

County of Monterey

*Board of Supervisor's Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, Ca 93901*



Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 20, 2025

12:30 PM

**Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99769079850> or
BoS Chambers 168 W. Alisal 1st Fl., Salinas, Ca 93901.**

Water Resources Agency Board of Directors

*Mike LeBarre, Chair
Matt Simis, Vice Chair
Mark Gonzalez
Deidre Sullivan
Ken Ekelund
Mike Scattini
Jason Smith
John Baillie
Jon Conatser*

Participation in meetings:

You may attend the Board of Directors meeting through the following methods:

1. You may attend in person

2. Attend via Zoom (info below) or observe the live stream of the Board of Directors meetings at http://monterey.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=19 or <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>

3. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://monterevcty.zoom.us/j/99769079850>

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

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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Enter this Meeting ID number: 997 6907 9850 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just press # again after the recording prompts you.

You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

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

Participacion en Reuniones:

Puede asistir a la reunion de la Junta Directiva a traves de los siguientes metodos:

-
1. Podar asistir personalmente a la reunion; o,

2. Asistir por Zoom (informacion a continuacion), que observe la transmisión de la reunión de la Junta Directiva en vivo por http://monterey.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=19 o <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>

3. Para participar for ZOOM, por favor únase for audio de computadora por:
[https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/997 6907 9850](https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/997%206907%209850)

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Call to Order at 12:30 P.M.

Roll Call

Public Comments on Closed Session Items

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:
 - a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) and (d)(4), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding one matter of significant exposure to litigation and the potential initiation of litigation.
 - b. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding existing litigation: *Ed Borchard & Sons, LLC v. Monterey County Water Resources Agency*, Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 25CV00461.

Recess to Closed Session

Reconvene Meeting at 1:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Presentations

2. Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program Effectiveness Assessment.
(Presenter: Paul Robins)

Attachments: [RCDMC Presentation SMP Effectiveness MCWRA Board 10-20-2025](#)

Consent Calendar

3. Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 15, 2025.

Attachments: [draft BOD Minutes September 15, 2025](#)

Action Items

4. Consider receiving an update on implementation of the Interim Operations Plan for San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs and adopt a revised passage flow target for steelhead migration in the Salinas River. (Staff: Peter Kwiek)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

5. Consider recommendations from the Planning Committee for proposed revisions to the Agency's Bylaws and provide direction. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

[Proposed Amendments WRA Bylaws - October 2025 BOD](#)

[Planning Committee Memorandum Re: Considerations for modernizing Agency](#)

[SVBGSA Brown Act Board Roles Responsibilities](#)

Key Information and Calendar of Events

6. October, November and December 2025 Calendars.

Attachments: [October 2025](#)

[November 2025](#)

[December 2025](#)

General Manager's Report

7.
 1. Personnel
 2. Dam Safety & Operations Future Funding Strategy
 3. Mussel Prevention Program

Committee Reports

8. Committee Agenda's and Cancellation Notices for September and October 2025:
- Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee
 - Water Resources Agency Finance Committee Cancellation Notice
 - Water Resources Personnel and Administration Committee Cancellation Notice
 - Water Resources Agency Basin Management Advisory Committee Cancellation Notice
 - Water Resources Agency Planning Committee
 - Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee Cancellation Notice
 - Budget Committee
 - County of Monterey Legislative Committee

Attachments: [Final ResOps Agenda September 25, 2025](#)
 [Finance Cancellation Notice October 3, 2025](#)
 [P&A Cancellation Notice October 3, 2025](#)
 [BMAC Cancellation Notice October 1, 2025](#)
 [Final Planning Agenda October 1, 2025](#)
 [JBL Cancellation Notice September 18, 2025](#)
 [Budget Committee Agenda Sept 24, 2025](#)
 [Legislative Committee Agenda October 13, 2025](#)

Information Items

9. Reservoir Storage and Release Update. (Staff: Joseph Klein)

Attachments: [Reservoir Storage Release Update Report](#)

Correspondence

10. 1. Email Correspondence dated September 11, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Supervisors, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Bill Lipe, re: Submission of Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Policy Paper.
2. Email Correspondence dated September 15, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Thomas Virsik, Attorney at Law re: WRA BOD public comment violation.
3. Email Correspondence dated September 16, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Thomas Virsik, Attorney at Law re: September 15, 2025 MCWRA BOD Meeting. WRA BOD public comment violation.
4. Correspondence dated September 16, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Frank L. Blackett P.E., Regional Engineer Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Projects Division of Dam Safety and Inspections -San Francisco Regional Office re: 8th Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report for Nacimiento Dam.
5. Correspondence dated September 23, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Frank L. Blackett P.E., Regional Engineer Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Projects Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - San Francisco Regional Office re: 2025 Dam Safety Inspection Follow-Up.

Attachments: [Submission of the Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Policy Pa](#)
[WRA BOD public comment violation](#)
[September 15, 2025 -- MCWRA BOD Meeting](#)
[Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Sept.16,2025](#)
[Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Sept. 23,2025](#)

Board of Directors Comments

Adjournment



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-164

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/13/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

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

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

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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 25-162

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/10/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program Effectiveness Assessment. (Presenter: Paul Robins)

Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program Effectiveness Assessment

Presentation to MCWRA Board

October 20, 2025

Emily Zefferman, Ecologist
Jaime Gonzalez Canon, Program Coordinator
Paul Robins, Executive Director

Resource Conservation District of Monterey County



Outline

- ◆ Program Overview and Background
- ◆ Program Participation
- ◆ Results of Effectiveness Analysis
- ◆ Conclusions and Next Steps



Program Overview & Background

- ◆ Multi-benefit approach to vegetation and sediment management
 - ◆ Creation of up to 126 secondary channels and maintenance of 3 tributaries in seven River Management Units
 - ◆ Arundo control as mitigation for program impacts
- ◆ Full program began in 2016 after “Demonstration Project”



Program Overview & Background

- ◇ MCWRA held 404 General Permit (USACE) and 401 Certification (CCWQCB), RCDMC held Routine Maintenance Agreement (CDFW).
- ◇ 401 and 404 transferred to RCDMC within last year
- ◇ RCDMC managing program in collaboration with RMU Association and Farm Bureau
- ◇ MCWRA supporting program through consultation and Professional Services Agreement with RCDMC
 - ◇ Goes through FY 2025/26



Participation and Total Area Treated

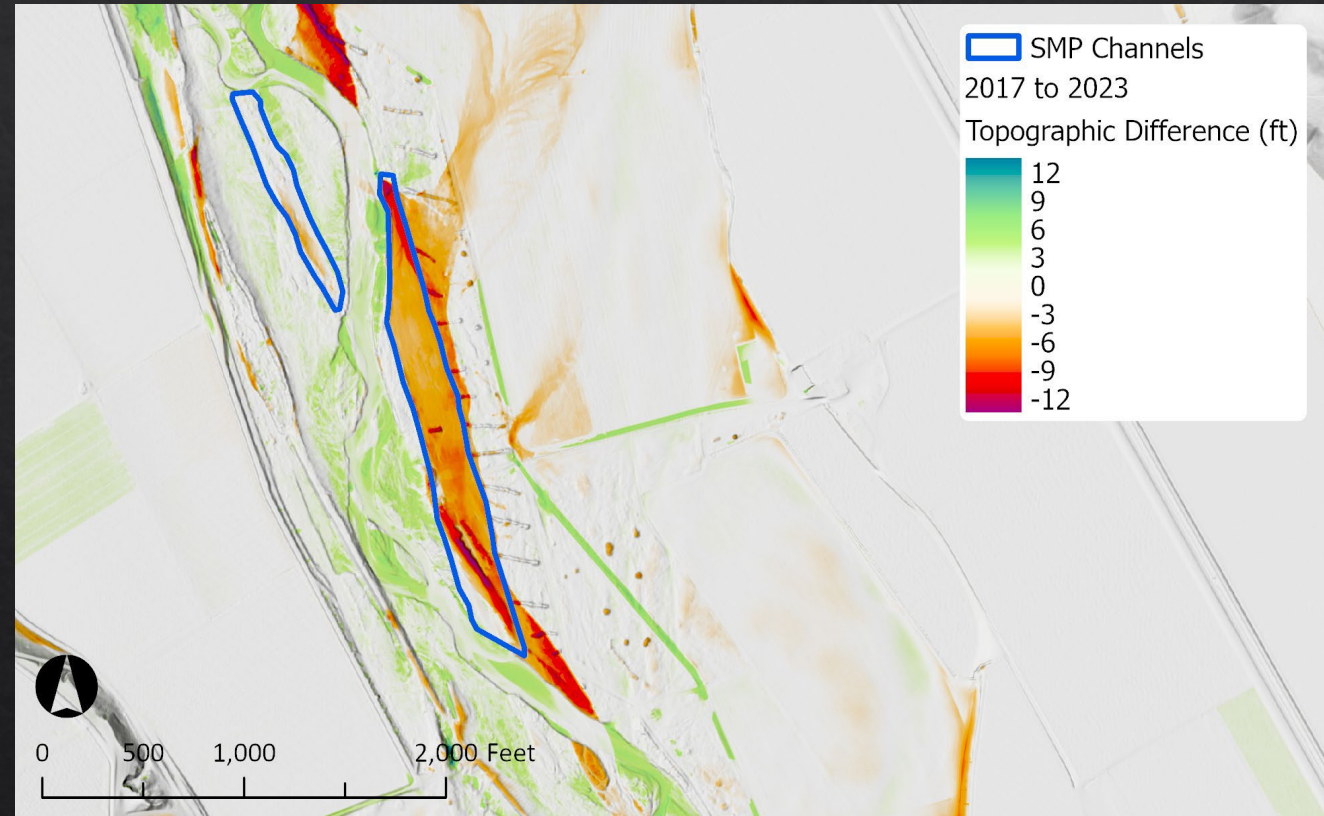
- ◇ 38 out of 126 secondary channels and 1 tributary (San Lorenzo Creek) have participated for one or more years over the 9 years (31%).
- ◇ 148 acres of vegetation + 130 acres of arundo (inside and outside secondary channels)

Year	Total # MAs	RMUs	Total Area Worked Annually (acres)	Total New Area Worked Annually (acres)
Prior Ph 1	-	-	37.9	37.9
2016	23	1,3,4,5,6	108.5	70.6
2017	17	1,3,4,6	98.6	22.1
2018	17	1,2,3,4,5,6	92.7	2.1
2019	22	1,2,3,4,6	120.4	21.4
2020	24	1,2,3,4,6	124.4	6.17
2021	23	1,2,3,4,6	123.08	1.24
2022	27	1,2,3,4,5,6	126.44	16.40
2023	21	1,3,4,5,6	116.40	26.50
2024	22	1,3,4,5,6	118.76	8.97

Effectiveness Assessment: Is the Stream Maintenance Program Working?

Are the maintenance areas functioning as designed?

- ◆ FlowWest compared topographic data in secondary channels before and after flow events
- ◆ Analysis found vegetation removal, sediment removal, and grading increase likelihood of sediment scour.



Are the secondary channels functioning as designed?

- ◇ Secondary channels are “activating” during moderate flow events, creating braided channel
- ◇ [Possible groundwater benefit under investigation]



Are the secondary channels functioning as designed?

- ◇ River has shifted away from banks into maintained secondary channels
- ◇ Reduces bank erosion
- ◇ Levee breaching observed in 2023 in areas where vegetation is thick and secondary channels were not present



Does the observed extent of flooding match hydraulic model predictions?

- ◆ 42,800 cfs at Spreckles considered 10-year event
- ◆ 2023 gage at Spreckels = 23,300 cfs
- ◆ [Note: gages may not accurately measure flood events!]
- ◆ Used aerial imagery of March 2023 event from Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem to compare observed vs. modeled



Does the observed extent of flooding match hydraulic model predictions?



Modeled 5-year Flow Depths RMU 1, King City

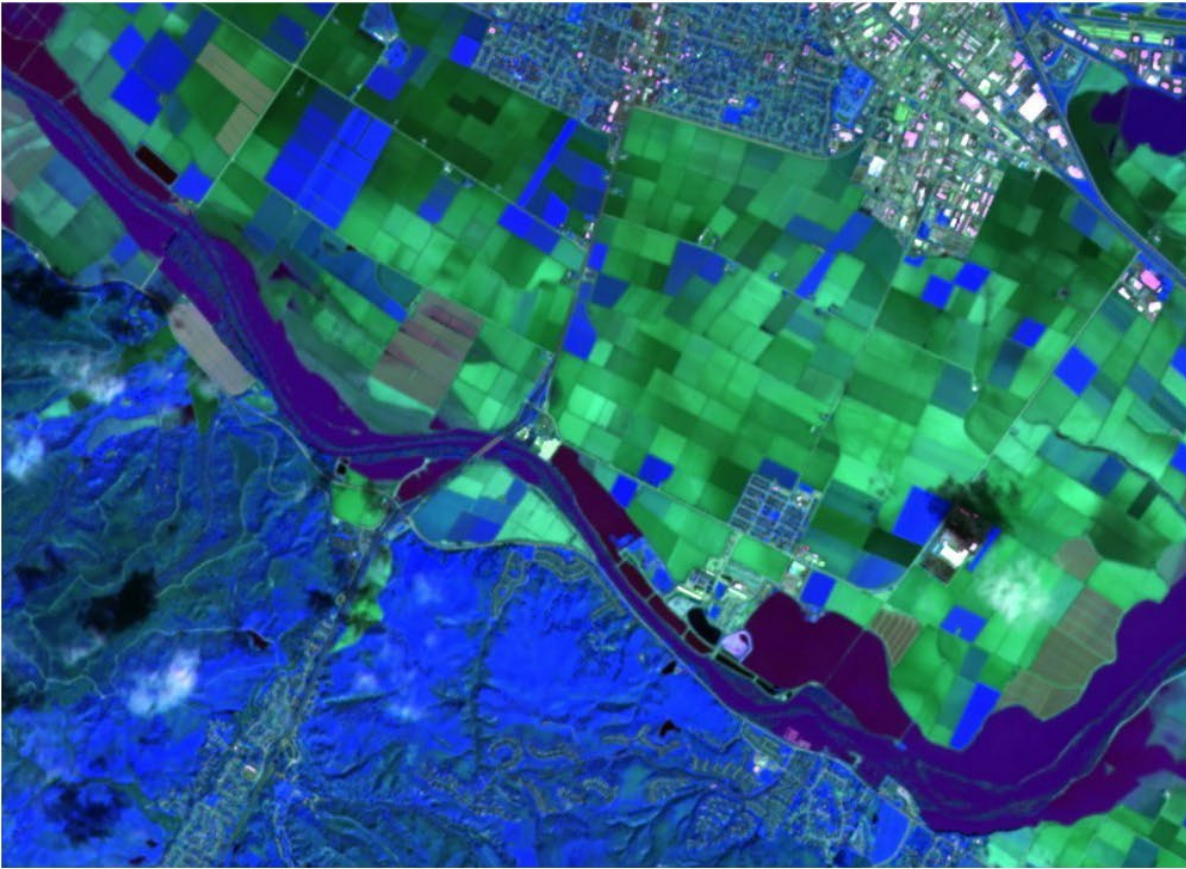


Copernicus Data Ecosystem 2023 flood event



Modeled 10-year Flow Depths RMU 1, King City

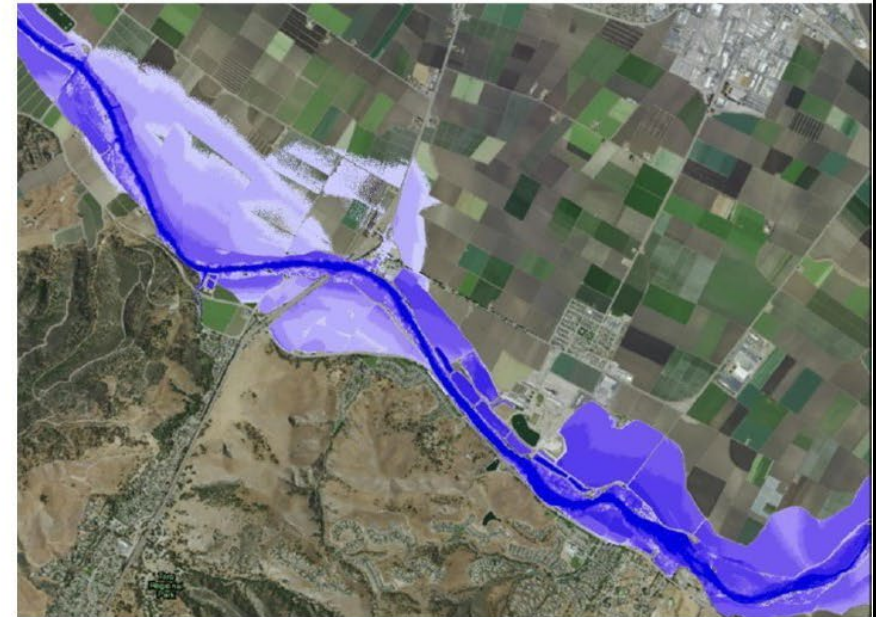
Does the observed extent of flooding match hydraulic model predictions?



Copernicus Data Ecosystem flood event 2023



Modeled 5-year Flow Depths RMU 6, Salinas



Modeled 10-year Flow Depths RMU 6, Salinas

Is the SMP affecting beneficial uses and habitat function?

- ◆ Arundo mitigation has opened space for native vegetation and increased habitat diversity



Is the SMP affecting beneficial uses and habitat function?

- ❖ Wildlife monitoring study showed increased detections in treated areas
- ❖ Flooding and drought have much greater effects on wildlife and habitat



Conclusions

Stream Maintenance Program

- ◆ Stream Maintenance Program is effective in reducing localized flood damage in areas where it has been implemented [not a flood prevention program!]
- ◆ Difficult to assess full program effectiveness due to low participation
- ◆ Species and habitats are not adversely impacted

Next Steps

- ◆ Renewing SMP permits
- ◆ Continue to work with participants and partners to improve and streamline program
- ◆ Continue to seek external funding and support for program
- ◆ Increase participation

SALINAS RIVER

STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



GROWN & HARVESTED BY
RIVER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION &
RCD OF MONTEREY COUNTY

Conclusions

Overall Flood Risk in Salinas Valley

- ◆ Factors that contribute to flooding
 - ◆ Vegetation growth in the riparian zone (especially arundo!)
 - ◆ Narrowing of greater channel through increased ag development
 - ◆ Poor quality of private levees/berms
 - ◆ (Did not see increased sedimentation in greater channel over time)
- ◆ What else can we do to reduce flood risk?
 - ◆ Arundo eradication (apx 2/3 of 1500 acre infestation under control)
 - ◆ Investigate off-channel water detention
 - ◆ Improve levee/berm quality

RCD of Monterey County will continue working with multiple partners to address challenges around flooding in the Salinas Valley.

Thank you to MCWRA and other partners for your collaboration!





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 25-158

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 9/18/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 15, 2025.

