

**SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER  
SPECIAL MEETING/BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 In-Person (with virtual for public)  
City of Sand City, City Hall, 1 Pendergrass Way, Sand City, CA 93955

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

**II. ROLL CALL**

***Directors Present:***

California American Water (CAW) – Director Tim O’Halloran  
City of Seaside – Mayor Ian Oglesby, Chair  
City of Sand City – Mayor Mary Ann Carbone  
City of Monterey – Council Member Kim Barber  
City of Del Rey Oaks – Council Member Kim Shirley  
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director John Gaglioti  
Monterey County/Water Resources Agency – Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

***Directors Absent:***

Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) – Director Alvin Edwards

***Others Present:***

Bob Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager (TPM)  
Laura Paxton, Watermaster Administrative Officer (AO)  
Rem Scherzinger, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)  
Patrick Breen, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)  
Kevin Dayton  
Chelsea Lenowska  
Sarah Hardgrave, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency\*  
Yuri Anderson, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Wendy Root Askew\*  
Maureen Hamilton, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD)\*  
Jon Lear, MPWMD\*  
Josef Polk\*  
Susan Schiavone, Public Water Now\*  
Kyla Linville\*

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

**III. INTRODUCTION: WATERMASTER STRUCTURE AND AUTHORITY, AND THE CONDITION OF THE SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN AND ITS PROBLEMS**

AO Paxton provided a slide presentation entitled "What Does Watermaster Do?" It outlined the following: enactment of the Watermaster concept in California law; the Watermaster program as state law and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) defines it today; the history and outcome of the Monterey Superior Court adjudication that established the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster; the duties, operations, and governance structure of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster; and the parties relevant to the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster and their classifications under the adjudication.

A second slide presentation entitled "Watermaster Authority with Respect to Basin Sustainability" outlined the purpose of the adjudication, the definitions of various terms and conditions in the adjudication, and clarified the purpose of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster.

Watermaster Technical Program Manager Bob Jaques provided a slide presentation entitled "Basin Description." It included maps and tables showing the Seaside Groundwater Basin conditions and concluded that net outflow is occurring from the northern boundary of the Seaside Groundwater Basin into the Marina-Ord area of the Monterey Subbasin, or to the ocean, or to both locations.

Mr. Jaques provided a second slide presentation entitled "What Is the Problem?" It divided the problems into two categories: physical problems related to groundwater levels and institutional problems related to how the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) generally rejects key findings of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster.

The slides will be posted for the public on the Watermaster website.

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEM: WATERMASTER STRUCTURE AND AUTHORITY, AND THE CONDITION OF THE SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN AND ITS PROBLEMS**

Board members asked questions related to the governing structure, the definition and implications of "Carryover" (the portion of a party's Production Allocation that isn't extracted from the Basin during a particular Water Year), the possibility of changing the Natural Safe Yield (the amount of groundwater in the Seaside Basin that occurs solely as a result of Natural Replenishment), the lack of clarity, authority, and funding for the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster as opposed to the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) and their subbasin committees, the difference between Operating Yield (the maximum amount of Groundwater producers are allowed to extract) and Natural Safe Yield (the amount of Groundwater resulting from Natural Replenishment), and the differences in perspectives of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD).

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PRESENTATIONS GIVEN ON THE WATERMASTER AND THE SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN CONDITIONS**

Kevin Dayton asserted that outside entities may attempt to terminate the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster by contending to the Monterey County Superior Court or another authority that the agency has fulfilled its purpose. He told the board that such a decision needs to be theirs and not driven by an outside party, and they need to take a stand on whether or not it has fulfilled its purpose. He suggested that the board consider the positive and negative implications of converting from a Watermaster to a subbasin under the authority of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Paxton, Board Secretary*