1,300 AFY included as part of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project and would be an annual average taking into account river flow and hydrologic conditions that change from year to year. For 2024, per David Stoldt, this is the cost for ASR injection of 360 AFY long-term average of replenishment water with ASR expansion of a single new injection well. Because ASR replenishment water does not require extraction and treatment, the cost of customer demand is not factored here.

(4) Patrick Breen of MCWD noted that to determine total cost per acre-foot, use the $4,356/acre-foot cost from Pure Water Monterey (which would be RUWAP as well) and add MCWD O&M and Financing costs which are yet to be determined.

ITEM VIII.A
10/1/25

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN
WATERMASTER

TO: Watermaster Board of Directors

FROM: Robert S. Jaques, Technical Program Manager

DATE: October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Consider approval of the Revised Final Draft Update of the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan

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RECOMMENDATIONS:
Approve the Final Draft of the Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan dated September 17, 2025, incorporating the revisions shown in the attached Track-Changes version.

BACKGROUND:
As one of the tasks in the 2025 Monitoring and Management Program, the Board authorized Montgomery & Associates (M&A) to prepare an update to the Watermaster's 2009 Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP). The Board received a presentation of a Draft version of the Updated SIRP at its September 2, 2025 meeting. Following the presentation there was extensive Board discussion of it at that meeting.

DISCUSSION:
A number of changes to the Draft version were requested or proposed by the Board at the September 2 meeting. The attached Track-Changes Final Draft version addresses those items, and also includes some other minor revisions made to improve the clarity of the document.

A copy of the Final Draft Plan in Track-Changes was posted to the Watermaster's website in advance of today's meeting, in order to provide additional time for it to be reviewed by interested parties. The full document including its appendices is 86 pages long. There were no revisions to the appendices to the document, so a copy of the body-only of the Final Draft in Track-Changes is attached. For ease in seeing what revisions have been made, deleted text is shown in ~~blue strikeout~~, and added text is shown in red underline.

ATTACHMENT:
Final Draft Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan in Track-Changes (body only)

MONTGOMERY & ASSOCIATES
Water Resource Consultants

FINAL DRAFT

September 17, 2025

Updated Seawater Intrusion Response Plan
Seaside Basin, Monterey County, California

Prepared for:

Seaside Basin Watermaster

Prepared by:

Montgomery & Associates

1970 Broadway, Suite 225, Oakland, CA 94602

Contents

Tables

Figures

Appendices

Acronyms & Abbreviations

BMAP ..... Basin Management Action Plan
mg/L ..... milligrams per liter
MPWMD ..... Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
NP ..... not possible
SBMMP ..... Seaside Groundwater Basin Monitoring and Management Program
SIAR ..... Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report
SIRP ..... Seawater Intrusion Response Plan
TAC ..... Technical Advisory Committee
WY ..... Water Year

Conversions

1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons
1 mg/L ≈ 1 part per million

1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

1.1 Introduction and Purpose

This *Seawater Intrusion Response Plan* (SIRP) is the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster's (Watermaster) contingency plan for responding to seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin, if and when it occurs. The first SIRP was finalized in February 2009 (HydroMetrics LLC, 2009a) as part of the Watermaster's implementation of the *Seaside Groundwater Basin Monitoring and Management* Program (SBMMP). Since it had been 15 years since the SIRP was developed, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Seaside Basin Watermaster recommended to the Board of Directors in February 2024 to update the SIRP with additional data collected over the past 15 years and reassess indicators of intrusion, response triggers, and actions that take place to respond to seawater intrusion. This document is produced in accordance with the requirements contained in the Amended Decision (California American Water Company v. City of Seaside *et al.*, Superior Court, County of Monterey, Case Number M66343, 2007).

This updated SIRP details the indicators of seawater intrusion and recommended actions to be taken if seawater intrusion is observed. Section 2 evaluates consistency with existing documents that may influence the Watermaster's ability to implement this response plan. Section 3 establishes indicators of seawater intrusion and action levels that trigger response measures. Section 4 describes the proactive Part 1 of the Pumping Distribution Plan, and Section 5 lists recommended actions that should be implemented if seawater intrusion is observed in the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

Actions detailed in this SIRP may have significant financial impacts on the Watermaster's member agencies and the communities they serve. Foreseeable financial impacts might include the following:

- Reduced economic activity due to reduced water available to users
- Costs associated with immediate response monitoring for seawater intrusion verification and public notification
- Cost of installing new monitoring wells and/or pumping redistribution
- Reduced revenue for water suppliers from water users due to reduced water sales

No sources of replacement water are identified in this document. Potential sources of replacement water are identified in the 2019 Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), which

describes supplemental water supplies and management actions that may be implemented to help prevent seawater intrusion by raising groundwater levels in the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

1.2 Background

Historical and persistent low groundwater elevations caused by pumping in the Seaside Groundwater Basin have led to concerns that seawater intrusion may threaten the coastal subareas' groundwater resources. Previous studies have addressed the potential for, and extent of, seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin. Seawater Intrusion Analysis Reports (SIAR) (HydroMetrics LLC, 2007 and 2008) provide detailed reviews of seawater intrusion mechanisms and analyzed historical water quality data for indications of seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin. The geochemical analyses from those SIARs and subsequent SIARs through Water Year (WY) 2024 showed that no seawater intrusion has been detected in the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and there is no indication of seawater intrusion into either of the Basin's principal aquifers – the Paso Robles Formation (shallow) or Santa Margarita Sandstone (deep). Although seawater intrusion has not been detected, it is apparent, based on groundwater level and pumping data, that a potential for seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin exists.

2 CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER DOCUMENTS

The following five documents were reviewed to evaluate consistency of the recommendations in these documents with this updated SIRP:

- Seaside Basin Amended Decision (California American Water Company v. City of Seaside et al., *Superior Court, County of Monterey, Case Number M66343*, 2007)
- *2016 Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan, MPWMD Regulation XV* (MPWMD, 2016)
- *Contingency Plan for Seawater Intrusion, Seaside Groundwater Basin* (Bachman, 2005)
- Annual Seaside Groundwater Basin *Seawater Intrusion Analysis Reports* from 2007 through 2018, prepared by HydroMetrics LLC
- Annual Seaside Groundwater Basin *Seawater Intrusion Analysis Reports* from 2019 through 2024, prepared by Montgomery & Associates

The SIARs provide information on groundwater levels, quality, and extractions, but do not include recommended remedial actions. Therefore, these recommendations from these documents were not analyzed further for consistency with this updated SIRP. The documents listed in the first three bullets are addressed separately below.

2.1 Seaside Groundwater Basin Amended Decision

The Amended Decision details the legal requirements imposed on the Watermaster as a result of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Adjudication. The requirements in the Amended Decision take precedence over policies or procedures outlined in other reviewed documents.

The Amended Decision included, in part, the requirement to "…develop a plan of action to contain seawater intrusion, should it occur." Additionally, Section III(B)(3)(e) of the Amended Decision requires that any pumping reductions be distributed throughout the impacted subarea in a *pro-rata* (proportional) fashion. The Section III.b.3.e pumping reductions would occur if the Watermaster determined that the Basin's Operating Yield needed to be reduced to prevent Material Injury from occurring. The *Interim Contingency Procedure to Contain Seawater Intrusion*[1] included in Exhibit A to the Amended Decision proposed a pumping reduction methodology that would be applied if seawater intrusion was detected in the Basin and does not use a pro-rata approach. Consequently, this updated SIRP, as was the case in the 2009 SIRP, proposes a pumping reduction plan similar to the one in Exhibit A of the Amended Decision.

[1] https://seasidegroundwaterbasinwatermaster.wpcomstaging.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/08-0409-seawater-intrusion-contingency-response-plan-.pdf

2.2 2016 Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan

The 2009 SIRP was evaluated for consistency with MPWMD's *Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan* (MPWMD, 1999). In 2016, that plan was replaced with the *2016 Water Conservation and Rationing Plan* (MPWMD, 2016) and is evaluated for consistency with this updated SIRP.

The regulations imposed by MPWMD's *2016 Water Conservation and Rationing Plan* (MPWMD, 2016) state that Stage 1 through Stage 3 water conservation and Stage 4 rationing may apply to water distribution system users and water users within the Monterey Peninsula Water Resources System in response to limited water supply or a water supply emergency. These stages provide, among other benefits, responses to emergency situations where immediate reductions in water use are necessary to ensure public health, safety, or welfare.

The *2016 Water Conservation and Rationing Plan* states that in the event of a Water Supply Emergency, or at the direction of the MPWMD Board of Directors, each owner, operator, or extractor of a private water well, Water Distribution System, or other Water-Gathering Facility shall comply with the provisions of the plan. Unlike in the *Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan* (MPWMD, 1999), percentage reductions are not provided in the 2016 plan but rather each stage has trigger-specific amounts of reduction required.

Since regulatory and emergency triggers are included in the MPWMD plan and ~~, the~~ Watermaster's authority over the Seaside Basin's groundwater pumping makes it a regulatory agency that can direct the percentage of groundwater reduction~~. As such~~, there is no conflict between this SIRP and the 2016 Water Conservation and Rationing Plan.

2.3 Previous Contingency Plans for Seawater Intrusion

The 2009 SIRP was informed by several older documents:

- Contingency Plan for Seawater Intrusion, Seaside Basin, developed by Dr. Steve Bachman (2005)
- Interim Contingency Procedure to Contain Seawater Intrusion included in Exhibit A to the Amended Decision (February 2007)
- Watermaster's Interim Seawater Intrusion Contingency Plan (March 2008) used until the 2009 SIRP was developed

These documents were only intended to be applicable until a formal plan to address seawater intrusion was developed. The 2009 SIAR was that plan that superseded and replaced earlier contingency plans.