County of Monterey

*Board of Supervisor's Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, Ca 93901*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025

12:00 PM

**Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99769079850> or BoS
Chambers 168 W. Alisal 1st Fl., Salinas, Ca 93901**

Water Resources Agency Board of Directors

*Mike LeBarre, Chair
Matt Simis, Vice Chair
Mark Gonzalez
Deidre Sullivan
Ken Ekelund
Mike Scattini
Jason Smith
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artículo de la agenda relacionado con su comentario, por favor indique en la línea de asunto del correo electrónico el cuerpo de la reunión (es decir, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el número de artículo (es decir, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de la reunión de esta Junta.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: 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.

Call to Order at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzales, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini (arrived at 12:02p.m.), Jason Smith (arrived at 12:11 p.m.), John Baillie, Jon Conatser (12:23 p.m.)
Absent: None

Public Comments on Closed Session Items

None

1. a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding existing litigation:

Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee v. Monterey County Water Resources Agency, et al. (San Luis Obispo Superior Court Case No. 19CVP-0010)

Recess to Closed Session

Reconvene Meeting at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m., County Counsel has no reportable items from Closed Session.

Pledge of Allegiance

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS BY CLERK: The Clerk of the Board will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code.

Public Comment

None

Presentations

2. Receive a presentation by David Ceppos on the Department of Water Resources Facilitation Support Services (DWR FSS) Assessment for Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project. (CSIP) (Presenter: Dave Ceppos)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [CSIP Stakeholder Assesment PPT](#)

Directors Comments: John Baillie, Mike Scattini
Public Comments: Norman Groot

3. Receive an update on recommendations from the July 22, 2024, GPP Analytics, Inc. Water Recycling Agreement Expense Audit of the Water Recycling Agreement with Monterey One Water (M1W). (Presenter: Shaunna Murray)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [GPP Audit Recommendations](#)

Directors Comments: Mike LeBarre
Public Comments: Margie Kay

4. Update on the Nonpoint Source Implementation Plan. (Presenter: Manuel Saavedra)

Attachments: [Nonpoint Source Implemenation Plan PPT](#)

Directors Comments: Mike Scattini, Mike LeBarre
Public Comments: None

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion by Director Mike Scattini and Second by Director John Baillie the Board approved the Consent Calendar.

Upon Motion by Director John Baillie Consent Items #7 and #12 were pulled for further Board of Directors discussion.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baillie, Jon Conatser

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Recused: None.

Board of Director Comments: None.
Public Comments: None.

5. Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on August 18, 2025.

Attachments: [draft BOD Minutes August 18, 2025](#)

6. Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Services with TCB Industrial, Inc., (TCB), to increase the dollar amount by \$275,000 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$640,000 to provide maintenance and repair services for the Nacimiento Dam Hydroelectric Power Plant; and authorize the General Manager to execute the Amendment. (Staff: Manuel Saavedra)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Original Agreement for Services](#)
 [Amendment No.1](#)
 [Amendment No. 2](#)
 [Board Order](#)

7. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Service Agreement with Kennedy Jenks Consultants, Inc. for the CSIP Condition Assessment Project, to extend the term length to July 1st, 2027, and increase the dollar amount by \$94,271 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$193,971; and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1. (Staff: Pete Vannerus)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Original Agreement](#)
 [Amendment No.1](#)
 [Board Order](#)

Board of Director Comments: John Baillie, Mark Gonzalez
Public Comments: None

8. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services with Errol L. Montgomery & Associates, Inc. for CSIP Groundwater Well Consulting Services, to add a dollar increase of \$150,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$250,000; and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1. (Staff: Pete Vannerus)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Original Agreement](#)
 [Amendment No.1](#)
 [Board Order](#)

9. Authorize the General Manager to enter into Amendment Number 2 to the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Sub-grant Disbursement Agreement with the Castroville Community Services District Sub-grantee to extend the term to June 30, 2027 and update the submittal schedule for progress reports and invoices; and authorize the General Manager to execute up to two no-cost amendments to the Sub-grant Agreement. (Staff: Amy Woodrow)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Grant Agreement Amendment No. 4](#)
 [Amendment No. 2](#)
 [Board Order](#)

10. Authorize the General Manager to enter into Amendment Number 2 to the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Sub-grant Disbursement Agreement with the City of Salinas to extend the term to June 30, 2027; and authorize the General Manager to execute up to two no-cost amendments to the Sub-grant Agreement. (Staff: Amy Woodrow)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Grant Agreement Amendment No.4](#)
 [Amendment No. 2](#)
 [Board Order](#)

11. Approve the annual Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for streamgaging and reservoir elevation gaging work in Monterey County in the amount of \$256,210; and Authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement. (Staff: Joey Klein)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [26ZGJFA03000019_JFA \(Final-BOD\)](#)
 [Board Order USGS JFA 2026](#)

12. Consider approving an Agreement for Services with GEI Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$226,815 for work to be performed related to the *Enhancing Predictive Tools and Operational Strategies for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Project* (Project). (Staff: Peter Kwiek)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [GEI PSA with Exhibits](#)
 [Board Order](#)

Upon Motion by Director Mike Scattini and Second by Director Ken Ekelund the Board approved the Agreement for Services with GEI Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$226,815 for work to be performed related to the Enhancing Predictive Tools and Operations Strategies for the Nacimiento and San Antonio dams and Reservoirs Project (Project) with a modification to move to Fund 111.

Aye: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baillie, Jon Conatser

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Against: None

Recused: None.

Board of Director Comments: Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, John Baillie

Public Comments: None

Action Items

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund and Second by Director Matt Simis the Board received an update on the MCWRA activities related to the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Subgrant Agreements.

Aye: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baillie, Jon Conatser

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Against: None

Recused: None.

Board of Director Comments: Mike LeBarre, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Matt Simis, John Baillie, Deidre Sullivan

Public Comments: Norman Groot, Christopher Bunn, Thomas Virsik, Nancy Isakson

13. Consider receiving an update on the MCWRA activities related to the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Subgrant Agreements. (Presenter: Shaunna Murray)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [SVBGSA Projects PPT](#)
 [Board Order](#)

14. Consider approving Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services with Fieldman, Rolapp and Associates, Inc., to extend the term of the contract from August 3, 2028, to December 31, 2028, to increase the dollar amount by \$75,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$165,000 for municipal financing services; and authorize the General Manager to execute the amendment. (Presenter: Ara Azhderian)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Original Agreement for Services](#)
 [Amendment No. 1](#)
 [Revised Scope of Services](#)
 [Board Order](#)

Upon Motion by Director Jason Smith and Second by Director Mike LeBarre the Board approved Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services with Fieldman, Rolapp and Associates, Inc., to extend the term of contract from August 3, 2028, to December 31, 2028, to increase the dollar amount by \$75,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$165,000 for municipal financing services; and authorize the General Manager to execute the amendment.

Aye: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, Jon Conatser

Noes: John Baillie

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Against: None

Recused: None.

Board of Director Comments: Mike Lebarre, Ken Ekelund, Jason Smith, Mark Gonzalez, John Baillie, Diedre Sullivan
Public Comments: None

Key Information and Calendar of Events

- 15.** September, October and November 2025 Calendars.

Attachments: [September 2025](#)
 [October 2025](#)
 [November 2025](#)

General Manager's Report

Director Comments: None
Staff Comments: None
Public Comments: Nancy Isakson, Thomas Virsik

- 16.**
1. Personnel
 2. Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Implementation
 3. Deep Aquifers Monitoring Plan
 4. Dam Safety & Operations Future Funding Strategy
 5. Salinas River Habitat Conservation Plan
 6. Property Management

Attachments: [GM Report](#)

Committee Reports

- 17.** Committee Agenda's and Cancellation Notices for August and September 2025:
- Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee
 - Water Resources Agency Finance Committee
 - Water Resources Personnel and Administration Committee Cancellation Notice
 - Water Resources Agency Basin Management Advisory Committee Cancellation Notice
 - Water Resources Agency Planning Committee
 - County of Monterey Legislative Committee

Attachments: [Final ResOps Agenda Aug. 28, 2025](#)
 [Final Finance Agenda Sept. 5, 2025](#)
 [Final P&A Cancellation Notice Sept. 5, 2025](#)
 [BMAC Cancellation Notice Sept. 3, 2025](#)
 [Final Planning Agenda Sept. 3, 2025](#)
 [Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda 9.8.25](#)

Correspondence

- 18.** 1. Email Correspondence dated September 2, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Supervisors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Eric N. Robinson, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard re: Comments on April 2025 Salinas Valley Historical Benefits Analysis Update and May 29, 2025, Draft Interlake Tunnel and San Antonio Spillway Modification Assessment Engineers Report.
2. Email Correspondence dated September 2, 2025 to Amy Woodrow, Senior Hydrologist, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Thomas Virsik, Attorney at Law re: September 1, 2025(sic) deadline for comments on the HBA Update, 2021 Engineer's Report, et seq.
3. Email Correspondence dated September 11, 2025 to Ara, Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Christopher Bunn, President, Salinas Basin Water Alliance re: Concerns regarding Monterey County Water Resources Agency's April 2025 Update to the Historic Benefits Assessment of Water Infrastructure Projects for Salinas Valley.
4. Correspondence dated August 19, 2025, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Erik J. Malvick, Division Manager, Division of Safety of Dams, State of California Department of Water Resources re: Nacimiento Dam, No. 1008.
5. Correspondence dated August 19, 2025, to Ara, Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Erik J. Malvick, Division Manager, Division of Safety of Dams, State of California Department of Water Resources re: San Antonio Dam, No. 1008-2

Attachments: [CORRECTED Comments on MCWRA HBA Update & Draft ILT Engineer's RPT](#)
 [Comments on 2025 HBA Update, 2021 Engineer's RPT, 2025 ILT Project Draft](#)
 [Engineers RPT](#)
 [SBWA comments RE:MCWRA 07/25 workshop on Dam Safety projects](#)
 [Dept. Water Resources Nacimiento Dam](#)
 [Dept. Water Resources San Antonio Dam](#)

Board of Directors Comments

Directors Comments: Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Matt Simis.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:29pm.



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-167

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/14/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider receiving an update on implementation of the Interim Operations Plan for San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs and adopt a revised passage flow target for steelhead migration in the Salinas River. (Staff: Peter Kwiek)

SUMMARY

On November 21, 2022, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors (BOD) adopted the Interim Operations Plan (IOP) for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs to address specific conditions where the Flow Prescription did not meet its intended goals over the first 13 years of Salinas Valley Water Project operation. The IOP was implemented beginning in 2023, but natural flows (2023 and 2024) and Flow Prescription triggered actions (2025) obviated the need for IOP support to meet Flow Prescription passage targets in the first three years of implementation.

In February of 2025, a release action based on Flow Prescription triggers provided an opportunity to test and verify a new steelhead migration flow threshold determined in a recent critical riffle study conducted in support of the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan.

The IOP has provided supplemental adaptive management to the existing Flow Prescription while the Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is under development.

Staff finds that the IOP continues to provide a flexible and effective mechanism to address shortcomings of the Flow prescription. Hydrologic conditions have effectively precluded the need for IOP actions since adoption. Staff recommends continuation of IOP implementation with modification of the steelhead migration flow target.

DISCUSSION:

IOP Development and Adoption

The *Salinas Valley Water Project Flow Prescription for Steelhead Trout in the Salinas River* (Flow Prescription), was incorporated into water rights licenses 7543 and 12624, and Permit 21089. It targets providing steelhead migration to and from the lower Salinas River Basin, which includes the Arroyo Seco and the lower Nacimiento River, and Monterey Bay, through the mainstem of the Salinas River. Steelhead Trout passage and habitat is known to occur in the upper Arroyo Seco. Spawning and rearing habitat in the Arroyo Seco is recognized to be the highest quality and most accessible in the lower Salinas River Basin. Releases of water from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs, in efforts to facilitate such passage, will provide benefits in and passage to the Arroyo Seco, lower Nacimiento River and other potential habitat areas of the upper Salinas River.

The Flow Prescription characterizes an adaptive management approach as being essential to ensuring the proposed actions achieve their desired effects for the following reasons. The natural hydrology and hydraulics of the system are highly variable, and the Agency has the ability to influence only a portion of this system. It was acknowledged that it will take time to fully understand the system. A typical steelhead life-cycle is on the order of 4 to 5 years, with a high degree of variability and finally, it will take time to fully understand how operations benefit one species of fish without severe harm being caused to other beneficial water uses within the system.

Agency staff developed the IOP in 2022 to address National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerns regarding steelhead migration flows during dry periods. Agency staff determined that flow enhancement triggers defined in the Flow Prescription and in effect since 2010 had fallen short of providing the anticipated passage opportunities during some hydrologic year types. Specifically, as documented in the Agency's SVWP Flow Monitoring Report 10-Year Review (included as an appendix to IOP), the target for dry-normal year types is 16 passage days. During the first 13 years of SVWP operations (2010-2022) no adult upstream passage days were recorded in any of the four dry-normal category years.

Incorporating nine months of stakeholder input through regular meetings with NMFS, USFWS and the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee, the IOP was distributed and presented to the ROAC at its October 2022 meeting and was adopted by the Board of Directors at its November 21, 2022 meeting.

The adopted IOP provides Agency staff discretion to utilize adaptive management to supplement naturally occurring streamflow events that would provide multiple benefits, including: providing steelhead passage opportunities in the absence of currently existing operational flow enhancement triggers, while adhering to all existing water rights, operational agreements and adopted release schedules; supporting the ongoing development of the Salinas River Operations HCP through the gathering of pertinent supportive data and information; and providing enhanced recharge of Salinas Valley water supply aquifers through Salinas River percolation.

The IOP acknowledges the ongoing work being conducted in support of the HCP and was intended to be updated to reflect our increasing understanding of species needs and the development of more effective operational strategies. To gain a better understanding of flows needed to accommodate fish passage in the Salinas River, an analysis was performed on critical riffle features that had potential to inhibit fish passage under low flow conditions. The Critical Riffle Analysis incorporated drone photogrammetry, modeling of streamflow, and field verification of results. The analysis concluded that a flow of 80 cfs at the Salinas River near Chualar USGS gage was sufficient to allow the passage of all life stages of steelhead through the lower Salinas River. The results of the analysis were evaluated by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that was convened to develop reservoir reoperation strategies for the HCP and were incorporated into the reoperation scenarios that were recommended by the TAC.

In February of 2025, a release action based on Flow Prescription triggers provided an opportunity to test and verify the revised steelhead passage flow target of 80 cfs. Field surveys verified that passage conditions were suitable for steelhead migration during the modified

action. Furthermore, steelhead presence was detected in eDNA samples taken in conjunction with the field verification, suggesting that steelhead may have been migrating through the lower Salinas at the time of the modified flow action.

Based on this increased understanding of conditions in the lower Salinas River, staff recommends that the IOP be updated to reflect a target flow of 80 cfs at the Salinas River near Chualar in place of the existing IOP target of 260 cfs. This change only applies to future actions triggered under the IOP and does not reflect a change to any other regulatory requirements or agreements held by the Agency, including State of California Water Rights permits and licenses.

2023 Implementation of IOP

In late December 2022, a combination of storm activity, streamflow, and forecasts indicated a strong potential to meet hydrologic triggers defined in the IOP that would warrant consideration of release actions aimed at enhancing steelhead migration opportunities. Accordingly, staff developed contingency plans to augment natural streamflow events in late 2022 and early 2023 while actively monitoring watershed conditions. A sequence of late December and early January atmospheric rivers resulted in attainment of all triggers beginning on January 5th. Also beginning on that date, natural flows brought about passage condition goals described in the IOP while forecasts and developing watershed conditions indicated a high likelihood that continued flows would amply provide for sustained passage conditions into late-January, without the operational assistance of executing an IOP action. Conditions continued to be monitored and no IOP action was taken. Persistent storm activity into mid-January resulted in exceedance of the IOP passage day goal (sixteen days), obviating the need for further consideration of IOP releases for the remainder of the water year. By April 1, 2023, following the conclusion of the January 1-March 31 upstream passage time window defined in the Flow Prescription, 85 consecutive upstream passage days had been achieved without IOP action.

2024 Implementation of IOP

Following the opening of the Salinas River Lagoon on January 4th, storms brought inflow to Nacimiento Reservoir in mid-January. On February 1st the final IOP hydrological trigger was met as stormflow connected the Arroyo Seco to the Salinas River. Staff determined that an immediate release action presented a high probability of meeting threshold flows in the lower Salinas River (260 cfs at the USGS gage, Salinas River near Chualar, as identified in the Flow Prescription) to successfully provide conditions favorable to upstream passage of adult Steelhead. A release of 300 cfs was initiated on February 1st. By February 3rd, weather and river forecasts indicated increased storm activity with imminent certainty that flows would provide and sustain passage flow targets. This prompted the immediate termination of the IOP release action after less than two days. By February 4th, lower Salinas River flows exceeded IOP passage thresholds and would remain well above 260 cfs for the next four months.

2025 Implementation of IOP

No IOP action was required in 2025. Flow Prescription triggers were met in February, resulting in fish migration releases meeting the Flow Prescription target flow of 260 cfs at the Salinas River near Chualar USGS gage for a minimum of 5 consecutive days for steelhead upstream migration. Agency staff identified this event as an ideal opportunity to test the reservoir reoperation protocols that were under development for the HCP. Following the Flow

Prescription action, the Agency enacted reoperation protocols targeting 80 cfs at the Salinas River near Chualar USGS gage to achieve the dry normal passage goal of 16 days. Staff engaged fisheries consultant FISHBIO to perform field verification of steelhead passage conditions during the release action and collect eDNA samples at multiple locations in the Salinas River. Sample results detected the presence of steelhead DNA, indicating that steelhead could have been migrating during the release action.

Conclusion

Staff finds that, in its first three years of implementation, the IOP, as written and adopted, has effectively precluded and minimized the need for supplemental release action, by application of IOP triggers as written, and through monitoring and evaluation of hydrologic conditions while providing a conditions-based mechanism to take advantage of opportunities to address identified Flow Prescription shortcomings through adaptive management. Staff recommends continuation of IOP implementation with the revised passage flow target of 80 cfs at the Salinas River near Chualar USGS gage.

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Agency effort on this process aligns with Monterey County Water Resources Agency Strategic Plan Goal B (planning and new projects); Strategy 7 (Use data and analysis to make informed decisions) and Goal E (Community Relations) Strategy 4 (Provide information on Agency Operations to stakeholders).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FINANCING:

Staff time associated with reservoir operations are included in the FY26 approved budget in Fund 116 - Dam Operations.

Prepared by: Peter Kwiek, Associate Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-167

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/14/2025

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider receiving an update on implementation of the Interim Operations Plan for San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs and adopt a revised passage flow target for steelhead migration in the Salinas River. (Staff: Peter Kwick)

SUMMARY

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2025 Implementation of IOP

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reoperation protocols targeting 80 cfs at the Salinas River near Chualar USGS gage to achieve the dry normal passage goal of 16 days. Staff engaged fisheries consultant FISHBIO to perform field verification of steelhead passage conditions during the release action and collect eDNA samples at multiple locations in the Salinas River. Sample results detected the presence of steelhead DNA, indicating that steelhead could have been migrating during the release action.

