

County of Monterey

*Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901*



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 20, 2025

10:30 AM

**Monterey County District 3(Conference Room) to host the public
and participate via Zoom: 599 El Camino Real, Greenfield, Ca.**

Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Place 1st Floor, Salinas, Ca.

**Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors
Leadership Committee**

To participate in this Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee meeting through the following methods:

1. You may attend in person,

2. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/93517505505>

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

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3. Enter this Meeting ID number: 935 1750 5505. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you. You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST FOR ANY REASON, THE JOINT WATER RESOURCES/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

4. If you choose not to attend the Board meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting. Please submit your comment to the Secretary of the Board at WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov mail to: WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov In an effort to assist the Secretary in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting body (i.e. Board of Directors Agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

Participar en esta reunión conjunta del Comité de Liderazgo de Recursos Hídricos / Junta de Supervisores a través de lo siguiente métodos:

1. Puede asistir en persona,

2. Para participar for ZOOM, por favor únase for audio de computadora por:

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3. Se le colocará en la reunion como asistente; cuando desee hacer un comentario público si esta unido por la computadora utilice la opción de levantar la mano en el chat de la pantalla; o por teléfono presione *9 en su teclado.

TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE LA JUNTA ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, LA PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA DE ZOOM ES SOLO POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES REQUERIDA POR LA LEY. SI LA TRANSMISIÓN DE ZOOM SE PIERDE POR CUALQUIER MOTIVO, LA REUNIÓN CONJUNTA DEL COMITÉ DE LIDERAZGO DE RECURSOS HÍDRICOS / JUNTA DE SUPERVISORES PUEDE PAUSARSE MIENTRAS SE INTENTA UNA SOLUCIÓN, PERO LA REUNIÓN PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

4. Si prefiere no asistir a la reunión de la Junta pero desea hacer un comentario sobre algún tema específico de la agenda, por favor envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el Viernes antes de la reunion. Envíe su comentario al Secretario de la junta al correo electronico WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us mailto:WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov Para ayudar al Secretario a identificar el artículo de la agenda relacionado con su comentario, por favor indique en la linea de asunto del correo electronico el cuerpo de la reunion (es decir, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el número de artículo (es decir, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de la reunion de esta Junta.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Approval of Action Minutes

1. Approve the Action Minutes of October 17, 2024.

Attachments: [Draft JBL Minutes October 17, 2024](#)

Action Item

2. Nominate and appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee and determine length of term.
3. Adopt the 2025 Monterey County Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee Meeting Calendar.

Attachments: [2025 JBL Committee Meetings Schedule](#)

Regular Agenda

4. Receive an update on the Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fee Study and provide direction to staff as appropriate.
(Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian/Amy Woodrow)

Attachments: [GMP Regulatory Fee Study PPT](#)

5. Receive an update on the Interlake Tunnel Project and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian/ Shaunna Murray/ Amy Woodrow)
 - a. Water Right Petition Protests
 - b. Historical Benefits Analysis Update
6. Receive an update on the Reservoir Operations/Dam Safety Projects Funding and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)
7. Receive an update on the Habitat Conservation Plan and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian/ Jason Demers)
8. Receive an update on Monterey One Water and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian/ Shaunna Murray)

Committee Member Comments

Adjournment



County of Monterey

Board Report

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-001

Item No.1

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 1/22/2025

Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Approve the Action Minutes of October 17, 2024.

County of Monterey

*Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2024

10:30 AM

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3. Enter this Meeting ID number: 937 1479 6324, PASSWORD: 392367 when prompted.

Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you. You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

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COMITÉ DE LIDERAZGO DE RECURSOS HÍDRICOS / JUNTA DE SUPERVISORES
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correo electronico WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us
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del correo electronico el cuerpo de la reunion (es decir, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el
número de artículo (es decir, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de
la reunion de esta Junta.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Supervisor Christopher Lopez, Supervisor Glenn Church, Mike LeBarre, Matthew Simis.
Absent: None

Public Comment

None

Approval of Action Minutes

Upon Motion by Director Supervisor Lopez and Second by Director LeBarre the Committee approved the Action Minutes.