The 2009 SIRP and this SIRP update use site-specific geochemical indicators of seawater intrusion. Based on the presence of specific seawater intrusion indicators, various actions—including pumping redistribution and reduction—are recommended in this SIRP.

There is no requirement for this updated SIRP to be consistent with previous contingency plans, however they were used as a reference document while developing this updated SIRP.

3 SEAWATER INTRUSION INDICATORS AND TRIGGERS

Seawater intrusion must be detected within the Adjudicated boundary of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and declared by the Watermaster, before the response plan can be implemented. This section presents general indicators of seawater intrusion and discusses how to identify incipient seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin. A group of positive indicators would trigger a contingency action.

This SIRP has adopted the following terminology for identifying and containing seawater intrusion:

> Indicator: A chemical characteristic or groundwater level that suggests potential seawater intrusion. No one indicator definitively identifies seawater intrusion.
>
> Trigger: A specific group of indicators that, taken together, can identify seawater intrusion.
>
> Contingency Actions: A series of actions that should be implemented if the triggers indicate seawater intrusion is occurring.

Each indicator of seawater intrusion is addressed separately below. Five seawater intrusion indicators have been developed for the monitoring program including:

1. Chloride concentrations and trend analysis
2. Sodium/chloride molar ratio trend analysis
3. Cation and anion distributions on Piper and Stiff Diagrams
4. Chloride concentration maps
5. Induction logging results

Chloride concentration is the only indicator with a threshold value or specific numerical target that indicates seawater intrusion. Threshold values are based on historical groundwater monitoring data collected from nine wells within the Seaside Groundwater Basin (Figure 1). The nine wells represent four well pairs and one unpaired monitoring well. FO-10 Shallow and Deep are removed from this updated SIRP because they are outside the Seaside Basin and are slated for destruction. Water quality data from these wells is included in the Watermaster's SIARs which are prepared annually and are posted on the Watermaster's website.

In the annual SIARs, electric induction logging of a number of monitoring wells is included as an indicator of potential seawater intrusion. This method measures changes in formation salinity from within a well using an electrical induction tool. Induction logging within the well measures

the fluid conductivity within the adjacent formation up to a distance of three feet from the well casing. This technique can be used in wells that are completed with PVC casings and screens, but not in steel cased wells due to the conductance of steel.

This method has been used as a cost-effective method of detecting seawater intrusion by measuring the electrical conductivity of the formation throughout the depth of the well. If over time, the conductivity steadily increases at a specific zone it could indicate seawater intrusion. One limitation of this method is that it does not provide quantitative concentrations of chloride or other ions that contribute to salinity. However, electric induction logs can be used as an indicator in this updated SIRP, and although it cannot provide a qualitative trigger on its own, it can be used in combination with other indicators to set off a series of contingency actions as described in Section 5.

Induction logging has been performed in the Watermaster's four coastal Sentinel Wells since their completion in 2007. Two additional wells started being logged in 2024. Figure 2 shows the location of wells that are induction logged annually.

