

County of Monterey

Government Center - Board Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final-Revised

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

9:00 AM

**Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747> or in person at the
address listed above**

Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Chair Supervisor Chris Lopez - District 3

Vice Chair Supervisor Wendy Root Askew - District 4

Supervisor Kate Daniels- District 5

Supervisor Luis A. Alejo - District 1

Supervisor Glenn Church - District 2

Participation in meetings

While the Board chambers remain open, members of the public may participate in Board meetings in 2 ways:

1. You may attend the meeting in person; or,
2. You may observe the live stream of the Board of Supervisors meetings at <https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>, www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV or <https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo/>

If you choose not to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting but desire to make general public comment, or comment on a specific item on the agenda, you may do so in 2 ways:

a. submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at cob@co.monterey.ca.us. In an effort to assist the Clerk in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting body (i.e. Board of Supervisors Agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

b. you may participate through ZOOM. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

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

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US

Enter this Meeting ID number: 224397747 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.

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 MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

Participación en reuniones

Mientras las cámaras de la Junta permanezcan abiertas, los miembros del público pueden participar en las reuniones de la Junta de 2 maneras:

- 1. Podrá asistir personalmente a la reunión; o,**
- 2. Puede observar la transmisión en vivo de las reuniones de la Junta de Supervisores en <https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>, www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV o <https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo/>**

Si elige no asistir a la reunión de la Junta de Supervisores pero desea hacer comentarios del público en general o comentar un tema específico de la agenda, puede hacerlo de 2 maneras:

a. envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el lunes anterior a la reunión de la Junta. Envíe su comentario al Secretario de la Junta a cob@co.monterey.ca.us. En un esfuerzo por ayudar al secretario a identificar el tema de la agenda relacionado con su comentario público, indique en la línea de asunto el cuerpo de la reunión (es decir, la agenda de la Junta de Supervisores) y el número de artículo (es decir, el artículo n.º 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro en la reunión de la Junta.

b. puedes participar a través de ZOOM. Para participar en ZOOM, únase por audio de computadora en: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

O para participar por teléfono llame a cualquiera de estos números a continuación:

+1 669 900 6833 EE. UU. (San José)
+1 346 248 7799 EE. UU. (Houston)
+1 312 626 6799 EE. UU. (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 EE. UU. (Nueva York)
+1 253 215 8782 EE. UU.
+1 301 715 8592 EE. UU.

Ingrese este número de ID de reunión: 224397747 cuando se le solicite. Tenga en cuenta que no hay un código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación lo solicite.

Se le colocará en la reunión como asistente; cuando esté listo para hacer un comentario público si se une al audio de la computadora, levante la mano; y por teléfono, presione *9 en su teclado.

TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE LA JUNTA ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, LA PARTICIPACIÓN DEL PÚBLICO POR ZOOM ES ÚNICAMENTE POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES REQUERIDA POR LA LEY. SI LA ALIMENTACIÓN DE ZOOM SE PIERDE POR CUALQUIER MOTIVO, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE MIENTRAS SE INTENTA UNA SOLUCIÓN, PERO LA REUNIÓN PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

NOTE: All agenda titles related to numbered agenda items are live web links. Click on the title to be directed to the corresponding Board Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public may address comments to the Board concerning each agenda item. The timing of public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

9:00 A.M. - Call to Order

Roll Call

Additions and Corrections for Closed Session by County Counsel

County Counsel will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may be acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code. The public may comment on Closed Session items prior to the Board's recess to Closed Session.

Closed Session

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:
 - a. Pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2) and 54956.9(d)(4), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding one matter of significant exposure to litigation and/or potential initiation of litigation.

Public Comments for Closed Session

The Board Recesses for Closed Session Agenda Items

Closed Session may be held at the conclusion of the Board's Regular Agenda, or at any other time during the course of the meeting, before or after the scheduled time, announced by the Chairperson of the Board. The public may comment on Closed Session items prior to the Board's recess to Closed Session.

12:00 P.M. - Recess to Lunch

1:30 P.M. - Reconvene

Roll Call

Additions and Corrections by Clerk

The Clerk of the Board will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may be acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code.

General Public Comments

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. Board members may respond briefly to the statement made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Scheduled Matters

2. Consider adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying a portion of the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order.

Attachments: [Revised Board Report](#)
Board Report
[WRA Letter of Support for Modifications to the Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016 - 12-09-25 BOS DRAFT](#)

3. Consider a recommendation from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Board of Directors to adopt the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute of a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Deep Aquifers Monitoring MOU WRA-MCWD \(final\)](#)
[Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin](#)
[Monitoring Plan Deep Aquifers BOS 20251209](#)

Read Out from Closed Session

Read out by County Counsel will only occur if there is reportable action(s).

Adjournment

Addenda/Supplemental

4. **Addenda/Supplemental**
Attached a Revised Board Report to Item No. 2 under Scheduled Matters reflecting changes to the Summary/Discussion portion.



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: CS 25-058

December 09, 2025

Introduced: 11/6/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Closed Session

Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:

- a. Pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2) and 54956.9(d)(4), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding one matter of significant exposure to litigation and/or potential initiation of litigation.



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-196

December 09, 2025

Introduced: 11/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying a portion of the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying a portion of the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION: (REVISED VIA SUPPLEMENTAL)

On October 20, 2025, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's (District) Board of Directors unanimously approved submission of an application to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to modify the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016 (CDO). The CDO, and more specifically "Condition 2", limits the setting of new water meters and restricts increases in water use at existing connections within the service area of the California American Water Company (CalAm) on the Monterey Peninsula to protect the Carmel River from historical over-pumping.

In its application, the District points to the fact that pumping from the Carmel River over the past 4 years has been within the legal limit and that the supply of water for the Peninsula is currently greater than demand, resulting in increased storage in the Seaside groundwater basin. The District also notes an August 2025 decision by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that indicates existing supplies will continue in surplus for the foreseeable future and further states agreement among the District, Cal-Am, and CPUC that future diversions from the Carmel River will be capped at the legal limit.

On October 24, 2025, the District submitted its application and shortly thereafter began reaching out for support of its efforts, including to the County of Monterey. In its support solicitation, the District presents two sample letters, one that is supportive of the application but silent on the proposed CalAm desalinization project, and a second that is supportive of both. In both, the District eludes to the conflict between the State's mandate against new meters and the State's mandate to meet certain housing goals, which are mutually exclusive. The District also points to the Monterey Peninsula's significant water conservation efforts, the Carmel River Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project, and recent expansion of Pure Water Monterey (Expansion) as reasons for the State Board to revisit the

CDO, though the evidence demonstrates Carmel River diversions can be maintained within legal limits absent the Expansion.

At its November 12, 2025, meeting, the County of Monterey's Housing and Community Development Department asked the Planning Commission to consider holding a public workshop to review and receive input regarding policy options for a Water Allocation Policy for areas in unincorporated Monterey County served by the District and to provide direction to staff. That item will return to the Planning Commission for further discussion in the future. Local jurisdictions consideration of water allocation policies is separate from State Board consideration to modify the CDO but related in that such modification could allow for new water use, which could result in increased demand. While the range of future water supply and demand forecasts vary, the evidence is that current supplies exceed demand, even without the expansion of Pure Water Monterey, and that the Carmel River is no longer in jeopardy.

The CDO was established over 15 years ago to address conditions that no longer exist, namely excessive pumping from the Carmel River. While the harm to the Carmel River has been mitigated, the harm to the residents of the Monterey Peninsula continues so it is appropriate for the State Board to now reconsider its past decisions. In its application, the District proposes improvements to reporting that will provide the State Board the data it needs to ensure that the legally allowable amount of water available from the Carmel River is not exceeded and offers triggers to reinstate enforcement if it is.

Lastly, and most importantly, nothing above affects the terms and conditions of the 2015 Amended and Restated Water Recycling Agreement between M1W and the Agency. This agreement provides the Agency its contractual right to wastewater, while also making that water available for use by Pure Water Monterey when not needed by the Agency to reduce groundwater pumping in the 180/400 subbasin. It is true that future actions to meet the mandates of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act may cause repurposing of supplies now utilized by Pure Water Monterey. However, it is also true that those future actions will likely take years to implement and can be mitigated by the District through implementation of water supply alternatives, like desalinization, such that diversions from the Carmel River remain within legal limits. The Agency assumes little risk in supporting the District's application to modify the CDO and the potential benefits to the County and Peninsula residents.

On November 17, 2025, the Agency's Board of Directors, on an 8 to 1 vote, took action to form an ad hoc committee to advise on a draft letter of support for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order. Issues raised by the Directors and some members of the public regarding a potential support letter focused largely on water supply rather than the specific request to modify Condition 2 of the CDO. These water supply concerns generally relate to the source supplies for Pure Water Monterey and development of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project by CalAm.

The Agency is the primary source of water for Pure Water Monterey under a 2015 agreement with Monterey One Water (M1W). Under that agreement, the Agency has contractual rights to

wastewater treated by M1W, which is then recycled and utilized to reduce groundwater extraction and the intrusion of seawater into the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The agreement also provides that if treated wastewater, and other sources controlled by the Agency, are unneeded by the Agency, they may be used as a source supply for Pure Water Monterey. This allowance is predicated on the understanding that if Agency demands change, the waters currently available to Pure Water Monterey may be repurposed for future groundwater management actions. The need for repurposing may vary with hydrologic cycles, potentially lessening during wet periods and increasing during times of drought.

Prior to the District's request to modify the CDO, it embarked on a process to allocate the water supply anticipated from the Expansion. While acknowledging the District's authority to allocate these anticipated supplies, the Agency advised a cautious approach due to uncertainties stemming from planning efforts currently underway to comply with mandates established by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. In its final reading of the ordinance to adopt the proposed allocation, the District's Board of Directors elected to allocate a portion, <20%, of the anticipated Expansion supply, while holding the rest in "District Reserve".

During its public meetings, the District acknowledged that Pure Water Monterey and the Expansion source supplies are interruptible and subject to potential repurposing. However, the District has explained that, in its assessment, if such repurposing happens, it is not likely to occur in the foreseeable future and that desalinization is the solution to any unanticipated supply and demand imbalance that may arise for whatever reason, which is consistent with the recent CPUC decision approving the supply and demand estimates for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. Consideration of the District's request is in reliance upon these public statements regarding the District's understanding of its business risk and its stated solutions, including desalinization, to unforecasted changes in supply, which could occur sooner than anticipated as decisions are made to comply with a changing regulatory environment.

Development of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is dependent upon factors unrelated to the CDO and outside the purview of the Agency. In November 2022, the project received conditional approval from the California Coastal Commission and, in August 2025, the CPUC approved CalAm's updated water supply estimates for the Monterey Peninsula. CalAm continues work towards satisfying regulatory requirements and securing permit approvals necessary to complete the project.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order aligns with the Board of Directors adopted Strategic Plan Goal E, Strategy 1.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County of Monterey and Agency
Board of Directors

FINANCING:

Adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order has no fiscal impact on the adopted 2025-26 fiscal-year budget.

Prepared and Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. DRAFT Letter of Support to the State Water Resources Control Board



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-196

December 09, 2025

Introduced: 11/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

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RECOMMENDATION:

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SUMMARY/DISCUSSION: (REVISED VIA SUPPLEMENTAL)

On October 20, 2025, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's (District) Board of Directors unanimously approved submission of an application to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to modify the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016 (CDO). The CDO, and more specifically "Condition 2", limits the setting of new water meters and restricts increases in water use at existing connections within the service area of the California American Water Company (CalAm) on the Monterey Peninsula to protect the Carmel River from historical over-pumping.

In its application, the District points to the fact that pumping from the Carmel River over the past 4 years has been within the legal limit and that the supply of water for the Peninsula is currently greater than demand, resulting in increased storage in the Seaside groundwater basin. The District also notes an August 2025 decision by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that indicates existing supplies will continue in surplus for the foreseeable future and further states agreement among the District, Cal-Am, and CPUC that future diversions from the Carmel River will be capped at the legal limit.

On October 24, 2025, the District submitted its application and shortly thereafter began reaching out for support of its efforts, including to the County of Monterey. In its support solicitation, the District presents two sample letters, one that is supportive of the application but silent on the proposed CalAm desalinization project, and a second that is supportive of both. In both, the District eludes to the conflict between the State's mandate against new meters and the State's mandate to meet certain housing goals, which are mutually exclusive. The District also points to the Monterey Peninsula's significant water conservation efforts, the Carmel River Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project, and recent expansion of Pure Water Monterey (Expansion) as reasons for the State Board to revisit the CDO, though the evidence demonstrates Carmel River diversions can be maintained within legal limits absent the

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The CDO was established over 15 years ago to address conditions that no longer exist, namely excessive pumping from the Carmel River. While the harm to the Carmel River has been mitigated, the harm to the residents of the Monterey Peninsula continues so it is appropriate for the State Board to now reconsider its past decisions. In its application, the District proposes improvements to reporting that will provide the State Board the data it needs to ensure that the legally allowable amount of water available from the Carmel River is not exceeded and offers triggers to reinstate enforcement if it is.

Lastly, and most importantly, nothing above affects the terms and conditions of the 2015 Amended and Restated Water Recycling Agreement between M1W and the Agency. This agreement provides the Agency its contractual right to wastewater, while also making that water available for use by Pure Water Monterey when not needed by the Agency to reduce groundwater pumping in the 180/400 subbasin. It is true that future actions to meet the mandates of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act may cause repurposing of supplies now utilized by Pure Water Monterey. However, it is also true that those future actions will likely take years to implement and can be mitigated by the District through implementation of water supply alternatives, like desalinization, such that diversions from the Carmel River remain within legal limits. The Agency assumes little risk in supporting the District's application to modify the CDO and the potential benefits to the County and Peninsula residents.

On November 17, 2025, the Agency's Board of Directors, on an 8 to 1 vote, took action to form an ad hoc committee to advise on a draft letter of support for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order. Issues raised by the Directors and some members of the public regarding a potential support letter focused largely on water supply rather than the specific request to modify Condition 2 of the CDO. These water supply concerns generally relate to the source supplies for Pure Water Monterey and development of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project by CalAm.

The Agency is the primary source of water for Pure Water Monterey under a 2015 agreement with Monterey One Water (M1W). Under that agreement, the Agency has contractual rights to wastewater treated by M1W, which is then recycled and utilized to reduce groundwater extraction and the intrusion of seawater into the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The

agreement also provides that if treated wastewater, and other sources controlled by the Agency, are unneeded by the Agency, they may be used as a source supply for Pure Water Monterey. This allowance is predicated on the understanding that if Agency demands change, the waters currently available to Pure Water Monterey may be repurposed for future groundwater management actions. The need for repurposing may vary with hydrologic cycles, potentially lessening during wet periods and increasing during times of drought.

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During its public meetings, the District acknowledged that Pure Water Monterey and the Expansion source supplies are interruptible and subject to potential repurposing. However, the District has explained that, in its assessment, if such repurposing happens, it is not likely to occur in the foreseeable future and that desalinization is the solution to any unanticipated supply and demand imbalance that may arise for whatever reason, which is consistent with the recent CPUC decision approving the supply and demand estimates for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. Consideration of the District's request is in reliance upon these public statements regarding the District's understanding of its business risk and its stated solutions, including desalinization, to unforecasted changes in supply, which could occur sooner than anticipated as decisions are made to comply with a changing regulatory environment.