Ayes: Supervisor Chris Lopez, Supervisor Glenn Church, Director Mike LeBarre, Director Matt Simis
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

1. Approve the Action Minutes of August 15, 2024.

Attachments: [Draft JBL Minutes August 15, 2024](#)

Regular Agenda

2. Receive an update on San Antonio Dam Spillway Replacement Alternatives, and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Elise Harden)

Committee Member Comments: Supervisor Chris Lopez, Director Mike LeBarre, Supervisor Glenn Church, Director Matt Simis
Staff Comments: Shaunna Murray
Public Comments: None

3. Receive an update on Nacimiento Dam Plunge Pool Rehabilitation and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Elise Harden)

Committee Member Comments: None.
Staff Comments: None
Public Comments: None.

4. Receive an update on the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dam Safety Projects funding and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Committee Member Comments: Supervisor Glenn Church, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Director Mike LeBarre, Director Matt Simis
Staff Comments: Ara Azhderian, Shaunna Murray
Public Comments: Thomas Virsik, Marc Kelley

5. Receive an update on Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project operations (CSIP) and provide direction

to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Committee Member Comments: Director Matt Simis

Staff Comments: Jason Demers

Public Comments: Marc Kelley

- 6.** Receive an update on Pajaro Levee construction and operations/maintenance and provide direction to staff as appropriate.(Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Committee Member Comments: None

Staff Comments:None

Public Comments: None

- 7.** Receive a presentation on ALERT (Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time) flood warning system and provide direction to staff as appropriate.(Staff Presenting: Jason Demers)

Committee Member Comments: Director Matt Simis, Supervisor Glenn Church,

Staff Comments: Elise Harden; Jason Demers, Ara Azhderian

Public Comments: None

Committee Member Comments

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-002

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 1/22/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Nominate and appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors
Leadership Committee and determine length of term.



County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-003

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 1/22/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Adopt the 2025 Monterey County Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee Meeting Calendar.

**SCHEDULE OF JOINT WATER RESOURCES/ BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS COMMITTEE MEETING DATES***

Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership – held on 3rd Thursday
every 2 months @ 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(*Holidays/Exceptions to these dates/times will be posted in compliance with the Brown Act)

Joint Water Resources/ Board of Supervisors Committee Meeting
January 30, 2025 Cancelled
March 20, 2025
May 15, 2025
July 17, 2025
September 18, 2025
November 20, 2025
January 15, 2026



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-004

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 3/14/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on the Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fee Study and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

(Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian/Amy Woodrow)





**Receive an update on the
Groundwater Monitoring Program
Regulatory Fee Study and provide
direction to staff as appropriate.**



Prior Relevant Activities

- **June 2024** – Agency engaged Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants to complete a fee study for the Groundwater Monitoring Program (“GMP”) regulatory activities.
- **August 2024** – Overview of the GMP fee study provided to Finance Committee.
- **October 2024** – Adoption of Agency Ordinance No. 5426 and the Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual.
- **November 2024** – Update on the GMP fee study provided to Finance Committee.
- **March 2024** – Updates on the GMP fee study provided to Finance Committee and at BOD Budget Workshop.

Strategic Plan Compatibility

Conducting a fee study for the GMP regulatory activities is consistent with the Agency's current Strategic Plan.

Goal A

- **Infrastructure Maintenance**

- Strategy 3. Create a funding plan for infrastructure maintenance.