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Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Agency effort on this process aligns with Monterey County Water Resources Agency Strategic Plan Goal B (planning and new projects); Strategy 7 (Use data and analysis to make informed decisions) and Goal E (Community Relations) Strategy 4 (Provide information on Agency Operations to stakeholders).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FINANCING:

Staff time associated with reservoir operations are included in the FY26 approved budget in Fund 116 - Dam Operations.

Prepared by: Peter Kwiek, Associate Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860



County of Monterey

Item No.5

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-169

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/15/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider recommendations from the Planning Committee for proposed revisions to the Agency's Bylaws and provide direction. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors to consider recommendations from the Planning Committee for proposed revisions to the Agency's Bylaws and provide direction.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

At the October 1, 2025, Planning Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed a memorandum (attached) summarizing the Agency's formation and governance documents, the Agency Act and MCWRA Ordinance 3559, and presenting examples of governance guidance policies adopted by other California water agencies. The primary purpose of the memorandum was to provide a framework to guide consideration of future, potential changes to the Bylaws and to seek guidance on the Committee's interest towards developing governance guidance policies.

The Committee discussed the value of considering what is working well under the current Bylaws and where there is room for improvement. The Committee also observed that there are four audiences for the Bylaws: 1) Agency staff; 2) the Board of Directors; 3) the Board of Supervisors; and 4) the public. In this context, the Committee recommended future revisions to the Bylaws be clear, concise, and in plain, widely accessible language. After discussion, the Committee recommended evolving towards a governance guidance policy manual but, in doing so, also recognized that this evolution will take some time. With that in mind, the Committee made three recommendations regarding near-term priorities:

First, the Committee recommended staff present draft language that would effectuate a reduction in Agency committees to improve the opportunity for public participation and understanding, while also improving staff efficiency by reducing the resource demands of the current committees' structure. The recommended committee changes are to combine the Finance and the Personnel & Administration committees into a single Finance & Administration Committee, and to combine the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee and Basin Management Advisory Committee into a single Water Resources Advisory Committee to better demonstrate the interdependence of operations at the reservoirs in the southern Salinas Valley, with Basin-wide effects on groundwater, to the operation of the Salinas Valley Water Project, and more specifically, the Salinas River Diversion Facility, and its role in reducing groundwater extraction from the 180/400 foot aquifer. The aim is, by looking at these facets of

water resource management as a whole, to improve understanding of members of the advisory committee and the public of the impact Agency actions have Valley-wide.

The second Committee recommendation was to reduce the term of service for the Chair and Vice-Chair from two years to one to expand the opportunity for Directors to serve in these leadership roles.

Lastly, the Committee requested staff begin preparing a “conflict of interest” policy for future consideration.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The proposed Bylaws revisions align with the adopted Strategic Plan Goal B, Strategy 7; Goal D, Strategies 3 & 5; and Goal E, Strategies 1 & 4.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Planning Committee

FINANCING:

Revising the Bylaws has no fiscal impact on the 2025-26 fiscal-year adopted budget.

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

Attachments:

1. 2025-09-24 - MEMO to Planning Committee RE Considerations for modernizing the Agency’s BOD governance guidance
2. Amendment No. 1
3. Revised Scope of Services



County of Monterey

Item No.5

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-169

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/15/2025

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OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Planning Committee

FINANCING:

Revising the Bylaws has no fiscal impact on the 2025-26 fiscal-year adopted budget.

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

Attachments:

1. 2025-09-24 - MEMO to Planning Committee RE Considerations for modernizing the Agency’s BOD governance guidance
2. Amendment No. 1
3. Revised Scope of Services

BYLAWS

MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (As amended 2/20/24)

I. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.

1.01. Authority. These bylaws are adopted pursuant to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act, as amended by the statutes of 1991, Chapter 1130 (West's California Water Code, Appendix, Chapter 52; hereinafter "Agency Act"), and pursuant to Monterey County Water Resources Agency Ordinance No. 3559.

1.02. Purpose. The purpose of these bylaws is to establish procedures for the conduct of meetings of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors and to provide guidelines for the other activities of the Board of Directors.

1.03. Relations between Board and Staff. The purpose of the Board of Directors is to set policy for implementation by the General Manager and Staff. The Board will adopt a hands-off policy regarding day-to-day management as that is the duty of the General Manager. Board members shall direct requests of Staff to the General Manager.

II. MEMBERS.

2.01. Number and Appointment. There are nine members on the Board of Directors. The members are appointed by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors.

2.02. Duties. The Board of Directors shall perform the duties delegated to them by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act and by Ordinance No. 3559.

2.03. Vacancies and Removal of Directors. A vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors when a Director resigns or dies or when the position is declared vacant by the Supervisors, on the recommendation of the Directors due to the incumbent Director's incapacity or failure to attend meetings. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the appointment of the original holder of the office. If a Board member is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board or its committees, the ~~Personnel/Finance &~~ Administration Committee shall review the matter within 30 days and determine whether it should be heard by the full Board. The Board may, based on the recommendation of the ~~Personnel/Finance &~~ Administration Committee, by resolution, recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Board of Supervisors declare a vacancy and appoint

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a replacement Director.

2.04. Compensation.

(a) Each member of the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency appointed pursuant to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act shall receive compensation for his or her services at the rate of \$100.00 for each meeting attended by such Director. A meeting shall be a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, a meeting of any of the standing committees or additional committees, or any meeting so designated as such by the Chair.

(b) In addition, the Directors shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official business of the Agency pursuant to assignment of the Board of Directors consistent with the reimbursement schedules and policies of the County of Monterey.

2.05. Conflicts of Interest. No Board member shall participate in any matter which comes before the Board of Directors, or in any matter in which he or she is required to act in his or her capacity as a Board member, when the Board member has or may have a direct or indirect economic interest which may be affected as a result of such action, unless such participation is otherwise required or permitted by law. No Board member shall undertake any employment, activity, or economic enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with or inimical to his or her duties as a Board member. Board members shall comply with the conflict of interest code to be adopted by the Board.

2.06. Notice to Directors. Whenever written notice is required by these bylaws to be given or delivered when the notice is left at the Directors' residence or usual place of business by personal messenger, when the notice is sent to the Director via fax transmittal to the fax number given to the Agency by the Director, or five days after the notice is deposited in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid, properly addressed to the Director.

2.07. Authority of Director to speak for the Board or Agency. No director will speak on behalf of the Board of Directors in any public forum unless expressly authorized to do so by the Board of Directors. No director will speak on behalf of the Agency in any public forum unless expressly authorized to do so by the Board of Supervisors.

III. OFFICERS.

3.01. List of Officers. The officers of the Board shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and

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Secretary.

3.02. Qualification, Selection, and Term. Each Chair and Vice-Chair shall be members of the Board of Directors. The General Manager of the Agency shall be the Secretary for the Board but shall not vote at Board meetings. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Board at the Board's first meeting of January 2019, and shall serve for a period of one year or until a successor has been duly elected. The Chair and Vice Chair shall serve for a period of two years beginning January 2020. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by the Board at the Board's first meeting of January 2020 or until a successor has been elected. The Board shall elect the Chair and Vice Chair at the Board's first meeting of January every subsequent even year thereafter. A Board member shall not simultaneously hold more than one office. At the last regular meeting of the year when the Chair's and Vice Chair's terms end, the Chair shall appoint an ad hoc nominating committee consisting of a chairperson and two directors. The Chair shall be an ex-officio member.

Commented [AA1]: The Planning Committee discussed potentially shortening the term of service from two years to one.

3.03. Duties of Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board; execute contracts, correspondence, conveyances, and other written instruments as authorized by the Board; and appoint ~~chairpersons and~~ members of Board established committees, including the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commented [AA2]: Should this be moved to November, to provide more time for consideration through the holiday season?

Commented [AA3]: Is this to mean only "standing" committees, as described in Section 4.03 below, or all Board established committees, as described in Section 4.01

Commented [AA4]: Added to conform with language in Section IV.

3.04. Duties of Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, assume the duties of the Chair and perform such reasonable duties as may be required by the Board or the Chair of the Board.

3.05. Duties of Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining Board meeting minutes and other records that may from time to time be required by the Boards' activities, and shall perform such reasonable duties as may be required by the Board or Chair of the Board. The Secretary may delegate the actual performance of the tasks necessary to fulfill these duties.

3.06. Vacancies and Removal of Officers. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by nomination and election by the Board of Directors as soon as it is reasonably possible. Officers may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for failure to perform the duties of the office or for malfeasance in office.

IV. COMMITTEES.

4.01. Establishing Committees. The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote, establish committees from time to time, including standing, advisory, ad hoc, and/or special committees.

4.02. Appointment and Terms of Committees. ~~The Board Chair shall appoint members of the Board committees, and the Chair and Vice Chair of each Board committee. Appointments are~~

Commented [AA5]: This is already established under Section 3.03, unless 3.03 is interpreted to mean just "standing" committees.

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~~for one year.~~ Members of the public may be appointed as members of advisory, ad hoc, or special committees by the Board of Directors, and if so appointed, shall have the right to vote only at committee meetings. Appointments are for one year. Members of committees may be re-appointed for succeeding terms, without limitation.

Commented [AA6]: If Section 3.30 is interpreted to mean just “standing” committees, then this works. Greater clarity would be beneficial. Also, should we discuss a nominating process?

4.032. Standing Committees. The Directors shall maintain the following standing committees: ~~a Finance Committee, Personnel/ & Administration Committee, and a Planning Committee.~~ Standing committees shall be comprised of four Board members. Appointments are for one year. Members of committees may be re-appointed for succeeding terms, without limitation.

Commented [AA7]: This may be what is called “Board” committees in Section 3.03.

Commented [AA8]: The Planning Committee is proposing to combine the Finance and Personnel & Administration committees.

(a) Finance & Administration Committee. The Finance ~~& Administration~~ Committee (FAC) consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, and two other Board members. ~~The Finance Committee FAC assists in~~ advises staff and the Board establishing and enhancing validon matters related to the Agency’s business and financial management systems, including personnel, administration, and governmental affairs. It annually reviews and recommends the budget, and each month it reviews the Agency’s financial performance under the adopted budget. ~~The committee FAC acts as the audit committee for the Board of Directors and makes recommendations on capital expenditures. The committee reviews the financial aspects of projects proposed to be implemented by the Agency, reviews charges proposed to be levied by the Agency (including, but not limited to, standby charges, and assessments), and may recommend revisions to the Agency’s accounting system.~~

(b). Planning Committee. The Planning Committee consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, and two other Board members. The Planning Committee shall help to develop short- and long-range plans for the Agency with respect to all activities in which the Agency is involved, or might become involved, including strategic planning. The Planning Committee helps to screen, evaluate, and prioritize projects and programs considered for implementation by the Agency, ~~and reviews the Agency’s ongoing projects and programs consistent with the Agency’s Board approved Strategic Plan.~~

Commented [AA9]: Oversight of established projects and programs should be in the purview of the FAC. The Planning Committee should remain forward looking, focusing on plan development.

(c) ~~Personnel/Administration Committee. The Personnel/Administration Committee consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, and two other Board members. The Personnel/Administration Committee reviews Agency personnel matters, and governmental affairs.~~

4.043. Advisory and Ad Hoc Committees. The Chair may appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, advisory or ad hoc committees as the need arises, and define the mission and duties thereof. The following advisory committees ~~are is~~ hereby confirmed and recognized:

(a) Water Resources Advisory Committee: The Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) reviews the Agency’s operation of the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs, the Salinas Valley Water Project, and the resultant effects upon the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, including the hydrologic conditions therein. The WRAC shall consist of up-to thirteen

Commented [AA10]: Establishing a quorum of the existing ResOps committee is always difficult. This proposal reduces the total number of committee members by 4 by retiring the “Lakes resort concessionaire”, the defunct “Salinas River Channel Coalition”, and two at-large members of the public.

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members: a Chair, Vice-Chair, and two other members of the Board of Directors; one representative of a Salinas Valley City; one representative each of the Pressure, East Side, Forebay, and Upper Valley groundwater subareas; one representative from the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department; one representative from the Monterey County Public Works, Facilities, and Parks Department; one representative from the Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee; and one member of the public at large.

~~(a) — Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee. The Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee reviews all matters pertaining to Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. The Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, two other Board members, and non-Director members. The Chair shall appoint non-Director members to the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee as follows: one representative of a Salinas Valley City; one representative each of the Pressure, East Side, Forebay, and Upper Valley groundwater subareas; three members of the public at large; and one representative each from the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department, Monterey County Parks Department, the Lakes resort concessionaire, Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee, and the Salinas River Channel Coalition.~~

~~(b) — Basin Management Advisory Committee. The Basin Management (BMP) Advisory Committee reviews all matter concerning basin management. The Basin Management Advisory Committee consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, two other Board members, and non-Director members. The Chair shall appoint non-Director members to the Basin Management Advisory Committee as follows: one representative each of the Pressure, East Side, Forebay, and Upper Valley groundwater subareas; and three members of the public at large.~~

~~4.04. Additional Committees. The Directors may by majority vote establish additional committees from time to time, including standing committees and special committees.~~

4.05. Staff Assistance to Committees. ~~Water Resources~~ Agency Staff ~~shall may~~ provide assistance to all committees of the Directors, at the request of the committee or the Board, consistent with Section 1.03 of these bylaws.

Commented [AA11]: This description requires clarification. Is this “standing” or all committees? Also, per Section 1.03, requests of staff shall be made through the GM. Perhaps we need to establish greater clarity about the role of staff in supporting a committee meeting as opposed to responding to a committee request.

4.06. Role of Committees. The role of each committee is limited to the matters expressly assigned to the committee by these bylaws or by resolution of the Board of Directors, together with all matters necessarily incidental thereto. Except as otherwise expressly provided in these bylaws or by resolution of the Board of Directors, the committee does not make binding decisions on those matters. Rather, the committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on those matters that are to be considered by the Board of Directors.

V. MEETINGS.

5.01. Conduct of Meetings. All meetings of the Board shall be subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code sections 54950, *et seq.*) (“Brown Act”), the Agency

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Act, and these bylaws. If any inconsistency exists between the provisions of the Brown Act and these bylaws, the provisions of the Brown Act shall control.

5.02. Regular Meetings. Time and Place. The Board of Directors will establish a regular meeting date and time, which shall be not less than once each month, and shall establish a regular place for holding such meetings. Committees of the board shall meet as frequently as is necessary to fulfill the committee's duties, but in any event, not less than quarterly. Notice and posting of agendas for regular meetings shall be pursuant to the provisions of the Brown Act.

5.03. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Board Chair at any time for a specific, announced purpose. At the request of any three Board members, the Board Chair shall call such a special meeting. Written notice of a special meeting shall be delivered to all Board members at least 48 hours in advance of any meeting. Attendance at a special meeting by any Director amounts to a waiver of any defect in the giving of notice to such Director, unless at the meeting the Director specifically objects to the holding of the meeting on the grounds of such defect. Notice and posting of agendas for special meetings shall be pursuant to the provisions of the Brown Act.

5.04. Quorum. No action shall be taken by the Board or by a committee unless a quorum is present at the meeting, except as otherwise provided herein or as allowed under *Roberts Rules of Order*. For Board of Directors meetings, a quorum shall be five members. For committees, a quorum shall be 50% of all the members of the committee, including at least one Board member.

5.05. Majority Vote. Actions of the Board shall be by a majority vote of Board members present and voting on the issue. If a Director is recused or prohibited from voting due to an actual or perceived conflict of interest under the California Political Reform Act (Government Code section 8700, *et seq.*) or Government Code section 1090, *et seq.*, the Director shall leave the dais and the Board chambers, and his or her presence shall not be counted towards a quorum. If the recusal of a Director on a certain item will upset the quorum, such item shall be trailed to the end of the meeting and continued to a future meeting when a quorum can be obtained. The presence of any Director who otherwise abstains from voting shall be counted for purposes of determining a quorum, but the vote of such abstaining members shall not be counted either for or against a measure in determining whether a majority vote has been obtained.

5.06. Minutes. A record of proceedings of all minutes of the Board of Directors and of committees of the Board shall be kept on file with the Agency.

5.07. Public Meetings. All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to the public, unless otherwise provided by law.

5.08. Voting. Voting on all motions and resolutions of the Board of Directors shall be by

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voice vote, calling for ayes and noes, except that if any member of the Board or the Secretary requests a roll call vote, either before or after the voice vote is taken, then the vote shall be by roll call.

5.09. Agendas of Regular Meetings. At least 72 hours before regular meetings, an agenda shall be posted at the Directors regular place of posting that contains a brief description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting.

5.10. Time for Public Comment.

(a) The Chair shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Directors on any agenda item of interest to the public, before or during the Directors consideration of the item. The Chair may limit the time allowed for each person to speak. Public participation need not be allowed on discussions of procedural issues, such as continuances, the order in which agenda items will be considered, and the like, and public participation need not be allowed on items which are presented by Staff to the Directors for information only.

(b) The agenda for each regular meeting will include a regular time near the beginning of the agenda to receive public comment on items that are within the jurisdiction of the Directors and are not otherwise discussed at the meeting. The Directors are not required to respond to any issues raised during the public comment period, and may not take any action on such issues other than to refer the item to Staff or schedule action for a future agenda.

5.11. Non-agenda Items. The Directors may take no action on any item not previously placed on the agenda except in the following situations:

(a) The Directors determine by a majority vote that an emergency situation exists. An emergency situation means work stoppage or other activity which severely impairs health, safety, or both, or a crippling disaster which severely impairs public health, safety, or both.

(b) The Directors determine by a vote of at least two-thirds of the authorized number of Directors, or if less than two-thirds of the authorized number of members are present, that the need to take action arose after the agenda was posted.

(c) The item was continued from a prior meeting held less than five days before the current meeting, and the item was properly placed on the agenda for the previous meeting.

5.12. Roberts Rules of Order. Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws or in rules and regulations adopted by the Directors, all meetings of the Directors shall be conducted pursuant to *Roberts Rules of Order*.

5.13. Hearing Procedure. All hearings shall be conducted by the Chair in the manner

Commented [AA12]: Should the Board consider acting under Rosenberg's Rules of Order instead?

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provided by law. All hearings of the Directors shall be open for public participation. When a proposal is being considered by the Directors, the public hearing will be opened when the Chair introduces the item for consideration by the Directors. The sequence of events relating to any proposal shall be as follows:

1. By reference to the agenda, the Chair announces the proposal to be heard or considered.
2. The General Manager or his or her designee presents the Staff report to the Directors.
3. The General Manager or his or her designee presents or summarizes any additional messages or communications regarding that proposal.
4. The Chair inquires if Directors have any questions of Staff.
5. The Board may ask all audience members who address the Board to volunteer their name and business or residence address before speaking; however, such information is not mandatory.
6. The Chair asks if there are any proponents in the audience who wish to be heard.
7. The proponents then may address the Board.
8. Following the proponents' remarks, the Chair asks for opponents to be heard.
9. The opponents then address the Board.
10. The Chair may ask for a brief period for rebuttal from proponents following opponents being heard.
11. After the public has been heard, the Chair will entertain a motion to close the public hearing.
12. Following successful passage of the motion to close the public hearing, the discussion will be limited to the Directors.
13. The hearing ends with an action to approve or deny the proposal by vote of the Board.
14. The Chair may alter the order specified above, if the Chair believes such change in the order would facilitate the hearing process.