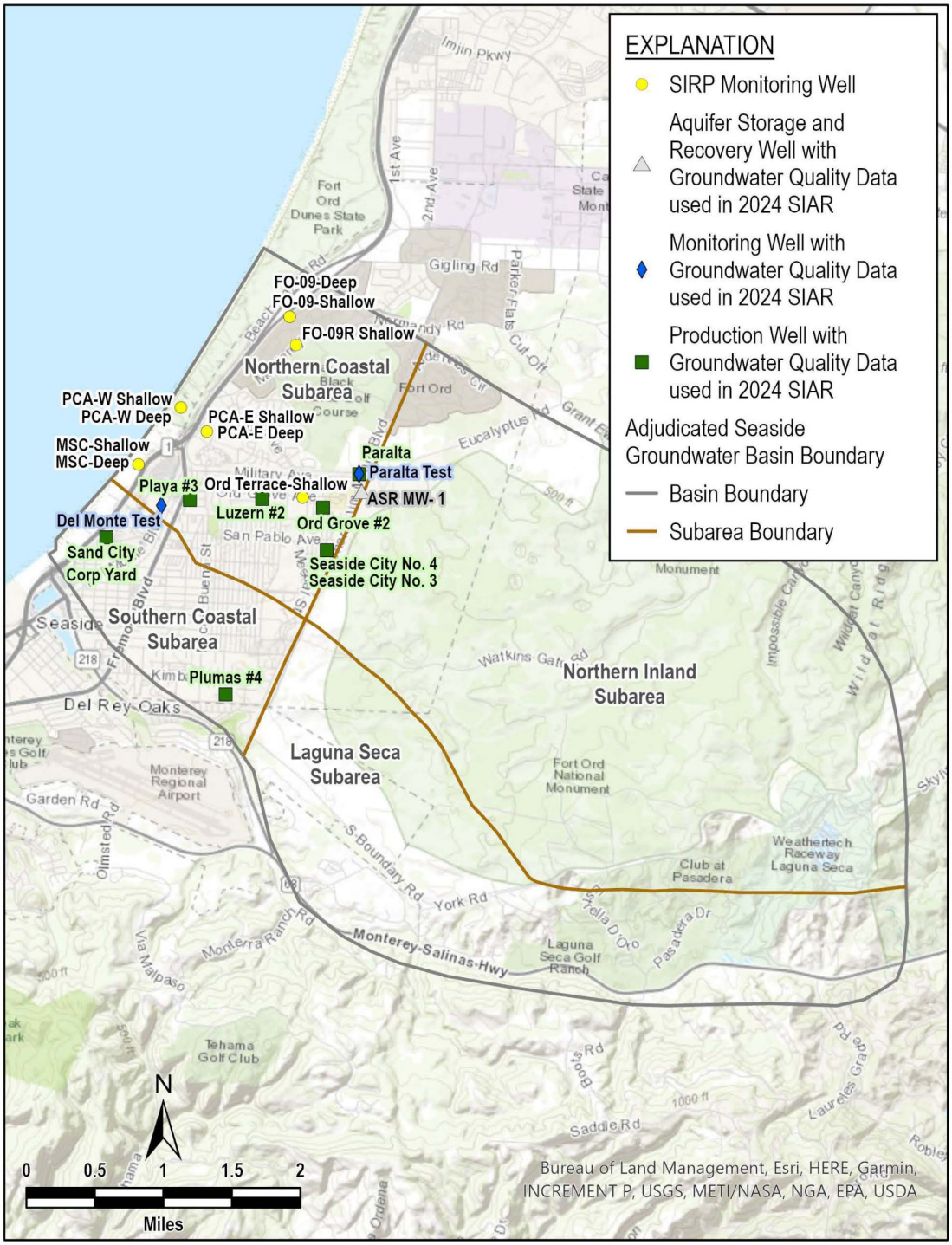

Figure 1. Wells with Historical Water Quality Data

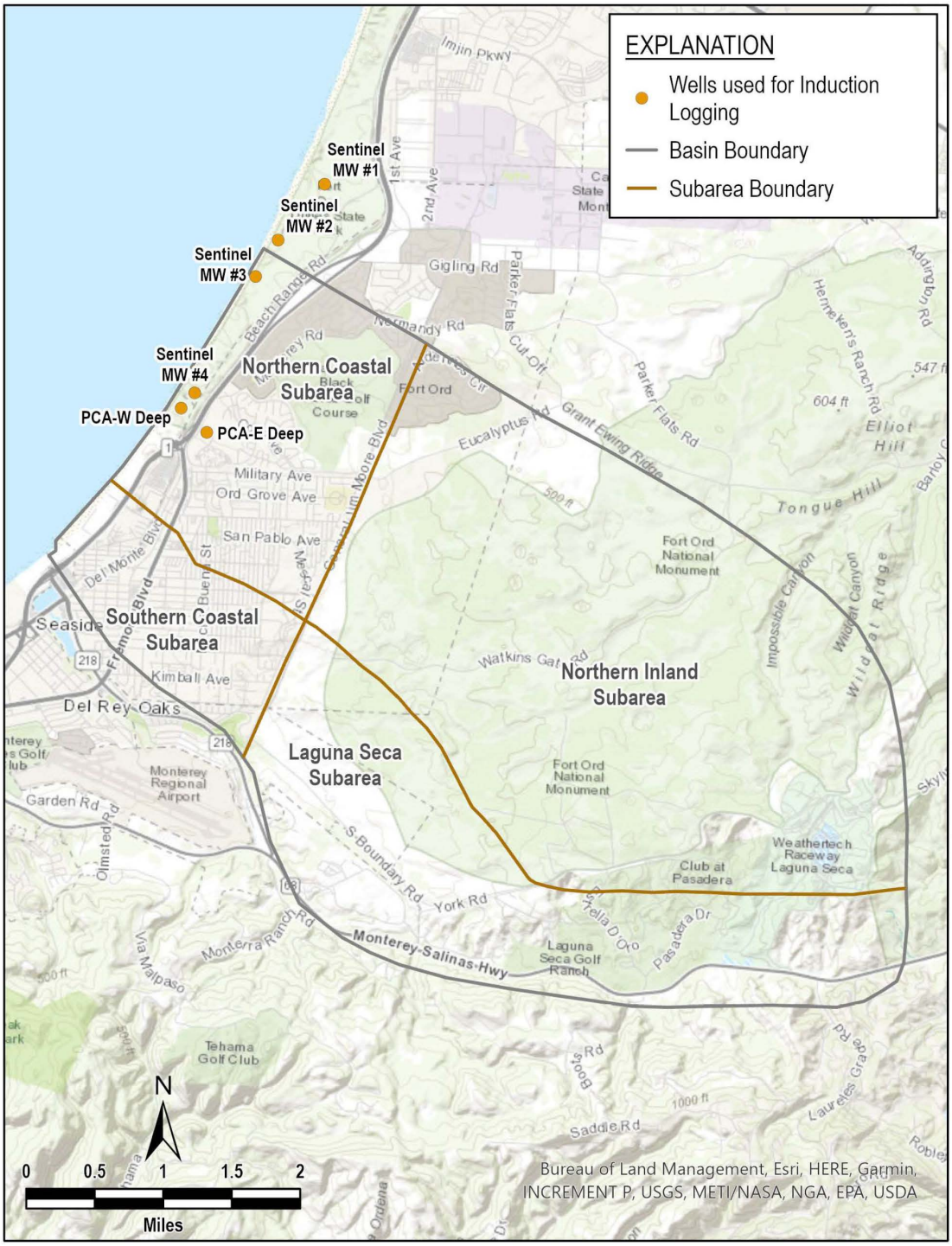

Figure 2. Monitoring Wells with Induction Log Data

3.1 Indicators of Seawater Intrusion

Seawater intrusion is generally identified through chemical analyses of groundwater. No one analysis definitively identifies seawater intrusion. However, by looking at various analyses and through statistical evaluation of historical data, it can be ascertained when fresh groundwater is beginning to mix with seawater. Common geochemical indicators of seawater intrusion are discussed and site-specific data are presented in the following sections. Sections 1.1 – 1.3 of the 2024 *Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report* (Montgomery & Associates, 2024) review geochemical characteristics indicative of seawater intrusion and is provided as Appendix A to this report.

The 10 monitoring wells with historical geochemical data that are statistically analyzed in this section are shown in Table 1. Data collected prior to the release of the Adjudication Decision in March 2006 were analyzed to provide a baseline chemical characterization of the Seaside Groundwater Basin. Where possible, analyses are separated by depth zone. Two depth zones were chosen, following the system of Yates *et al.* (2005). Wells assigned to the shallow depth zone generally correlate to the Paso Robles Formation where it exists. This shallow zone is roughly at the same depth as the Salinas Valley Pressure 400-Foot Aquifer. Wells assigned to the deep zone correlate to the Santa Margarita Sandstone where it exists in the Seaside Groundwater Basin. This deep zone is roughly at the same depth as the Salinas Valley Deep Aquifer.

Most production wells in the Seaside Groundwater Basin have long screened intervals within multiple depth zones. As a result, their water qualities reflect a blend from multiple aquifers. Because of this, production wells are not suitable for indicating seawater intrusion within a particular aquifer or zone because if there was seawater intrusion in a portion of the aquifer being pumped, that concentration could be diluted to the point of not being of concern. Trends in chloride concentration are therefore expected to be muted.

Table 1. Monitoring Wells Chloride Threshold Values and Trend Analysis

Primary Aquifer	Well Location	Chloride Threshold Value[a] (mg/L)	Mann-Kendall Statistical Trend	
			Data through March 2008	Data through Sept 2024
Paso Robles (shallow)	MSC Shallow	62	No Trend	No Trend
	PCA-West Shallow	70	No Trend	**Increasing**
	PCA-East Shallow	73	NP	No Trend
	FO-09-Shallow (destroyed)	67	Decreasing	No Trend
	FO-09R-Shallow (replacement)	-	-	NP
	FO-09-Deep[b]	85	No Trend	**Increasing**
	Basin Wide[b]	85		
Santa Margarita (deep)	MSC Deep	182	Decreasing	No Trend
	PCA-West Deep	186	No Trend	Decreasing
	PCA-East Deep	181	NP	**Increasing**
	Ord Terrace-Shallow[b]	185	NP	No Trend
	Basin Wide[c]	186		

Note: A minimum of 8 to 10 observations are needed for using these statistical methods.

[a] Historical maximum chloride concentrations prior to 1995 are not included in the calculation of Chloride Thresholds.

[b] Aquifer designations are based on groundwater quality as shown in Appendix F.

[c] Basin wide screening criteria is based on maximum chloride screening criteria and applies to any well extracting groundwater from the designated aquifer.

NP = Not possible to determine trend.

3.1.1 Indicator 1: Increasing Chloride Concentrations

Unusually high or steadily increasing chloride concentrations are one of the most commonly used indicators of seawater intrusion. At low chloride concentrations, trends are often as important as absolute concentrations because of natural variations in groundwater chemistry. While chloride concentrations are strongly indicative of seawater intrusion, it often takes time for the increasing chloride trend to be recognizable due to the long-term and relatively slow increase in chlorides during seawater intrusion.

3.1.1.1 High Chloride Concentrations

Chloride concentrations significantly greater than historical average concentrations may indicate seawater intrusion. Graphs showing historical chloride concentrations from the 10 wells analyzed

are included in Appendix B. Average chloride concentrations at each well evaluated in the initial 2009 SIRP were calculated from historical data available through September 2024. Data collected prior to January 1995 are excluded from the calculation of each well's average chloride concentration due to the variable nature of those data. In general, chloride data collected after 1995 fluctuates within a relatively small range compared with data collected prior to 1995. The point at which these large fluctuations stabilize is different for each well; the 1995 cut-off date was chosen for all wells for consistency.

The graphs in Appendix B also show statistically derived chloride threshold values included in the 2009 SIRP and based on data available through March 2008. Although the threshold values seem low in comparison with chloride minimum thresholds used in neighboring SGMA-managed basins, it is the chloride concentrations greater than threshold values in combination with other indicators of seawater intrusion that will indicate seawater intrusion. For additional information regarding the statistical formulas used to calculate the chloride threshold value, refer to Appendix C.

Table 1 presents the threshold chloride concentrations at individual monitoring wells. The threshold values for wells in each aquifer without historical data are set to the highest threshold value for any well in that aquifer: 85 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for the Shallow Aquifer (FO-09 Deep), and 186 mg/L for the Deep Aquifer (PCA-West Deep). No monitoring wells currently show chloride concentrations above threshold values. There are two production wells that are at or exceed the general threshold values of 85 mg/L for the Shallow Aquifer and 186 mg/L for the Deep Aquifer, although neither well has an increasing chloride trend. Both these production wells are the closest public water supply wells to the coast in the Northern Coastal subarea (Figure 1):

- Playa #3 screened in the shallow aquifer has chloride concentrations that range between 100 and 155 mg/L.
- Luzern #2 screened in both the shallow and the deep aquifers typically has chloride ranges between 96 and 186 mg/L.

3.1.1.2 Chloride Concentration Trends

A clear trend of increasing chloride concentrations may indicate seawater intrusion. At low chloride concentrations, trends are often as important as absolute concentrations because of natural variations in groundwater chemistry. Data collected from October 2006 to September 2024 were analyzed for increasing trends using the Mann-Kendall statistical approach, which can be used to show whether chemical concentrations in a monitoring well are increasing, remaining stable, or decreasing. The Mann-Kendall Test can be used with a minimum of four consecutive sampling results. For additional information on the Mann-Kendall Test refer to Appendix C. One drawback of the Mann-Kendall test is that it is not valid if chloride concentrations have

significant seasonal fluctuations. Appendix C presents the detailed methodology and seasonality test for this evaluation and discusses additional trend analyses that would be relevant if future monitoring indicates any seasonal correlation.

Table 1 summarizes the results of the statistical trend analysis. Trends in Table 1 are categorized as increasing, decreasing, no trend, or not possible to determine (NP). Table 1 shows that PCA-West Shallow, FO-09 Deep, and PCA-East Deep have increasing chloride concentration trends, PCA-West Deep has a decreasing trend, five monitoring wells have no trend, and FO-09R Shallow does not have enough data to establish a trend yet.

3.1.2 Indicator 2: Decreasing Sodium/Chloride Molar Ratios

A rapid decline in the molar ratio of sodium to chloride may indicate seawater intrusion. In the early stages of seawater intrusion, sodium often replaces calcium on the aquifer's clay particles through ion exchange before significant chloride increases are observed. This effectively removes sodium from the water, and sodium/chloride molar ratios drop. The ratio of sodium to chloride in groundwater can therefore be used as an early indicator of seawater intrusion. Sodium/chloride molar ratios can also be used to differentiate between seawater intrusion and other sources of salinity. Jones *et al.* (1999) suggest that sodium/chloride molar ratios in advance of a seawater intrusion front will be below 0.86.

3.1.2.1 Historical Sodium/Chloride Molar Ratios

Chemographs showing sodium/chloride molar ratios over time are provided in Appendix D. None of them show a rapid decline in sodium/chloride molar ratios to a level less than 0.86 that is indicative of seawater intrusion.

3.1.2.2 Sodium/Chloride Molar Ratio Trend Analysis

In addition to evaluating increasing chloride concentrations, decreasing sodium/chloride molar ratios are also evaluated using the Mann-Kendall statistical test. Table 2 summarizes the results of the statistical trend analysis. Two wells, MSC Shallow and PCA-East Deep, have downward trends in sodium/chloride molar ratios. The remaining eight monitoring wells have no trends.