Development of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is dependent upon factors unrelated to the CDO and outside the purview of the Agency. In November 2022, the project received conditional approval from the California Coastal Commission and, in August 2025, the CPUC approved CalAm's updated water supply estimates for the Monterey Peninsula. CalAm continues work towards satisfying regulatory requirements and securing permit approvals necessary to complete the project.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order aligns with the Board of Directors adopted Strategic Plan Goal E, Strategy 1.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County of Monterey and Agency
Board of Directors

FINANCING:

Adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009

Cease-and-Desist Order has no fiscal impact on the adopted 2025-26 fiscal-year budget.

Prepared and Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. DRAFT Letter of Support to the State Water Resources Control Board



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
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Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-196

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For more than a year, the Agency has recommended the District and its jurisdictions take a cautious

approach towards allocating the anticipated new supply from Pure Water's Expansion. However, the Agency has also consistently recognized the independent authorities of the District and its jurisdictions to make allocation decisions. Recently, the County of Monterey's Housing and Community Development Department asked the Planning Commission to consider holding a public workshop to review and receive input regarding policy options for a Water Allocation Policy for areas in unincorporated Monterey County served by the District and to provide direction to staff. That item will return to the Planning Commission for further discussion in the near future. Local jurisdictions consideration of water allocation policies is separate from State Board consideration to modify the CDO but related in that such modification could allow for new water use, which could result in increased demand. While the range of future water supply and demand forecasts vary, the evidence is that existing supplies exceed demand, even without the expansion of Pure Water Monterey, and that the Carmel River is no longer in jeopardy.

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On November 17, 2025, the Agency's Board of Directors, on an 8 to 1 vote, took action to recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order aligns with the Board of Directors adopted Strategic Plan Goal E, Strategy 1.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County of Monterey and Agency

Board of Directors

FINANCING:

Adopting a position regarding a request from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to the State Water Resources Control Board to consider modifying the 2009 Cease-and-Desist Order has no fiscal impact on the adopted 2025-26 fiscal-year budget.

Prepared and Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. DRAFT Letter of Support to the State Water Resources Control Board

[WRA LETTERHEAD]

Dr. Juliet Christian-Smith
Deputy Director Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street,
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for Modifications to the Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016

Dear Dr. Christian-Smith:

On behalf of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency), I write to express our support for the October 24, 2025, application by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District) to modify Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016 (CDO), and more specifically, “Condition 2”, which has limited the setting of new water meters and restricted increases in water use at existing connections within the service area of the California American Water Company on the Monterey Peninsula.

The CDO was established over 15 years ago to address conditions that no longer exist, namely excessive pumping from the Carmel River. While the range of future water supply and demand forecasts vary, the evidence is clear that current supplies exceed demand and that the Carmel River is no longer in jeopardy. In its application, the District proposes improvements to reporting that will provide the State Water Resources Control Board the data it needs to ensure that the legally allowable amount of water available from the Carmel River is not exceeded and offers triggers to reinstate enforcement if it is.

While the harm to the Carmel River has been mitigated, the harm to the residents of the Monterey Peninsula continues. Condition 2 inhibits the ability of local jurisdictions to fully meet the current needs of Peninsula residents much less meet the State mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) to provide more affordable options for local workforce employees. Working to accelerate affordable housing development and economically vital commercial projects while protecting the Carmel River is a win for the residents of Monterey County. For these reasons, we support the District’s application and the State Board’s timely modification of Cease-and-Desist Order WR 2016-0016.

Respectfully,

[SIGNATORY]



County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers

168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-195

December 09, 2025

Introduced: 11/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider a recommendation from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Board of Directors to adopt the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute of a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Board of Supervisors:

Adopt the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute of a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

In 2024, Montgomery & Associates completed the Deep Aquifers Study ("Study") for the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SVBGSA") and collaborative funding partners, which included Alisal Water Company, California Water Service, the Castroville Community Services District, the City of Salinas, the County of Monterey, Irrigated Agriculture, the Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("MCWDGSA"), and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA"). The Study addresses critical questions regarding the geology and hydrogeology of the Salinas Valley's Deep Aquifers and provides a scientific basis for sustainable management.

The Study included recommendations for refining existing monitoring networks to track trends, identify changes, and enhance the understanding of groundwater conditions in the Deep Aquifers which, as defined in the Study, are present within portions of the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin, the Forebay Subbasin, the Monterey Subbasin, and the Seaside Subbasin, which spans multiple groundwater management jurisdictions within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

In response to the Study recommendations related to monitoring the Deep Aquifers, the MCWRA prepared, in cooperation with other agencies, the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin ("Monitoring Plan"). The Monitoring Plan captures, in a single document, the type and frequency of existing monitoring of the Deep Aquifers that is conducted by the MCWRA, the MCWDGSA, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District ("MPWMD") and the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster ("SGBW"). The Monitoring Plan also presents an approach for enhancing and expanding monitoring of groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and groundwater extraction in the Deep Aquifers to minimize or eliminate data gaps and improve the collective regional understanding of conditions in the Deep Aquifers.

There are 5 groundwater management agencies spanning the Deep Aquifers. Each agency has its own governance and performs various monitoring tasks throughout the Deep Aquifers. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to generally describe each agency's respective activities, and the respective commitments to cooperate towards implementation of the Monitoring Plan, including the annual sharing of data and reevaluation of the Monitoring Plan to make adjustments, as appropriate, as new information emerges. The MOU also provides each participating agency's governing body and the public at large a non-technical explanation of the roles of each agency and the cooperation necessary to better implement the Monitoring Plan.

Monitoring, data collection, reporting, and sharing of information among agencies are essential activities that support sound and sustainable groundwater management decisions. Each agency party to the MOU relies upon the monitoring activities of other agencies to help inform groundwater management decisions within each agency's jurisdiction that affects the shared Deep Aquifers resource. In addition to the agencies who are party to the MOU, the County of Monterey is responsible for land use decisions in unincorporated areas, and its Health Department is responsible for the permitting of well construction, repairs, and destruction. Each will benefit from the Monitoring Plan and collaboration envisioned by the MOU.

On November 17, 2025, the Agency's Board of Directors took unanimous action to recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute of a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Adoption of the Memorandum of Understand aligns with the Board of Directors adopted Strategic Plan Goal B, Strategies 2, 5, and 7; Goal C, Strategy 6, and Goal E, Strategy 1.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Basin Management Advisory Committee
Planning Committee
Board of Directors

FINANCING:

Adoption of the Memorandum of Understand has no fiscal impact on the adopted 2025-26 fiscal-year budget.

Prepared and Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. Deep Aquifers Monitoring MOU rev 2025-11-07 CLEAN DRAFT
2. Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin



County of Monterey

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It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Board of Supervisors:

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Monitoring, data collection, reporting, and sharing of information among agencies are essential activities that support sound and sustainable groundwater management decisions. Each agency party to the MOU relies upon the monitoring activities of other agencies to help inform groundwater management decisions within each agency's jurisdiction that affects the shared Deep Aquifers resource. In addition to the agencies who are party to the MOU, the County of Monterey is responsible for land use decisions in unincorporated areas, and its Health Department is responsible for the permitting of well construction, repairs, and destruction. Each will benefit from the Monitoring Plan and collaboration envisioned by the MOU.

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Prepared and Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

1. Deep Aquifers Monitoring MOU rev 2025-11-07 CLEAN DRAFT
2. Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING MONITORING PLAN FOR THE DEEP AQUIFERS

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is effective upon the date executed by the last signatory hereto, by and between the MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY ("MCWRA"), the SALINAS VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ("SVBGSA"), the MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ("MCWDGSA"), the SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER ("SGBW") and the MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ("MPWMD"), all individually referred to as an "AGENCY" and collectively referred to as "AGENCIES".

RECITALS

The Deep Aquifers Study ("Study") was prepared by Montgomery and Associates in April 2024 for the SVBGSA and collaborative funding partners¹ to address crucial questions regarding the geology and hydrogeology of the Salinas Valley's Deep Aquifers and provide a scientific basis for sustainable management.

The Study defines the Deep Aquifers as the water-bearing sediments that are below a relatively continuous aquitard or area of higher clay content encountered between approximately 500 feet and 900 feet below land surface within the portions of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin within Monterey County. The relatively continuous high-clay aquitard, or 400/Deep Aquitard, must be below the identified 400-Foot Aquifer or its stratigraphic equivalent, and the sediments must be within the Paso Robles Formation, Purisima Formation, and/or Santa Margarita Sandstone.

As defined in the Study, the Deep Aquifers are present within portions of the 180/400-Ft. Aquifer Subbasin, the Monterey Subbasin, the Seaside Subbasin and the Forebay Subbasin, all located within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin;

The Study provided recommendations for the monitoring of the Deep Aquifers, and, in cooperation with the AGENCIES, MCWRA has developed a Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers ("Monitoring Plan") to cover the entire Deep Aquifers extent across multiple groundwater management jurisdictions. The Monitoring Plan considers and includes monitoring activities that are already being conducted and data that is collected by the AGENCIES and will be evaluated annually to consider future actions.

Monitoring, data collection, reporting, and sharing of information among AGENCIES are essential activities that support sound and sustainable groundwater management decisions. Each AGENCY party to this MOU relies upon the monitoring activities of other AGENCIES to help inform groundwater management decisions within each AGENCY'S jurisdiction that affects the shared Deep Aquifers resource. In addition, the County of Monterey is responsible for land use decisions in unincorporated areas, and its Health Department is responsible for the permitting for

¹ The Deep Aquifers Study collaborative funding partners were SVBGSA, MCWRA, MCWDGSA, County of Monterey, Alisal Water Company, California Water Service, Castroville Community Services District, City of Salinas, and Irrigated Agriculture.

construction, repair, destruction, and reconstruction of wells. Each can also benefit from the Monitoring Plan and collaboration envisioned by this MOU.

AGREEMENT

1) Monitoring Program.

- a) Each AGENCY, through its individual and independent authorities, agrees to cooperate with the implementation of a Monitoring Plan, as it may be revised from time to time through this MOU, to improve understanding and inform management decisions affecting the shared Deep Aquifers resource;
- b) In the Monterey Subbasin Marina-Ord Management Area and within MCWDGSA's jurisdiction, MCWDGSA will collect Deep Aquifers data and share that data with MCWRA in a readily accessible format at least annually;
- c) In the Seaside subbasin and within SGBW's jurisdiction, the SGBW will collect Deep Aquifers data and share that data with MCWRA by including it in its Seawater Intrusion Analysis Reports, which are posted to SGBW's website at least annually;
- d) In the Seaside Groundwater Basin and within MPWMD's jurisdiction, MPWMD will collect Deep Aquifers data and share that data with MCWRA in a readily accessible format at least annually;
- e) Within SVBGSA areas of jurisdiction, MCWRA will collect Deep Aquifers data as part of the Groundwater Monitoring Program; and
- f) MCWRA will compile the data and make it available to the AGENCIES as requested for annual reporting or other purposes related to implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans or similar groundwater management activities in the adjudicated Seaside Basin.

2) Term.

- a) This MOU shall go into effect upon the date executed by the last signatory hereto, and shall remain in effect until withdrawal of the second to last AGENCY, per section 4 of this MOU.
- b) Prior to the start of each water year (October 1), the AGENCIES will convene to review the efficacy of the Monitoring Plan and make recommended changes, if any, to the data collection, sharing, and/or reporting for the upcoming year, by consensus of the participating AGENCIES.

3) Monitoring Program Costs.

- a) The AGENCIES will be responsible for covering the costs of data collection within their respective jurisdictions at no cost to the other AGENCIES.

4) Withdrawal.

- a) Any AGENCY may withdraw from this MOU for any reason or no reason by giving written notice of termination to the other AGENCIES at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of termination, which date shall be specified in any such notice.

5) Indemnification.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, each AGENCY shall indemnify and hold harmless, but shall have no duty to defend, the other AGENCIES and their directors, officers, employees, and agents from and against third-party Claims to the extent finally determined (by agreement, settlement, or final judgment) to have been caused by that AGENCY's gross negligence or willful misconduct in performing this MOU. No AGENCY shall have any obligation to indemnify or defend against claims arising from another AGENCY's acts or omissions, or from such other AGENCY's review, interpretation, reliance upon, or use of data provided under this MOU. The parties expressly waive any implied duty to defend prior to such final determination and do not intend to expand or waive any immunities, defenses, or limitations of liability available under applicable law.

6) Confidentiality.

AGENCIES shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, which provide for the confidentiality of records and other information. AGENCIES shall not disclose any confidential records or other confidential information received from others or prepared in connection with the performance of this MOU, unless specifically permitted to disclose such records or information by law or court order. AGENCIES shall promptly notify other AGENCIES about all requests for disclosure of any such confidential records or information. AGENCIES shall not use any confidential information gained in the performance of this MOU except for the sole purpose of carrying out obligations under this MOU

7) Data Use and Warranty Disclaimer.

All data exchanged under this MOU is provided AS IS, with no representation or warranty (express or implied) as to accuracy, completeness, currency, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose. Each receiving AGENCY is solely responsible for validating and determining the appropriate use of any data it receives.

8) Miscellaneous Provisions.

- a) Amendment. This MOU may be amended or modified only by an instrument in writing signed by the AGENCIES.
- b) Authority. Any individual executing this MOU on behalf of an AGENCY represents and warrants hereby that he or she has the requisite authority to enter into this MOU on behalf of such party and bind the party to the terms and conditions of this MOU.
- c) Benefit. This MOU shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the AGENCIES and their

respective successors, assigns and, if applicable, heirs and administrators.

- d) Counterparts. This MOU may be executed in multiple originals and by counterpart.
- e) Governing Law. This MOU shall be construed under the laws of the State of California.
- f) Headings. The headings in this MOU are for convenience of reference only and are not part of the substance hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MOU on the day and year first written above.

MCWRA

SVBGSA

By: _____

By: _____

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MCWDGSA

Seaside Watermaster

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By: _____

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Pacific Grove, CA 93950
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MPWMD

By: _____

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Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

October 2025

Prepared by:

Monterey County Water Resources Agency



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Appendices

Appendix A: MCWRA Ordinance Number 5426 and Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual

Appendix B: Deep Aquifers Groundwater Elevation and Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network

Acronyms and Abbreviations

GMP.....	Groundwater Monitoring Program
M&A	Montgomery & Associates
MCWDGSA	Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MCWRA	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
MPDA	Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers
MPWMD.....	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
RMS	Representative Monitoring Site
SGBW.....	Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
SGMA.....	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SVBGSA.....	Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

1.0 Introduction

Groundwater is a critical resource for agricultural, domestic, industrial, and municipal uses in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. As seawater intrusion has impacted the 180- and 400-Foot Aquifers in the coastal region of the Salinas Valley, landowners and water suppliers have turned to the Deep Aquifers as an alternative source for groundwater supply.

Persistently declining groundwater elevations and increasing groundwater pumping in the Deep Aquifers over the past few decades prompted a comprehensive study of the definition, geology, hydrogeology, and water budget of the Deep Aquifers, referred to as the Deep Aquifers Study, which was completed by Montgomery & Associates (“M&A”) in 2024 for the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”) and collaborative funding partners (M&A, 2024).

