

SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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.*