Table 2. Sodium/Chloride Molar Trend Analysis

Primary Aquifer	Well Location	Mann-Kendall Statistical Trend	
		Data through March 2008	Data through Sept 2024
Paso Robles (shallow)	MSC Shallow	No Trend	**Decreasing**
	PCA-West Shallow	No Trend	No Trend
	PCA-East Shallow	NP	No Trend
	FO-09 Shallow (destroyed)	Increasing	No Trend
	FO-09R Shallow (replacement)	-	NP
	FO-09 Deep[b]	No Trend	No Trend
Santa Margarita (deep)	MSC Deep	No Trend	No Trend
	PCA-West Deep	No Trend	No Trend
	PCA-East Deep	NP	**Decreasing**
	Ord Terrace Shallow[b]	NP	No Trend

Note: A minimum of 8 to 10 observations are needed for using these statistical methods
[a] Historical maximum chloride concentrations prior to 1995 are not included in the trend analysis
[b] Aquifer designations are based on groundwater quality as shown in Appendix F
NP = Not possible to determine trend

3.1.3 Indicator 3: Visual Inspection of Cation/Anion Ratios

Seawater intrusion is often indicated by graphically analyzing shifts in groundwater quality. Two common graphical techniques for these analyses are Piper diagrams and Stiff diagrams.

3.1.3.1 Piper Diagrams

Piper diagrams plot the relative abundances of individual cations and anions on two trilinear plots, and their combined distribution is plotted on a central diamond. Waters from similar or related sources will generally plot together. The mixture of two waters will generally plot along a straight line between the two end-member types within the central diamond. The trend toward seawater intrusion, however, often plots along a curved path.

An example Piper Diagram showing changes in molar ratios that are indicative of seawater intrusion is included in Appendix E. The indicator of seawater intrusion using Piper diagrams is the water chemistry trending in the direction of the curved arrow on the example Piper diagram.

Appendix E also displays Piper diagrams for each of the monitoring wells in the Seaside Groundwater Basin used to evaluate seawater intrusion. The data on the Piper diagrams have a

color gradient to identify changes more easily over time. There are no strong changes in anions and cations toward seawater, but PCA-West Shallow and PCA-East Deep do show very small ion changes that appear to be moving ~~in a linear direction~~towards seawater.

3.1.3.2 Stiff Diagrams

Stiff diagrams plot the relative abundances of individual cations and anions on a single graph. Cations are plotted on the left side of the graph and anions are plotted on the right side of the graph. Waters with similar chemistries will have similar shaped Stiff diagrams.

Example Stiff diagrams from seawater intruded wells in the Salinas Valley are shown in Appendix A. These figures, along with a short description, are included to demonstrate the utility of Stiff diagrams. The indicator of seawater intrusion using Stiff diagrams is a change in the shape of a stiff diagram toward one of the example seawater intruded Stiff diagrams shown on Figure F-1.

Stiff diagrams for the monitoring wells, grouped by aquifer, are provided in Appendix F. None of the Stiff diagrams show the high chloride spike shown on Figure F-1 that is indicative of seawater intrusion in the example Stiff diagrams.

3.1.4 Indicator 4: Chloride Concentration Maps

In basins experiencing seawater intrusion, chloride concentrations will be highest at the coast. If chloride concentrations have a distribution that can be contoured, annual chloride isoconcentration maps can be generated. This would show if seawater were migrating in from the coast. Since 2007—when the first SIAR was prepared—to September 2024, there has been inconsistent variation in chloride measurements toward the coast to enable contouring to be performed. Therefore, data are simply plotted on chloride concentration maps.

3.1.5 Indicator 5: Induction Logging Results

Multiple years of steadily increasing conductivity in one or more layers of strata in the monitoring wells near the coast indicates that seawater is moving inland at those layers. The induction logging data to date show that there can be some variation from year-to-year in conductivity levels in various zones: sometimes increasing, sometimes decreasing, and sometimes remaining stable. However, if over a multi-year period conductivity is found to be steadily increasing in a given zone, that should be considered to be an indication of seawater intrusion advancing at that depth.

Changes in conductivity in Sentinel Well 4 since 2007 indicate an estimated increase in TDS of about 1,000 mg/L which corresponds to an estimated increase in chloride of approximately 250 mg/L. This is far above the basin wide chloride threshold levels shown in Table 1.

3.1.6 Other Factors

The indicators described above are all geochemical indicators. Groundwater levels are another factor to consider when determining if seawater intrusion is occurring. Without human influence, groundwater flows from areas of high hydraulic head (typically inland) to low hydraulic head (typically at the coast). When the hydraulic gradient is reversed by overpumping, seawater can move inland. Groundwater levels alone do not indicate seawater intrusion but can indirectly show the potential for seawater intrusion. As discussed below, coastal groundwater levels at or near sea level are not sufficient to repel seawater intrusion.

Groundwater elevations for six coastal monitoring wells that protect against seawater intrusion that could impact production wells were determined in 2009 using the Seaside Groundwater Basin groundwater flow model and cross-sectional modeling (HydroMetrics LLC, 2009b). Protective elevations for both the Santa Margarita (deep) and Paso Robles (shallow) aquifers were established for monitoring well pairs with both a shallow and deep completion. Protective elevations for the six wells are shown in Table 3. Groundwater levels below protective elevations have the potential to cause seawater intrusion that may impact production wells.

Table 3. Summary of Protective Elevations at Coastal Monitoring Wells

Subarea	Well	Completion	Protective Elevation, feet above sea level	Currently Above or Below Protective Elevations
Northern Coastal	MSC	Santa Margarita (Deep)	17	below
		Paso Robles (Shallow)	11	below
	PCA-W	Santa Margarita (Deep)	17	below
		Paso Robles (Shallow)	2	above
	Sentinel Well 3	Santa Margarita (Deep)	4	below
Southern Coastal	CDM-MW4	Paso Robles (Shallow)	2	above

Figure 3 through Figure 6 show the historical groundwater elevations at each of these protective elevation monitoring wells. Groundwater levels continue to be below protective elevations in all of these Santa Margarita monitoring wells (MSC deep, PCA-West Deep, and Sentinel Well 3). In WY 2024, groundwater levels at all three Santa Margarita (deep) monitoring wells increased by 2 to 3 feet over the previous year and levels at PCA-West Shallow rose above its protective groundwater elevation. Monitoring well CDM-MW4 and PCA-West Shallow are the only wells with groundwater elevations above protective elevations.