Goal B

- **Planning and New Projects**

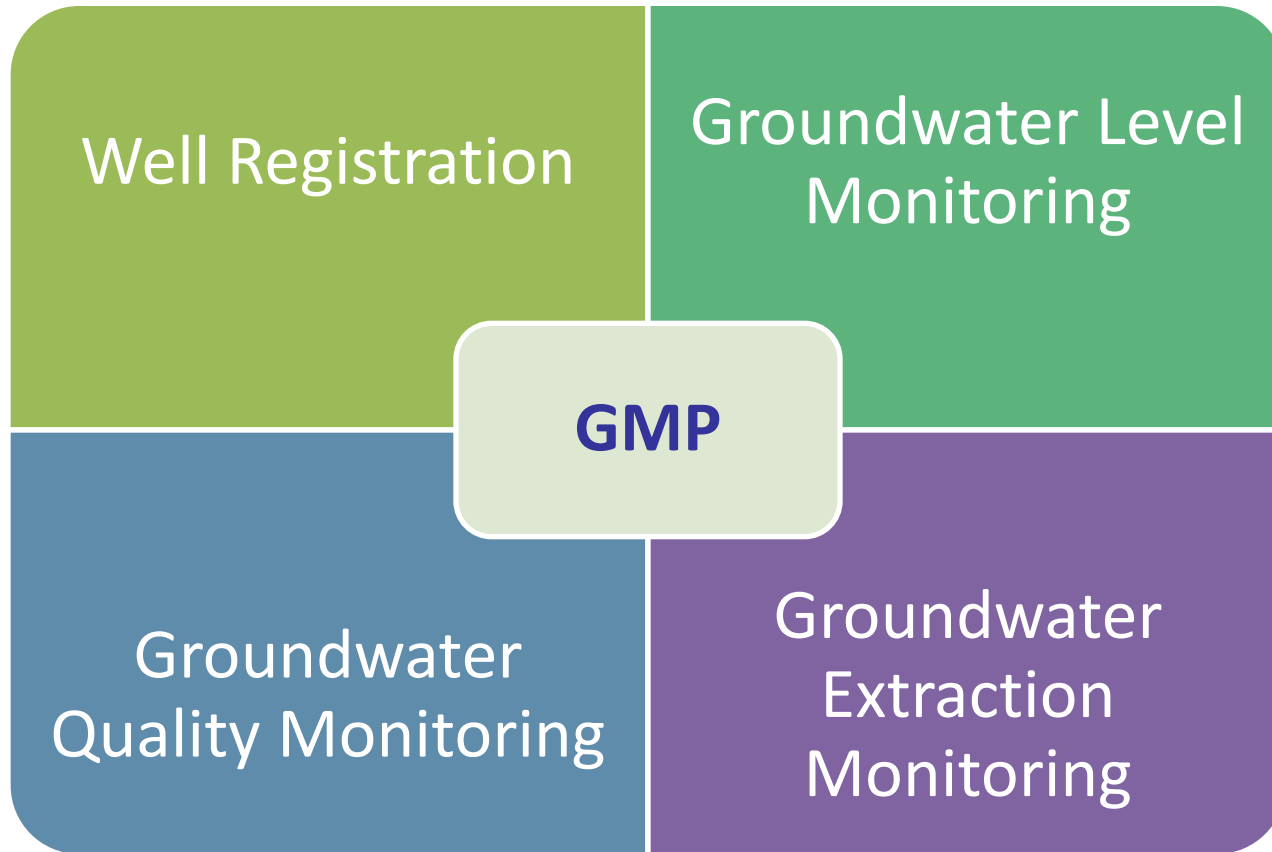
- Strategy 2. Collaborate with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Goal C

- **Financial Sustainability**

- Strategy 2. Obtain new funds to support the Agency's programs and projects that are either underfunded or unfunded so that all programs and projects will have enough staffing and other resources to be successful.

The Groundwater Monitoring Program





Changing Needs for the GMP

- Agency historically conducted groundwater monitoring across portions of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.
- Groundwater monitoring was discretionary, and implementation changed with funding availability.

Changing Needs for the GMP

- After passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) came the need for consistent, reliable data on wells and groundwater conditions.
- Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) have chosen to leverage the Agency’s GMP rather than creating separate, parallel, monitoring programs.
- Geographic extent and scope of the GMP are changing to meet SGMA regulatory obligations.



Background

- MCWRA has authority to monitor groundwater and set fees under the Agency Act and Section 10 of Ordinance No. 5426:

“the Agency may allocate and recover costs associated with ... a regulatory groundwater monitoring program on a per-Well basis, not based on extraction data, within Monterey County. Such regulatory fees shall be established by a resolution of the Board.”

- This fee study recommends five new fees to cover the Agency’s
 - 1) initial well registration
 - 2) annual registration renewal
 - 3) groundwater extraction monitoring
 - 4) groundwater level monitoring
 - 5) groundwater quality monitoring



Proposition 26

- The proposed fees are NOT taxes under Proposition 26's regulatory fee exemption
- The proposed fees are imposed for reasonable regulatory costs that do not exceed the reasonable cost of service including:
 - Staff time
 - Materials, supplies, equipment, lab fees, and vehicles
 - MCWRA's indirect cost adder
- The programs funded by the fees only benefit well owners and do not provide a general benefit to the community at large
- Proposition 26 fees can be adopted at any time through a vote of elected officials. If adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the fees included in this study are proposed to go into effect July 1, 2025