5.14. Continuance and Adjournment. The Directors may continue any item to another

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meeting specified in the order of continuance, may adjourn any meeting without specifying a new meeting date, and may adjourn any meeting to a time and place specified in the order of adjournment. Less than a quorum may so continue an item or adjourn a meeting. If all members are absent from any meeting, the Secretary may so adjourn the meeting, and shall provide notice of any new meeting date and time as required by law.

VI. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.

6.01 These bylaws shall be adopted by resolution, ~~approved~~ by a majority of the Directors. The bylaws may be amended at any properly noticed meeting, ~~by resolution approved by a majority of the Directors.~~

Upon motion by Director _____, seconded by Director _____, these bylaws were amended to read as above on **February 20, 2024**, by the following votes:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest: I certify that ~~the~~ within instrument is a true and complete copy of the original Bylaws of the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency on file within this office.

Dated:

Ara Azhderian
General Manager

History: Adopted 12/19/91; amended: 1/13/92, 9/14/92, 10/12/92, 10/26/92, 3/29/93, 5/9/94, 10/28/96, 4/25/16, 9/19/16, 11/19/18, 5/20/19, and 2/20/24



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: September 24, 2025

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Ara Azhderian, General Manager

SUBJECT: Considerations for modernizing the Agency's BOD governance guidance:

The Agency's Bylaws are intended to help inform and guide the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors regarding governance of the Agency. The Directors roles and responsibilities are also defined by the Agency Act (§48 et seq.), adopted in 1991, and Ordinance 3559, also adopted in 1991. The Agency Act, absent amendment, is the foundational legal framework in which any other governance guidance must work within.

Summary of key provisions of the Agency Act relative to the Directors follows:

- Sec. 48. Board of Directors; appointment; number; qualifications. Establishes that the Agency "shall be governed by a [9 person] Board of Directors" whom "shall be residents of the County and shall have backgrounds and experience that indicate a high level of interest or expertise in areas relating to the Agency's work."
- Sec. 49. Manner of appointment; experience.
- Sec. 50. Terms; reappointment.
- Sec. 51. Vacancies; manner of filling; term.
- Sec. 52. Duty to advise Board of Supervisors; emergencies. Establishes the advisory role of the Directors to the Supervisors and sets, that "No action [excluding emergencies] shall be taken by the Board of Supervisors relating to the Agency without seeking or obtaining a recommendation from the Directors."
- Sec. 53. Policy objectives of Directors. Establishes the role of "establish[ing] long-term and short-term policy objectives for the Agency, subject to review by the Board of Supervisors". It conditions that such policies be, "...consistent with the Monterey County General Plan and its implementing ordinances." It also establishes the responsibility to "...oversee the work of the Agency to ensure that the objectives established are diligently pursued."
- Sec. 54. Duties of Directors. Establishes that the Directors shall, with the assistance of staff: (a) Prepare an annual budget for the Agency; (b) hold public hearings on the

proposed budget; and (c) after approval of the budget by the Directors, submit the budget to the Supervisors for its adoption.

- Sec. 55. Responsibility of Directors for initiating and developing proposals for Agency work. “The Directors shall have primary, but not exclusive, responsibility for initiating and developing all proposals affecting the work of the Agency.”
- Sec. 56. Approval and execution of contracts by Directors. Consistent with all applicable laws, “The Directors shall approve, and the chairperson of the Directors shall execute, all contracts of the Agency when authorized by this act or by the Board of Supervisors.”
- Sec. 57. Approval of contracts for which funds budgeted; form; fiscal provisions. Conditions Directors’ approval of contracts to additional approvals by County Counsel and the County Administrative Office.
- Sec. 58. Purchasing agent; contracts; submission to Directors. Establishes the County’s Purchasing Agent and the ex officio agent for the Agency and provides that the Directors’ may request a copy of any contract executed within the Purchasing Agent’s authority.
- Sec. 60. Contracts for which funds not budgeted; form; fiscal provisions. Reserves solely to the Supervisors the ability to approve unbudgeted contracts.
- Sec. 60.1. Contracts for lease of Agency land. Reserves to the Supervisors all discretion regarding the lease of Agency land for recreational purposes unless such authority is expressly delegated to the Directors by ordinance.
- Sec. 61. Recruitment and hiring of general manager; requirements; termination. Establishes the responsibility that the Directors, “...shall, in consultation with the County personnel Director, establish procedures for the recruitment and hiring of the general manager of the Agency, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.” It also sets forth specific procedures.
- Sec. 62. Annual performance evaluation of general manager; yearly objectives. Establishes that a) the Directors shall prepare an annual performance evaluation of the general manager in the context of Agency objectives established by the Directors and general manager; b) the County administrative office shall prepare a format for the evaluation; and that c) a copy of the evaluation shall be sent to the Supervisors.
- Sec. 63. Personnel duties of Directors: planning and budgeting matters. Establishes that, “The Board of Supervisors shall grant to the Directors the duties relating to personnel matters of the Agency, subject to memoranda of understanding entered into by employee organizations and the Board of Supervisors.” but reserves approval of “All planning and budgeting matters relating to Agency staffing requirements...” to the Supervisors.
- Sec. 64. Meeting of Directors; conduct. Establishes meeting frequency and directs Brown Act compliance. It also establishes Robert’s Rules of Order as the meeting procedure but allows for modification.
- Sec. 65. Public hearings by Directors; testimony of public.
- Sec. 66. By-laws; adoption by Directors; standing committees. Directs the adoption of bylaws to govern the Directors’ business and formation of standing committees comprised of Directors.

- Sec. 67. Advisory committees. Allows for the formation of advisory committees.
- Sec. 68. Advisory committees; sole authority to advise Board members.
- Sec. 69. Exercise by Directors of Agency powers not reserved to Supervisors. “The Directors shall exercise those Agency powers not reserved to the Supervisors.”
- Sec. 70. Additional powers of Board of Supervisors.
- Sec. 71. Duties of Supervisors concerning litigation.
- Sec. 73. Reports to Supervisors.
- Sec. 74. Reports to Board of Directors.
- Sec. 75. Semiannual meeting of Board of Supervisors and Directors.
- Sec. 76. Appeals by Agency to Directors. Delegates to the Directors the role of hearing appeals of Agency’s decisions and actions.
- Sec. 77. Adoption of rules relating to notice and hearing by Directors.
- Sec. 80. Decision of Directors final; no appeal to Supervisors. “The decision of the Directors on any appeal shall be final, and there shall be no appeal from the decision to the Supervisors.”
- Sec. 81. No appeal from decision of Directors to Board of Supervisors; exception.
- Sec. 82. Actions and decisions of Agency subject to judicial review.
- Sec. 83. Assistance of County staff to Directors; assistance of attorney representing County counsel. “The Directors may request, and shall receive, the assistance of County staff, as required, for the conduct of their business.”

A complete copy of the Agency Act can be found at:

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/home/showdocument?id=19488>

Summary of key provisions of Ordinance 3559, which largely echo the Agency Act, follows:

- Section 1. Authority.
- Section 2. Purpose. “The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a managing board of directors, subsidiary to and responsible to the Board of Supervisors of the Water Resources Agency, and to delegate to that board of directors authority to manage, supervise, direct, plan, and make policy for the Agency, to the maximum extent permitted by state law, in order to provide for the more efficient, effective, and responsive administration and governance of the agency.”
- Section 3. Definitions.
- Section 4. Creation of managing Board of Directors.
- Section 5. Term of office.
- Section 6. Vacancies. Affirms the Supervisors’ authority to declare a position vacant “... due to the incumbent director’s incapacity or failure to attend meetings.” and directs that the provision be implemented through the Agency’s Bylaws.
- Section 7. Duties of the Board of Directors. This includes: a) Advice to Supervisors on non-delegable duties; b) Policy-making; c) Budget; d) Initiating and developing proposals; e) Contracts; f) General Manager -- hiring and termination; g) General Manager --

performance evaluations; h) Personnel matters; i) Meetings; j) Public hearings; k) Bylaws and committees; and l) All other powers.

- Section 8. Non-delegable duties of the Board of Supervisors.
- Section 9. Communications between Directors and Supervisors. Establishes the general manager as the regular communication conduit between the Directors and Supervisors; calls for quarterly reports on Agency activities presented to the Supervisors by the Directors; and prohibits implementation of any decisions by the Directors, "... which may have a significant impact on Agency operations, policies and practices..." without approval by the Supervisors.
- Section 10. Appeals.
- Section 11. Appeals to Board of Supervisors.
- Section 12. Judicial review.
- Section 13. Assistance of County staff.
- Section 14. Severability.
- Section 15. Four-year review.

A complete copy of Ordinance 3559 is included with this packet.

Other information that could be considered as part of modernizing the Bylaws is developing a Board of Directors' governance guiding policies manual. Examples of its potential contents include:

- Board-Staff Interaction and/or Organizational Policies
- Communications Policy
- Directors' Training Policy
- Directors' Support, Compensation, and Expense Reimbursement Policy
- An Ethics Policy and/or Code of Conduct
- Rules for Proceedings of the Board of Directors

A few examples of these potential inclusions to guide the Agency's governance can be found at:

- [Board of Directors | Yuba Water Agency, CA](#)
- [Board of Directors | Alameda County Water District - Official Website](#)
- [Board of Directors | Santa Clarita Valley Water](#)

Modernization of the Agency's Bylaws can happen with or without development and adoption of governance guiding policies. Section 66 of the Agency Act mandates the Directors adopt bylaws for the conduct of their business. The format of the bylaws is not dictated and future bylaws could take the form of a governance guiding policies manual or the Agency could develop and adopt both traditional bylaws and supplemental policies.

An advantage of the former is it eases the understanding of the reader, be it a Director, staff, or citizen, of the universe of guidance that could affect governance by the Directors. A disadvantage is developing a comprehensive suite of governance guiding policies could take longer than bylaws alone, thereby delaying implementation of new guidance. Of course, a piece-meal approach could be employed.

Regardless of the approach selected, modification of the bylaws will require alignment with the Agency Act, may require amendment or replacement of Ordinance 3559, and should also include consideration of compliance with state and/or federal laws and regulations adopted subsequent to passage of the Agency Act and adoption of the Bylaws.

ORDINANCE NO. 3559

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
ESTABLISHING A MANAGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
THE GOVERNANCE OF THE WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

PASSED: AUGUST 27, 1991

Monterey County
Water Resources Agency

Ordinance No. 3559

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
ESTABLISHING A MANAGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
THE GOVERNANCE OF THE WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

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

Section 1. Authority.

Under the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act (Stats. 1990, Chap. 1159, Sec. 15), the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey is ex officio the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. Under that Act, all legislative actions -- including all actions taken by ordinance, the adoption of a final budget for the Agency and certain actions taken by resolution -- as well as certain other actions, must be taken by the Board. Under Section 17 of the Act, however, the Board may delegate many of its duties to employees and other agents, in order to provide for the orderly administration and governance of the agency.

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a managing board of directors, subsidiary to and responsible to the Board of Supervisors of the Water Resources Agency, and to delegate to that board of directors authority to manage, supervise, direct, plan, and make policy for the Agency, to the maximum extent permitted by state law, in order to provide for the more efficient, effective, and responsive administration and governance of the agency.

Section 3. Definitions.

A. Agency.

"Agency" means the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

B. County.

"County" means the County of Monterey.

C. Directors.

"Directors" means the managing Board of Directors established by this ordinance, unless the context implies a reference to the individual directors.

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D. Supervisors.

"Supervisors" means the Board of Supervisors of the Agency, unless the context implies a reference to the individual supervisors.

Section 4. Creation of managing Board of Directors.

A. There is hereby established a managing Board of Directors for the Agency. The Board of Directors shall consist of nine directors, who shall be residents of the County of Monterey, who shall have backgrounds and experience that indicate a high level of interest and/or expertise in areas pertinent to the Agency's activities, and who shall have a high degree of commitment to the success of the Agency. The Directors shall be appointed by the Supervisors as hereinafter set forth.

B. Five directors shall be appointed, one each by each member of the Board of Supervisors, from the county at large. The Supervisors should consider appointments of persons from diverse backgrounds, including, but not limited to the following: municipal or small water agencies not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, resource conservation districts, environmental protection organizations, industry and building trades representatives, agricultural organizations, and the public at large.

C. Four directors shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Supervisors from nominees submitted by the following groups or organizations:

- i. One director from a list of two nominees provided by the Monterey County Farm Bureau, who has a background in agricultural production;
- ii. One director from a list of two nominees provided by the Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association of Central California, who has a background in agricultural production;
- iii. One director from a list of two nominees provided by the Mayor's Select Committee, who has a background in city government within the jurisdictional territory of the agency;
- iv. One director from a list of two nominees provided by the Monterey County Agricultural Advisory Committee; in making these nominations, the Agricultural Advisory Committee shall consider possible nominations from all areas of agriculture not represented by the organizations mentioned above, such as flower growers' associations, Cattlemen's

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Association, wine grape growers' associations, independent growers, and the like.

D. No person shall be appointed as a director who, because of his or her employment or other financial interests, is likely to be disqualified from a substantial number of decisions of the Directors under conflict of interest requirements.

Section 5. Term of office.

A. The term of office for each director shall be four years, except as provided below for the initial directors. Directors shall serve until their successors are appointed and take office. Directors may be reappointed at the end of their term.

B. The terms of office shall be staggered. The directors appointed initially shall serve for the following initial terms: three shall have two-year terms, three shall have three-year terms, and three shall have four-year terms. Thereafter, all terms shall be four years each. The initial directors shall draw lots to determine the length of each director's initial term.

Section 6. Vacancies.

A. A vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors when a director resigns or dies or when the position is declared vacant by the Supervisors, on the recommendation of the Directors due to the incumbent director's incapacity or failure to attend meetings. The Directors shall implement this provision with specific provisions in the bylaws of the Board of Directors.

B. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the appointment of the original holder of the office. The person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the original term, and may thereafter be reappointed or not, as the appointing authority may decide.

Section 7. Duties of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall have the following duties:

A. Advice to Supervisors on non-delegable duties.

The Directors shall advise the Supervisors on all matters within the scope of the Supervisors' non-delegable duties. No action shall be taken by the Supervisors without first seeking or obtaining a recommendation from the Directors, except where there is an emergency declared by the Supervisors that requires immediate action by the Supervisors and there is insufficient time to obtain a recommendation from the Directors. The Supervisors shall give reasonable advance notice to the Directors of any meeting at which such an emergency declaration will be considered by the Supervisors.

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B. Policy-making.

The Directors shall establish long-term and short-term policy goals for the Agency, and shall oversee the work of the Agency in order to insure that the goals so established are diligently pursued. The policies and goals shall comply with the adopted Monterey County General Plan and its implementing ordinances.

C. Budget.

The Directors shall, with the assistance of staff, prepare an annual budget for the Agency, shall hold public hearings on such budget, and following approval of the budget by the Directors, shall submit the budget to the Supervisors for its adoption.

D. Initiating and developing proposals.

The Directors shall have primary but not exclusive responsibility for initiating and developing all proposals affecting the work of the Agency.

E. Contracts.

(i) All procedures otherwise established by law in relation to Agency contracts, including but not limited to advertising, bidding, awarding, and managing contracts, shall be followed, except that the Directors will act in place of the Supervisors when authorized by this ordinance.

(ii) Except as otherwise provided below, the Directors may approve, and the Chair of the Board of Directors may sign on behalf of the Agency, all contracts for which funds have been budgeted by the Agency. All contracts approved by the Directors must first be approved as to form by County Counsel and as to fiscal provisions by the County Administrative Office.

(iii) Pursuant to the Agency Act, Section 16, the Purchasing Agent for the County of Monterey is ex officio the Purchasing Agent for the Agency. All ordinances of the County of Monterey delegating authority to the County Purchasing Agent to execute contracts on behalf of the County shall apply to the Water Resources Agency, and the County Purchasing Agent shall have the same authority with respect to Agency contracts. The General Manager may submit to the Directors for approval any contract within the Purchasing Agent's authority, in the General Manager's discretion, and shall submit any such contract to the Directors at the request of the Directors.

(iv) All contracts for any improvement or unit of work when the cost thereof according to the estimate of the engineer, will exceed five thousand dollars, shall be let by the Board of Supervisors to the lowest responsible bidder or bidders in the manner provided in the Public Contract Code Sec. 21121. If Public Contract Code Sec. 21121 is amended to allow delegation of such

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contracting authority, then such authority shall be delegated to the Directors, to the maximum extent allowed by such amendment.

(v) All contracts for which funds have not previously been budgeted by the Agency shall be approved by the Supervisors and executed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel and as to fiscal provisions by the County Administrative Office.

F. General Manager -- hiring and termination.

(i) The Directors shall, in consultation with the County Personnel Director, establish procedures for the recruitment and hiring of the General Manager of the Agency. Such procedures shall be subject to approval by the Supervisors. Such procedures shall include at least the following:

(a) The County Personnel Department will review and screen all applications.

(b) The Directors will interview the candidates who pass the screening by the Personnel Department, and will recommend at least two candidates to the Supervisors.

(c) The Supervisors shall make the final selection. The Supervisors may select one of the candidates referred by the Directors or may reject all candidates and direct that the process be reinitiated.

(ii) The Supervisors retain the authority to terminate the General Manager. Before the Supervisors may terminate the General Manager, the Supervisors shall consider the recommendations of the Directors on the matter.

G. General Manager -- performance evaluations.

The Directors shall do an annual performance evaluation of the General Manager. A format for this evaluation that meets the needs of the Directors and the Supervisors will be developed by the County Administrative Office. At the start of each performance evaluation period, the Directors and the General Manager will develop a set of goals for the coming year, and the performance evaluation at the end of the year will assess the General Manager's performance in relation to those goals. The performance evaluation shall be transmitted to the Supervisors upon its completion.

H. Personnel matters.

All personnel matters shall be conducted in accord with existing policies and procedures, as now in effect or as later supplemented or amended by the Supervisors, except as otherwise provided herein or by subsequent ordinance of the Supervisors. When Agency employees may file appeals from disciplinary actions under the County Personnel Resolution, such appeals shall comply

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with the Personnel Resolution, except that the appeal shall be filed with the General Manager of the Agency instead of the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, and the Directors shall act in place of the Supervisors in referring the matter to a hearing officer, in reviewing the hearing officer's decision, and in making a final decision thereon. All issues raised in the context of planning or budgeting for the Agency relating to staffing patterns for the Agency shall be considered by the Directors before referral to the Supervisors.