The Deep Aquifers Study included “...recommendations for refining existing monitoring networks to track trends, identify changes, and enhance the understanding of groundwater conditions in the Deep Aquifers.” This *Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin* (“MPDA”) captures the monitoring recommendations from the Deep Aquifers Study and presents an approach for enhancing and expanding the historical network of monitoring wells and methods to improve regional understanding of the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and minimize or eliminate identified data gaps. Monitoring of groundwater elevations, groundwater extraction and injection, and groundwater chemistry and quality will be covered in the MPDA.

The MPDA was prepared by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“MCWRA”) for a collaborative working group of entities with water management authority in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin including: the County of Monterey, the Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MCWDGSA”), MCWRA, and the SVBGSA, collectively referred to as the “Deep Aquifers Working Group”.

2.0 Proposed Groundwater Monitoring Program for the Deep Aquifers

Monitoring of groundwater conditions in the Deep Aquifers for resource management is conducted by MCWDGSA, MCWRA, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (“MPWMD”), and the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster (“SGBW”), collectively referred to herein as “Monitoring Entity” or “Monitoring Entities”. The MPDA suggests that the Monitoring Entities continue their individual data collection efforts where appropriate and proposes alignment of methodologies and timing for collection and exchange of data from the Deep Aquifers.

The monitoring network described in the MPDA covers the extent of the Deep Aquifers as defined by the Deep Aquifers Study and refers to the regions of the Deep Aquifers described therein (Figure 1).

The focus of the MPDA is collection of groundwater extraction and injection, elevation, and quality data. The MPDA assumes that data management for all wells in the MPDA will be conducted by MCWRA, and that collection and reporting of data will occur by the Monitoring Entities in accordance with existing plans or agreements that have been established to meet regulatory requirements such as Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

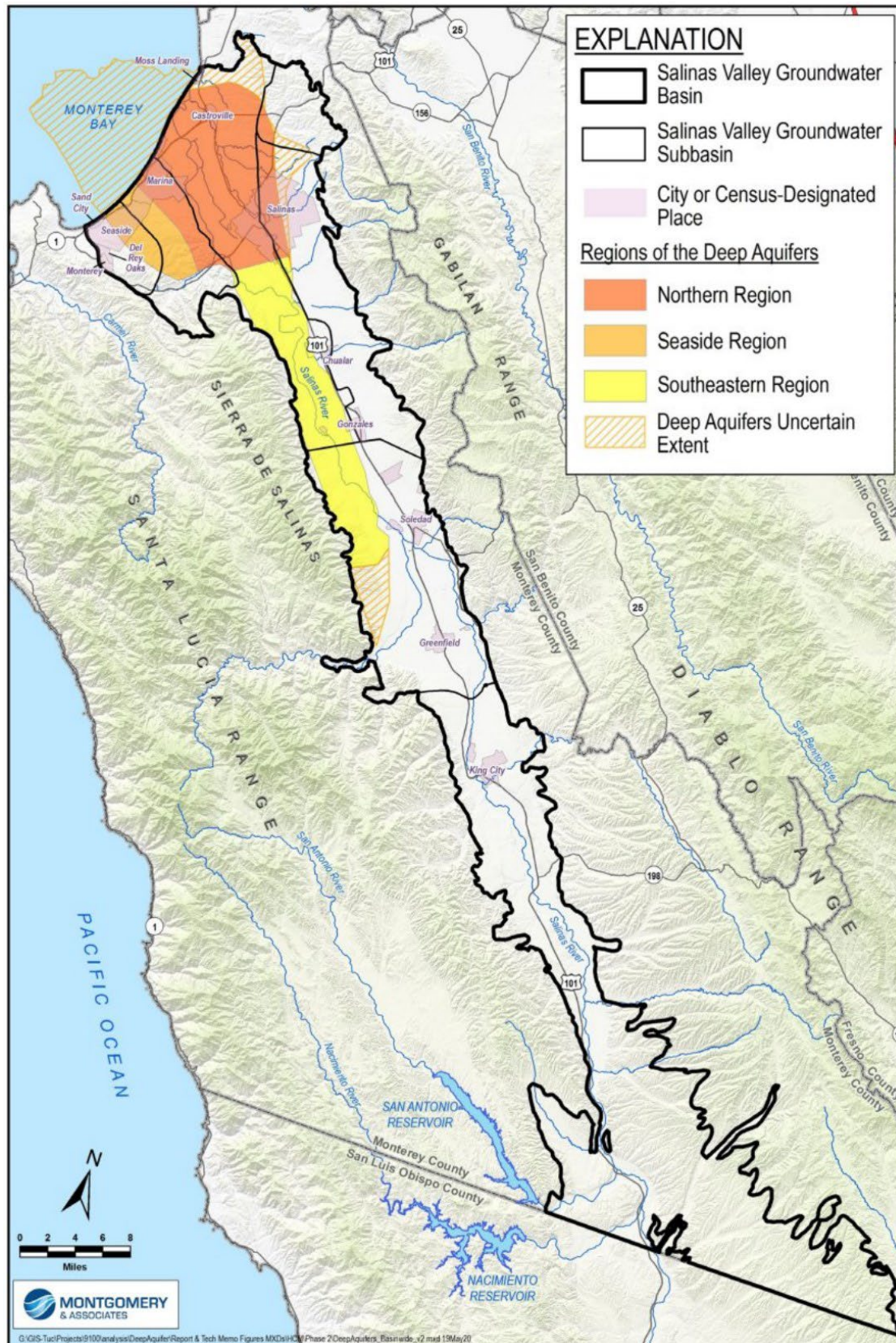


Figure 1: Extent of the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley (M&A, 2024)

2.1 Groundwater Extraction and Injection Reporting

Groundwater extraction and injection data “provide critical information for groundwater management and interpretation of groundwater elevation and quality changes” (M&A, 2024). The MPDA proposes a two-pronged approach to monitoring of groundwater extraction and injection data:

- **For the 180/400-Foot Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, and Monterey Subbasins:** Any well that is screened partially or fully in the Deep Aquifers and extracts more than two acre-feet per year – i.e. non-de minimis, per the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – will report monthly totals of groundwater extraction to MCWRA on at least an annual basis, consistent with MCWRA Ordinance Number 5426 and MCWRA’s Groundwater Monitoring Program (“GMP”) Manual (Appendix A).¹
- **For the Seaside Subbasin:** Any well that is screened partially or fully in the Deep Aquifers and extracts more than five-acre-feet per year – i.e. non-de minimis, per the Seaside Basin Adjudication Decision – will report monthly values of groundwater extraction and/or injection to MPWMD and/or to the SGBW at least once at the end of each Water Year; i.e., October-September period.

MCWRA will, on at least an annual basis, request the groundwater extraction and injection data reported to MPWMD and compile a singular dataset of groundwater extraction and injection for each Water Year. New wells constructed in the Deep Aquifers in any of the subbasins listed in this Section will be added to the groundwater extraction and injection monitoring program as appropriate.

2.2 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

As described in the Deep Aquifers Study, groundwater elevation monitoring helps to identify “rapid change in groundwater conditions” and a comprehensive monitoring network can help to “assess changes in groundwater elevations, groundwater flow, and relationships to overlying and adjacent aquifers.”

The groundwater elevation monitoring network presented herein is comprised of three categories of wells, as suggested by the Deep Aquifers Study:

- **Representative Monitoring Sites (RMS):** intended to represent conditions in the Deep Aquifers.
- **Alternative Monitoring Sites:** wells screened solely in the Deep Aquifers that supplement RMS for the development of groundwater elevation contours.
- **Ancillary Monitoring Sites:** wells that either have a screen interval that extends above the top of the aquitard between the 400-Foot Aquifer and the Deep Aquifers or are located in adjacent aquifers outside the defined extent of the Deep Aquifers.

2.2.1 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Frequency

A data point will be collected from all wells in the Deep Aquifers groundwater elevation monitoring network on at least a quarterly basis. For wells monitored quarterly, groundwater elevation data shall be collected in February, May, August, and November to capture conditions during the seasonal high, seasonal low, and

¹ Wells serving less than 5 connections are assumed to be de minimis for the purposes of groundwater extraction reporting.

prior to the onset of seasonal precipitation. Wells that are monitored more frequently, such as on a continuous or monthly basis, will continue to be monitored at the existing interval.

Temporal variation in the data collection schedule may occur from time to time as the result of circumstances including, but not limited to, well accessibility, weather conditions, or staff availability. Data collected within 15 calendar days of the stated schedule will be considered acceptable for use as part of the dataset. For example, a measurement collected on March 5 would be considered valid for inclusion in a February dataset.

2.2.2 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Methods

Groundwater elevation measurements can be collected using different methods and equipment. Selection of the most appropriate method may depend on the type of well, surface construction of the well, depth of the well, equipment availability, or other factors. Regardless of the selected method, each will be implemented in accordance with established standards and best practices as provided by the manufacturer and/or in published documents such as the Groundwater Technical Procedures of the U.S. Geological Survey (Cunningham and Schalk, 2011). Appendix B shows the method current used to measure each well in the Deep Aquifers Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network.

2.2.2.1 Pressure transducer

A pressure transducer is an instrument that is permanently installed inside the well and continuously collects water elevation data by detecting changes in the pressure exerted by the water column above it. It can be used in monitoring wells and production wells. This is the preferred method for collecting groundwater elevation data as it provides continuous data at a much higher temporal resolution, which ensures more accurate and reliable monitoring of groundwater levels over time. However, pressure transducers sometimes cannot be installed in older domestic or agricultural wells that lack the necessary infrastructure.

Wells monitored with this method will be visited quarterly by staff to download data and calibrate the instruments. Alternatively, pressure transducers can be paired with cellular or satellite telemetry equipment to allow for remote access to data. Options for deploying telemetry equipment are discussed in Section 3.

2.2.2.2 Electronic sounder

An electronic water level meter consists of a graduated tape and a probe that is lowered into the well and emits a sound when it contacts the water surface. While this instrument is easy to use and very accurate, it only provides single-point data rather than continuous monitoring, it requires manual operation and doesn't function properly if there is oil present on the water surface, which is common in many agricultural wells.

2.2.2.3 Steel tape

This method for measuring groundwater elevations consists of a steel graduated tape that is lowered into the well until it reaches the water surface. It's an accurate and straightforward method and is currently the only option available when collecting groundwater elevation data in wells that have very small sampling ports, presence of oil, or obstructions. However, it can be very time consuming to ensure accurate measurements with this method.

2.2.2.4 Sonic water level meter

This instrument is used to measure water elevations in wells without having to physically lower any devices into the water. It works by emitting sound waves that travel down the well, reflect off the water surface,

and return to the meter. While it's easy to use and avoids contamination by not contacting the water, they can be less accurate than other methods. MCWRA recommends use of this method only when it has been paired for several months with measurements collected from an electronic sounder to establish accuracy and precision at a given well.

2.2.2.5 Well bubbler

A well bubbler is a device that measures the depth to water inside a well by pushing compressed air through small diameter tubing that is installed in the well. Depth to groundwater is calculated based on the pressure needed to clear the tubing. The device includes recording equipment that saves collected readings, which can be recorded continuously. Well bubblers are powered by a small solar panel that is installed next to the well, so use of this method can be dependent on the footprint and accessibility of the well. Wells equipped with this technology would be visited quarterly by staff to download data, though there is also an option to pair the well bubbler with a device that can transmit data via a cellular connection to allow for remote monitoring.

2.2.3 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network

The Plan recommends a total groundwater elevation monitoring network of 75 wells, which is a combination of 73 existing or planned wells and 2 new wells that would need to be constructed to fill data gaps (Table 1 and Figure 2). Options for approaches to filling data gaps are discussed in Section 3.

Table 1: Summary of Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network by Region			
Deep Aquifers Region	Monitoring Network Category	Total Recommended Wells	Wells Needed to Fill Data Gaps for Recommended Total
Northern	RMS	31	1
	Alternative	13	0
	Ancillary	1	0
Seaside	RMS	22	0
	Ancillary	0	0
Southeastern	RMS	2	1
	Ancillary	2	0
Adjacent Aquifers	Ancillary	2	0
TOTAL		73	2 ^a

^a The 2 wells needed to fill data gaps are included in the Total Recommended Wells.

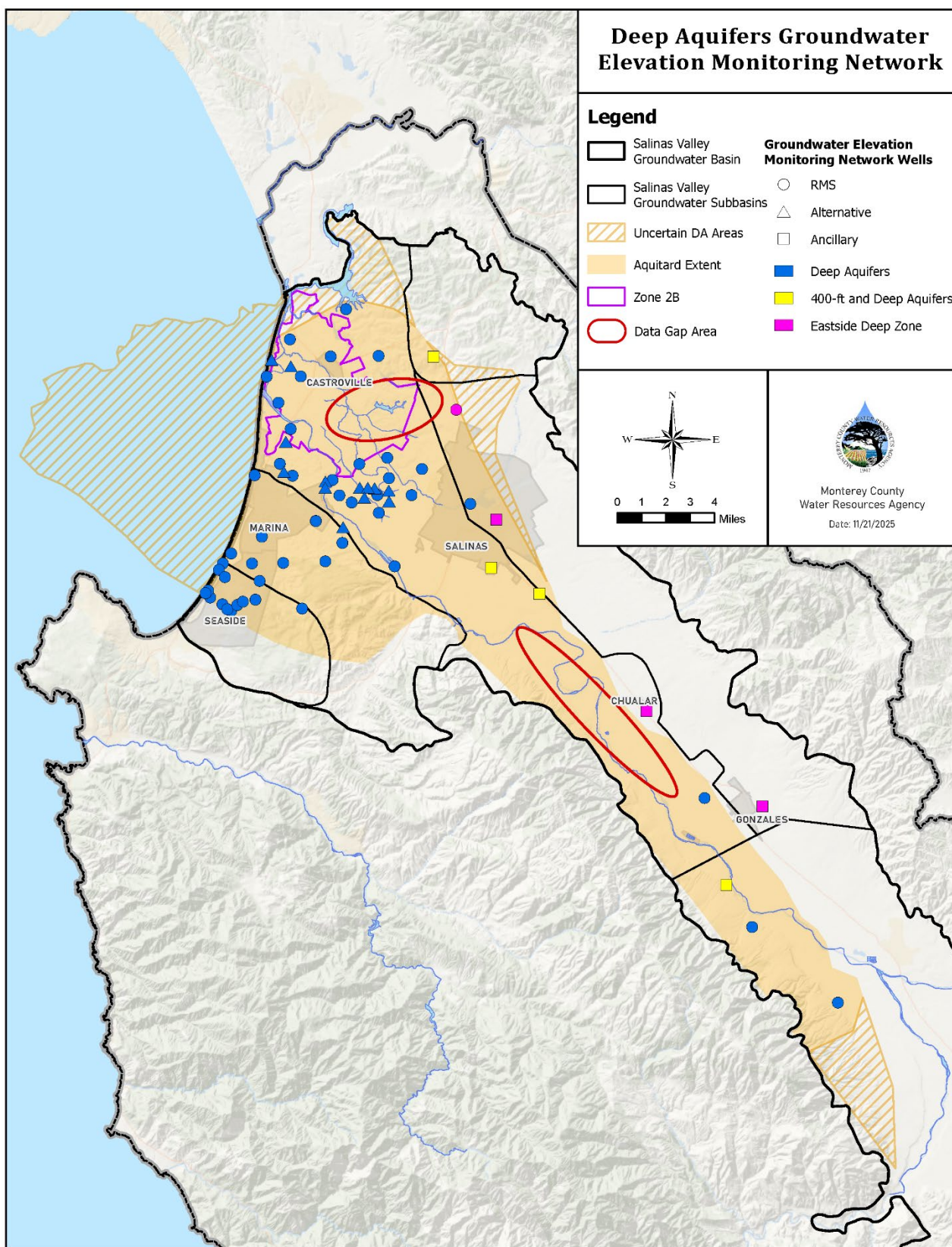


Figure 2: Deep Aquifers Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Network

2.3 Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Monitoring of groundwater quality in the Deep Aquifers is used to identify changes in water chemistry, track of the concentration and transport of contaminants of concern, discern any indications of seawater intrusion, and provide data to inform the depositional environment and age of groundwater (M&A, 2024).