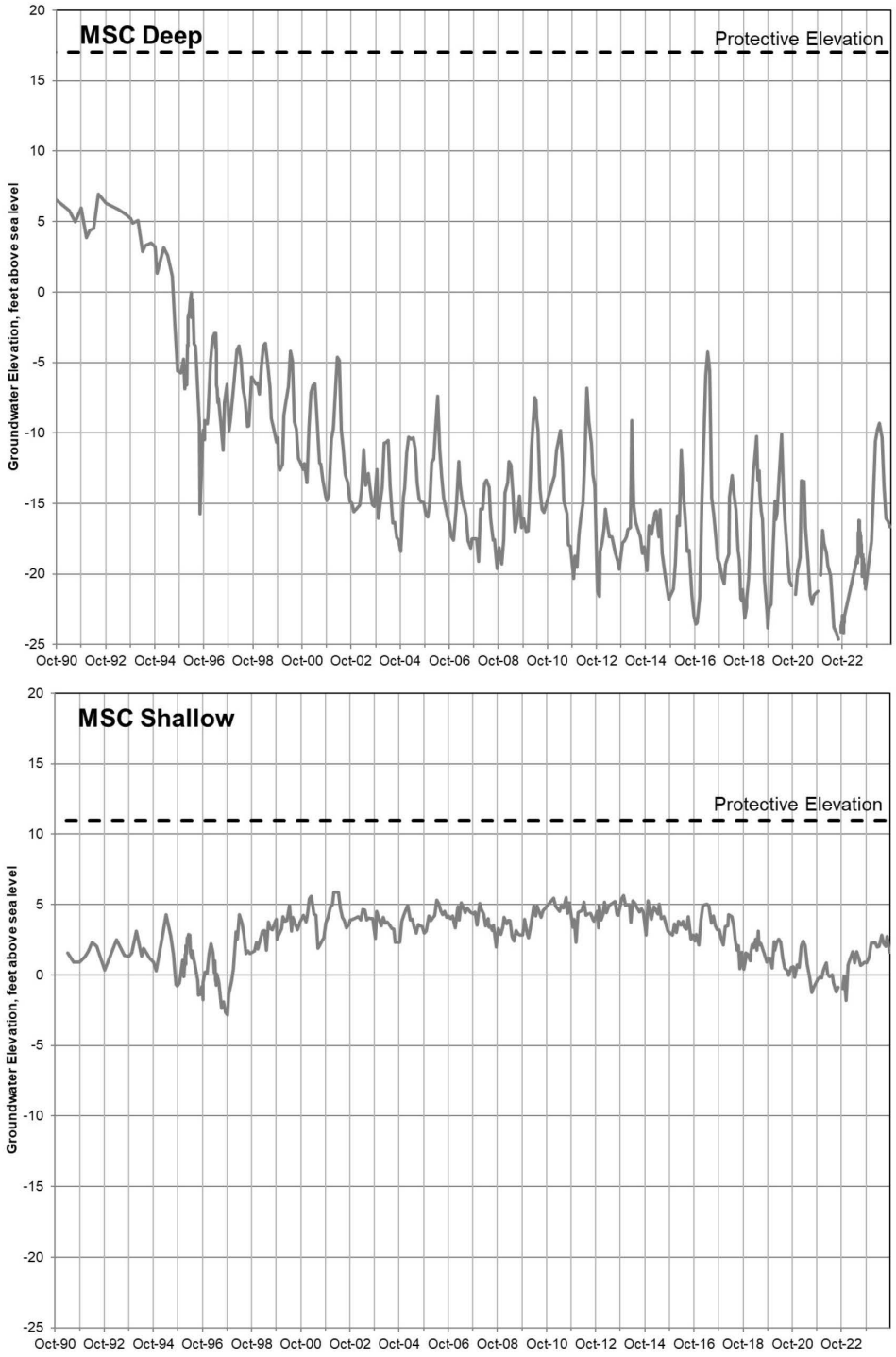

Figure 3. MSC Deep and Shallow Groundwater and Protective Elevations

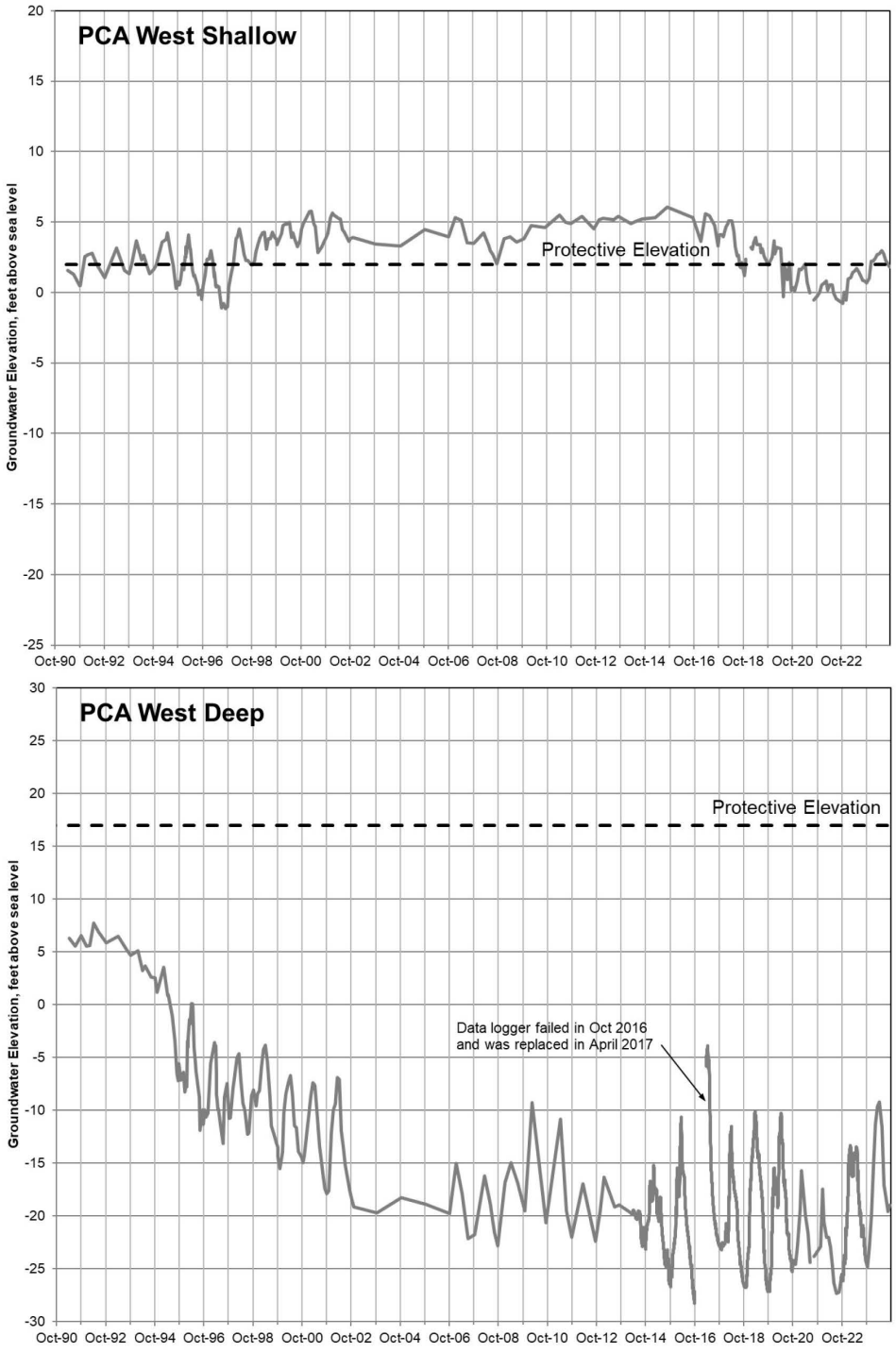

Figure 4. PCA-West Deep and Shallow Groundwater and Protective Elevations

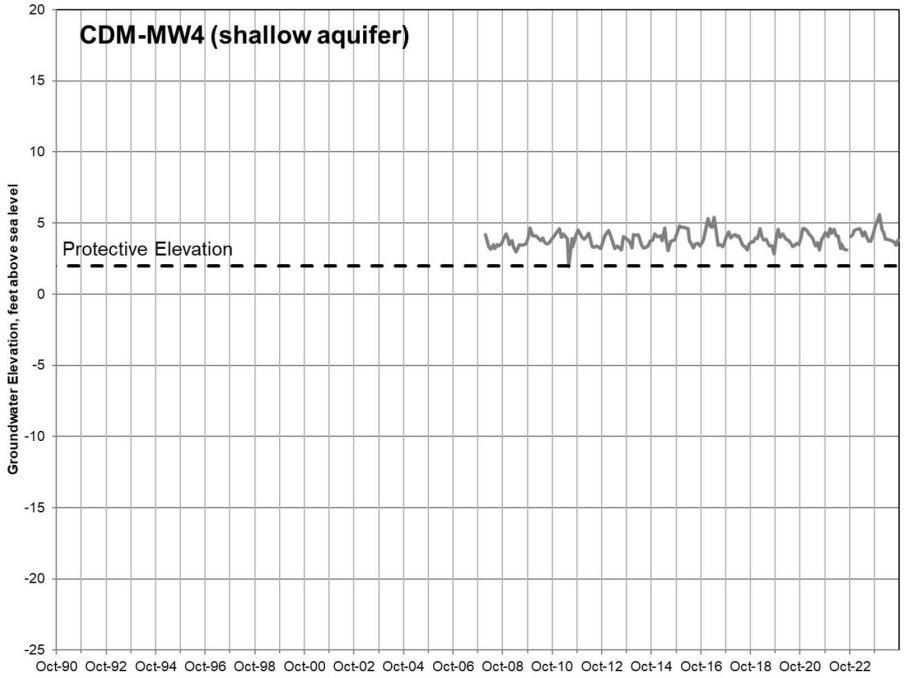

Figure 5. CDM-MW4 Groundwater and Protective Elevations

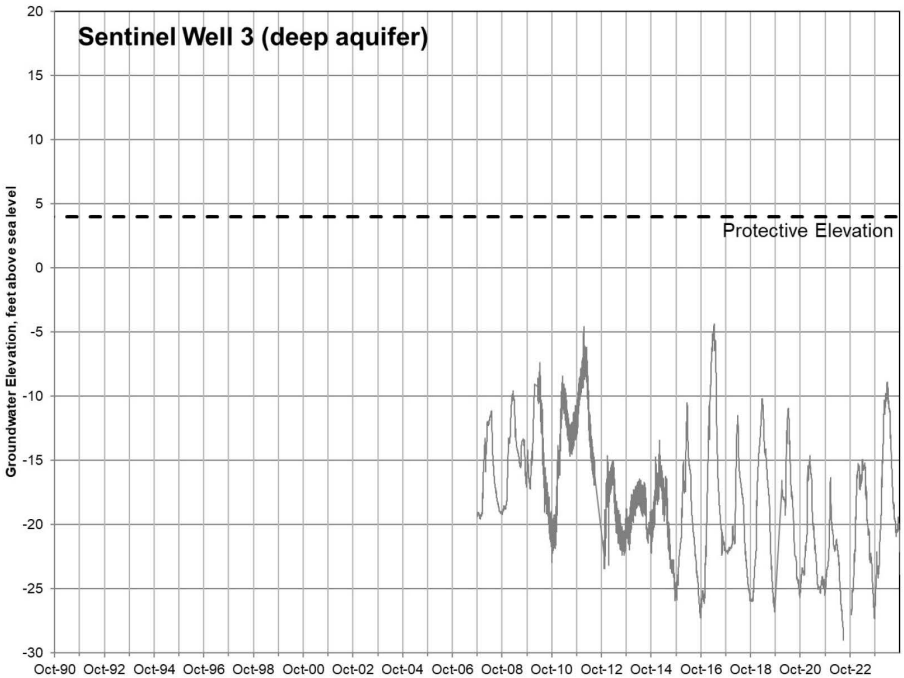

Figure 6. Sentinel Well 3 Groundwater and Protective Elevations

Additional indicators—or revisions to the indicators presented above—may be warranted in the future as more is learned about groundwater quality within the Basin over time. Revisions to indicators may also be warranted if updates to the baseline threshold values appear necessary to respond to any new groundwater management strategies of the Watermaster.

3.2 Contingency Plan Triggers

Since no one indicator definitively identifies seawater intrusion, a combination of indicators is necessary to clearly identify seawater intrusion. The following combination of indicators ~~should be used to~~will trigger the actions described in Section 4:

1. Chloride concentrations must be higher than the chloride threshold value shown on Table 1.
2. Sodium/chloride molar ratios must show a rapid drop and be below the 0.86 molar ratio.

   and

~~2.~~3. At least one of the following five trends or qualitative indicators must be apparent:

   a. The Mann-Kendall statistical trend for chloride concentrations is increasing.
   b. Evolution of seawater mixing is observed in Piper diagram(s).
   c. Change of Stiff diagram(s) shape from baseline conditions featuring prominent high chloride spike.
   d. Concentration maps indicate increasing chloride concentrations near the coast.
   e. Induction logging showing steadily increasing conductivity over a period of three or more consecutive years in depth zones correlated with either the Paso Robles or Santa Margarita aquifers.

