

Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin Investigation Report

County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

December 4, 2024

LEG ID 24-193

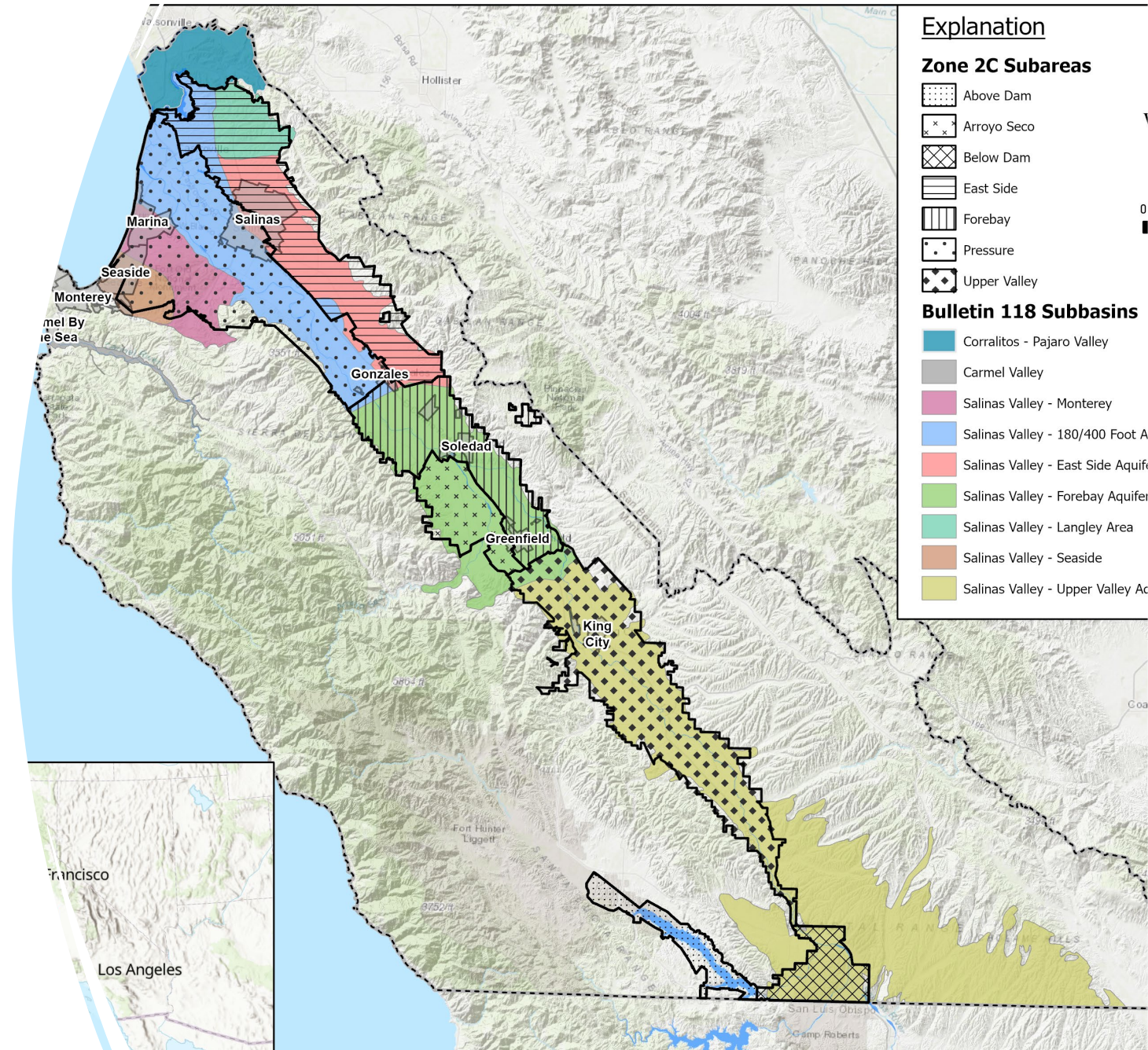
Action:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors consider adopting a resolution:

- a. Finding that this action is not a project under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5);
- b. Acknowledging receipt of an Investigation Report prepared pursuant to Policy PS 3.1 of the 2010 Monterey County General Plan;
- c. Directing staff to coordinate with applicable groundwater sustainability agencies to align groundwater sustainability efforts with land use decisions as a measure that will address the groundwater conditions described in the Investigation Report; and
- d. Directing staff to prepare a General Plan amendment to update Policy PS 3.1 in light of the completed investigation.

Background:

- 2010 General Plan was pre-SGMA. GSA's now in place.
- Geographic difference in report boundaries with Zone 2C.
- Data/model temporal differences between reports.
- GSA and County's General Plan timing horizons out of alignment.



Received Comments

Clark Colony Water Company, August 26, 2024

Salinas Basin Water Alliance, August 27, 2024

Monterey County Farm Bureau, Salinas Valley Water Coalition, Salinas Basin Water Alliance, August 30, 2024

Clark Colony Water Company, October 25, 2024

Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency, October 25, 2024

Mr. Kevin Piearcy Salinas Valley Property Owner, October 25, 2024

Letter Response from Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to Monterey County Farm Bureau, Salinas Valley Water Coalition, Salinas Basin Water Alliance, October 15, 2024

MR Wolfe and Associates on behalf of LandWatch Monterey County, November 21, 2024



Recommended Measures

1. Maintain current infrastructure, included regulatory required work at San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs.
 - 2. Consider groundwater conditions in Land Use Planning.**
 3. Prevent declines in groundwater recharge.
 4. Support conservation to reduce groundwater demand.
 5. Prevent seawater intrusion leakage between aquifers.
-

Process for amending General Plan



LAND USE COMMITTEE WITH
STAKEHOLDERS, COMPILED BY GSA



WORKSHOPS HELD BY COUNTY AND
GSA'S



PUBLIC HEARING

Next Steps: Provide direction to staff

- Coordinate with local groundwater sustainability agencies, water districts, and stakeholders to develop a coordinated approach to evaluating land use decisions and groundwater sustainability together.
- Do not rely on rebuttable presumption in Zone 2C
- Direct staff to analyze projects in the context of SGMA.
- Amend PS-3.1 to memorialize that the SVGB Investigation Report is complete

Action:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors consider adopting a resolution:

- a. Finding that this action is not a project under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5);
- b. Acknowledging receipt of an Investigation Report prepared pursuant to Policy PS 3.1 of the 2010 Monterey County General Plan;
- c. Directing staff to coordinate with applicable groundwater sustainability agencies to align groundwater sustainability efforts with land use decisions as a measure that will address the groundwater conditions described in the Investigation Report; and
- d. Directing staff to prepare a General Plan amendment to update Policy PS 3.1 in light of the completed investigation.