The groundwater quality monitoring network proposed in the MPDA expands upon the historical network of wells, which were located in only the Northern and Seaside regions of the Deep Aquifers.

2.3.1 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Frequency and Constituents

Wells included in the groundwater quality monitoring network will be sampled at least annually. Wells located in the Seaside Subbasin and portions of the Monterey Subbasin are sampled at least once per year by MPWMD; this practice will continue under the MPDA. All other wells will be sampled by MCWRA, with samples collected annually in June and August to produce an average annual data point for each of the following analytes: calcium, chloride, conductivity, magnesium nitrate, pH, potassium, sulfate, sodium, total alkalinity, and total dissolved solids. All samples will be analyzed at a laboratory that possesses an Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program certification from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Any new well that is added to the groundwater elevation monitoring network will be sampled once, within 6 months of completion of the well's construction, to establish baseline water quality conditions at the site. If the newly sampled well does not exceed Title 22 standards (for a drinking water well) or Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program standards (for an agricultural well) it will be re-sampled every five years. If any notable changes are observed, the well will be sampled annually.

If feasible, induction logging will be conducted annually at any Deep Aquifers well within the seawater intruded area² from which a groundwater quality sample cannot be collected for laboratory analysis.

Except within the Seaside Subbasin, samples will be collected for stable isotope analysis from all Deep Aquifers wells in the RMS monitoring network category during Year 1 and Year 3 of implementing the MPDA.³ Thereafter, samples for stable isotope analysis will be collected every 5 years.

On a separate timeline, a sample will be collected to establish an isotopic baseline from any new monitoring well installed in the Deep Aquifers within 12 months following construction of the well.

2.3.2 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Methods

All groundwater quality samples collected by MCWRA will be consistent with established Standard Operations Procedures and any applicable Quality Assurance Project Plan.

Groundwater quality samples from Deep Aquifers production wells will be collected using the pump equipment installed on the well. Samples will be collected from a location prior to any fertigation ports and will be collected after a minimum of three casing volumes have been cleared from the well.

² In this application, "seawater intruded area" means any known area of seawater intrusion as defined by MCWRA or other applicable water management agency within the extent of the Deep Aquifers.

³ The first Water Year following execution of an agreement between the Monitoring Entities will be considered "Year 1" as it is utilized in this instance.

Monitoring wells or other wells that do not have permanent pump equipment installed will be sampled using a low-flow sampling methodology that employs a portable bladder pump with dedicated tubing for each well and sampling heads with push-to-connect fittings. A Monitoring Entity may elect to utilize a third-party contractor to collect groundwater quality samples from a monitoring well, so long as the methodology ensures a representative sample of aquifer water collected in a manner that is consistent with established Standard Operating Procedures.

2.3.3 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network

As proposed in the Deep Aquifers Study, the MPDA includes 59 wells in the groundwater quality monitoring network, all but one of which are screened solely in the Deep Aquifers (Figure 3). One well screened in the Eastside Aquifer Deep Zone has been included in the Ancillary category, due to a lack of Deep Aquifers wells in the area (M&A, 2024). The network of 59 wells is comprised of 57 existing wells and 2 wells that are recommended for installation to fill data gaps.

Any new production well that is part of the groundwater elevation monitoring network will be considered for potential addition to the groundwater quality monitoring network.

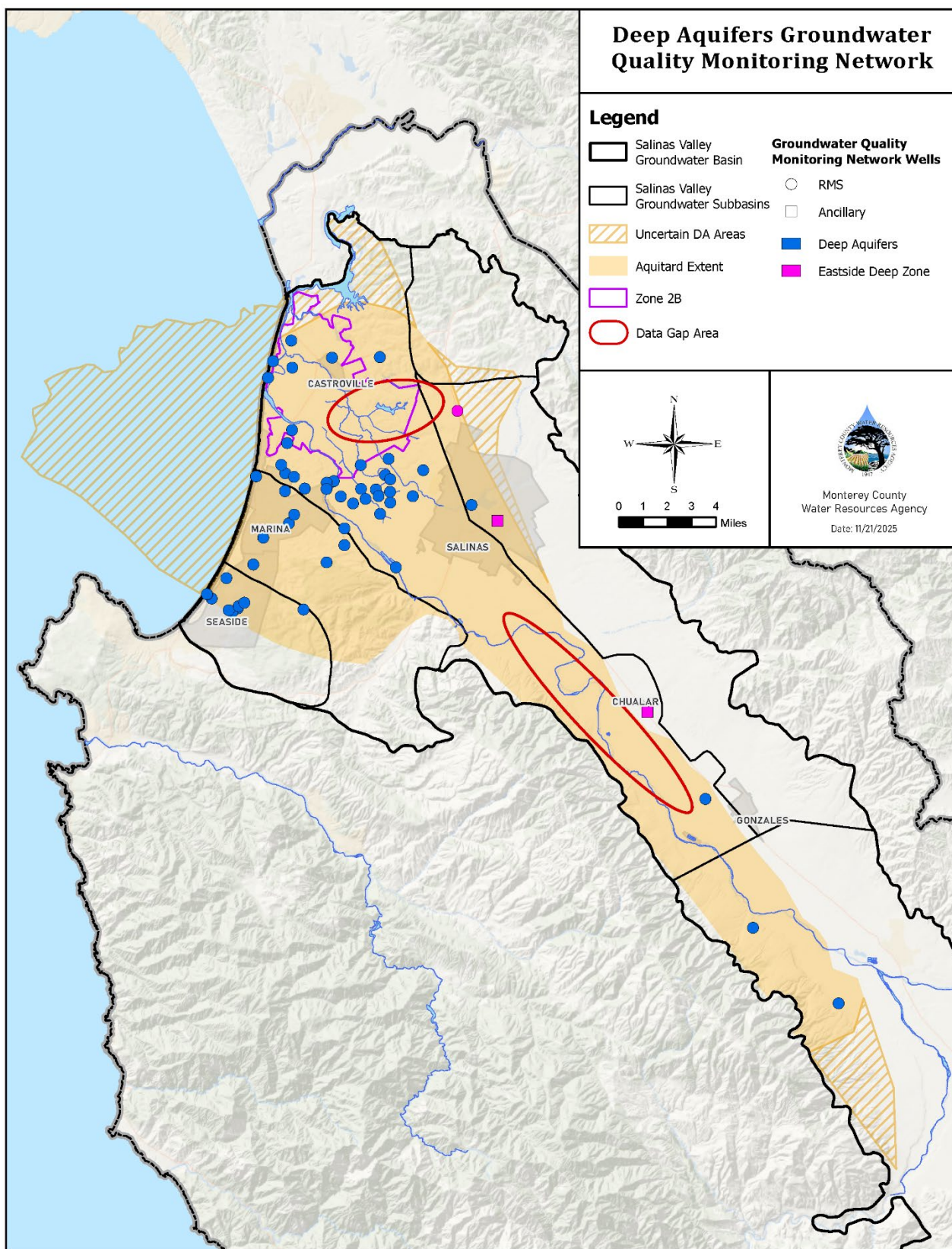


Figure 3: Deep Aquifers Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network

3.0 Implementation and Data Gaps

Full implementation of the MPDA may involve some changes and additions to the historical Deep Aquifers monitoring programs that were conducted by MCWD, MCWRA, MPWMD, and the SGBW. Some changes, such as monitoring well installation, are required in order to achieve the purposes of the MPDA. Other changes, such as automation of data collection or use of different sampling methodologies, may help to streamline data collection and processing efforts.

3.1 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring – Filling Data Gaps

At least 2 new monitoring wells should be constructed to fill data gaps that have been identified in the historical monitoring networks (Figures 2 and 3). Each data gap should be filled by 1 monitoring well screened in the Deep Aquifers. A schedule, approach, and funding for installing additional monitoring wells will be developed between the Monitoring Entities and are outside the scope of this document.

3.2 Groundwater Elevation Monitoring – Data Collection

Where feasible, all dedicated monitoring wells will be equipped with pressure transducers for continuous collection of groundwater elevation data. Telemetry may be deployed at selected wells as deemed appropriate based on the well location and available funding. Sites will be visited quarterly by the Monitoring Entity to download data if a well is not equipped with telemetry, and to collect a manual groundwater level measurement to verify calibration of the pressure transducer.

Manual data collection will occur at least quarterly at all production wells in the groundwater elevation monitoring network.

In cases where the owner of a production well has installed continuous monitoring equipment of their own, the Monitoring Entity may attempt to coordinate with the well owner to access that data. The data may be utilized if the Monitoring Entity can determine that the collection methodology meets all established quality assurance and quality control measures that apply to other wells and data collection equipment in the MPDA.

Groundwater elevation monitoring will be added for new monitoring wells as they are constructed.

3.3 Groundwater Quality Monitoring – Data Collection

Prior to construction of the new monitoring wells discussed in Section 3.1, sampling will continue as described in Section 2.3 for existing wells. Groundwater quality monitoring as described in the MPDA will be added for new monitoring wells as they are constructed.

4.0 Assessment of the Monitoring Networks

On an annual basis, the groundwater monitoring networks in the MPDA will be evaluated by MCWRA to identify any wells that may need to be replaced due to inaccessibility, problematic measurements, or other factors. Should wells be identified as needing replacement, MCWRA will notify other cooperating agencies in writing of the determination and potential impacts to the groundwater monitoring network and seek consensus on a resolution to any updates.

As new wells are added to the groundwater monitoring networks, or other changes occur, MCWRA will update the Monitoring Entities and this MPDA document accordingly.

5.0 References

Cunningham, W.L., and Schalk, C.W., comps., 2011, Groundwater technical procedures of the U.S. Geological Survey: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 1-A1, 151 p.

Montgomery & Associates, 2024, Final Report – Deep Aquifers Study.

APPENDIX A

MCWRA ORDINANCE NO. 5426 AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM MANUAL

ORDINANCE NO. 5426

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NUMBERS 3660, 3717, AND 3718, AND ADOPT WELL REGISTRATION AND GROUNDWATER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

County Counsel Summary

This Ordinance repeals Ordinance Numbers 3660, 3717, and 3718, which established Monterey County Water Resources Agency's ("Agency") well registration and extraction reporting regulations for certain areas of the Salinas Valley. This Ordinance adopts updated Agency regulations to require well owners and operators within Monterey County to register wells with the Agency, and periodically report well extraction data if further action is taken by the Agency Board of Supervisors by resolution. This Ordinance also affirms certain Agency requirements for groundwater level and quality monitoring. This Ordinance allows the Agency to enter into groundwater management support service agreements to provide groundwater monitoring and data reporting with requesting entities. The Ordinance also provides for Agency collection of a regulatory fee to be set by resolution of the Agency Board of Supervisors. Lastly, the Ordinance provides for a variance process, and establishes penalties for violations.

The Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings and purpose.

A. Pursuant to authority granted to it by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act, California Water Code, Appendix Chapter 52, on January 26, 1993, the Board of Supervisors ("Board") of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("Agency") adopted Ordinance Number 3660, which enacted new registration provisions for groundwater extraction facilities with a discharge pipe having an inside diameter of at least three inches in Agency Zones 2, 2A, and 2B.

B. On February 2, 1993, the Agency Board adopted Ordinance Number 3663, which enacted groundwater extraction reporting requirements in Agency Zones 2, 2A and 2B in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, commonly known as the Groundwater Extraction Management System ("GEMS").

C. On July 27, 1993, the Agency Board adopted Ordinance Number 3696, which amended portions of Ordinance Number 3663 to advance the time by which flow meters must be installed in certain areas.

D. On October 5, 1993, the Agency Board adopted Ordinance Numbers 3717 and 3718, repealing Ordinance Numbers 3663 and 3696, but reestablishing GEMS requirements in Agency Zones 2, 2A, 2B which encompass a portion of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

E. Since 1993, the Agency has been collecting GEMS data subject to the provisions of Ordinance Numbers 3717 and 3718; subject to a 1995 settlement agreement with the Salinas Valley Water Coalition, Ralph Riva, James Gianolini, and Roger Moitoso concerning Ordinance No. 3717; and the Agency has consistently produced annual reports thereafter, including ordinance mandated agricultural and urban water conservation plan reports.

F. In addition to GEMS data, the Agency collects groundwater level and groundwater quality data to monitor changes in seawater intrusion and the status of groundwater basins generally.

G. In the fall of 2014, the California State Legislature adopted, and the Governor signed into law, three bills commonly known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") generally set forth in Water Code section 10720 *et seq.*

H. SGMA was signed into law mandating the sustainability of groundwater basins throughout the state by at least 2040 for "high priority basins in a critical state of overdraft", and 2042 for "high priority" and "medium priority" basins, as determined by the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR").

I. SGMA assigns responsibility to the DWR for regulatory oversight through the evaluation and assessment of groundwater sustainability plans ("GSPs"), and the provision of ongoing assistance to local agencies through the development of best management practices, guidance, planning assistance, technical assistance, and financial assistance.

J. SGMA provides for the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies ("GSAs") to formulate and implement GSPs throughout the state, in lieu of county or state control.

K. DWR has identified five groundwater basins, and six subbasins, in Monterey County. There are six GSAs in Monterey County, all dependent upon groundwater data to inform, develop, implement, update, and demonstrate to the DWR progress of their GSPs towards maintaining or achieving sustainability, that may want to engage and leverage the existing institutional knowledge, data collection and reporting expertise of the Agency.

L. The Agency Board hereby adopts this Ordinance to define the Agency's roles and responsibilities with regard to the monitoring and reporting of groundwater status in Monterey County, including groundwater levels and quality; to require well registration and extraction quantity reporting for its own purposes, and at the request of other entities with groundwater management responsibilities; to establish a regulatory fee to support implementation of this Ordinance; and to promote improved service to stakeholders dependent upon Monterey County's groundwater resources.

M. The Agency's groundwater level monitoring provides indicators of seasonal and long-term changes in groundwater levels, the amount of groundwater in storage, geographic and hydrogeologic distribution of groundwater recharge, and direction of groundwater flow throughout the applicable basin. Specific to the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin ("SVGB"), groundwater level monitoring can assist the Agency in understanding how different areas of the SVGB interact

with the surface water system, which can inform operational decisions for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

N. The California State Water Resources Control Board maintains the Electronic Water Rights Information System (eWRIMS) to track water rights in the state, to which some Wells in the County and subject to this Ordinance may be required to report. eWRIMS contains information on water right permits and licenses issued by the State Water Board and other claimed water rights. eWRIMS is also a module of the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) program.