4 PROACTIVE ACTION - PART 1 OF THE PUMPING REDISTRIBUTION PLAN

The 2009 SIRP had a series of contingency actions that take place only once the Watermaster makes a Declaration of Seawater Intrusion. This updated SIRP includes the same set of actions but splits Action 4: Pumping Redistribution Plan up into two parts (Figure 7).

Time is of the essence and ~~T~~the first part of the Pumping Redistribution Plan must be completed as soon as possible after the Seaside Basin groundwater model has been updated in 2026. Should the Watermaster make a Declaration of Seawater Intrusion, having the Part 1 evaluations available allows Part 2 to be implemented quicker. In the future, Part 1 will only need to be updated if there are significant future operational changes to how groundwater is used and managed.

Due to the time sensitive nature of responding to observed seawater intrusion in a timely manner, some evaluations included in the 2009 SIRP pumping redistribution plan activities should be completed proactively before seawater intrusion is declared. This approach provides well pumpers with more time to plan for operational changes that need to be implemented quickly if seawater intrusion is declared.

In the context of this Updated SIRP these terms have the following meanings:

- "Impacted Well" means a monitoring or production well that has been intruded by seawater.
- "At Risk Well" means a production well that has the potential to become impacted by seawater intrusion based on its proximity to an Impacted Well(s), local groundwater gradients, and other conditions.

Once the Seaside Basin groundwater model has been updated, proactive evaluations to be completed include:

- **Identify At Risk well(s) where seawater intrusion might occur.** The groundwater model can be used to indicate which wells may be impacted if seawater intrusion is observed at individual monitoring or production wells. The 2022 particle tracking modeling of potential seawater intrusion travel rates from the coast can be leveraged where the same modeling workflow can be used for assessing likely At Risk Wells. Instead of placing particles at the coast as was done in 2022, particles can be placed at all monitoring and production wells to understand the likely path from those wells if they are impacted in the future.

- **Estimate groundwater conditions that protect production wells (activity 4 in 2009 SIRP**). Protective elevations have already been established to determine coastal groundwater conditions that protect production wells. If protective coastal elevations are not met, production wells can be protected by reversing the hydraulic gradient back toward the ocean. It is assumed that raising groundwater levels at production wells to reverse the gradient will also eventually achieve protective elevations at coastal monitoring wells. Based on below sea level groundwater elevations within the pumping depressions in the Paso Robles (shallow aquifer) and Santa Margarita (deep aquifer), static and pumping groundwater levels need to rise above sea level, which means an increase of at least 30 feet.
- **Evaluate each production wells' influence on potential seawater intrusion at each monitoring and production well.** All production wells in the Seaside Groundwater Basin will be evaluated using the numerical groundwater model or by analytical modeling and ranked by their relative influence on groundwater gradients that may cause seawater intrusion and migration. The hydraulic gradients between wells are a function of the combined effects of the regional flow gradient and the head drawdown from each production well. This allows for the contribution of each well to the magnitude of the gradient between wells to be evaluated individually. Modeling can be used to evaluate how much reduction in pumping at specific wells will reduce the gradients driving seawater intrusion between potentially Impacted and non-impacted wells to a degree that sea water intrusion does not spread further. One or more recommended pumping scenarios that achieve the maximum acceptable gradients between Impacted and At Risk well(s) should be developed.

If the Watermaster makes a Declaration of Seawater Intrusion before these evaluations have been completed, the work must be expedited so as to not delay implementation of Part 2 of the pumping redistribution plan.

PART 1 OF PUMPING REDISTRIBUTION PLAN

Proactive or advance evaluations to be completed once the Seaside Basin groundwater model has been updated:

- **Identify At Risk well(s) where seawater intrusion might occur**
- **Estimate groundwater conditions that protect production wells**
- **Identify and evaluate each production wells' influence on potential seawater intrusion at each monitoring and production well**

DECLARATION OF SEAWATER INTRUSION

PART 2 OF PUMPING REDISTRIBUTION PLAN

Initiated immediately after the Declaration of Seawater Intrusion

- **Increase monitoring frequency**

Initiated as soon as possible after the Declaration of Seawater Intrusion:

- **Discontinue or substantially reduce pumping the Impacted and At Risk well(s) per Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan**
- **Perform land-based geophysical surveys to determine how far inland from the Impacted Well the intrusion extends and to help identify sites to install additional monitoring wells, if required**
- **Identify and/or install additional monitoring wells**

Figure 7. Summary of Part 1 and 2 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan

5 SEAWATER INTRUSION CONTINGENCY ACTIONS

It is not possible to halt and reverse seawater intrusion unless supplemental supplies are available. Until these supplies are secured, the Watermaster should implement containment strategies to reduce the magnitude and extent of seawater intrusion, if it is observed. By containing seawater intrusion, the Watermaster will (1) help preserve productive use of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and (2) facilitate the restoration of the Seaside Groundwater Basin water quality by limiting the extent and spread of the intrusion. The purpose of this section of the SIRP is to develop a containment strategy and actions that can be implemented if seawater intrusion is observed in the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

5.1 Geographic Area Covered by Contingency Actions

The contingency actions described in Section 4.2 are only triggered by seawater intrusion occurring inside the Seaside Groundwater Basin boundary illustrated on Figure 1.

5.2 Actions Addressing Observed Seawater Intrusion

The specific actions that should be implemented if seawater intrusion is detected, as defined by the triggers in Section 3.2, are as follows.

5.2.1 Action 1: Verification

Time will be of the essence and ~~W~~wells with chloride concentrations greater than respective chloride threshold values and Sodium/Chloride molar ratios below 0.86 shall be re-sampled as soon as possible. Re-sampling should include the full suite of major cations and anions, which will allow all of the indicators listed in Section 3 to be verified. Laboratory analyses should be conducted with an expedited turnaround time. If re-sampling these wells verifies the presence of seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin by meeting the required triggers (see Section 3.2), Actions 2, 3, Part 2 of action 4, and action 5 should be implemented.

5.2.2 Action 2: Declaration of Seawater Intrusion

If the verification confirms that seawater intrusion has occurred within the Seaside Groundwater Basin, time will be of the essence and the Watermaster shall issue a Declaration of Seawater Intrusion as soon as possible after verification.

5.2.3 Action 3: Notification

Within 10 calendar days following the Watermaster's Declaration of Seawater Intrusion, all groundwater producers in the Seaside Groundwater Basin, MPWMD, and all other interested

entities within the Seaside Groundwater Basin shall be formally notified. The Watermaster shall notify all parties that the SIRP contingency actions have been triggered and will identify the well(s) that triggered the SIRP contingency actions.

5.2.4 Action 4: Part 2 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan

The pumping redistribution plan is designed to contain observed seawater intrusion and protect production wells until a supplemental water supply is obtained.

5.2.4.1 Part 2 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan

Time will be of the essence and ~~T~~the following activity should be initiated as soon as possible after the Declaration of Seawater Intrusion:

> **Increase monitoring frequency**. The Watermaster should increase the monitoring frequency of the Impacted Well(s), monitoring wells, and At Risk well(s) to evaluate the progress of the seawater intrusion. Each month, groundwater elevations at these wells should be measured, groundwater samples should be collected from these wells and analyzed for major cations and anions, and the groundwater gradient should be analyzed to determine if pumping reductions are having the planned effect.

Because time will be of the essence, ~~A~~all of the following activities shall be initiated as soon as possible after the Declaration of Seawater Intrusion:

1. **Implement ~~Discontinue or substantially~~ recommended Part 1 pumping changes specific to the locations ~~reduce pumping~~ of the Impacted and At Risk well(s).** If seawater intrusion has been declared for a production well, pumping changes at this well and other identified production wells should be ~~discontinued or substantially reduced~~implemented as soon as possible per Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan. Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan will uniquely identify what pumping changes are needed if seawater intrusion is detected in any production or monitoring well to reverse the groundwater gradient from inland to towards the coast to protect against seawater intrusion. Once Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan has been completed, this SIRP will be amended to include specific (quantified) recommendations for pumping changes in this section~~If seawater intrusion has been declared for a monitoring well(s), discontinue or substantially reduce pumping in At Risk wells per Part 1 of the Pumping Redistribution Plan.~~

2. **Perform land-based geophysical surveys.** If this technology is found to be feasible in the area to be surveyed, land-based geophysical survey(s) to determine how far inland the intrusion extends from the Impacted Well should be performed. This information can be

used to improve travel time estimates to At Risk wells. It also helps to identify sites where additional monitoring well(s) may be beneficial.

3. **Identify and/or install additional monitoring wells (activity 2 in 2009 SIRP).** The Watermaster will evaluate the benefit of installing additional groundwater monitoring wells to evaluate the movement of seawater intrusion toward the At Risk well(s). If this evaluation concludes that monitoring wells should be installed, the Watermaster should pursue installation of these wells ~~as soon as possible~~. Factors to be considered in performing this evaluation are expected to include:

    - The location(s) at which a new monitoring well(s) should be installed
    - The depth at which water quality sampling perforations in a new monitoring well should be constructed
    - The cost of installing a new monitoring well
    - Will data collected from the new monitoring well(s) sufficiently improve our knowledge of the location of seawater intruded strata to justify the cost of installing a new monitoring well(s)

5.2.5 Action 5: Focus Supplemental Supplies to Halt and Reverse Seawater Intrusion

When a supplemental water supply becomes available for Seaside Groundwater Basin replenishment, the Watermaster should seek to have the supplemental water used strategically to protect the Seaside Groundwater Basin from further seawater intrusion and to restore the Basin to pre-seawater intruded conditions. Supplemental supplies should be used to both offset pumping that causes the observed seawater intrusion and to raise groundwater levels to reverse it.