I. Meetings.

The Directors shall meet on a regular basis, not less than once per month, at a regular meeting place to be determined by the Directors. All meetings shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Secs. 54950 et seq.) and shall follow Robert's Rules of Order. The procedures set forth in Robert's Rules of Order may be modified by resolution of the Directors or in the Bylaws adopted by the Directors.

J. Public hearings.

The Directors shall hold public hearings and consider testimony by members of the public on all matters concerning the Agency's activities for which public hearings are required by law, unless by law or contract the authority to hold the public hearing is restricted to the Supervisors.

K. Bylaws and committees.

i. The Directors shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of their business and shall establish standing committees of the Board of Directors, composed of members of the Board of Directors.

ii. The Directors may establish and appoint advisory committees to assist the Directors and the Agency in any aspect of their work, and may prescribe the qualifications for membership on such advisory committees. The members of such advisory committees need not be members of the Board of Directors.

iii. No authority beyond the authority to advise the Directors shall be delegated to any standing or advisory committee.

L. All other powers.

All other powers of the Agency not reserved to the Supervisors by law shall be exercised by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Non-delegable duties of the Board of Supervisors.

A. Legislative power.

The Supervisors retain and may not delegate the legislative power of the agency. All ordinances of the agency must be adopted

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by the Supervisors. Only the Supervisors may create zones, levy assessments or taxes, impose fees, charges or tolls, authorize bonds, borrow money, or authorize projects that involve the creation of zones or the institution of any of the foregoing financing measures. Only the Supervisors may adopt a final budget for the agency.

B. Public works contracts.

The award of public works contracts within the scope of Public Contract Code Sec. 21121 is not delegable by the Supervisors unless the legislature amends Sec. 21121 to permit such delegation.

C. Litigation.

The Supervisors shall be responsible for the initiation and conduct of any litigation by the Agency and for the settlement of any matter in litigation. All matters with respect to which litigation is likely or imminent shall be referred to the Supervisors by the Directors or by the General Manager as a matter of information or for such action as may be appropriate. When the Supervisors, in a closed session, consider matters pertaining to litigation affecting the Agency, the chair of the Board of Directors or his or her designee may be present.

D. Other matters.

The Supervisors shall be responsible for all other matters which by law may not be delegated.

Section 9. Communications between Directors and Supervisors.

A. The General Manager shall report to the Supervisors in a timely manner concerning all actions taken by the Directors, in order to insure open lines of communications. All agendas and minutes of meetings of the Directors shall be provided to the Supervisors in a timely manner. The Agency will prepare a quarterly report, which shall be approved by the Directors and transmitted to the Supervisors. The Directors shall make an oral presentation of their report to the Supervisors at a Supervisors' meeting. Any decisions by the Directors which may have a significant impact on Agency operations, policies and practices will be discussed with the Supervisors, prior to implementation. Major policy changes having community-wide impact will be communicated to the Supervisors for review and concurrence prior to implementation.

B. The General Manager shall report to the Directors in a timely manner concerning all actions taken by the Supervisors regarding the work of the Agency. The Clerk to the Board of Supervisors shall provide to the Directors in a timely manner copies of all agendas and minutes of the Supervisors and all ordinances and resolutions concerning the Agency's business adopted by the Supervisors. The Supervisors shall ensure that their

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communications are made to the Directors in such a way as to support and enhance the Director's ability to provide governance for the Agency to the maximum extent possible under this ordinance.

C. The Supervisors and Directors shall hold a joint meeting semi-annually.

Section 10. Appeals.

A. If any ordinance, resolution, or regulation of the Agency provides for an appeal from any administrative or enforcement decision made by the Agency or its staff, such appeal shall be heard by the Directors as provided herein, unless a different procedure is established by law, ordinance, or contract.

B. The Directors shall establish rules and regulations for giving public notice of and for the conduct of its hearings on appeals.

C. An appeal under this or any other ordinance, unless otherwise specifically provided by another ordinance, shall be initiated by filing a written appeal with the Agency within ten days after the date of the action or decision from which the appeal is taken. A filing fee commensurate with the cost of processing the appeal shall be paid to the Agency at the time of filing any appeal. The Directors may by resolution set the amount of the fee, unless by law such action must be taken by the Supervisors.

D. In rendering its decision on any appeal, the Directors shall determine which party is the prevailing party. If the appellant is the prevailing party, then the filing fee paid by the appellant shall be refunded to the appellant.

E. The decision of the Directors on such appeals shall be final, and there shall be no appeal from such decision to the Supervisors.

Section 11. Appeals to Board of Supervisors.

There shall be no appeal to the Supervisors from any decision by the Directors on any matter, unless such appeal is expressly allowed by local ordinance or must be allowed by state law. The referral of any matter to the Supervisors by the Directors or the General Manager, on their own initiative or at the request of the Supervisors, where the Supervisors have final decision-making authority or the duty to advise or consent, shall not be deemed an appeal.

Section 12. Judicial review.

Actions and decisions of the Agency, whether by the Supervisors, Directors, or others acting on behalf of the Agency, shall be subject to judicial review as provided by state and federal law.

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Section 13. Assistance of County staff.

The Directors shall have the assistance of such County staff as may be needed for the conduct of their business. An attorney on the County Counsel's staff shall be present to advise the Directors at their regular and special meetings.

Section 14. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any other part thereof be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 15. Four-year review.

On or after January 1, 1995, the Supervisors and Directors shall hold one or more joint meetings in order to review the overall effectiveness of the procedures established by this ordinance.

Section 16. Effective date.

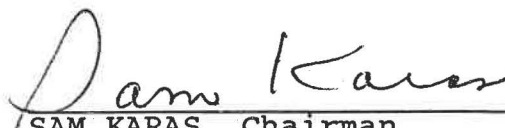
This ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its final adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 1991, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Del Piero, Shipnuck, Perkins, Karas, and Strasser Kauffman

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



SAM KARAS, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

ERNEST K. MORISHITA
Clerk of the Board

By _____
Pamela Olivas, Deputy

Ordinance No. 3559



REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT
SERVICES

SERVING PUBLIC AGENCIES SINCE 2002

SVBGSA Board Training Brown Act Board Roles & Responsibilities

Ralph M. Brown Act

“Open & Public”

“Transparent Gov”

“The People’s Business”



Ralph M. Brown Act

It's fair, ethical, and transparent: creates an environment to prevent making deals in secret. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is and isn't good for the people to know to know.

Purpose: To ensure that local government agencies conduct the public's business openly and publicly.

Local governments and agencies belong to the people.

Note: The body is not able to prohibit the public criticism of the body's policies, procedures, services, or programs, nor on its actions or omissions.



Brown Act

Who: Governing body, whether elected or appointed

Standing committees (but not ad hoc committees) – when there is a majority of members (quorum)

What:

Open meetings

...that the public is aware of (and can see the agenda), can attend, and comment

When:

All meetings – Regular Meetings, Special Meetings, Emergency Meetings, Closed Sessions

Where:

In the room, online (Zoom), and when the Board unintentionally creates a meeting



Brown Act

Why:

Listening, discussing, carefully considering, deliberating or making decisions on any matter falling within the jurisdiction of the Board.

To make decisions through a unified commitment or agreement by most members to arrive at a positive or negative conclusion.

A note to Board Members: Your vote has equal weight to all of the other Board members, though you are acting as “one body.” You represent the public, and the public trusts you to hear their points of view, *then* form opinions and make votes.



Brown Act

The Brown Act governs ‘Open and Public’ proceedings but specific “Rules of Order” are adopted by the Agency. SVBGSA uses Rosenberg’s Rules of Order.



Rosenberg's Rules of Order

Feature / Aspect	Robert's Rules of Order	Rosenberg's Rules of Order
Purpose	Formal structure for deliberation and decision-making	Simplified process for efficient local government/public meetings
Audience	Large organizations, nonprofits, formal assemblies	City councils, commissions, small boards
Language	Technical and legalistic	Plain, conversational
Motions	Must be made and seconded	No seconding required
Debate Rules	Strict: limited turns, amendments, motions to table, etc.	Flexible: emphasis on free and respectful discussion
Role of Chair	Neutral moderator	Active leader and facilitator



Rosenberg's Rules of Order

Roberts

vs.

Rosenberg's

Public
Participation

Often limited or highly controlled

Encouraged, with guidelines

Voting

Formal roll call or voice votes

Streamlined; focus on clarity over procedure

Decision-
Making

Rule-bound; can be slow

Outcome-focused; efficient

Tone

Procedural and legalistic

Practical and respectful

Best For

Complex or contentious bodies needing clear structure

Smaller, collegial groups prioritizing dialogue and respect



Substitute Motions

Under Rosenberg's Rules, a substitute motion is a type of amendment that replaces the original motion entirely rather than just modifying it. It is treated as a first-degree amendment.

1. Main Motion is Made: A member introduces a main motion.
2. Substitute Motion is Offered: Another member proposes a substitute motion to replace the main motion.
3. Chair Determines Relevance: The chair ensures the substitute motion is germane (relevant) to the main motion.
4. Debate Occurs on the Substitute Motion: Discussion focuses on whether the body prefers the original or the substitute.
5. Vote on the Substitute Motion: The vote is not final passage—it is to determine if the substitute will replace the original. If Substitute Passes, it becomes the main motion. Debate can continue on the new main motion (if needed).
6. Final Vote: The body then votes to adopt or reject the (possibly substituted) main motion.



Brown Act

Post-Covid Zoom Rules and Options

- “Old” or “Former” Brown Act Rules
- AB 2449 Rules (“Just Cause” or “Emergency”) – sunsets December 2025 but likely will be extended.

Emergency. Director gives a general description of their reason (does not need to be longer than 20 words). Disclosure of a medical diagnosis or disability is not required. The member must request approval—at the beginning of the meeting, and the Board must take up action to approve the request.

Just Cause: Exists when there is a 1) member with contagious illness; 2) need for childcare or caregiving for a parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner; 3) disability; 4) member traveling on legislative business for the governing body to another agency.

At least a majority of the Board must participate from within the jurisdiction of the agency
AND in person, in a singular location, open to the public and accessible to those with disabilities



Brown Act

Types of Meetings:

Regular Meetings: These meetings adhere to a meeting schedule established through official actions, such as resolutions, of the legislative body

Special Meetings: These meetings are called when there is a particular, “special,” need for a meeting that isn’t on the regular calendar, e.g., the monthly meeting

Emergency Meetings: These meetings are called under very rare conditions, and only when there is a true need for the Board to meet due to unforeseen emergency or catastrophe



Brown Act

Closed Sessions

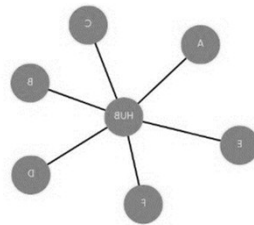
The Board may meet in Closed Session for a limited number of specific reasons. These reasons are:

- Personnel issues
- Labor negotiations
- Conference with Legal Counsel
- Threats to security or public safety
- Real property transactions

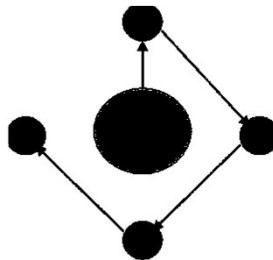


Serial Meetings

Hub and Spoke

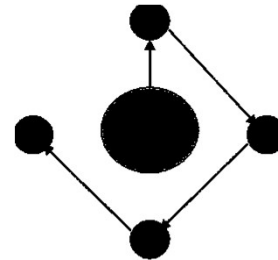
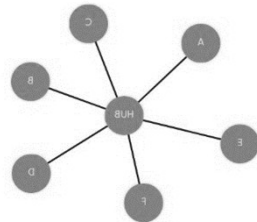


Daisy Chain



Preventing Serial Meetings

Staff should serve as the hub; do not reply all



Be thoughtful about any social media.

FB, NextDoor, Instagram, anywhere online: be careful when making remarks, including emojis (happy faces, thumbs down, etc.)

Violations

Stay on topic.

Diverting to a topic off the agenda can lead to problems (“discussion of item not on the agenda.” This happens sometimes during public comment!

* Note: the Board need not respond to public comments. Members may ask clarifying questions, and ask staff to place a matter on a future item, but may not dialogue about the comment (to avoid discussion of an item not on the agenda).

Public comment – special meetings have different rules



Not Violations

- Individual contacts between Board member and public
- Conferences, “majority to attend a conference or similar gathering open to the public that addresses issues of general interest to the public or to public agencies of the type represented by the legislative body”
- Community meetings, allows majority to attend an open and publicized meeting held by another organization to address a topic of local community concern.” - e.g., Chamber of Commerce meetings
- Standing Committee meetings – more than the standing committee members can be there but non-committee members can only be there as “observers” (can’t speak)
- Social events, e.g., a local high school football game



Violations & Cures

Complaint must be filed timely.

Actions/votes taken may be invalidated.

Some actions are exempt from invalidation – including votes on taxes, and substantial contract obligations.

Board has 30 days to “cure” – otherwise there may be litigation

Agency may be compelled to reimburse the complainant’s legal fees

Agency may be ordered to tape all subsequent meetings

Best practice: voluntarily resolve the violation



Board Responsibilities Staff Responsibilities

<i>BOARD</i>	<i>STAFF</i>
• Focus on the “<u>what</u>” • Policy	• Focus on the “<u>how</u>” • Implementation

Board and Staff Responsibilities

BOARD	STAFF
Policy Decisions	Operational Decisions
Strategic Direction	Day-to-day
Hiring, supporting and evaluating the GM	Personnel Decisions regarding staff
Set agency priorities	Determine operational priorities
Maintains fiscal responsibility	To work within the budget established by the Board
Adopt policies re: labor	Implement policies
Give direction as a group	Implements Board (group) direction

Risk

When Board establishes policy and allows staff to work on how the policy is carried out, that transfers the load of risk to staff. Acting within own role lessens exposure to loss and liability. Insurance is kept that provides coverage, but not necessarily to Board.

Questions?



County of Monterey

Item No.6

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-159

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 9/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

October, November and December 2025 Calendars.

October 2025

October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
12	13	14	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	8
19	20	21	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	15
26	27	28	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	22
			29	30	31		30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1 8:30am Basin Management Advisory 10:00am Planning Committee-2025-10	2 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC Water	3 10:00am Personnel & Administration Committee-2025 12:00pm Spotlight on Benefits	4
5	6	7	8	9 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC 12:00pm Customer Service Week 2025:	10 12:00pm Spotlight on Benefits (https://montereycity.zoom.us/j/97616974510?pwd=za4z8YzKRf)	11
12	13	14	15	16 8:30am WRA All Hands Meeting - 2025 (194-SaffronRM) - 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025	17 BOD Presentation (PPT) Due - Gonzales, Eva	18
19	20 Board of Directors Meeting - 930-Board of Directors 12:00pm Board of Directors	21	22	23 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC Water	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC 1:30pm Reservoir Operations Advisory	31	Nov 1

November 2025

November 2025							December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	1	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	8	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20	21	15	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27	28	22	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
30						29		29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
2	3	4	5 8:30am Basin Management 8:30am Basin 10:00am Planning	6 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC Water	7 8:30am Finance Committee-2025 10:00am Personnel & Administration	8
9	10	11	12	13 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC Water	14 BOD Presentation (PPT) Due - Gonzales, Eva	15
16	17 Board of Directors Meeting - 930-Board 12:00pm Board of Directors	18	19	20 8:30am WRA All Hands Meeting - 2025 9:00am Manager's 10:30am Joint Water	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 1:30pm Reservoir Operations Advisory	28	29
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2025

December 2025							January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1	2	3 8:30am Basin Management 8:30am Basin Management 10:00am Planning	4 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC Water	5 8:30am Finance Committee-2025 (https://montereycty.org) 10:00am Personnel & Administration	6
7	8	9	10	11 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC Water	12 BOD Presentation (PPT) Due - Gonzales, Eva	13
14	15 Board of Directors Meeting - 930-Board of Directors 12:00pm Board of Directors	16	17	18 8:30am WRA All Hands Meeting - 2025 (194-SaffronRM) - 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 9:00am Manager's Meeting - 2025 (194-Tarragon) - MC 1:30pm Reservoir Operations Advisory	26	27
28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 26	2	3



County of Monterey

Item No.7

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-168

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/15/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

1. Personnel
2. Dam Safety & Operations Future Funding Strategy
3. Mussel Prevention Program



County of Monterey

Item No.8

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-157

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 9/18/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Committee Agenda's and Cancellation Notices for September and October 2025:

- Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Agency Finance Committee Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Personnel and Administration Committee Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Basin Management Advisory Committee Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Planning Committee
- Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee Cancellation Notice
- Budget Committee
- County of Monterey Legislative Committee

County of Monterey

*Saffron Room
1441 Schillings Place
Salinas, Ca 93901*



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 25, 2025

1:30 PM

**SLO County Chair location: Old Courthouse Room 207
976 Osos St. San Luis Obispo Ca. 93408**

**Layla Decker remotely from Administrative Conference Room
10625 Lake Nacimiento Rd. Bradley Ca. 93426**

Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations

Advisory Committee

Ken Ekelund, Chair

Mark Gonzalez

Jon Anthony

Bill Lipe

Anna McKenna

Layla Decker

Richard Ortiz

Steve Blois

Matthew Simis

Dennis Lebow

Patrick Breen

Marc Kelley

Doug Scattini

Zachary Barnes

John Baillie

To participate in this Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meeting, the public is invited to observe and address the Committee telephonically or electronically. Instructions for public participation are below:

1. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:
<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/92085702216>

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: 920 8570 2216 PASSWORD 877574 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.

2. If you wish to comment on a specific agenda item while the matter is being heard, you may participate by the following means:

When the Chair calls for public comment on an agenda item, the Zoom Meeting Host, or his or her designee, will first ascertain who wants to comment (among those who are in the meeting electronically or telephonically) and will then call on speakers and unmute their device one at a time. Public speakers may be broadcast in audio form only.

3. If you wish to comment on a particular agenda item, please submit your comments in writing via email to Monterey County Water Resources Agency at

WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Committee meeting. To assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item to which the comment relates please indicate the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meeting date and agenda number in the subject line. Comments received by the 5:00 p.m. Wednesday deadline will be distributed to the Committee and will be placed in the record.

4. If you wish to make either a general public comment for items not on the day's agenda or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please submit your comment, limited to 250 words or less, to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency at WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. In an effort to assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the subject line, the meeting body (i.e. Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time

limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to end of meeting.

5. If speakers or other members of the public have documents they wish to distribute to the Committee for an agenda item, they are encouraged to submit such documents by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday before the meeting to: WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. To assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item to which the comment relates, the public is requested to indicate the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee date and agenda number in the subject line.

6. If members of the public want to present documents/Power Point presentations while speaking, they should submit the document electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday before the meeting at WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. (If submitted after that deadline, staff will make best efforts, but cannot guarantee, to make it available to present during the Committee meeting.)

7. Individuals with disabilities who desire to request a reasonable accommodation or modification to observe or participate in the meeting may make such request by sending an email to WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. The request should be made no later than noon on the Wednesday prior to the Committee meeting in order to provide time for the Agency to address the request.