O. The Agency's groundwater quality monitoring program in the coastal region allows the Agency to monitor temporal and geographic changes in the extent of seawater intrusion in the SVGB. This data informs decisions related to operation of Agency projects (e.g., Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project, Salinas River Diversion Facility); it also has a supporting role in land use management and permitting decisions that the Agency may advise other County of Monterey departments on, such as implementation of County General Plan policies and recommendations about well permitting to the Health Department.

P. This Ordinance is entitled to a categorical exemption of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations section 15306, which exempts: "basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded." This Ordinance will allow for continued and new groundwater extraction data reporting to aid the Agency and other entities engaged in the management and scientific investigation of groundwater resources within Monterey County and to aid in the evaluation of groundwater basin sustainability. Specifically, the groundwater extraction data will provide information concerning groundwater level, usage, and quality. If any projects stem from the use of this data, such project will appropriately be evaluated under CEQA. Further, none of the exceptions listed in 14 California Code of Regulations 15300.2 apply to this project. There is no reasonable possibility that the activities stemming from this Ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

SECTION 2. Authority.

A. The Agency's enabling legislation is located at California Water Code, Appendix Chapter 52, and the Agency's authority and jurisdiction derive from this legislation.

B. The Agency has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to water within the entire area of Monterey County, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas. The Agency has authority to carry on technical and other necessary investigations, make measurements, collect data, make analyses, studies, and inspections pertaining to water supply. For those purposes, the Agency has the right of access through its authorized representatives to all properties within the Agency and may enter upon those lands and make examinations, surveys, and maps thereof.

C. The Agency Board of Supervisors may adopt, by ordinance, reasonable procedures, rules, and regulations to implement the Agency Act, and may specify that a violation of an ordinance is an infraction. The Agency Board further has power to perform all other acts necessary or proper, including, as allowed by law, establishing fees, taxes, or assessments to be levied and collected, to accomplish the purposes of the Agency Act.

SECTION 3. Repeal.

The Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency hereby repeals Ordinance Numbers 3660, 3717, and 3718, which enacted similar but not identical provisions, and adopts this Ordinance as fully described herein.

SECTION 4. Definitions.

A. "Abandoned well" means any well whose original purpose and use has been permanently discontinued or which is in such a state of disrepair that it cannot be used for its original purpose. A well is considered abandoned when it has not been used for a period of one year, unless the owner demonstrates his or her intent to use the well again for supplying water or other associated purposes.

B. "Agency" means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

C. "Agency Act" means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act, California Water Code, Appendix Chapter 52 (Stats. 1990, Chap. 1159).

D. "Board" means the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

E. "County" means the County of Monterey.

F. "Electronic Water Rights Information System" or "eWRIMS" means the California State Water Resources Control Board's system to track water rights in the state and also a module of the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System program.

G. "Monterey County" means the geographical area of Monterey County.

H. "Requesting Entity" means an entity engaged in the management of groundwater resources within Monterey County, either through the monitoring and reporting of groundwater level, usage, and/or quality data; scientific investigations; or in the administration and compliance of a regulatory program(s).

I. "Water Year" means the 12-month period between October 1, of any given year, through September 30, of the following year, as defined by the United States Geological Survey.

J. "Well" means any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting water from, or injecting water into, the underground. "Well" includes abandoned wells, inactive wells, monitoring wells, and observation wells. For the purposes of this ordinance, "well" does not include: (1) oil and gas wells, or geothermal wells constructed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation, except those wells converted to use as water wells;

(2) wells used for the purpose of dewatering excavation during construction, or stabilizing hillsides or earth embankments; (3) cathodic protection wells; or (4) test wells or dry wells.

K. "Well Operator" means a person or entity authorized by a Well Owner to operate a Well.

L. "Well Owner" means a landowner or landowners that own a Well.

SECTION 5. Provision of Services.

Upon mutual written agreement between the Agency and any Requesting Entity, the Agency may provide groundwater monitoring, data reporting, and groundwater management support services to the Requesting Entity. Such action shall be taken by Board approval.

SECTION 6. Well Registration.

A. All permits, which are required to construct, repair, reconstruct, or destroy a Well in Monterey County, are issued by the County pursuant to Monterey County Code Chapter 15.08. The Agency collaborates with the County during the application review process for many, but not all Wells, and will rely upon information provided to the County to fulfill this Ordinance's registration requirements, to the extent practicable, as determined solely by the Agency.

B. The Agency may, for its own purposes, require registration of Wells within Monterey County for the purposes of implementing this Ordinance. Such action shall be taken through a Board resolution.

C. The Agency may require registration of Wells within Monterey County on behalf, and for the purpose of implementing a policy or program, of a Requesting Entity, pursuant to an executed agreement between the Agency and Requesting Entity. Such action shall be taken through a Board resolution.

D. No Well Owner or Well Operator may operate or maintain a Well that has been made subject to this Ordinance and applicable Board resolutions, unless the Well is first registered with the Agency.

E. A Well Owner or Well Operator must properly register their Well(s) within 30 days of completed construction or upon a request by the Agency to do so, in a manner prescribed by the Agency, with such request being acceptably transmitted through direct written correspondence by United States Mail or other electronic means to the Well Owner or Well Operator.

F. The Agency may periodically require Well Owners or Well Operators to update registration information. No Well Owner or Well Operator may operate or maintain a Well that has been made subject to this Ordinance and applicable Board resolutions, if the requested information has not been properly and timely provided to the Agency. Further, Well Owners or Well Operators shall provide updated Well registration information to the Agency within 30 days of a change in Well Owner or contact information for an existing Well Owner, or of a change in

Well Operator or contact information for an existing Well Operator, or upon completion of a change to the physical structure of the Well.

G. Upon proper completion of registration, the Agency will issue a certificate of registration to the Well Owner and the Well Operator, if applicable.

H. For all Abandoned Wells, the Well Owner or Well Operator shall report such abandonment to the Agency within 30 days of abandonment. The report shall indicate the steps taken to comply with all legal requirements regarding such abandonment.

SECTION 7. Groundwater Extraction Reporting.

A. The Agency may, for its own purposes, require reporting of groundwater extraction quantities from Wells within Monterey County for the purposes of implementing this Ordinance. Such action shall be taken by Board approval.

B. The Agency may require reporting of groundwater extraction quantities within Monterey County on behalf, and for the purpose of implementing a policy or program, of a Requesting Entity, pursuant to a written, executed agreement between the Agency and Requesting Entity. Such action shall be taken by Board approval.

C. Every Well Owner or Well Operator reporting groundwater extraction quantities within Monterey County to the State Water Resources Control Board's eWRIMS shall report that same information to the Agency for the purpose of implementing this Ordinance.

D. The Agency, for its own purposes or on behalf of a Requesting Entity, may adopt and periodically revise, a Board resolution establishing acceptable standards and methods for measuring the extraction of groundwater. Every Well Owner or Well Operator required to report groundwater extractions for the purposes of implementing this Ordinance shall meet the requirements of such resolution and request approval from the Agency of their measurement method, on a per Well basis.

E. Every Well Owner or Well Operator reporting groundwater extraction quantities within Monterey County to the State Water Resources Control Board's eWRIMS shall comply with the State Water Board's "Measurement and Reporting Manual", as may be amended. Those relying upon a State Board approved "Alternative Compliance Plan" shall submit such plan to the Agency for review and acceptance, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

F. Every Well Owner or Well Operator subject to reporting is required to keep records tallying the total monthly extraction of groundwater, per Well, and to report those extractions in a manner prescribed by the Agency on behalf of the Requesting Entity or the Agency. The annual reporting period shall be the Water Year.

G. Every Well Owner or Well Operator required to report groundwater extractions must do so no later than November 1, following each Water Year, in a manner prescribed by the Agency. Any Well Owner or Well Operator may report more frequently for convenience or if

required by Agency Board resolution. In addition, the report shall include any information necessary to keep Well registration information current.

H. Every Well Owner or Well Operator required to report groundwater extractions must exercise due diligence to maintain and promptly repair all approved measuring equipment. In the event of a measuring method failure, the Well Owner or Well Operator shall notify the Agency in writing, within two weeks of discovery, to report the failure, propose a repair plan, and to determine if utilization of one of the alternate methods of measurement authorized by Agency policy is practicable if restoration of the primary measuring method cannot be achieved within an agreeable timeframe. The Agency may impose an alternative measurement method if the Well Owner or Well Operator fails to address a measuring failure within two months. The Agency may calculate an unmeasured extraction value by averaging usage from the month before and after to fill a data gap, or by averaging historical usage over the same period, if available, unless otherwise mutually agreed. The Well Owner is ultimately responsible for the maintenance and prompt repair of all approved measuring equipment and any costs incurred by the Agency to impose an alternative measurement method will be billed to the Well Owner.

I. The Agency may, from time to time, test the accuracy of extraction measuring methods approved for Wells subject to this Ordinance, to ensure that measuring methods and equipment remain operational and in conformity with acceptable standards, as defined by the Agency. The Agency may, for its own purposes or on behalf of a Requesting Entity, develop policies and procedures through Board resolution, which may include random sampling, to ensure consistent and equitable measurement of extractions. If a measuring method is determined to be inaccurate, the Agency shall immediately notify the Well Owner or Well Operator in writing to determine if utilization of one of the alternate methods of measurement authorized by the Agency is practicable, if proper calibration of the primary measuring method cannot be achieved within one week. The cost to correct the calibration a measuring method shall be borne by the Well Owner or Well Operator. The Agency may impose an alternative measurement method if the Well Owner or Well Operator fails to address a measuring inaccuracy within two weeks. The Agency may recalculate an extraction value based upon the measured discrepancy and revise Well extraction data up to the beginning of the then current Water Year. The Well Owner is ultimately responsible for the maintenance and prompt repair of all approved measuring equipment and any costs incurred by the Agency to correct an inaccuracy or impose an alternative measurement method will be billed to the Well Owner.

J. Extraction data obtained through this Ordinance shall be used only for purposes consistent with the authorities of the Agency. Access and distribution of personally identifiable information will be restricted to the fullest extent allowed by law, including but not limited to California Government Code section 6250 *et seq.*, Civil Code section 3426 *et seq.*, and Water Code section 13751 *et seq.*

SECTION 8. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring and Reporting.

A. The Agency may, for its own purposes, collect data, obtain samples, or require reporting of groundwater level and quality data from Wells within Monterey County for the purposes of implementing this Ordinance.

B. The Agency may collect data, obtain samples, or require reporting of groundwater level and quality data from Wells within Monterey County on behalf, and for the purpose of implementing a policy or program, of a Requesting Entity, pursuant to a written, executed agreement between the Agency and Requesting Entity. Such action shall be taken by Board approval.

C. The Agency, for its own purposes or on behalf of a Requesting Entity, may adopt and periodically revise, a Board resolution establishing acceptable standards and methods for measuring groundwater level and quality. If applicable, every Well Owner or Well Operator required to report groundwater level or groundwater quality data shall meet the requirements of such resolution and request approval from the Agency of their measurement method, on a per Well basis.

SECTION 9. Variance.

A. Any Well Owner or Well Operator may, at any time, apply in writing for a variance from the strict application of this Ordinance and applicable Board resolutions. The application for the variance shall be filed with the Agency, on a form prescribed by the Agency. The Agency General Manager may dispense with the requirement of a written application upon finding that an emergency condition requires immediate action on the variance request.

B. The Agency General Manager may grant a variance to the terms of this Ordinance and applicable Board resolutions upon finding that the strict application of this Ordinance and applicable Board resolutions would create an undue hardship, or that an emergency condition requires that the variance be granted.

C. In granting a variance, the Agency General Manager may impose time limits and any other conditions in order to ensure that the variance is consistent with this Ordinance and applicable Board resolutions. The variance, and all time limits and other conditions attached to the variance, shall be set forth in writing, and a copy of the written variance shall be provided to the Well Owner or Well Operator. The decision of the Agency General Manager may be appealed to the Board pursuant to Subsection D of this Section.

D. Any Well Owner or Well Operator whose variance has been denied, or granted conditionally, may appeal to the Board, in writing, within fifteen calendar days after any such denial or conditional granting. Such appeal shall specify the grounds upon which it is taken, and shall be accompanied by a filing fee as set from time to time by the Board by resolution. The Clerk of the Board shall set such appeal for hearing at the earliest practicable time, and shall notify the appellant and the Agency, in writing, of the time so set at least 14 calendar days prior to the hearing. After such hearing, the Board may wholly or partly, maintain, reverse, or modify the order or determination that is subject of the appeal.

E. No Well Owner or Well Operator shall operate or maintain a Well for which a variance has been granted hereunder, or use water therefrom, in violation of any of the terms or conditions of the variance.

SECTION 10. Recovery of Regulatory Program Costs.

For the purposes of implementing this Ordinance, the Agency may allocate and recover costs associated with the development, implementation, enforcement, and perpetuation of a regulatory groundwater monitoring program on a per-Well basis, not based on extraction data, within Monterey County. Such regulatory fees shall be as established by a resolution of the Board.

SECTION 11. Enforcement and Penalties.

A. No Well Owner or Well Operator shall operate or maintain a Well, or use water therefrom, in violation of this Ordinance or any resolution adopted in accordance with this Ordinance.

B. Any Well Owner or Well Operator who violates any provision of this Ordinance or any resolution adopted in accordance with this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction.

C. Any violation which occurs or continues to occur from one day to the next shall be deemed a separate violation for each day during which such violation occurs or continues to occur.

D. Any Well Owner or Well Operator who violates any provision of this Ordinance or any resolution adopted in accordance with this Ordinance is guilty of an infraction and shall be assessed: (1) a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for a first violation; (2) a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second violation of this Ordinance within one year of the first violation; (3) a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for each additional violation of this Ordinance within one year of the first violation.

E. Any violation of this Ordinance or any resolution adopted in accordance with this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. The Agency may commence civil proceedings to abate such nuisance and seek civil penalties which may be imposed by a court against persons found by the court to have committed the nuisance.

F. Any Well Owner or Well Operator who violates this Ordinance or any resolution adopted in accordance with this Ordinance shall be liable for the cost of enforcement, which shall include, but need not be limited to, the cost of investigation, court costs, attorney's fees, and the cost of monitoring future compliance.

G. The Agency's General Manager is authorized and empowered to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance or any resolution adopted in accordance with this Ordinance. The Agency's General Manager shall first send written notice of a failure to comply by deposit in the United States Mail, in a sealed envelope postage prepaid, addressed to the Well Owner or Well Operator. If such notice to comply is not cured within 15 calendar days, the Agency's General Manager shall send written notice of a violation by deposit in the United States Mail, in a sealed envelope postage prepaid, addressed to the Well Owner or Well Operator. Service by mail shall be deemed to have been completed at the time of deposit in the United States Post Office.

H. Any Well Owner or Well Operator who has received notice of violation may appeal to the Board, in writing, within fifteen calendar days after service of the notice of violation. Such appeal shall specify the grounds upon which it is taken, and shall be accompanied by a filing fee as set from time to time by the Board by resolution. The Clerk of the Board shall set such appeal for hearing at the earliest practicable time, and shall notify the appellant and the Agency, in writing, of the time so set at least 14 calendar days prior to the hearing. After such hearing, the Board may, wholly or partly, maintain, reverse, or modify the notice of violation.