6 REFERENCES

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SCOPE OF WORK
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER

ABOUT THE ROLE

The Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster is seeking administrative support services from an independent contractor/consultant. This engagement involves a diverse range of responsibilities aimed at maintaining and regulating water supplies within a specified region. The contractor will be responsible for the administrative aspects of implementing the Monterey County Superior Court adjudication decision ("DECISION") of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, which includes interacting with Decision parties to monitor water usage and ensure compliance with the Decision. This scope of work also requires supporting the Watermaster's Board of Directors, administering the Watermaster's finances and water accounting, and meet other conditions as prescribed by Monterey County Superior Court.

CONTRACT DETAILS

This is a professional services engagement under contract. No employer-employee relationship will be created, and the contractor is responsible for all applicable taxes, benefits, insurance, and compliance requirements. This is a hybrid engagement to work remotely with no on-site office; 20-60 hours worked in a month, with elevated expectations during the months of September through December, or as determined by the Watermaster Board. Contractor is required to attend meetings the first Wednesday of every month, and as needed. A California driver's license is not required but contractor must have reliable transportation. Compensation will be $125 - $150 per hour depending on qualifications, as specified in the services contract.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

Under the general direction of the Seaside Watermaster Board or its designee, the contractor shall provide administrative services including but not limited to preparing correspondence, forms, memos, Board reports, annual reports, contracts, and confidential records; preparing and distributing Board meeting agendas and related materials; providing factual information and assistance as required; managing and updating the Watermaster's website; budget preparation, monitoring, and accounting functions; coordinating and supporting public meetings; preparing and administering financial reports and statements; maintaining liaison with agencies, Boards, and stakeholders; and representing the Watermaster at meetings and events as assigned. The contractor shall also perform other related work as required to support the Board and ensure compliance with the Decision.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This scope of work defines professional administrative support services to be performed by a contractor/consultant. The contractor will support the Board of Directors/Committee, Technical Advisory Committee/Technical Program Manager, and will be responsible for implementing the Monterey County Superior Court adjudication decision of the Seaside Groundwater Basin. This work requires the ability to act independently, analyze situations and make decisions consistent with applicable rules, laws, and regulations.

QUALIFICATIONS

Contractors should possess the qualifications necessary to perform the required services effectively. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Hydrology, Water Management, Natural Resources, Engineering, or a closely related field is highly desirable. Alternatively, contractors should demonstrate at least four (4) years of experience providing administrative support at a senior management or professional level. Contractors may also propose teams or subconsultants to cover all areas of the scope of work, provided that the qualifications and expertise of each member are clearly demonstrated.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES (Illustrative Only)

Contractor services may include website administration and electronic communications, contract and subcontractor management; clerk services for Board meetings (agenda prep, minutes, filing, official records); budget preparation, monitoring and reporting; public information coordination; financial reporting and accounting; liaison with agencies, Boards, and stakeholders; and representation at meetings/events on behalf of the Watermaster, as well as other services as assigned by the Board.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

The contractor must demonstrate the ability to perform or arrange performance of the services outlined above. Requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Knowledge of accounting, records management, and contract administration.
- Knowledge of the Brown Act and Public Records Request Act.
- Familiarity with groundwater basin operations, water rights, and related environmental regulations.
- Ability to prepare reports, budgets, and official records accurately.
- Effective communication skills with elected officials, agencies, and the public.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, and website management tools.

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain independent contractor status (no employer-employee relationship).
- Provide own equipment, software, and office space.
- Carry any legally required insurance.
- Ensure confidentiality of all records and proceedings.
- Deliver services in accordance with contract terms and deadlines.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

This work is primarily administrative in nature. Contractors must be able to complete tasks associated with office-based services, including computer use, document preparation, and meeting participation. Physical requirements are minimal but may include occasional lifting of up to 25 pounds.

Online Advertisement

Opportunity – Administrative Services (Independent Contractor)
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster 📍 Hybrid (Remote + Monthly In-Person Meetings in Monterey County, CA) | 💼 Contract | 💰 $125–$150/hour DOE

The Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster is seeking an experienced independent contractor/consultant to provide professional administrative services in support of a Monterey County Superior Court adjudication decision. This hybrid engagement is ideal for a highly organized professional or consulting firm with experience in water resource management, public agency administration, or environmental compliance.

Scope of Services

The contractor will provide services including but not limited to: managing confidential records, contracts, and reports; preparing and distributing Board meeting materials; attending and supporting monthly in-person Board meetings (first Wednesday of each month in Monterey County); maintaining the Watermaster's website; overseeing budget preparation, monitoring, and accounting; monitoring water usage to support compliance with court mandates; and liaising with stakeholders and technical advisory committees. Additional related services may be assigned by the Watermaster Board.

Qualifications

Contractors should possess the qualifications necessary to perform the services effectively. A bachelor's degree in Hydrology, Water Management, Engineering, or a related field is highly desirable, and/or at least four (4) years of experience providing administrative support at a senior management or professional level is preferred. Contractors should demonstrate knowledge of water resource planning, environmental laws, and adjudicated basin management, along with the ability to work independently and exercise sound judgment. Reliable transportation is required, though a California driver's license is not necessary. Contractors may propose teams or subconsultants to ensure all scope elements are met.

Engagement Details

This opportunity is offered as an independent contractor engagement with no benefits, and the contractor will be responsible for their own taxes, insurance, and compliance. The anticipated workload is 20–60 hours per month, with increased expectations from September through December. The work is primarily remote, but the contractor will be required to attend monthly in-person meetings in Monterey County. Compensation will range from $125 to $150 per hour, depending on qualifications and as agreed upon in the services contract.

📬 Interested? Submit your qualifications and a brief cover letter describing your interest in providing these services to:

Attn: Samantha A. Sakhrani
Email:salcaraz@ci.seaside.ca.us
Deadline: October 19, 2025 at 12:59 pm.

For LinkedIn or Social Media:

Passionate about water governance and public service? We're contracting for administrative services! The Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster seeks a part-time consultant to help manage one of California's adjudicated groundwater basins. Hybrid remote with monthly in-person meetings in Monterey County. $125–$150/hr DOE. Apply by October 19!

(Then follow with full ad)

For Government Job Boards or Email Outreach:

Subject Line: Opportunity – Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster (Administrative Services)

Intro: The Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster invites qualified contractors to submit proposals for part-time administrative support services. This hybrid independent contractor opportunity supports the implementation of a Monterey County Superior Court adjudication decision and offers flexible remote work with monthly in-person meetings.

(Then paste full ad)

Recruitment Schedule

Announcement/Release of Scope of Work: September 29th
Close of Proposals/Applications: October 19th
Review Proposals/Applications: Week of October 20th
Interviews: Week of October 27th and/or November 3rd
Hiring/Start Date: Mid-November (Allows for positional overlap)

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN
WATERMASTER

TO: Watermaster Board of Directors

FROM: Robert S. Jaques, Technical Program Manager

DATE: October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Funding Assistance from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) for Assistance with Groundwater Modeling Work

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RECOMMENDATIONS:
None required – information only.

BACKGROUND:
Over the course of many months the SVBGSA's groundwater modeling team has been developing models, some of which include the Seaside Basin. One of these models is called the Seawater Intrusion (SWI) Model. For several months the SVBGSA's modeling team has called upon Pascual Benito, and sometimes Georgina King as well, to provide assistance in incorporating the Watermaster's Seaside Basin Groundwater Model into the SWI model, so that it will accurately coordinate with the Watermaster's model. By mid-summer it became necessary to augment the Watermaster's contract with Montgomery & Associates to help cover the costs of providing this assistance.

DISCUSSION:
The SVBGSA is the recipient of State grant funding to develop and implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the various subbasins within the Salinas Valley Basin. One of the activities for which that grant funding is being used is to develop these groundwater models. The SVBGSA is offering to pay the cost of having the Watermaster's consultants assist the SVBGSA's modeling team in their work. The attached letter describes this offer.

Having the SWI model accurately incorporate the Watermaster's Seaside Basin model will be beneficial to all parties involved.

FISCAL IMPACT:
This funding assistance will relieve the Watermaster from having to pay for future costs of our consultant, Montgomery & Associates, to assist the SVBGSA modeling team in the development of its groundwater models.

ATTACHMENT: September 22, 2025 Letter from SVBGSA offering to provide funding assistance

Salinas Valley Basin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

P.O. Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
(831) 471-7512, ext. 204
www.svbgsa.org

September 22, 2025

Robert Jaques, Technical Program Manager
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
P.O. Box 51502
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

RE: Coordination with Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Consultants

Dear Mr. Jaques:

Over the last several years, SVBGSA has developed the Salinas Valley Seawater Intrusion Model (SWI Model). This model is designed to better understand and manage seawater intrusion (SWI) risks, as well as other groundwater conditions such as chronically declining groundwater levels and loss of groundwater in storage. The SWI Model area includes several Salinas Valley Subbasins, including the northern portions 180/400-Ft. Aquifer Subbasin and Eastside Subbasin (north of Chualar), the Langley Subbasin, the Monterey Subbasin, and the Seaside Subbasin.

Currently, SVBGSA has a subgrant agreement with MCWDGSA for funding from the California Department of Water Resources Monterey Subbasin SGMA Implementation Grant. The grant includes model update tasks. Based on discussions with you and MCWDGSA, SVBGSA has offered to directly support the Seaside Watermaster's groundwater modeling consultant, Montgomery and Associates (M&A), to further improve the model's performance in the Seaside area and the conditions at the boundary between the Monterey Subbasin and the Seaside Subbasin, particularly the Laguna Seca boundary with the Corral de Tierra Management Area. While we intend to contract the Watermaster's M&A team directly, we expect them to represent the interests of the Watermaster.