8. The Chair and/or Secretary may set reasonable rules as needed to conduct the meeting in an orderly manner.

Para participar en esta reunión del Comité Asesor de la Operación de Embalses, el público están invitados a observar y dirigirse al Comité telefónicamente o por vía electrónica. Las instrucciones para la participación pública están a continuación:

1. El público puede observar la reunión ZOOM a través de computadora haciendo clic en el siguiente enlace: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/92085702216>

O el público puede escuchar a través del teléfono llamando al:

+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

Cuando se le solicite el código de acceso para el código de acceso para entrar a la reunión, presione los siguientes números: 920 8570 2216 PASSWORD 877574 Tenga en cuenta que no hay un Código de participante, simplemente presionará # 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.

2. Los miembros del público que desean comentar en un artículo específico de la agenda, mientras que el artículo se este presentando durante la reunión, pueden participar por cualquiera de los siguientes medios: Cuando el Presidente del Comité solicite comentarios públicos sobre un artículo de la agenda, el anfitrión de la reunión Zoom o su designado, primero determinará quién quiere testificar (entre los que están en la reunión por vía electrónica o telefónica) y luego llamará a los oradores (speakers) y activará la bocina para el orador, uno a la vez. Todo orador, será transmitido por audio en altavoz solamente.

3. Si un miembro del público desea comentar sobre un artículo de la agenda en particular, se le es sumamente recomendable que envíe sus comentarios por escrito por correo electrónico a la Agencia de Administración de Recursos del Agua (Agencia) a WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov antes de las 5:00 P. M. el Miércoles antes de la reunión del Comité. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el número del artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique la fecha de la reunión del Comité y el número del artículo de la agenda en la línea de asunto. Comentarios recibidos en la fecha límite del Miércoles a las 5 P.M, serán distribuidos al Comité y serán colocados en el registro.

4. Los miembros del público que deseen hacer un comentario público general para temas que no están en la agenda del día o que deseen comentar en un artículo específico mientras se escucha la presentación, lo pueden hacer enviando un comentario por correo electrónico, preferiblemente limitado a 250 palabras o menos, a WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique el nombre del Comité (por ejemplo: Comité Asesor de la Operación de Embalses) y el número del artículo de la agenda (por ejemplo: Artículo # 10). Se hará todo lo posible para leer el comentario en el registro, pero algunos comentarios pueden no leerse en voz alta debido a limitaciones de tiempo. Los comentarios recibidos después del cierre del período de comentarios públicos sobre un artículo de la agenda serán parte del registro si se reciben antes que termine la reunión del Comité.

5. Si los oradores u otros miembros del público tienen documentos que desean distribuir al Comité para un artículo de la agenda, se les recomienda enviar dichos documentos antes de las 5:00 P.M. el Miércoles antes de la reunión a: WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el número del artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique la fecha de la reunion del Comité y el número de agenda en la línea de asunto.

6. Si los miembros del público desean presentar documentos o presentaciones de PowerPoint mientras hablan, deben enviar el documento electrónicamente antes de las 5:00 P.M. del Miércoles antes de la reunión a WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov (Si se presenta después de ese plazo, el personal hará los mejores esfuerzos, pero no puede garantizar que esté disponible su

PowerPoint para presentar durante la reunión del Comité).

7. Las personas con discapacidades que deseen solicitar una modificación o modificación razonable para observar o participar en la reunión pueden realizar dicha solicitud enviando un correo electrónico a WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. La solicitud debe hacerse a más tardar el mediodía del Miércoles antes de a la reunión del Comité para dar tiempo a la Agencia para que atienda la solicitud .

8. El Presidente y / o Secretario pueden establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para llevar a cabo la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Committee Member Comments

Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Meeting minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting on August 28, 2025.

Attachments: [draft ResOps Minutes Aug. 28, 2025](#)

Staff Reports

2. Reservoir Storage and Release Schedule Update.(Staff Presenting: Joseph Klein)

Attachments: [Reservoir Storage Release Update Report](#)
[ResOps Slides 20250917](#)

3. Current Operations and Maintenance Activities at the Reservoirs.(Staff Presenting: Jason Demers)

4. Interim Operations Plan Update.(Staff Presenting: Peter Kwiek)

Status Reports

5.
 - Reservoir Recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department
 - County of San Luis Obispo Activities

- Invasive Mussel Update

Calendar

6. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

Adjournment



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: September 26, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025 @ 8:30AM

HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025 @ 8:30AM

**WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
1441 SCHILLING PLACE
SALINAS, CA**



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: September 26, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

THE PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

MEETING SCHEDULED FOR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025 @ 10:00AM

HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025 @ 10:00AM

**WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
1441 SCHILLING PLACE
SALINAS, CA**



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: September 23, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

THE BASIN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SCHEDULED FOR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025 @ 8:30AM

HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 @ 8:30AM

**WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
1441 SCHILLING PLACE
SALINAS, CA**

County of Monterey

*Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901*



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

10:00 AM

Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Place Salinas, Ca 93901

Water Resources Agency Planning Committee

*Deidre Sullivan, Chair
Ken Ekelund
Mark Gonzalez
Matthew Simis*

To participate in this Planning Committee meeting through the following methods:

1. You may attend in person,
2. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:
<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/95511982423>
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: 955 1198 2423, PASSWORD: 884853 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.

3. If you wish to comment on a specific agenda item while the matter is being heard, you may participate by the following means: When the Chair calls for public comment on an agenda item, the Zoom Meeting Host, or his or her designee, will first ascertain who wants to comment (among those who are in the meeting electronically or telephonically) and will then call on speakers and unmute their device one at a time. Public speakers may be broadcast in audio form only.

PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL COMMITTEE 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 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

4. If you wish to comment on a particular agenda item, please submit your comments in writing via email to Monterey County Water Resources Agency at WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the Committee meeting. To assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item to which the comment relates please indicate the Basin Management Advisory Committee meeting date and agenda number in the subject line. Comments received by the 5:00 p.m. Tuesday deadline will be distributed to the Committee and will be placed in the record.

5. If you wish to make either a general public comment for items not on the day's agenda or to Committee Meeting Agenda comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please submit your comment, limited to 250 words or less, to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency at

WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov In an effort to assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the subject line, the meeting body (i.e. Planning Committee) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

6. If speakers or other members of the public have documents they wish to distribute to the Committee for an agenda item, they are encouraged to submit such documents by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday before the meeting to: WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. To assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item to which the comment relates, the public is requested to indicate the Committee date and agenda number in the subject line.

7. If members of the public want to present documents/Power Point presentations while speaking, they should submit the document electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday before the meeting at WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. (If submitted after that deadline, staff will make best efforts, but cannot guarantee, to make it available to present during the Committee meeting.)

8. Individuals with disabilities who desire to request a reasonable accommodation or modification to observe or participate in the meeting may make such request by sending an email to WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. The request should be made no later than noon on the Wednesday prior to the Committee meeting in order to provide time for the Agency to address the request.

9. The Chair and/or Secretary may set reasonable rules as needed to conduct the meeting in an orderly manner.

Participar en esta reunión del Comité de Planificación a través de los siguientes métodos:

1. Puede asistir en persona,

2. El público puede observar la reunión ZOOM a través de computadora haciendo clic en el siguiente enlace: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/95511982423>

O el público puede escuchar a través del teléfono llamando al:

+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

Cuando se le solicite el código de acceso para entrar a la reunión, presione los siguientes números:

955 1198 2423, PASSWORD: 884853 . Tenga en cuenta que no hay un Código de participante, simplemente presionará # 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.

3. Los miembros del público que desean comentar en un artículo específico de la agenda, mientras que el artículo se este presentando durante la reunión, pueden participar por cualquiera de los siguientes medios: Cuando el Presidente del Comité solicite comentarios públicos sobre un artículo de la agenda, el anfitrión de la reunión Zoom o su designado, primero determinará quién quiere testificar (entre los que están en la reunión por vía electrónica o telefónica) y luego llamará a los oradores (speakers) y activará la bocina para el orador, uno a la vez. Todo orador, será transmitido por audio en altavoz solamente.

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

4. Si un miembro del público desea comentar sobre un artículo de la agenda en particular, se le es sumamente recomendable que envíe sus comentarios por escrito por correo electrónico a la Agencia de Administración de Recursos del Agua (Agencia) aWRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov antes de las 5:00 P. M. el Martes antes de la reunión del Comité. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el número del artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique la fecha de la reunión del Comité y el número del artículo de la agenda en la línea de asunto. Comentarios recibidos en la fecha límite del Martes a las 5 P.M, serán distribuidos al Comité y serán colocados en el registro.

5. Los miembros del público que deseen hacer un comentario público general para temas que no están en la agenda del día o que deseen comentar en un artículo específico mientras se escucha la presentación, lo pueden hacer enviando un comentario por correo electrónico, preferiblemente limitado a 250 palabras o menos, a WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique el nombre del Comité (por ejemplo: Comité de Planificación) y el número del artículo de la agenda (por ejemplo: Artículo # 10). Se hará todo lo posible para leer el comentario en el registro, pero algunos comentarios pueden no leerse en voz alta debido a limitaciones de tiempo. Los comentarios recibidos después del cierre del período de comentarios públicos sobre un artículo de la agenda serán parte del registro si se reciben antes que termine la reunión del Comité.

6. Si los oradores u otros miembros del público tienen documentos que desean distribuir al Comité

para un artículo de la agenda, se les recomienda enviar dichos documentos antes de las 5:00P.M. el Martes antes de la reunión a: WRAPubliccomment@countyof.monterey.gov. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el número del artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique la fecha de la reunion del Comité y el número de agenda en la línea de asunto.

7. Si los miembros del público desean presentar documentos o presentaciones de PowerPoint mientras hablan, deben enviar el documento electrónicamente antes de las 5:00 P.M. del Martes antes de la reunión a WRAPubliccomment@countyof.monterey.gov. (Si se presenta después de ese plazo, el personal hará los mejores esfuerzos, pero no puede garantizar que esté disponible su PowerPoint para presentar durante la reunión del Comité).

8. Las personas con discapacidades que deseen solicitar una modificación o modificación razonable para observar o participar en la reunión pueden realizar dicha solicitud enviando un correo electrónico a WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. La solicitud debe hacerse a más tardar el mediodía del Martes antes de la reunión del Comité para dar tiempo a la Agencia para que atiendala solicitud.

9. El Presidente y / o Secretario pueden establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para llevar a cabo la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Committee Member Comments

Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Action Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on September 3,2025.

Attachments: [draft Planning Minutes Sept. 3, 2025](#)

Staff Reports

2. Update on Agency Bylaws and Board Governance Guidance Policies. (Presenter: Ara Azhderian)

Attachments: [Memorandum on Considerations for modernizing the Agency's BOD governance](#)

3. Update on Strategic Planning Workshop for December 2025. (Presenter: Shaunna Murray)

Calendar

4. Set the next meeting and discuss future agenda items.

Adjournment



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

MONTEREY COUNTY

DATE: September 15, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

**THE JOINT WATER RESOURCES/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 @ 10:30AM

HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR

NOVEMBER 20, 2025 @ 10:30AM

**WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
1441 SCHILLING PLACE
SALINAS, CA**

County of Monterey

168 W. Alisal St., 2nd Floor
Monterey Room
Salinas, CA 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final-Revised

Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99435514509> or

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

1:00 PM

**In-person at: 168 W. Alisal St, 2nd Floor, Salinas CA–Monterey Room; or, 1011
Broadway Street, Ste. C, King City CA 93930 CA-Dist 3 Office; or, 2616 1st
Avenue, Marina CA–Dist 4 Office**

Budget Committee

Supervisor Chris Lopez will appear by video conference on this date at: 1011 Broadway Street, Ste. C, King City CA 93930. Consistent with Government Code Section 54953, an agenda will be posted at this location, and it will be accessible by the public.

Supervisor Wendy Root Askew will appear by video conference on this date at: 2616 1st Avenue, Marina CA 93933. Consistent with Government Code Section 54953, an agenda will be posted at these locations, and will be accessible by the public.

Participation in meetings

Members of the public may participate in Committee meetings in two (2) ways:

1. You may attend the meeting in-person at 168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas CA – Monterey Room; or, 1011 Broadway Street, Ste. C, King City CA – District 3 Office; or 2616 1st Avenue, Marina CA 93933 – District 4 Office; or
2. You may participate via Zoom Webinar at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99435514509>

If you do not have access to a computer, you may call into the meeting and participate by calling the following number: 1-669-900-6833 and entering the following Webinar ID: 994 3551 4509

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.

If you choose not to attend the Budget Committee meeting but desire to make a public comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. Please submit your comment to Rocio Quezada at quezadar1@countyofmonterey.gov and your comment will be placed into the record at the meeting.

Participación en reuniones

Los miembros del público pueden participar en las reuniones del Comité de dos (2) maneras:

1. Puede asistir a la reunión en persona en 168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas CA – Monterey Room; o, 1011 Broadway Street, Ste. C, King City CA, – Oficina del Distrito 3; o 2616 1st Avenue, Marina CA 93933 – Oficina del Distrito 4; o
2. Puede participar a través de Zoom Webinar en: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99435514509>

Si no tiene acceso a una computadora, puede llamar a la reunión y participar llamando al siguiente número: 1-669-900-6833 e ingresando el siguiente identificación de la reunión: 994 3551 4509

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.

Si decide no asistir a la reunión del Comité de Presupuesto pero desea hacer un comentario público sobre un tema específico de la agenda, envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. del martes 23 de septiembre de 2025. Por favor envíe su comentario a Rocío Quezada en quezadar1@countyofmonterey.gov y su comentario se incluirán en el registro de la reunión.

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.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may address comments to the Committee concerning each agenda item. Timing of the public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

Call to Order

Additions and Corrections

Public Comment Period

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Approval of Action Minutes

1. Approve the Budget Committee Action Minutes of August 28, 2025. [MIN 25-066](#)

Attachments: [8-28-25 BC Meeting Minutes](#)

Consent Agenda

2. Receive the List of Standing and Follow-up Reports due to the Budget Committee. [BC 25-093](#)

Attachments: [Budget Committee Follow-Up Reports for September 2025](#)

3. a. Support the Department of Emergency Management's acceptance of \$20,000 from the City and County of San Francisco FY 2023 UASI Grant Funds; and [BC 25-094](#)
b. Support approving an increase in appropriations and revenues of \$20,000 in the Department of Emergency Management's FY2025-26 Adopted Budget (001-1040-8588-DEM001), financed by the City and County of San Francisco FY 2023 UASI Grant Funds.

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
[Attachment : A](#)

4. Receive the Monterey County Water Resources Agency FY 2024-25 Financial Status Report through June 30, 2025. [BC 25-089](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
[WRA FY25 Financial Status Report thru 06.30.25](#)

5. Receive the Monterey County Workforce Development Board FY 2024-25 Final Financial Status Report for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funded programs through June 30, 2025. [BC 25-090](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [FY 2024-25 Financial Status Report](#)

6. Support adding the Fern Canyon Road Emergency Repair Project and the Arroyo Seco Road Mile Post (MP) 0.75 Emergency Repair Project to the Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26 Annual Work Program for Road Fund.

[BC 25-095](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [Attachment A – Project Budget](#)

7. a. Consider supporting the amendment of the FY 2025-26 Health Department Adopted Budget (Fund 001, Dept. 4000, Unit 8124, Appr. Unit HEA003) to approve the reallocation and reclassification of one (1) Health Program Coordinator to one (1) Public Health Program Manager I as indicated in Attachment A; and
b. Consider supporting the County Administrative Office and the Auditor-Controller to incorporate the approved position changes in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and the Human Resources Department to implement the changes in the Advantage Human Resources Management (HRM) system.

[BC 25-091](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [Attachment A](#)

8. Receive a report on Key Capital Improvement Projects managed by the Public Works, Facilities and Parks Department (PWFP) for the period of July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024-25, Quarters 1 and 2).

[BC 25-087](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [Attachment A - PWFP CIP Status FY 2024-25 Q1 & Q2](#)
 [Attachment B - Public Works Projects](#)
 [Attachment C - Facilities Projects](#)

Regular Agenda

9. Receive a presentation on the Budget Committee's Roles and Responsibilities.
10. a. Support authorizing the Auditor-Controller to increase appropriations and revenues in the Sheriff's FY2025-2026 Adopted Budget;
b. Support authorizing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Sheriff-Coroner's FY2025-2026 Adopted Budget; and
c. Support the Monterey County Sheriff's Office recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, to execute Amendment #5 to TracNet, Incorporated Agreement A-13561 for the replacement of the IBM Servers reaching end of service on

[BC 25-096](#)

[BC 25-086](#)

1/31/2026, in the amount of \$313,597 for a new not to exceed total of not to exceed total of \$2,684,436.

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
[Attachment A-Tracnet Proposal](#)

- 11.** a. Support approving an increase in appropriations and estimated revenues of \$231,398 in Sheriff's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget (001-2300-SHE001-8229), financed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with seven (7) Law enforcement Agencies for the funding of two (2) new unbudgeted Records Specialist II positions, in the amount of \$231,398; and
- b. Support authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Sheriff's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget (001-2300-SHE001-8229) by increasing appropriations and estimated revenues of \$231,398 in the Sheriff's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget (001-2300-SHE001-8229), financed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with seven (7) Law enforcement Agencies for the funding of two (2) Records Specialist II positions, in the amount of \$231,398.

[**BC 25-084**](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
[Draft MOU](#)

- 12.** a. Support authorizing the Auditor-Controller to increase appropriations and revenues in the Sheriff's FY2025-2026 Adopted Budget; and
- b. Support authorizing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Sheriff-Coroner's FY2025-2026 Adopted Budget; and
- c. Support the Monterey County Sheriff's Office recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, to execute an agreement with Cornerstone Detention Products, Inc., to meet the programming code standardization, supported hardware, and security requirements for the control system at both the New and Old Jail which manages intercoms, doors, cameras, and system control communications. This upgrade aligns with the FBI CJIS Security Policy 5.9.4, ensuring compliance with supported operating systems. The total cost for the upgrade is \$384,675.

[**BC 25-085**](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
[Scope of Work](#)

- 13.** a. Support the Sheriff's acceptance of \$350,000 from the City and County of San Francisco FY 2024 UASI Grant Funds; and
- b. Support approving an increase in appropriations and estimated revenues of \$350,000 in the Sheriff's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget (001-2300-SHE001-8242), financed by the City and County of San Francisco FY 2024 UASI Grant Funds.

[**BC 25-088**](#)

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [City and County of San Francisco FY 2024 UASI Grant Funds Agreement](#)

- 14.** a. Support the Sheriff's acceptance of \$75,000 from the State of California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) Program; and **BC 25-079**
b. Support approval of the increase in appropriations of the Sheriff's FY 2025-2026 Adopted Budget 001-2300-8242-SHE001-ABCAPP by \$75,000 financed by \$75,000 from the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) Program; and
c. Support authorizing and directing Auditor Controller to amend the Sheriff's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Adopted Budget 001-2300-8242-SHE001-ABCAPP by \$75,000 funded by the State of California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) Program.