SECTION 12. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Agency Board hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 13. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective on the thirty-first day following its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 1st day of October 2024 by the following vote:

AYES Supervisors Church, Lopez, Root Askew, and Adams
NOES None
ABSENT Supervisor Alejo
ASTAIN None
Motion Passed 4 to 0



Glenn Church, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

VALERIE RALPH
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Emmanuel H. Santos
Deputy Emmanuel H. Santos

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Kelly L. Donlon
Assistant County Counsel

Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual

October 1, 2024

Section 1 Introduction

This Groundwater Monitoring Program Manual (“Manual”) is a supplement to Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“Agency”) Ordinance No. 5426. The purpose of the Manual is to establish guidelines for the types of data collected, the schedule and time frames for data submittals, the applicability of certain programs based on geography or water user type, and methods and equipment for data collection.

The Manual also establishes the guidelines for data that is requested from the Agency by external entities, in accordance with Ordinance No. 5426 and outlines requirements associated with those requests. The Manual is reviewed regularly and may be updated as the Agency’s or external entity’s needs evolve.

Four Agency groundwater monitoring programs are covered by the Manual: Well Registration, Groundwater Extraction Monitoring, Groundwater Level Monitoring, and Groundwater Quality Monitoring.

Section 2 Definitions

1. Abandoned well – means any well whose original purpose and use has been permanently discontinued or which is in such a state of disrepair that it cannot be used for its original purpose. A well is considered abandoned when it has not been used for a period of one year, unless the owner demonstrates his or her intent to use the well again for supplying water or other associated purposes.
2. Accuracy – means the measured value relative to the actual value, expressed as a percentage and calculated as: $\text{Accuracy} = 100\% * (\text{Measured Value} - \text{Actual Value}) / \text{Actual Value}$.
3. Actual Value – means the value as determined through laboratory, design, or field-testing protocols.
4. Agency – means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.
5. Agency Act – means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act, California Water Code, Appendix Chapter 52 (Stats. 1990, Chap. 1159).
6. Board – means the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

7. County – means the County of Monterey.
8. De minimis extractor – means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year (California Water Code section 10721(e)).
9. Human consumption – means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, food preparation, cooking, or oral hygiene.
10. Inactive or standby well – means a well not routinely operating but capable of being made operable with a minimum effort.
11. Local Small Water System – means a system for the provision of piped water for human consumption that serves at least two, but not more than four, service connections. It includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system which are used primarily in connection with such system. “Local small water system” does not include two or more service connections on a single lot of record where none of the dwellings are leased, rented, or offered for remuneration.
12. Measured Value – means the value indicated by a Measuring Device or determined through calculations using other measured values.
13. Measuring Device – means any device capable of recording the date, time, and a numeric value of either water flow rate, water velocity, water elevation, or volume of water diverted.
14. Monterey County – means the geographical area of Monterey County.
15. Qualified Individual – means any person meeting the criteria specified in the Manual who can perform the required tasks for using and installing a Measuring Device.
16. Reference Point – means the fixed location from which a groundwater level measurement is collected at a well and the elevation of that fixed location.
17. Requesting Entity – means an entity engaged in the management of groundwater resources within Monterey County, either through the monitoring and reporting of groundwater level, usage, and/or quality data; scientific investigations; or in the administration and compliance of a regulatory program(s).
18. Service connection – means a connection to any habitable structure, except a guesthouse, or parcel which uses potable water from a water system for domestic and not agricultural purposes.

19. **Small Public Water System** – means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that has at least fifteen but not more than one hundred ninety-nine service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five individuals at least sixty days out of the year. A small public water system includes “community water system” and “noncommunity water system” as defined in Section 116275(i) and (j), respectively, of the California Health and Safety Code, and “non-transient noncommunity water system” as defined in Section 116275(k) of the California Health and Safety Code, and a “transient-noncommunity water system” as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 116275(o), as these sections may be amended from time to time.
20. **State Small Water System** – means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five, but not more than fourteen (14), service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of twenty-five (25) individuals daily for more than sixty (60) days out of the year. It includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system which are used primarily in connection with such system, and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator which are used primarily in connection with such system.
21. **Water Year** – means the 12-month period between October 1, of any given year, through September 30, of the following year, as defined by the United States Geological Survey.
22. **Well** – means any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting water from, or injecting water into, the underground. “Well” includes abandoned wells, inactive wells, monitoring wells, and observation wells. For the purposes of this Manual, “well” does not include: (1) oil and gas wells, or geothermal wells constructed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation, except those wells converted to use as water wells; (2) wells used for the purpose of dewatering excavation during construction, or stabilizing hillsides or earth embankments; (3) cathodic protection wells; or (4) test wells or dry wells.
23. **Well Operator** – means a person or entity authorized by a Well Owner to operate a Well.
24. **Well Owner** – means a landowner or landowners that own a Well.

Section 3 Well Registration Program

3.1 Geographic Extent

The Well Registration Program applies to all wells located in Agency Zone 2C and/or the following subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin: 180/400 Foot Aquifer (3-004.01), East Side Aquifer (3-004.02), Forebay Aquifer (3-004.04), Langley Area (3-004.09), Monterey (3-004.10), and Upper Valley Aquifer (3-004.05). Such geographic locations are depicted in a map attached to this Manual as Attachment A.

3.2 General Requirements

Well registration must be completed by submitting the required data to the Agency using the well registration portal available at *[insert link when available]*. Information about and assistance with completing well registration are available at *[insert URL when available]* or by contacting the Agency at 831-755-4860. Wells that are currently registered with the Agency and which meet the data requirements in Section 3.3 will not have to re-register but the Well Owner may be asked to verify the well registration data on file with the Agency and provide updates as applicable.

3.3 Data Requirements

The following data must be submitted to the Agency when a well is initially registered and must be updated by contacting the Agency when any changes occur.

1. Well owner name, address, phone number, and email address.
2. Well operator name, address, phone number, and email address.
3. Name of Local Small Water System, Small Public Water System, or State Small Water System, if applicable.
4. Number of connections to Local Small Water System, Small Public Water System, or State Small Water System, if applicable.
5. Geographic coordinates of the well location collected via GPS, with accuracy within 20 feet. Note that GPS-enabled smartphones are typically accurate to within a 16-foot radius under open sky (www.gps.gov).
6. Scaled map showing the well location and the area served water from the well, with relevant geographic features and landmarks labeled (e.g., roads, intersections).
7. Well name (owner-given well identification).
8. Well construction details including all the following information:
 - a. Date of construction
 - b. Drilling method
 - c. Total well depth
 - d. Perforation/screen interval(s)
 - e. Annular seal depth
 - f. Casing diameter
 - g. Casing material
 - h. Depth of pump
 - i. Pump motor horsepower
 - j. Discharge pipe diameter
9. Use category(ies) for which water from the well will be used (e.g., domestic, municipal, agriculture).
10. Status of the well (active, inactive or standby, or abandoned).
 - a. A well owner may demonstrate the inactive or standby status of a well by actions including, but not limited to, keeping the well structure in good condition; preventing the accumulation of vegetative growth or debris at the well and in adjacent areas; and retaining equipment and infrastructure necessary for operation of the well, such as pumps, piping, or a power source for operating the well.
11. Number of existing and anticipated service connections.

12. Description of water quantity measuring device(s) on the well.
13. Description of each water quantity measuring device on all service connections receiving water from the facility.
14. Electrical meter service numbers and plant numbers for each well having such a number.
15. Copy of the Well Completion Report.
16. Copy of the County of Monterey well construction permit that was issued for the well, and any other related County well permits.
17. Copy of any borehole geophysical logs collected during the well drilling.
18. Copy of any pump testing data obtained during well drilling and development.

Section 4 Groundwater Extraction Monitoring Program

4.1 Geographic Extent

The Groundwater Extraction Monitoring Program applies to non-*de minimis* extractors located in Agency Zone 2C and/or the following subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin: 180/400 Foot Aquifer (3-004.01), East Side Aquifer (3-004.02), Forebay Aquifer (3-004.04), Langley Area (3-004.09), Monterey (3-004.10), and Upper Valley Aquifer (3-004.05). Such geographic locations are depicted in a map attached to this Manual as Attachment A.

4.2 General Requirements

1. Groundwater extraction data are required from all non-*de minimis* users i.e., wells pumping more than 2 acre-feet per year (AF/yr.) for domestic use.
2. Groundwater extraction data must be collected on a monthly basis for each Water Year (i.e., October 1 through September 30).
3. Monthly totals of groundwater extracted must be reported to the Agency no later than November 1 for the prior Water Year.
4. Data that are reported to the State Water Resources Control Board Electronic Water Rights Management System (eWRIMS) must also be reported to the Agency and be identified as being reported to both entities.
5. Any Measuring Device required by this Manual must be purchased, installed, and maintained by the well owner or operator.

4.3 Data Collecting and Reporting

1. Well owners or operators must collect and maintain monthly records of groundwater extraction volumes and cumulative totals including:
 - a. Quantity of water produced by each well.
 - b. Quantity of water produced for each use type.
2. Annual reporting submitted to the Agency must specify the type of approved Measuring Device that was used to collect data at each well. Currently approved Measuring Devices include all of the following: flow meter, electrical meter, or hour meter. Additional types of Measuring Devices or equipment may be considered and approved for use in the future. When new Measuring Devices are approved by the Agency as described in Ordinance

5426, Well Owners or Well Operators of Wells currently registered with and reporting extractions to the Agency using a currently approved Measuring Device as described in this Manual or “Alternative Compliance Plan” will not have to re-request approval from the Agency to continue using a currently approved Measuring Device or “Alternative Compliance Plan”.

a. Annual reporting occurs online through an application maintained by the Agency at https://apps.co.monterey.ca.us/wra_gems/.

b. Information about how to use the application is available at <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/programs/groundwater-extractions-gems>.

3. Well owners or operators using the flow meter method must abide by the following:

a. Flow meters must be tested every five years by a Qualified Individual and calibrated to comply with applicable Agency specifications in (b) and (c) below. Upon completion of the test, a copy of the test report including the flowmeter reading must be submitted to the Agency.

i. A Qualified Individual may be any of the following:

I. Anyone trained and experienced in water measurements and reporting.

II. A California-registered Professional Engineer or a person under their supervision.

III. A California-licensed contractor for C-57 well drilling or C-61/D-21 Limited Specialty: Machinery and Pumps.

IV. Any individual who has completed a class on measurement devices and methods offered through the University of California Cooperative Extension.

V. Hydrologist or Professional Engineer experienced and trained in water measurement.

b. Flow meters must be installed per manufacturer instructions.

c. Flow meters must come from the manufacturer with a provable accuracy of +/- 2%. The Measured Value must read within +/- 10% at all times after installation.

d. Reported data must include monthly readings from the flow meter and associated meter number.

4. Well owners or operators using the electrical meter method must abide by all of the following:

a. Quantities of water must be reported based on calculations using accurate electrical bills, data from pump efficiency tests, and formulas that are approved by the Agency.

- b. Electrical bills must be based on electrical meters on the well. The well's use of electricity must be the only electrical use measured by the electrical meter.
 - c. Reported data must show the kilowatt hours used each month by each well.
 - d. A pump efficiency test must be completed annually. The test must be a three-point efficiency test which evaluates three discharge pressures and is obtained during the period from March through June. Upon completion of the test, the tester must submit to the Agency a report of the testing that includes the electrical meter reading on the date of the test. The pump efficiency test report must be submitted to the Agency no later than October 31 of the year in which it was conducted.
 - e. Reporting party must submit all computations necessary to show the quantity of water used, including the raw data, the computation itself, and the result as prescribed by the Agency.
5. Well owners or operators using the hour meter method must abide by all of the following:
- a. Quantities of water must be reported based on calculations using readings from hour meters, discharge rates from pump efficiency tests, and formulas approved by the Agency.
 - b. Hour meters must be accurate to within 2% of correct time.
 - c. Information showing the total number of hours each facility was operated in each month must be submitted to the Agency.
 - d. A pump efficiency test must be completed annually. The test must be a three-point efficiency test which evaluates three discharge pressures and is obtained during the period from March through June. Upon completion of the test, the tester must submit to the Agency a report of the testing that includes the hour meter reading on the date of the test and discharge rates determined pursuant to the test.
 - e. Reporting party must submit all computations necessary to show the quantity of water used, including the raw data, the computation itself, and the result as prescribed by the Agency.

Section 5 Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

5.1 Geographic Extent

The Agency monitors groundwater levels throughout Monterey County, primarily within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, but also in areas of Lockwood Valley (Attachment B).

5.2 Record Keeping

Wells that are part of the Agency's groundwater level monitoring network are required to be registered, per the criteria described in Section 3 of this Manual. In addition to the data requirements therein, the Agency will collect data regarding the Reference Point elevation of the well.

The Agency may install a well data tag at the well site to indicate that the well is part of a monitoring program. The well data tag will be labeled with the site's State Well Identification Number.

5.3 Data Collection

The Agency measures groundwater levels on a monthly basis at some well sites and biannually or annually at other well sites. The Agency adheres to the following field methods and data management practices.

5.3.1 Field Methods

Groundwater level data collected from wells is intended to reflect static (i.e., non-pumping) groundwater conditions. Best efforts are made to ensure that wells are not pumping and have not recently been pumped prior to collecting a groundwater level data point. Depth to water measurements are made using one or more of the methods discussed in the following sections. The Agency's groundwater level data collection methodology is based on the standardized *Groundwater Technical Procedures of the U.S. Geological Survey* (2011) available at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/1a1/> and the State of California Department of Water Resources *Groundwater Elevation Guidelines* (2010).

5.3.1.1 Graduated Steel Tape

The following steps must be completed prior to taking a measurement:

- Ensure that the reference point on the well can be clearly determined. Check notes in the field data collection notebook or application.
- Review the notes and comments associated with previous measurements to determine if there are any unique circumstances at the well.
- Take note of whether oil has previously been present at the well. This will be recorded in the comments section of the data collection form.
- Evaluate the well and surrounding area to determine if the well may have recently been operating.

To collect a measurement:

- Use the previous depth to water measurement to estimate a length of tape that will be needed.
- Lower the tape into the well, feeling for a change in the weight of the tape, which typically indicates that either (a) the tap has reached the water surface or (b) the tape is sticking to the side of the well.

- Continue lowering the tape into the well until the next whole foot mark is at the reference point. This value on the tape should be recorded in the field data collection notebook or application.
- Bring the tape to the surface and record the number of the wetted interval to the nearest foot.
- In an oil layer is present, read the tape at the top of the oil mark to the nearest foot. Note in the comments section of the data form that oil was present.
- Repeat this procedure a second time and note any differences in measurement in the field data collection notebook or application. If needed, repeat additional times until two consistent depth readings are obtained.
- After completing the measurement, disinfect and rinse the part of the tape that was submerged below the water surface.

5.3.1.2 Electric water level meter

This method of measurement employs a battery-powered water level meter and a small probe attached to a ruled length of cable. Depth to water measurements collected using this equipment are recorded to the nearest tenth of an inch. This instrument is sometimes referred to as a “sounder.”

The following steps must be completed prior to taking a measurement:

- Review the field data sheet for the well and note whether oil has been present at this well in the past. The electric water level meter should not be used in wells where oil is present.
- Ensure that the reference point on the well can be clearly determined. Check notes in the field data collection notebook.
- Confirm that the water level meter is functioning and is turned on so that the beeping indicator will operate properly.