The current phase of modeling work emphasizes recalibration and alignment with other regional models, ensuring consistency across agencies. This effort is responsive to the Watermaster's comments during development of the Monterey Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Our coordination with the Watermaster's consultant team will provide you with access to a shared, science-based planning tool and a better understanding of subbasin interactions.

Sincerely,

Piret Harmon

Piret Harmon
General Manager, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER

Reported Quarterly and Annual Water Production From the Seaside Groundwater Basin
For All Producers Included in the Seaside Basin Adjudication -- Water Year 2025
(All Values in Acre-Feet [AF])

	Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct-Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Apr-Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul-Sep	Reported Total	Yield Allocation	from WY 2024	for WY 2025
Coastal Subareas					**(533)**				**230**				**303**					**0.09**			
CAW - Coastal Subareas	SPA	240.17	27.59	32.10	**299.86**	444.49	447.56	474.00	**1,366.05**	333.04	309.73	502.96	**1,145.73**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	***2,811.64***	1,466.03	1,345.41	2,811.44
Luzern		53.64	6.91	0.00	**60.55**	0.00	9.79	0.00	**9.79**	0.00	0.00	24.26	**24.26**				**0.00**	**94.60**			
Ord Grove		132.32	117.05	87.89	**337.26**	124.28	113.48	126.73	**364.49**	94.91	55.34	125.42	**275.67**				**0.00**	**977.42**			
Paralta		162.68	95.25	87.02	**344.95**	152.20	145.89	159.32	**457.41**	120.00	135.51	166.97	**422.48**				**0.00**	**1,224.83**			
Playa		7.30	0.00	28.35	**35.65**	41.37	35.90	39.30	**116.56**	16.41	4.86	36.70	**57.97**				**0.00**	**210.18**			
Plumas		21.59	2.52	18.19	**42.29**	29.06	26.13	28.50	**83.69**	12.03	12.33	27.76	**52.12**				**0.00**	**178.10**			
Santa Margarita		0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**			
Seaside Middle School Well #3		132.19	90.87	88.66	**311.72**	97.58	116.37	120.16	**334.10**	89.69	101.69	121.85	**313.23**				**0.00**	**959.05**			
ASR Recovery		0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**			
PWM Recovery		(269.55)	(285.00)	(278.00)	**(832.55)**	(242.50)	(520.50)	(373.00)	**(1,136.00)**	(237.00)	(204.00)	(402.00)	**(843.00)**				**0.00**	***(2,811.55)***			
Seaside Municipal	SPA	15.34	12.62	12.12	**40.08**	12.69	14.31	16.61	**43.61**	17.89	18.38	18.16	**54.43**				**0.00**	**138.12**	120.28	46.81	167.09
Inlieu Extraction					**0.00**				**0.00**				**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**			
Granite Rock Company	SPA	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	11.35	284.99	296.34
DBO Development No. 30	SPA	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	20.59	506.70	527.29
Calabrese (Cypress Pacific Inv.)	SPA	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**	- -	- -	- -	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	2.76	15.96	18.72
City of Seaside (Golf Courses)	APA	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.22	0.00	0.07	**0.29**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.29**	540.00		540.00
Sand City	APA	0.11	0.09	0.08	**0.29**	0.07	0.09	0.08	**0.23**	0.08	0.09	0.11	**0.28**				**0.00**	**0.80**	9.00		9.00
SNG (Security National Guaranty) /	APA	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	FTR	FTR	FTR	**0.00**	FTR	FTR	FTR	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	90.00		90.00
MLDC (Mountain Lake Dev. Corp.)	APA	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	FTR	FTR	FTR	**0.00**	FTR	FTR	FTR	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	59.00		59.00
Calabrese (Cypress Pacific Inv.)	APA	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	6.00		6.00
Mission Memorial (Alderwoods)	APA	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**				**0.00**	**0.00**	31.00		31.00
Coastal Subareas Totals					**(492.32)**				**274.18**				**357.44**				**0.00**	**139.29**	**2,356.01**	**2,199.86**	**4,555.87**
Laguna Seca Subarea																					
CAW - Laguna Seca Subarea	SPA	12.43	10.37	9.53	**32.33**	9.47	6.65	7.72	**23.84**	4.10	13.79	9.93	**27.82**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**84.00**	0.00		0.00
Ryan Ranch Unit	06/21/21: Ryan Ranch Wells #7, #8, and #11 physically disconnected from the distribution system.																0.00	0.00			
Hidden Hills Unit/Bay Ridge		12.43	10.37	9.53	32.33	9.47	6.65	7.72	23.84	4.10	13.79	9.93	**27.82**				0.00	84.00			
Bishop Unit 3	05/27/21: Bishop Wells #1 and #3 physically disconnected from the distribution system.																0.00	0.00			
Bishop Unit 1	The Monterey Main to Ryan Ranch & Bishop Intertie was opened on 12/08/20																0.00	0.00			
The Club at Pasadera	APA	22.00	4.00	0.00	**26.00**	1.00	3.00	0.00	**4.00**	23.00	38.00	42.00	**103.00**				**0.00**	**133.00**	251.00		251.00
Laguna Seca Golf Resort (Bishop)	APA	18.40	24.26	0.00	**42.66**	0.00	0.00	4.86	**4.86**	30.19	32.19	40.78	**103.16**				**0.00**	**150.68**	320.00		320.00
York School	APA	2.33	1.36	0.01	**3.70**	0.27	0.01	0.03	**0.31**	2.20	2.43	2.49	**7.12**				**0.00**	**11.13**	32.00		32.00
Laguna Seca County Park	APA	3.41	2.18	1.57	**7.16**	0.59	2.59	2.95	**6.13**	4.07	2.83	0.93	**7.83**				**0.00**	**21.12**	41.00		41.00
Laguna Seca Subarea Totals					**111.85**				**39.15**				**248.93**				**0.00**	**399.92**	**644.00**	**0.00**	**644.00**
Total Production by WM Producers					**-380.48**				**313.32**				**606.37**				**0.00**	**539.22**	**3,000.01**	**2,199.86**	**5,199.87**
									Annual Production from APA Producers									317.01			1,379.00
									Annual Production from SPA Producers									222.20			3,820.87

CAW / MPWMD ASR (Carmel River Basin source water)																			***Previous Balance***	***Total***
Injection	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	301.80	335.33	**637.13**	78.51	0.00	0.00	**78.51**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**715.64**		
(Recovery)	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**		
Net ASR	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	301.80	335.33	**637.13**	78.51	0.00	0.00	**78.51**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**715.64**	**3,241.44**	**3,957.08**
Pure Water Monterey (PWM) Injection and Cal-Am Recovery																			
Delivery to Basin (Injection)	269.55	328.83	342.22	**940.61**	377.95	345.81	379.18	**1,102.94**	262.18	298.83	331.44	**892.45**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**2,936.00**		
CAW (Recovery)	(269.55)	(285.00)	(278.00)	**(832.55)**	(242.50)	(520.50)	(373.00)	**(1,136.00)**	(237.00)	(204.00)	(402.00)	**(843.00)**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**(2,811.55)**		
Net PWM	0.00	43.83	64.22	**108.06**	135.45	-174.69	6.18	**(33.06)**	25.18	94.83	(70.56)	**49.45**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**124.45**	**1,157.48**	**1,281.93**
																			5,239.01
																		Previous Balance	***Total***
Injection Operating Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	163.76	**163.76**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**163.76**	**2,189.19**	**2,352.95**
Injection Drought Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**		

City of Seaside Golf Course Recycled Water Use/Municipal Potable Water Recovery *2,361AF Max*																		***Previous Balance***	***Total***
In-lieu Storage/Recycled Water Use	38.77	10.25	1.24	**50.26**	5.72	4.19	4.32	**14.23**	46.65	67.02	71.14	**184.81**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**249.30**		
City of Seaside Municipal Extraction	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**		
Net In-lieu	38.77	10.25	1.24	**50.26**	5.72	4.19	4.32	**14.23**	46.65	67.02	71.14	**184.81**	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	**249.30**	**1,122.88**	**1,372.18**
																			6,611.19

Notes:

1. The Water Year (WY) begins October 1 and ends September 30 of the following calendar year. For example, WY 2025 begins on October 1, 2024, and ends on September 30, 2025.
2. "Type" refers to water right as described in Seaside Basin Adjudication decision as amended, signed February 9, 2007 (Monterey County Superior Court Case No. M66343).
3. Values shown in the table are based on reports to the Watermaster received by July 15, 2025.
4. All values are rounded to the nearest hundredth of an acre-foot. Where required, reported data were converted to acre-feet utilizing the relationships: 325,851 gallons = 43,560 cubic feet = 1 acre-foot.
5. "Base Operating Yield Allocation" values are based on Seaside Basin Adjudication decision. These values are consistent with the *Watermaster Producer Allocations Water Year 2024* (see Item VII.F. in 1/3/2024 Board packet).
6. Any minor discrepancies in totals are attributable to rounding.
7. APA = Alternative Producer Allocation; SPA = Standard Producer Allocation; CAW = California American Water.
8. CAW/MPWMD ASR "Injection" and "Recovery" amounts are not expected to "balance" within each Water Year. This is due to the injection recovery "rules" that are part of SWRCB water rights permits and/or separate agreements with state and federal resources agencies that are associated with the water rights permits.
9. Cal-Am Toro Well #3 Destroyed 09/30/21
10. Ryan Ranch and Bishop systems fed by Monterey Main System as of December 2020 -- those wells eliminated from Cal-Am reporting as of January 15, 2025