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [Exhibits A-D](#)
 [Standard Agreement \(2\)](#)

- 15.** a. Consider supporting the amendment of Personnel Policies and Practices Resolution (PPPR) No. 98-394 Appendix A and B to adjust the base wage salary range of the Registrar of Voters classification as indicated in attachment A; and **BC 25-092**
b. Consider supporting the Human Resources Department to implement the changes in the Advantage HRM system.

Attachments: [BC Report](#)
 [Attachment A](#)

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled on October 29, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in the Monterey Room and via Zoom.

Committee Members: Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, Chair; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Vice Chair; and

Committee Staff: Sonia M. De La Rosa, County Administrative Officer; Michael Beaton, Assistant County Administrative Officer; Susan Blitch, County Counsel; Rocio Quezada, Committee Secretary; and

Elected Officials: Rupa Shah, Auditor-Controller; Mary Zeeb, Treasurer-Tax Collector; and Marina Camacho, Assessor-Clerk-Recorder.

- Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to items referenced on this agenda and/or submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are on file and available for public inspection at the County Administrative Office, Monterey County Government Center, 168 West Alisal Street, 3rd Floor, Salinas.
- Meetings of the Budget Committee are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Administration Building and Monterey Conference Room are wheelchair accessible. Please contact the Monterey County Civil Rights Office at 831-755-5117 if you need assistance or accommodations in order to participate in a public meeting or if you need the agenda and public documents modified as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The following services are available when requests are made by 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before this noted meeting: American Sign Language interpreters during a meeting, large print agenda or minutes in alternative format.
- If you require the assistance of an interpreter, please contact Rocio Quezada, Administrative Secretary in the County Administrative Office at 831-755-5115. Every effort will be made to accommodate requests for translation assistance. Requests should be made as soon as possible, and at a minimum 24 hours in advance of any meeting.
- Si usted requiere la asistencia de un interprete, por favor comuniquese con las oficina de Administracion localizada en el Centro de Gobierno del Condado de Monterey, (Monterey County Government Center), 168 W. Alisal, Tercer Piso, Salinas - o por telefono llamar a Rocio Quezada, 831-755-5115. La asistente hara el esfuerzo para acomodar los pedidos de asistencia de un interprete. Los pedidos se deberan hacer lo mas pronto posible, y a lo minimo 24 horas de anticipo de cualquier junta.

County of Monterey

Government Center - Monterey Room
168 W. Alisal St., 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final

**Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/98147828225>
(Meeting ID: 981 4782 8225); or in person at the address listed above**

Monday, October 13, 2025

1:30 PM

Legislative Committee

Supervisor Glenn Church – District 2

Supervisor Luis Alejo – District 1

Participation in meetings:

Members of the public may participate in Committee meetings in two (2) ways:

1. In-person at 168 W. Alisal St, 2nd Flr, Salinas CA-Monterey Room; or,
2. You may participate via Zoom at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/98147828225>

If you do not have access to a computer, you may call into the meeting and participate by calling the following number: 1-669-900-6833 and entering the following Meeting ID: 981 4782 8225

If you choose not to attend the Legislative Committee meeting but desire to make a public comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. the Friday prior the meeting. Please submit your comment to Sophia Magana at maganas@countyofmonterey.gov and your comment will be placed into the record at the meeting.

If you are watching the live stream of the Legislative Committee meeting and wish to make either a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please select the “raise hand” option on the Zoom screen, and your microphone will be unmuted so you can speak. To select the “raise hand” option, click on the ‘participants’ icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, then click the “raise hand” icon next to your name.

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:

Los miembros del público pueden participar en las reuniones del Comité de (2) maneras:

1. Puede asistir a la reunión en persona en 168 W. Alisal Street, Segundo Piso, Salinas, CA 93901 - Centro de Gobierno del Condado de Monterey, Monterey Room; o,
2. Puede participar a través de Zoom en: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/98147828225>

Si no tiene acceso a una computadora, puede llamar a la reunión y participar llamando al siguiente número: 1-669-900-6833 e ingresando la siguiente identificación de la reunión: 981 4782 8225.

Si decide no asistir a la reunión del Comité pero desea hacer un comentario, envíelo antes de las 5:00 p.m. del viernes anterior a la reunión, a Sophia Magana, por correo electrónico a: maganas@countyofmonterey.gov y su comentario se incluirá en el registro de la reunión.

Si está viendo la retransmisión en directo de la reunión del Comité y desea hacer un comentario público general o comentar un punto específico del orden del día mientras se escucha, seleccione la opción "levantar la mano" en la pantalla de Zoom, y su micrófono se silenciará para que pueda hablar. Para seleccionar la opción "levantar la mano", haga clic en el icono de "participantes" que encontrará en la parte inferior de la pantalla de Zoom y, a continuación, haga clic en el icono "levantar la mano" que encontrará junto a su nombre.

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 items are live web links. Click on the title to be directed to corresponding Committee Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may address comments to the Committee concerning each agenda item. Timing of the public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

Call to Order

Additions and Corrections

Public Comment Period

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Approval of Action Minutes

1. Consider approval of the action minutes from the September 8, 2025, Legislative Committee meeting.

Attachments: [9-8-25 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

Reports from Legislative Offices

2. Introduction of staff and brief reports from State/Federal Legislative Offices
 - a. Office of Senator Alex Padilla
 - b. Office of Senator Adam Schiff
 - c. Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta
 - d. Office of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
 - e. Office of Senator John Laird
 - f. Office of Assemblymember Robert Rivas
 - g. Office of Assemblymember Dawn Addis

Federal Report - Presenter: Maria Tripplaar & Katlyn Koegel (Ballard Spahr LLP)

3. Receive reports, provide direction, and consider positions and/or recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on:
 - a. Federal Government Update
 - i. Congressional Overview
 - ii. Executive Order Updates
 - b. Appropriations Update, including Community Project Funding Requests
 - i. Status of FY 26 Funding
 - ii. San Lucas drinking water CPF
 - c. Federal Advocacy
 - i. FEMA Reimbursements
 - d. Legislation
 - i. H.R. 4358 Anti-Rigging Act of 2025 - Recommend Support

- ii. H.R. 4504 and S.2349 Incorporating National Support for Unprecedented Risks and Emergencies (INSURE) Act - Recommend Support
- e. Federal Bill/Issues Track

Attachments: [2025-10-07 Federal Report](#)
 [The Anti-Rigging Act of 2025 \(H.R. 4358\) - draft support letter](#)
 [INSURE Act \(HR 4504\) - draft support letter](#)
 [INSURE Act \(S. 2349\) - draft support letter](#)
 [2025-10-07 Federal Track](#)

State Report - Presenters: Ashley Walker & Kasha Hunt (Nossaman LLP)

- 4. Receive reports, provide direction, and consider positions and/or recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on:
 - a. Status of the Legislature and State Budget
 - b. Update on Priority Legislation
 - c. Governor's Actions and Executive Orders
 - d. State Bill/Issues Track

Attachments: [2025-10-13 State Report](#)
 [2025-10-13 State Track](#)

Grant Report – Presenters: Ashley Walker & Kasha Hunt (Nossaman LLP)

- 5. Receive reports, provide direction, and consider positions and/or recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on:
 - a. San Lucas Drinking Water Project
 - b. Proposition 4 - Climate Resiliency
 - c. Grant Track

Attachments: [2025-10-13 Grant Report](#)
 [2025-10-13 Grant Track](#)

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled on November 10, 2025.

Committee Members: Supervisor Glenn Church, Chair; and Supervisor Luis Alejo, Vice-Chair. **Committee Staff:** Nicholas E. Chiulos, Chief Assistant CAO; Nicole Hollingsworth, Legislative Program Manager; and Sophia Magana, Committee Secretary.

- **Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to items referenced on this agenda and/or submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are on file and available for public inspection at the County Administrative Office, Monterey County Government Center, 168 West Alisal Street, 3rd Floor, Salinas.**
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- **The following services are available when requests are made by 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before this noted meeting: American Sign Language interpreters during a meeting, large print agenda or minutes in alternative format.**
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- **Si usted requiere la asistencia de un interprete, por favor comuniquese con las oficina de Administracion localizada en el Centro de Gobierno del Condado de Monterey, (Monterey County Government Center), 168 W. Alisal, Tercer Piso, Salinas - o por telefono llamar a Sophia Magana, 831-755-5115. La asistente hara el esfuerzo para acomodar los pedidos de asistencia de uninterprete. Los pedidos se deberan hacer lo mas pronto posible, y a lo minimo 24 horas de anticipo de cualquier junta.**



County of Monterey

Item No.9

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-163

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 10/13/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Reservoir Storage and Release Update. (Staff: Joseph Klein)

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Board of Directors receives monthly updates on the status of Agency reservoirs.

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of October 10, 2025, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 742.7 feet (NGVD 29), with 170,265 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 745.95 feet, with 137,595 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 51% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 36% of capacity.

RAINFALL: Early season rainfall has not brought any inflow to the reservoirs.

SALINAS RIVER LAGOON: The lagoon has been closed to the ocean since May 16, 2025.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Minimum releases are being made from both reservoirs for maintenance of habitat below the dams. Conservation season releases concluded on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from San Antonio Reservoir, and Friday, September 26, 2025 from Nacimiento Reservoir.

Releases as of October 10, 2025:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 60 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 70 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam 62 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 70 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 19 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 0 cfs

Prepared by: Joseph Klein, Hydrologist (831) 755-4860



County of Monterey

Item No.10

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-156

October 20, 2025

Introduced: 9/18/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

1. Email Correspondence dated September 11, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Supervisors, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Bill Lipe, re: Submission of Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Policy Paper.
2. Email Correspondence dated September 15, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Thomas Virsik, Attorney at Law re: WRA BOD public comment violation.
3. Email Correspondence dated September 16, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manger, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Thomas Virsik, Attorney at Law re: September 15, 2025 MCWRA BOD Meeting. WRA BOD public comment violation.
4. Correspondence dated September 16, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Frank L. Blackett P.E., Regional Engineer Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Projects Division of Dam Safety and Inspections -San Francisco Regional Office re: 8th Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report for Nacimiento Dam.
5. Correspondence dated September 23, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Frank L. Blackett P.E., Regional Engineer Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Projects Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - San Francisco Regional Office re: 2025 Dam Safety Inspection Follow-Up.

From: [Gonzales, Eva](#)
To: [Azhderian, Ara](#); "[Deidre Sullivan \(DeidreSullivan5@gmail.com\)](#)"; [Donlon, Kelly L.](#); "[Jason Smith \(jason.smith@smithfamilywines.com\)](#)"; "[John Baillie \(john@celeryhearts.com\)](#)"; "[Jon Conatser](#)"; "[Kenneth O. Ekelund \(ken@carmelcaninesports.com\)](#)"; "[Mark Gonzalez \(markgonzalez51@gmail.com\)](#)"; "[Matt Simis](#)"; "[Mike LeBarre \(mlebarre@kingcity.com\)](#)"; "[Mike Scattini \(scat461@aol.com\)](#)"; [Murray, Shaunna L.](#)
Cc: [Fenley, Jessell M.](#); [Imperial, Lorena](#); [Ramirez, Janelle](#)
Subject: FW: Submission of the Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Policy Paper
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:44:00 PM
Attachments: [20250911 - Somavia Road MAR public comment full paper.docx](#)

Good afternoon, Directors,

I hope you're having a good day, attached for your review is email/comment.

Thank you & have a great day,



Eva Gonzales, Senior Secretary – Confidential
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
1441 Schilling Place, North Building, Salinas, CA 93901
Contact: 831.788.3309 or gonzalesel@countyofmonterey.gov
Website: www.mcwater.info

From: Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 2:52 PM
To: Clerks <clerk@svbgsa.org>
Cc: ClerkoftheBoard <cob@countyofmonterey.gov>; MC Water <OfficeAssistantII@countyofmonterey.gov>; Piret Harmon <harmonp@svbgsa.org>
Subject: Submission of the Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Policy Paper

This Message Is From an External Sender

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am submitting the attached policy paper, *Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project: Restoring Groundwater with Common Sense in the Eastside and 180/400 Subbasins*, as a contribution to our shared mission of groundwater sustainability.

This work represents dozens of hours of effort in collaboration with my mentor, Mr. John Marihart, whose decades of lived experience in the ponding corridor provided the foundation for this concept. John's knowledge, combined with my own prior service on the SVBGSA Board, shaped this paper as a practical, locally grounded proposal.

I now write as a member of the public, offering this work as a gift to Monterey County, in the

hope that the project will be formally modeled, tested, and—if confirmed—advanced as a near-term tool in addressing overdraft. The Somavia Road MAR concept is designed to complement ongoing planning while directly targeting the two most critically overdrafted areas of the SVBGSA: the 180/400 and Eastside Subbasins.

This submission is not offered as a definitive solution, but as a constructive step forward—rooted in science, landowner memory, and a spirit of stewardship. I believe it merits careful technical evaluation, and I respectfully place it before the Agency as part of the collective effort toward long-term water security. I invite the Board and staff to consider integrating this project concept into ongoing GSP technical work and modeling efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing leadership in this vital work.

Respectfully,

Bill Lipe

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

Restoring Groundwater with Common Sense in the Eastside and 180/400 Subbasins

Joint-Benefit Emphasis: This project provides a joint benefit to both the 180/400 and Eastside Subbasins. The actual ponding and groundwater mounding begin within the 180/400 Subbasin and expand outward into areas of the Eastside, consistent with the regional hydrogeology described in **DWR Bulletin 118** and subsequent reports. Given local gradients, mounding may wrap around toward the Eastside cone of depression, contributing to refilling that cone and adding subsurface pressure back toward the 180/400, which may help alleviate seawater intrusion by restoring inland hydraulic heads. (See California Department of Water Resources 1992; Montgomery Watson et al. 1998; SVBGSA 2023).

I. Introduction

In a region long defined by careful stewardship and agricultural resilience, the Somavia Road Managed Recharge Project offers a grounded, rapid-response solution to the persistent overdraft challenges in the Eastside and 180/400 subbasins of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Drawing only from public-facing documents, including the 180/400 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and MCWRA hydrologic models (MCWRA 2024), this concept proposes a modest but powerful intervention that could deliver early results while longer-term efforts remain under development.

The modeling and calibration work to fully validate the recharge mechanics remains ahead, but the foundation—hydrogeologically, historically, and practically—is strong. This document weaves together known scientific relationships, landowner observations, and historical precedent into a unifying vision of recharge that reflects both the technical and the soulful character of this place. Updates in this version incorporate refined hydrologic data (SVBGSA 2023; Tetra Tech 2015; Salinas Valley Basin GSA 2022).

II. The Lore Behind the Land: The Well Beneath the Dream (1957)

They came for oil.

It was 1957. A family drilled deep—2,600 feet into the belly of Monterey County. They found no oil. But what they did find was something older: water. Flowing at 1,700 feet. Trapped under a soft clay warning, but not sealed.

1 | Page

This position paper relies on public, previously published studies and reports and incorporates local observations. **All specific hydrologic outcomes, spatial extents of mounding, nitrate dilution estimates, and interactions with the Eastside cone of depression require formal modeling and monitoring to confirm or refute.** Citations have been provided where available (e.g., California Department of Water Resources 1992; Montgomery Watson et al. 1998; Tetra Tech 2015; MCWRA 2020, 2024; SVBGSA 2023; Salinas Valley Basin GSA 2022; NMFS 2007; Thorup 1976).

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

Thirty years earlier, in 1923, the river had flooded Somavia Road—and the wells on the Eastside surged to life. Locals remember. The land remembers. And when flows lean left near Jensen’s Bluff, the pattern re-emerges. It’s not myth. It’s memory.

The Somavia concept isn’t born from fantasy. It’s born from lore—and confirmed by observation, by data, and by the land’s own whisper.

II-A. The Geology Beneath the Lore: An Ancient Floodplain Reawakened

The conceptualized recharge zone between Somavia Road and the Chualar Bridge is not merely suggestive of opportunity; it is demonstrably ideal for deep aquifer access.

Hydrogeologic data spanning over a century confirms the area’s character as a fractured, ancient floodplain—a rare zone in the 180/400 Subbasin where clay confining layers thin, gap, or vanish altogether.

This corridor, seated south of a prominent deep clay lens and influenced by the Reliz Fault, the Rinconada Fault, and the Laguna Seca Anticline, presents a uniquely permeable profile:

- Fractured alluvial and fluvial materials extend to depths exceeding 1,700 feet.
- Coarse-grained sediments—sands, gravels, and loams—exhibit infiltration rates between 1–3 feet per day.
- Well logs confirm vertical continuity of permeable materials with minimal fine-grained interlayers.
- Historic and modern studies (Hamlin 1904; California Department of Public Works 1946; Durbin et al. 1978; California Department of Water Resources 1992) support both shallow and delayed deep recharge through this zone, with potential via aquitard gaps and slow leakage.

Further, the 1998 Historical Benefits Analysis by MCWRA confirmed that this stretch of river—especially near Chualar—has experienced water level increases of 5 to 15 feet from reservoir-induced recharge. In the post-dam era (1958–1994), basin-wide recharge rose by up to 30,000 acre-feet per year, with this corridor showing improved vertical percolation due to aquitard discontinuity (Montgomery Watson et al. 1998).

2 | Page

This position paper relies on public, previously published studies and reports and incorporates local observations. **All specific hydrologic outcomes, spatial extents of mounding, nitrate dilution estimates, and interactions with the Eastside cone of depression require formal modeling and monitoring to confirm or refute.** Citations have been provided where available (e.g., California Department of Water Resources 1992; Montgomery Watson et al. 1998; Tetra Tech 2015; MCWRA 2020, 2024; SVBGSA 2023; Salinas Valley Basin GSA 2022; NMFS 2007; Thorup 1976).

II-B. Influence of Salinas River Proximity and Coarse Alluvium on Deep Aquifer Recharge

The Salinas River and its adjacent coarse alluvium, particularly along the Soledad–Gonzales floodplain, are critical recharge sources for the Deep Aquifer Zone of the Salinas Valley. This zone, situated below saltwater-impacted 180- and 400-foot aquifers, is targeted for both extraction and long-term Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) interventions (Thorup 1976).

Proximity-Driven Recharge Dynamics

The Salinas River channel, especially north of Soledad, traverses coarse-grained alluvium, offering highly permeable substrate that facilitates deep percolation. These permeable zones enable vertical infiltration, allowing streamflow and floodwater to reach depths sufficient to recharge the Paso Robles Formation, which houses the Deep Aquifer Zone.

The report identifies alluvial fans emerging from the Sierra de Salinas as essential percolation pathways. These fans, particularly between Soledad and Gonzales, serve as natural infiltration beds where water is funneled into deeper strata due to the coarse sediment texture and gradient.

Quantitative Recharge Contributions

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) estimates that approximately 50% of total annual recharge to the Deep Aquifer originates from Salinas River streamflow percolation. This recharge is augmented by controlled releases from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs, which enhance downstream flow volumes during dry periods.