To collect a measurement:

- Review previous depth to water measurements for the well to estimate the length of tape that will be needed.
- Lower the electrode into the well until the indicator sounds, showing the probe is in contact with the water surface.
- Place the tape against the reference point and read the depth to water to the nearest 0.1 foot. Record this value on the field data sheet.
- Make a second measurement and note any differences in measurement in the field data collection notebook or application. If needed, repeat additional times until two consistent depth readings are obtained.
- After completing the measurement, disinfect and rinse the part of the tape that was submerged below the water surface.

5.3.1.3 Sonic water level meter

This meter uses sound waves to measure the depth to water in a well. The meter must be adjusted to the air temperature outside the well. There is a card with reference temperatures in the case with the sonic meter.

Making a measurement:

- Insert the meter probe into the access port and push the power-on switch. Record the depth from the readout.
- Record the depth to water measurement in the field data collection notebook or application.
- No disinfection of the instrument is required because it does not come into contact with the water surface.

5.3.1.4 Pressure transducer

Automated water-level measurements are made with a pressure transducer attached to a data logger. Pressure transducers are lowered to a depth below the water level in the well and fastened to the well head at a reference point. Data points are logged on an hourly basis.

The Agency uses factory-calibrated, vented pressure transducers; the specific model and cable length is customized for each well. A desiccant is also used to avoid damage to the equipment from moisture.

Agency staff collects the pressure transducer data once per quarter. During the data collection process, data loggers are stopped, and the data is downloaded onto a laptop, and then the data logger is reactivated and scheduled to begin collecting data again on the next hour.

Section 6 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program

6.1 Geographic Extent

The Agency monitors groundwater quality in the coastal region of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and at selected monitoring wells in the Forebay Aquifer (3-004.04) and Upper Valley Aquifer (3-004.05) Subbasins (Attachment C).

6.2 Record Keeping

Wells that are part of the Agency's groundwater level monitoring network are required to be registered, per the criteria described in Section 3 of this Manual.

6.3 Data Collection

The Agency collects groundwater quality samples twice per year from wells in the groundwater quality monitoring program. Additional samples may be collected as needed for special projects or to meet the needs of a Requesting Entity.

Field blanks and field duplicates are collected as part of the groundwater quality monitoring program to evaluate the sample collection process for contamination from exposure to ambient conditions, sample containers, or improper sampling and handling techniques. Field blank

samples are obtained by pouring deionized (DI) water acquired from the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory into a sample container that has been triple-rinsed with DI water at the sampling location. If target analytes are identified in field blanks, sampling and handling procedures will be reevaluated and corrective actions, consisting of but not limited to re-training of field personnel, contact with the laboratory, invalidation, or qualifying of results, will be taken.

Field duplicates are collected and analyzed for the same analytical parameters as the native samples. The duplicate sample will be collected immediately after collection of the native sample, following the same sampling protocols.

The Agency adheres to the protocols set forth in the *Quality Assurance Project Plan for Water Quality Monitoring Associated with the Salinas Valley Integrated Water Management Plan* (EPA R9#03-238, X-97994701-0) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in August 2007.

6.3.1 Groundwater Quality Sample Identification and Handling

Sample containers are high density polyethylene (HDPE), 0.25-gallon (approximately 1 liter) size for complete mineral analysis. Sample containers and caps are purchased in bulk and the caps for the containers are packaged separately. Sterility of the sample containers is not of importance because samples are not analyzed for microbiological testing. No chemical field preservation of the samples is required.

Sample containers are labeled with pre-printed labels. The collection date, collection time, and sampler name are recorded in the field with an indelible marker.

All samples are handled, prepared, transported, and stored in a manner so as to minimize contamination and spills. After collection, sample caps are checked for tightness, and the samples are immediately placed in an ice chest. During travel between sites, ice chest lids are kept tightly closed. Blue ice packs are used in sufficient quantity so that all samples are stored at $4\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Chain-of-custody (COC) forms are provided by the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory and filled out by field personnel while in the field. The COC accompanies the samples at all times in order to ensure the custodial integrity of the samples. The COC form includes the sample site, which is identified by State Well Identification Number or Quality Control sample, if appropriate.

Upon relinquishing the sample(s) to the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory, the sampler signs and dates the COC form. Lab personnel will then receive the sample(s), check the temperature, mark the date and time received, assign unique lab identification numbers (lab IDs) to each sample, and sign the COC form. The signed COC form is copied; the lab keeps the

original and a copy is given to the sampler. Hard copies of COC forms are maintained by Agency for a period of ten years.

6.3.2 Analytical Methods

Groundwater samples, including field blanks and field duplicates, are analyzed for an “Ag Waiver Panel” consisting of the following analytes: calcium, cation-anion balance, chloride, conductivity, magnesium, nitrate, pH, potassium, sodium, sulfate, total alkalinity, and total dissolved solids.

Samples are analyzed at the Monterey County Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory, which is part of the Monterey County Health Department and holds Certification Number 1395 from the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). ELAP is part of the Division of Drinking Water at the State Water Resources Control Board.

APPENDIX B

DEEP AQUIFERS GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK

Appendix B
Deep Aquifers Groundwater Level Monitoring Network

Facility Code	Well Name	Aquifer	Screen Interval (ft)	Well Use	Subbasin	Region	Data Source	Monitoring Frequency	Monitoring Network Type
13	13S/02E-31A02	Deep Aquifers	850-1,600	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
75	13S/02E-19Q03	Deep Aquifers	1,220-1,550	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
22681	13S/01E-36J02	Deep Aquifers	1,301-1,361	Domestic	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
22929	14S/02E-28H04	Deep Aquifers	940-1,030	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
23135	14S/02E-28C02	Deep Aquifers	720-1,140	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26127	14S/02E-21L02	Deep Aquifers	1,240-1,780	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26393	14S/02E-18B01	Deep Aquifers	1,120-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26473	14S/02E-19G01	Deep Aquifers	1,020-1,900	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26677	14S/02E-26D01	Deep Aquifers	885-1,640	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26854	14S/02E-22J02	Deep Aquifers	1,080-1,620	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26934	14S/02E-34M01	Deep Aquifers	800-1,645	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26954	14S/02E-23P02	Deep Aquifers	740-1,600	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26955	14S/02E-27J02	Deep Aquifers	810-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26973	14S/02E-26A10	Deep Aquifers	990-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
26975	14S/02E-26J04	Deep Aquifers	845-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Alternative
225553	15S/03E-10D04	400-ft and Deep Aquifers	600-950	Urban	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	Ancillary
498	13S/02E-15M03	400-ft and Deep Aquifers	800-1,050	Industrial	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Quarterly	Ancillary
22656	14S/03E-07P50	400-ft and Deep Aquifers	510-1,125	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Quarterly	Ancillary
1672	14S/02E-06L01	Deep Aquifers	860-1,540	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
2261	13S/01E-25R01	Deep Aquifers	1,323-1,383	Domestic	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
10164	13S/02E-32E05	Deep Aquifers	775-1,585	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
21356	15S/02E-04A03	Deep Aquifers	890-910	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
22274	14S/01E-24L02	Deep Aquifers	1,820-1,860	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
22275	14S/01E-24L03	Deep Aquifers	1,410-1,430	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
22276	14S/01E-24L04	Deep Aquifers	1,040-1,060	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
22277	14S/01E-24L05	Deep Aquifers	930-950	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
22755	14S/02E-07J03	Deep Aquifers	1,450-1,570	Industrial	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
22928	13S/02E-28L03	Deep Aquifers	1,080-1,330	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
24033	14S/02E-22A03	Deep Aquifers	980-1,640	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26103	14S/02E-21K04	Deep Aquifers	1,240-1,800	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26313	14S/02E-33E01	Deep Aquifers	1,045-1,095	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Daily	RMS
26314	14S/02E-33E02	Deep Aquifers	1,680-1,760	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26394	14S/02E-20E01	Deep Aquifers	1,120-2,020	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26655	14S/03E-19C01	Deep Aquifers	833-1,723	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26674	14S/02E-27K02	Deep Aquifers	850-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26974	14S/02E-26G01	Deep Aquifers	820-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26988	14S/02E-25A03	Deep Aquifers	810-1,700	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26989	14S/02E-23J02	Deep Aquifers	850-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26993	14S/02E-35B01	Deep Aquifers	870-1,680	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
26994	14S/02E-14R02	Deep Aquifers	880-1,680	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Monthly	RMS
	F Tank well*	Deep Aquifers	TBD	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWDGSA	Not monitored yet	RMS**
27165	E-DA-2	Deep Aquifers	1,230-1,280	Monitoring	Eastside Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Daily	RMS
22951	13S/03E-30K50	Deep Aquifers	570-900	Agricultural	Langley Area	Northern	MCWRA	Quarterly	RMS
27084	15S/02E-12C02	Deep Aquifers	950-1,000	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Daily	RMS

* Well construction planned or ongoing as of 10/2025.

** Monitoring has not yet started.

***Equipped with data logger and manually monitored quarterly.

Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers
October 2025

Appendix B
Deep Aquifers Groundwater Level Monitoring Network

Facility Code	Well Name	Aquifer	Screen Interval (ft)	Well Use	Subbasin	Region	Data Source	Monitoring Frequency	Monitoring Network Type
27104	16S/05E-30F02	Deep Aquifers	1,020-1,080	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Daily	RMS
	Lapis Rd well*	Deep Aquifers	TBD	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Not monitored yet	RMS**
	4th Ave well*	Deep Aquifers	TBD	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWDGSA	Not monitored yet	RMS**
22996	16S/05E-28K50	Eastside Deep Zone	600-830	Agricultural	Eastside Aquifer	Outside DA Extent	MCWRA	Monthly	Ancillary
26134	16S/04E-03K01	Eastside Deep Zone	762-1,060	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Outside DA Extent	MCWRA	Monthly	Ancillary
	Paralta	Deep Aquifers	440-810	Urban	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	Ancillary
	Camp Huffman (D)	Deep Aquifers	950-1,320	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	FO-07-Deep	Deep Aquifers	800-840	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	FO-07-Shallow	Deep Aquifers	600-640	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	FO-08-Deep	Deep Aquifers	900-940	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	FO-08-Shallow	Deep Aquifers	740-780	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	FO-09-Deep	Deep Aquifers	790-830	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	FO-11-Deep	Deep Aquifers	1,090-1,120	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	Military	Deep Aquifers	184-264	Urban	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	Ord Grove #2	Deep Aquifers	356-476	Urban	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	Ord Grove Test	Deep Aquifers	355-480	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	Ord Terrace-Shallow	Deep Aquifers	356-476	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	Paralta Test Well	Deep Aquifers	430-800	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	PCA-E Deep	Deep Aquifers	650-700	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	PCA-E Shallow	Deep Aquifers	350-400	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	PCA-W Deep	Deep Aquifers	825-875	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	PCA-W Shallow	Deep Aquifers	525-575	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS
	Sentinel MW #1	Deep Aquifers	1,130-1,490	Monitoring	Monterey	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS***
	Sentinel MW #2	Deep Aquifers	990-1,480	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS***
	Sentinel MW #3	Deep Aquifers	860-1,290	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS***
	Sentinel MW #4	Deep Aquifers	705-930	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS***
	FO-09R-Shallow	Deep Aquifers	540-585	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Monthly	RMS**
22926	17S/05E-08L02	400-ft and Deep Aquifers	330-810	Agricultural	Forebay Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Annually	Ancillary
24589	15S/03E-13D01	400-ft and Deep Aquifers	480-900	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Quarterly	Ancillary
	F-DA-1	Deep Aquifers	1,200-1,250	Monitoring	Forebay Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Not monitored yet	RMS**
22926	17S/05E-08L02	Deep Aquifers	615-1,005	Agricultural	Forebay Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Quarterly	RMS
27085	DA-3	Deep Aquifers	1,150-1,200	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Daily	RMS

* Well construction planned or ongoing as of 10/2025.

** Monitoring has not yet started.

***Equipped with data logger and manually monitored quarterly.

Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers
October 2025

Appendix B
Deep Aquifers Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network

Well Name	Aquifer	Screen Interval (ft)	Well Use	Subbasin	Region	Source	Monitoring Frequency	Monitoring Network Type	Facility Code
13S/02E-19Q03	Deep Aquifers	1,220-1,550	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	75
17S/05E-21F50	Deep Aquifers	615-1,005	Agricultural	Forebay Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	672
13S/02E-31A02	Deep Aquifers	850-1,600	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	1153
14S/02E-07J03	Deep Aquifers	1,450-1,570	Industrial	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	1672
13S/01E-25R01	Deep Aquifers	1,323-1,383	Domestic	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	2261
14S/02E-30G03	Deep Aquifers	1,390-1,700	Urban	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	2451
14S/02E-32D04	Deep Aquifers	970-1,650	Urban	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	2452
14S/02E-31H01	Deep Aquifers	930-1,080	Urban	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	2453
14S/01E-24L02	Deep Aquifers	1,820-1,860	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22274
14S/01E-24L03	Deep Aquifers	1,410-1,430	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22275
14S/01E-24L04	Deep Aquifers	1,040-1,060	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22276
14S/01E-24L05	Deep Aquifers	930-950	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22277
13S/01E-36J02	Deep Aquifers	1,301-1,361	Domestic	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22681
14S/02E-14R02	Deep Aquifers	880-1,680	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22755
13S/02E-28L03	Deep Aquifers	1,080-1,330	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22928
14S/02E-28H04	Deep Aquifers	940-1,030	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22929
13S/03E-30K50	Deep Aquifers	570-900	Agricultural	Langley Area	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	22951
14S/02E-28C02	Deep Aquifers	720-1,140	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	23135
14S/02E-22J02	Deep Aquifers	1,080-1,620	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	24033
15S/02E-04A04	Deep Aquifers	705-1,085	Urban	Monterey	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	25375
14S/02E-29C01	Deep Aquifers	1,030-1,780	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	25973
14S/02E-21L02	Deep Aquifers	1,240-1,780	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26103
14S/02E-22A03	Deep Aquifers	980-1,640	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26127
16S/04E-03K01	Eastside Deep	762-1,060	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Outside DA ext	MCWRA	Annually	Ancillary	26134
14S/02E-19G01	Deep Aquifers	1,020-1,900	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26393
14S/02E-21K04	Deep Aquifers	1,240-1,800	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26394
14S/02E-20E01	Deep Aquifers	1,120-2,020	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26473
14S/03E-19C01	Deep Aquifers	833-1,723	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26655
14S/02E-27K02	Deep Aquifers	850-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26674
14S/02E-26D01	Deep Aquifers	885-1,640	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26677
14S/02E-23G02	Deep Aquifers	1,020-1,560	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26854
14S/02E-34M01	Deep Aquifers	800-1,645	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26934
14S/02E-23P02	Deep Aquifers	740-1,600	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26954
14S/02E-27J02	Deep Aquifers	810-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26955
14S/02E-26A10	Deep Aquifers	990-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26973
14S/02E-26G01	Deep Aquifers	820-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26974
14S/02E-26J04	Deep Aquifers	845-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26975
14S/02E-25A03	Deep Aquifers	810-1,700	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26988
14S/02E-23J02	Deep Aquifers	850-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26989
14S/02E-35B01	Deep Aquifers	870-1,680	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26993
14S/02E-18B01	Deep Aquifers	1,120-1,680	Agricultural	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	26994
DA-1	Deep Aquifers	950-1,000	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	27084
DA-2	Deep Aquifers	1,020-1,080	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	27104
Camp Huffman (D)	Deep Aquifers	950-1,320	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Every 5 years	RMS	
FO-09-Deep	Deep Aquifers	790-830	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS	

* Well construction planned or ongoing as of 10/2025.