Initial Registration Fee

- Purpose: initial registration of the well following construction or request by MCWRA
 - Would only apply to newly constructed wells, not those already registered with the Agency.
- Registration requires providing general information about the well's location, owner, operator, status, and construction specifications.
- Proposed fee is \$163.19/well (one-time only) and recovers the costs of
 - Staff verification and data entry
 - County IT support
 - Printing landowner notifications
- Estimated to be billed to 50 new wells per year
 - Applies to water production wells in all Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin ("SVGB") subbasins managed by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SVBGSA")



Annual Renewal Fee

- Purpose: all registered wells are required to annually renew their registration and verify their data on file
- Proposed fee is \$31.06/well (annually) and recovers the costs of
 - Staff verification and data entry
 - County IT support
 - Software
 - Printing landowner notifications
- Estimated to be billed to 2,500 wells per year
 - Applies to water production wells in all SVGB subbasins managed by the SVBGSA
 - Excludes oil and gas wells, geothermal wells, dewatering wells, cathodic protection wells, test wells, and dry wells.



Groundwater Extraction Monitoring

- Purpose: all wells extracting more than 2 acre-feet/year must maintain an Agency-approved monitoring device and report monthly extraction data
- Proposed fee is \$68.94/well (annually) and recovers the costs of
 - Staff verification and auditing of data
 - County IT support and online reporting application
 - Printing landowner notifications
- Estimated to be billed to 2,000 wells per year
 - Applies to wells extracting more than 2 acre-feet per year in all SVGB subbasins managed by the SVBGSA



Groundwater Level Monitoring

- Purpose: Agency staff measure water levels to quantify impacts to the groundwater basin from well extraction and climatological events
- Agency staff use either graduated steel tape, electric water level meters, sonic water level meters, or pressure transducers to measure water levels at each site.
- Proposed fee is \$166.89/well (annually) and recovers the costs of
 - Staff time for field visits, data collection, and analysis
 - Off-road vehicles
 - Monitoring well maintenance
 - Measurement equipment and supplies
- Estimated to be billed to 2,500 wells per year
 - Applies to water production wells in all SVGB subbasins managed by the SVBGSA



Groundwater Quality Monitoring

- Purpose: Groundwater quality is monitored in the northern, coastal portion of the SVGB via samples taken from wells.
- Groundwater samples are analyzed at the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory. Data are utilized for developing data products, such as seawater intrusion contour maps, and understanding regional changes in groundwater quality.
- Proposed fee is \$143.37/well (annually) and recovers the costs of
 - Staff time for field visits, data collection and analysis
 - Off-road vehicles
 - Laboratory costs
 - Pump operation and supplies
- Estimated to be billed to 1,200 wells per year
 - Applies to water production wells in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Langley Area, and Monterey subbasins



Fee Summary

Fee Category	Proposed FY26 Annual Fee per participating well
Initial well registration	\$163.19
Annual well registration renewal	\$31.06
Groundwater extraction monitoring	\$68.94
Groundwater level monitoring	\$166.89
Groundwater quality monitoring	\$143.37



Cost Recovery

Fee Category	Proposed FY26 Annual Fee per participating well	Estimated Number of Annual Services	Total Annual Cost Recovery
Initial wellhead registration	\$163.19	50	\$8,160
Annual wellhead registration renewal	\$31.06	2,500	\$77,650
Groundwater extraction monitoring	\$68.94	2,000	\$137,880
Groundwater level monitoring	\$166.89	2,500	\$417,225
Groundwater quality monitoring	\$143.37	1,200	<u>\$172,044</u>
Total			\$812,959

Next Steps

April 3 – Public Workshop

April 4 – Finance Committee
recommendation to BOD

April 21 – BOD recommendation
to BOS

May 28-29 – BOS consideration of
final FY26 fee

BOD = Board of Directors of the Agency
BOS = Board of Supervisors of the Agency





County of Monterey

Item No.5

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-005

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 3/14/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on the Interlake Tunnel Project and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff

Presenting: Ara Azhderian/ Shaunna Murray/ Amy Woodrow)

- a. Water Right Petition Protests
- b. Historical Benefits Analysis Update



County of Monterey

Item No.6

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-006

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 3/14/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on the Reservoir Operations/Dam Safety Projects Funding and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)



County of Monterey

Item No.7

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-007

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 3/14/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on the Habitat Conservation Plan and provide direction to staff as appropriate.
(Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian/ Jason Demers)



County of Monterey

Item No.8

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 25-008

March 20, 2025

Introduced: 3/14/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on Monterey One Water and provide direction to staff as appropriate. (Staff
Presenting: Ara Azhderian/ Shaunna Murray)