** Monitoring has not yet started.

Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers
October 2025

Appendix B
Deep Aquifers Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network

Well Name	Aquifer	Screen Interval (ft)	Well Use	Subbasin	Region	Source	Monitoring Frequency	Monitoring Network Type	Facility Code
FO-09R-Shallow	Deep Aquifers	540-585	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS	
Mission Memorial	Deep Aquifers	225-415	Urban	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Annually	RMS	
Ord Grove #2	Deep Aquifers	356-476	Urban	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Annually	RMS	
Ord Terrace-Shallow	Deep Aquifers	356-476	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Annually	RMS	
Paralta	Deep Aquifers	440-810	Urban	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	Ancillary	
PCA-E Deep	Deep Aquifers	650-700	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS	
PCA-E Shallow	Deep Aquifers	350-400	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Annually	RMS	
PCA-W Deep	Deep Aquifers	825-875	Monitoring	Seaside	Seaside	Seaside Watermaster	Quarterly	RMS	
DA-3	Deep Aquifers	1,150-1,200	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	27085
E-DA-2	Deep Aquifers	1,230-1,280	Monitoring	Eastside	Northern	MCWRA	Annually	RMS	27165
F-DA-1	Deep Aquifers	1,200-1,250	Monitoring	Forebay Aquifer	Southeastern	MCWRA	Not monitored yet	RMS**	
F Tank well*	Deep Aquifers	TBD	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWDGSA	Not monitored yet	RMS**	
Lapis Rd well*	Deep Aquifers	TBD	Monitoring	180/400-ft. Aquifer	Northern	MCWRA	Not monitored yet	RMS**	
4th Ave well*	Deep Aquifers	TBD	Monitoring	Monterey	Northern	MCWDGSA	Not monitored yet	RMS**	

* Well construction planned or ongoing as of 10/2025.

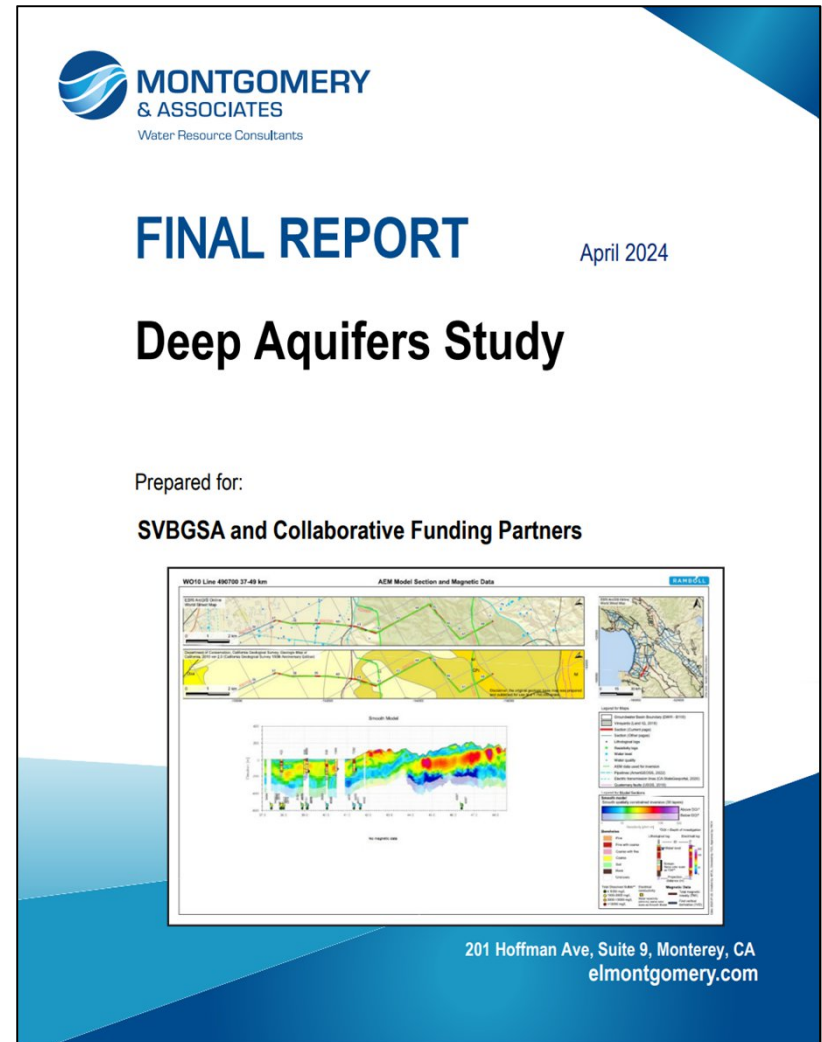
** Monitoring has not yet started.



Consider adopting the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.

Background

- The Deep Aquifers Study (“Study”) was completed in 2024.
- The Study included recommendations for refining existing monitoring networks across the entirety of the Deep Aquifers.



Available at www.svbgsa.org/deep-aquifer-study



Overview

- In response to the Study recommendation, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA") prepared a *Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin* ("Monitoring Plan").
- The Monitoring Plan describes the types and frequencies of monitoring across the Deep Aquifers extent as conducted by:
 - MCWRA
 - Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 - Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
 - Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 - Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster

Purpose

The Monitoring Plan is intended to:



Describe current groundwater monitoring activities and methodologies.



Identify data gaps and present an approach for enhancing and expanding monitoring to minimize or eliminate data gaps.



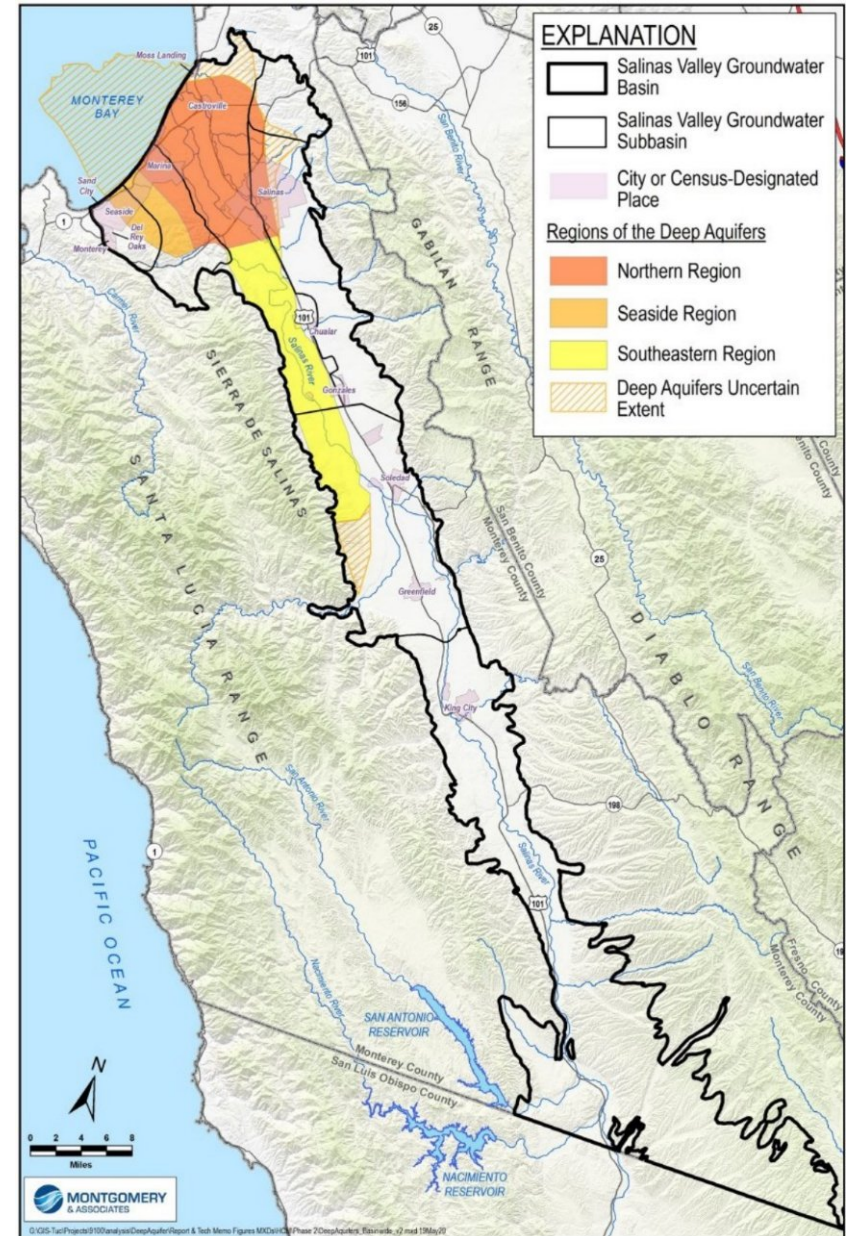
Improve a collective regional understanding of conditions in the Deep Aquifers.



Provide a mechanism for the monitoring entities to regularly review and, if needed, refine the monitoring network.

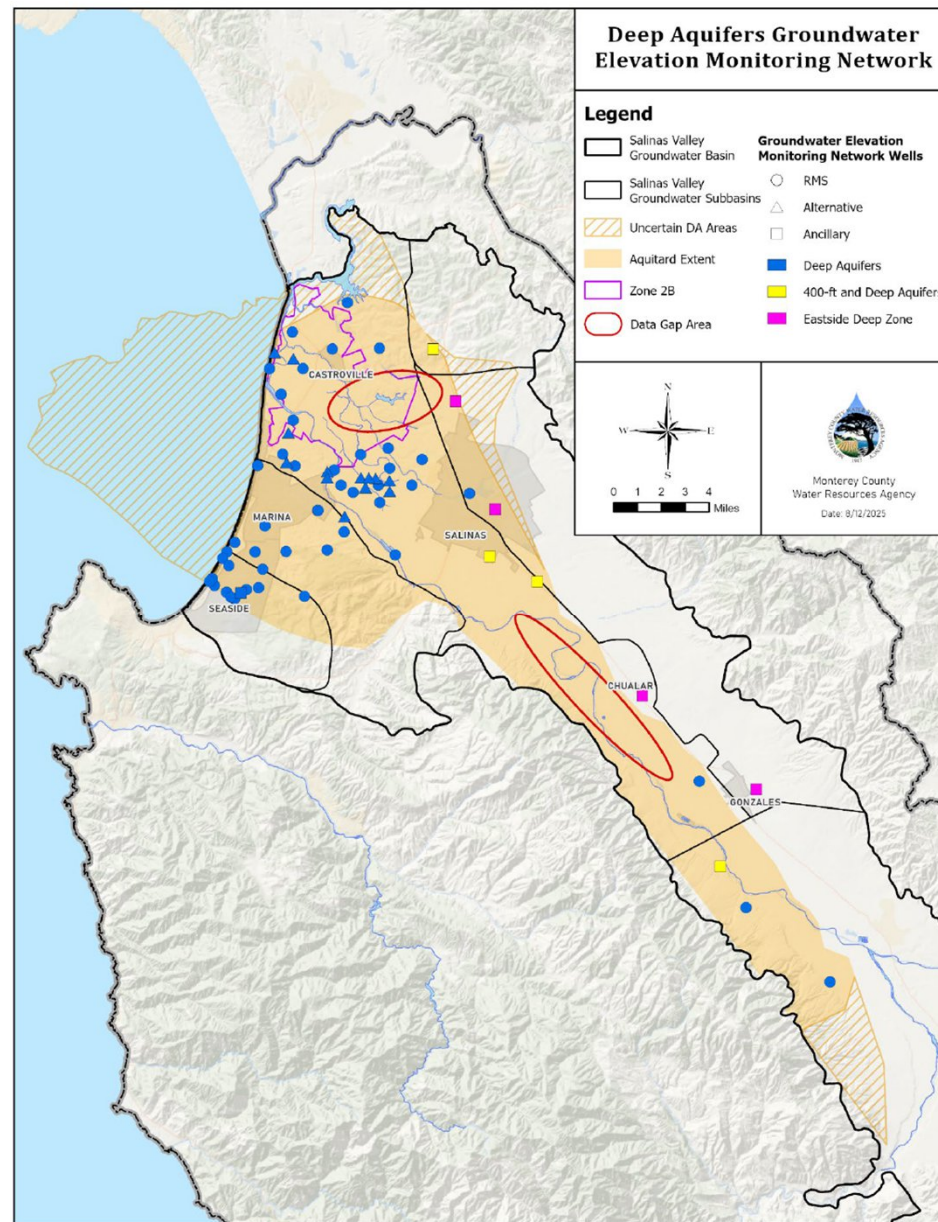
Monitoring Plan Elements

- Geographic extent is based on the definition in the Deep Aquifers Study.
- Data collection includes:
 - Groundwater extraction and injection
 - Annually
 - Groundwater elevation
 - At least quarterly
 - Groundwater quality
 - At least annually



Monitoring Plan Elements

- Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
 - 76 existing wells
 - 2 data gaps
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring
 - 59 existing wells
 - 2 data gaps
- The Monitoring Plan does not provide a schedule or funding mechanism for filling data gaps.





Monitoring Plan Elements

- An annual assessment of the monitoring networks is included in the Monitoring Plan. The purpose of this is to provide a time for the monitoring entities to:
 - Identify wells that may need to be replaced.
 - Capture information about new wells to add to the monitoring network(s).
 - Discuss changes to monitoring methodologies.
 - Update the Monitoring Plan.
 - As they arise, work on other topics related to Deep Aquifers monitoring that may require coordination.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Five groundwater management agencies span the Deep Aquifers, with varying governance and monitoring programs.
- Purposes of the MOU:
 - Generally describe each agency's activities
 - Capture respective commitments to cooperate toward implementation of the Monitoring Plan
 - Annual sharing of data and reevaluation of the Monitoring Plan, as needed
 - Provide a non-technical explanation of agency roles and cooperation needed to implement the Monitoring Plan



Financial Impact

- Funding to prepare the Monitoring Plan was provided in full through a subgrant from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which received funds from the Budget Act of 2021 through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources.
- Participating entities are responsible for implementing the Monitoring Plan within their jurisdiction.
- For MCWRA, adoption of the MOU has no fiscal impact on the adopted FY 2025-26 budget.



Strategic Plan Alignment

- Development and implementation of the Monitoring Plan and adoption of the MOU align with the adopted Strategic Plan:
- Goal B – Planning and New Projects
 - Strategy 2 – Collaborate with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, define MCWRA's role, and implement a GSA integration plan.
 - Strategy 5 – Develop plans to enhance our critical water resources facilities and increase sustainability.
 - Strategy 7 – Use data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science.
- Goal C – Financial Sustainability
 - Strategy 6 – Pursue grant funding and cost saving opportunities from all available sources, including collaborating with the GSA.
- Goal E – Community Relations
 - Strategy 1 – Improve public outreach to increase transparency, communication, education, and information about Agency projects and programs.



Adopt the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize coordination among agencies toward implementing the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers.



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: 25-913

December 09, 2025

Introduced: 12/5/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Addenda/Supplemental

Attached a Revised Board Report to Item No. 2 under Scheduled Matters reflecting changes to the Summary/Discussion portion.