Recharge by Zone

- **Upstream near San Ardo–Soledad:** Primary recharge due to persistent streamflow, bolstered by dam releases in summer and fall.
- **Soledad to Gonzales Corridor:** High percolation potential due to proximity to river and gravelly alluvium.
- **Gonzales to Spreckels:** Recharge continues but at reduced intensity due to finer sediment profiles.

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Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

Structural Support for Recharge

The Deep Aquifer Zone in this region is confined by clayey aquitards, providing vertical isolation from overlying salt-affected zones, while still being hydraulically open in areas with coarse-grained recharge windows. These structural conditions allow MAR or natural streamflow recharge to effectively reach the target depths with minimal dispersion or quality loss.

Implications for MAR Project Design

Strategic Advantages:

- Existing natural recharge pathways can be leveraged or augmented through MAR basins near the river corridor.
- The coarse alluvium offers a cost-effective infiltration medium, reducing need for artificial lining or pre-treatment.
- Predictable hydraulic response due to historical recharge patterns ensures better control of recharge timing and volumes.

Cautions:

- Need to avoid over-pumping near recharge zones, which could reverse gradients and draw in saline water from lateral boundaries.
- Fine-grained zones farther downstream may delay recharge arrival times, requiring multi-year performance tracking.

The Salinas River's proximity, especially where it flows over coarse, permeable alluvium between Soledad and Gonzales, plays a central role in naturally recharging the Deep Aquifer Zone. Estimated to contribute around 50% of recharge, streamflow is further amplified by managed dam releases, forming a hydrologically robust system that supports both groundwater sustainability and the viability of future MAR interventions.

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

III. Project Overview

The Somavia Road project proposes to seasonally pond water in the Salinas River to a depth of 10 feet using a temporary rubber dam. The recharge zone spans roughly 5.7 river miles upstream of Jensen's Bluff—where the river meets a geologic transition south of the deep clay confining wall of the 180/400.

The goal is not diversion or removal. Rather, it is retention—slowing flow to enable natural infiltration into the unconfined and semi-confined aquifer system.

Updated ponding footprint assumptions:

- 600 acres average ponded area
- 10 feet depth average

This allows:

- 6,000 acre-feet of water stored at a time (when full)
- Net recharge over 100 days (1–3 ft/day, minus 10–20% ET and losses): → **48,000 to 162,000 acre-feet annually**

Filling time at 175 cfs inflow:

- 1 acre-foot = 43,560 cu ft
- 6,000 acre-feet = 261,360,000 cu ft
- Daily inflow at 175 cfs = 15,120,000 cu ft/day
- **Time to fill ≈ 17.3 days**

The zone can be filled quickly during spring releases and then continuously recharged through infiltration over the target 100-day window.

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

IV. Alignment with Downstream Operations

The project has been explicitly designed not to interfere with downstream infrastructure, particularly the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). Key operational features:

- Ponding zone is ~15.7 miles upstream of the SRDF.
- Operations are front-loaded into the April–May window, matching reservoir release peaks.
- Rubber dam impoundment mimics natural seasonal flow patterns.

Bypass Flow Requirements:

- SRDF must maintain 45 cfs minimum for fish passage (NMFS 2007).
- MCWRA operations add buffer flows (≥ 10 –13 cfs) to cover transmission losses (Tetra Tech 2015).
- Estimated losses over 15.7 miles: ~13 cfs average, though higher in late summer (~67 cfs).

Operational Safeguards:

- The system includes partial deflation or bypass features once infiltration capacity is reached.
- Monitoring via USGS gages (e.g., #11152300 Chualar) helps ensure compliance with SRDF and fish passage needs.

Net Effect: This is a recharge-first, non-diversion project that:

- Supports groundwater recovery
- Preserves ecological flows
- Honors downstream priorities

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

V. Groundwater Benefits

V-A. Chualar Corridor and Domestic Supply Security

The town of Chualar and surrounding rural homesteads operate on shallow to intermediate-depth wells vulnerable to seasonal drawdown and drought stress. These domestic and small municipal systems often sit within 1 to 3 miles of the proposed recharge site.

Using recharge volumes derived from a 600-acre footprint at 10-foot depth, and infiltration rates of 1–3 ft/day, the model estimates:

- Recharge delivery of **48,000 to 162,000 acre-feet** over 100 days
- **Water table rise (head increase):**
 - +15 to +20 ft within 0.5–1 mile
 - +5 to +10 ft within 1.5–2 miles
 - +2 to +5 ft at 3+ miles

This uplift directly benefits Chualar Public Utility District (PUD) wells and nearby domestic users by:

- Reducing pumping lift costs
- Minimizing risk of seasonal outages
- Extending well lifespan and reliability
- Increasing water quality buffer between shallow contaminants and deeper aquifers

Furthermore, this zone lies at a hydrologically strategic transition area, where the Salinas Aquitard becomes discontinuous. This structural trait enhances the vertical hydraulic connection between recharge waters and deeper aquifers.

The 1998 Historical Benefits Analysis corroborated this, showing +5 to +15 feet of groundwater elevation rise over decades from reservoir-supported river flows, particularly in the Chualar reach (Montgomery Watson et al. 1998).

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Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

V-B. Nitrate Dilution Potential

Though the Somavia Road MAR project is not designed as a treatment system, it offers a plausible co-benefit for nitrate mitigation, especially in areas with shallow agricultural contamination.

Key dynamics:

- Source water from Nacimiento/San Antonio is low in nitrate (<5 mg/L NO₃-N)
- Regional shallow aquifers often exceed 25–60 mg/L NO₃-N
- Infiltration of clean water may dilute nitrate concentrations within the cone of influence

Conservative scenario-based estimate:

- **Within 0.5–1.5 miles of the recharge zone:**
 - 10–25% nitrate reduction via mixing over 1–3 years
 - Especially helpful to vulnerable domestic users

Long-term benefits:

- Slows vertical migration of nitrate into deeper formations
- Expands safe yield envelope for small systems
- Aligns with SGMA's water quality degradation sustainability indicator

Limitations and future work:

- Actual nitrate movement depends on local gradients, soil redox conditions, and residence time
- MT3DMS or SEAWAT transport modeling could validate
- Empirical well monitoring should be used to track water quality response over time

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

VI. Timing, Feasibility, and Local Access

The Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project is designed for swift deployment, relying on existing public knowledge, and known hydrology. Several features make this site exceptionally feasible and low-barrier:

A. Geotechnical Favorability

The reach exhibits:

- High-permeability riverbed materials (coarse sand/gravel)
- Lack of confining clay in the upper layers
- Hydraulic connectivity to deeper aquifers through known geologic windows

This makes infiltration highly efficient and helps explain why ponding in this zone historically triggers measurable groundwater response.

B. Operational Simplicity

The project requires:

- A temporary rubber dam system (existing analogs exist in California)
- Seasonal scheduling (e.g., April–June) to capture reservoir releases
- Minimal construction, and no long-term diversion infrastructure
- Bypass capability to ensure uninterrupted downstream flow to SRDF

At 175 cfs, the entire 6,000 acre-feet of ponding volume could be filled in approximately **17.3 days**, maximizing responsiveness to hydrologic windows without large infrastructure delays.

C. Alignment with Existing Models

The site can be simulated with minimal effort in:

- SVOM / SVIHM (USGS model of Salinas Valley)
- MCWRA river and aquifer models
- Publicly available SGMA tools for recharge evaluation

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Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

This allows technical agencies to evaluate recharge performance without constructing new models from scratch.

D. Construction and Permitting Timeline

The project's non-diversionary, in-channel character may allow for expedited permitting under:

- SGMA recharge streamlining protocols
- CEQA categorical exemptions or mitigated neg-decs
- Temporary use permits for dam placement
- Encroachment or coordination permits via Monterey County or MCWRA

Local partners can leverage the urgency of overdraft mitigation and community water resilience to seek grant funding or fast-track processes.

VII. Why This Matters Now

The Somavia Road MAR project is not just technically sound—it is strategically timed, socially resonant, and politically pragmatic.

A. Complementarity, Not Competition

This project does not displace or undermine existing SVBGSA or MCWRA recharge proposals. Instead, it fills a strategic gap:

- **Eastside Focus:** Most projects concentrate on the Forebay, Pressure, or coastal zones. Somavia centers on a part of the Eastside that remains hydrologically critical but underutilized for recharge.
- **Non-Diverted:** By retaining water in-channel and avoiding pumped or piped diversions, it avoids many regulatory hurdles.
- **Quick Activation:** With willing landowners and public documentation already in place, the project can move faster than infrastructure-heavy alternatives.

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

B. Public Signal and Stakeholder Trust

In an environment of skepticism and concern over SGMA implementation, the Somavia project provides:

- A symbolic gesture that action is underway
- A demonstration site for how science, local knowledge, and community cooperation can align
- A low-cost proof-of-concept for deeper MAR efforts

Local growers and rural residents have expressed fatigue at long timelines and abstract planning. This project shows movement—and movement builds trust.

C. Alignment with SGMA and Funding Criteria

Somavia Road MAR directly supports SGMA sustainability indicators:

- **Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels:** Raises heads in critical Eastside areas
- **Seawater Intrusion:** Repressurizes freshwater gradients
- **Water Quality:** Offers nitrate dilution co-benefits
- **Degraded Storage:** Refills deep and semi-confined aquifers
- **Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water:** Restores seasonal baseflow through infiltration pulses

These benefits enhance eligibility for state and federal funding, including:

- DWR's SGMA Implementation Grants
- USDA WaterSMART
- Proposition 1 and 68 MAR funds
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (for nitrate co-benefits)

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

D. Cost-Efficiency

Compared to large-scale capital MAR programs, Somavia is:

- Scalable
- Low-maintenance
- Quick to evaluate, quick to adapt

A single season of operation can yield multiple years of data to inform the broader GSP implementation plan.

VIII. The Soul Beneath the Concept

This project is shaped not only by hydrology and policy but by something deeper—a philosophy of listening to the land.

One grower involved in shaping this concept said it plainly:

“The land knows what it wants to do. It remembers where the water used to go.”

This isn’t romanticism—it’s observational science. The 1957 well. The 1923 flood. The surge in Eastside wells. The geology that agrees.

Landowners who’ve farmed here for generations carry hydrologic memory in their bones. They understand when a field dries too early, when a pump labors harder than it used to, when the river’s flow no longer sings the way it did in their grandfather’s time.

This is a project born from quiet confidence, not spectacle. It is a gesture of stewardship, a way of saying: We can act now. With purpose. With humility. With honor.

This project is not just about MAR. It’s about moral MAR—a version of managed aquifer recharge that values timing, fairness, listening, and equity as much as flow, head, and gradient.

It’s not just about water.

It’s about doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right place.

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

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Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

X. Appendix A: Conceptual Recharge Simulation (100-Day Scenario)

This appendix presents a non-modeled, pre-simulation scenario assessment based on the USGS Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM/SVOM) preprint and publicly available documentation. It is designed to frame expectations and uncertainty ranges for the Somavia Road recharge zone prior to formal modeling.

A1. Assumptions and Inferred Parameters

- **Hydraulic conductivity (K):** 50–150 ft/day (base: 100) for coarse riverbed and floodplain alluvium
- **Specific yield (Sy):** 0.10–0.20 (base: 0.15)
- **Recharge infiltration rate:** 1–3 ft/day over 600 acres (updated surface footprint)
- **Effective aquifer thickness (b):** ~200 ft
- **Transmissivity (T):** $T = K \times b = 10,000\text{--}30,000 \text{ ft}^2/\text{day}$
- **Pressure diffusion radius estimate:** ~1.5–3.5 miles over 100 days

A2. Estimated Recharge Outcomes (100 Days)

- **Gross recharge potential:**
 - 1 ft/day $\times$ 600 acres $\times$ 100 days = 60,000 AF
 - 3 ft/day $\times$ 600 acres $\times$ 100 days = 180,000 AF
- **Net recharge (after 10–20% losses):** ~48,000 – 162,000 AF
- **Storage increase localized to Eastside region:** ~42,000 – 145,000 AF
- **Estimated head response:**
 - At 0.5 mi: +15 to +30 ft
 - At 1.5 mi: +7 to +15 ft
 - At 3.0 mi: +2 to +7 ft

A3. Observed and Projected Impacts

- **Domestic and municipal wells (e.g., Chualar):**
 - Up to 25% drawdown relief in high-stress months
 - Improved reliability and decreased energy costs
- **Pressure response radius (≥ 2 ft head rise):** ~2.5–3.5 miles
- **Storage retention post-recharge (6–12 months):** ~50–70% of initial gain retained, depending on regional extractions

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

A4. Key Constraints and Feedbacks

- **Reservoir operations:**
 - 175 cfs spring flows assumed; potential constraints during dry years
- **Clogging risk:**
 - Low during 75–100 day operation; increases past 125 days without sediment management
- **SRDF compatibility:**
 - Managed bypass flow ≥58 cfs needed
 - Includes 45 cfs minimum fish passage (NMFS 2007) + 10–13 cfs for SRDF diversion thresholds (MCWRA 2020)

A5. SGMA Framing and Recommendations

- **Groundwater offset potential:** Recharge volume offsets ~5–10% of annual dry-year pumping basin-wide
- **SGMA alignment:** Supports Eastside GSP recharge targets, nitrate mitigation, and equity goals
- **Recommendations:**
 - Initiate staged pilot (e.g., 75 → 100 → 125 days)
 - Install head monitoring wells at 0.5, 1.5, and 3 miles
 - Coordinate with SVBGSA modeling team to simulate full aquifer response and recovery lag

(Adapted from conceptual simulation based on USGS SVIHM/SVOM documentation and regional recharge analogs.)

Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

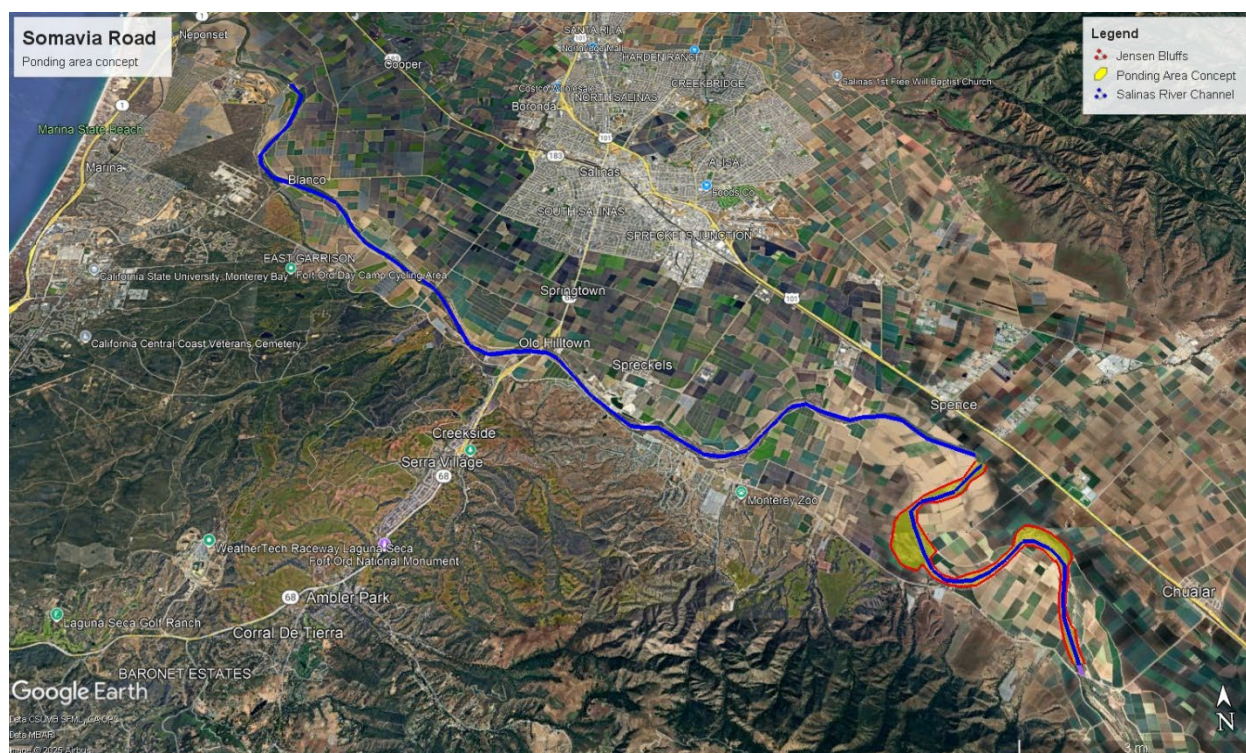
XI. Exhibits

Exhibit A: Somavia Road Ponding Area Concept – Upstream Detail



Somavia Road Managed Aquifer Recharge Project

Exhibit B: Salinas River Ponding Corridor – Regional Context



From: [Thomas S. Virsik](#)
To: [930-WRApubliccomment](#)
Cc: [Azhderian, Ara](#); [Donlon, Kelly L.](#)
Subject: WRA BOD public comment violation
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:11:28 PM

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Acting Chair Simis failed to ask for public comments for the Directors' comments. The agenda states:

PUBLIC COMMENT: 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.

My hand was raised on the remote platform before Director Scattini finished speaking, thus I (and perhaps others) were deprived of providing comments on the Directors' reports and contributing to the Directors' and public's understanding of contentious long-term issues. While no vote was involved, the WRA is asked to "cure and correct" its seemingly blatant disregard for providing all of the opportunities for public input and engagement the law requires. At especially a time it -- per its own Directors' comments -- faces a trust issue and seeks stakeholder engagement, disregard for the public is self-administered poison.

--

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From: [Thomas S. Virsik](#)
To: [930-WRApubliccomment](#)
Cc: [Azhderian, Ara](#); [Donlon, Kelly L.](#)
Subject: September 15, 2025 -- MCWRA BOD Meeting
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:04:15 PM
Attachments: [MCWRA BOD CommentOpen16Sept2025docx.pdf](#)

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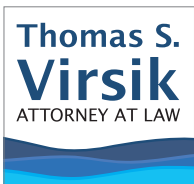
Dear Clerk:

Attached please find written public comments.

--

Thomas S. Virsik
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2515 Santa Clara Avenue, Suite 208
Alameda, CA 94501
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Fax (510) 748-8997

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16 September 2025

Via email: WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us

Mike LeBarre, Chair
Monterey County Water Resources
Board of Directors

Re: Public comment violation 15 September 2025

Chair LeBarre:

This comment letter is an after-the-fact attempt to provide public comment to an agenda item for which the then acting Chair did not allow. The agenda item was the final one: Board of Directors Comments at approximately 15:30 local time. Directors Ekelund and Scattini provided comments, during which I raised my hand on the Zoom platform. When Director Scattini finished, acting Chair Simis adjourned without allowing public comments. I thereupon sent an email to staff noting the open meeting violation and asking for correction, as contemplated under the law.

The comments by Director Scattini included various opinions and characterization of events that took place decades ago as well as his interpretation of certain aspects of the law. Director Scattini (or anyone else, Director or public) has an absolute right to express opinions and conclusions, whether well founded or as in contemporary AI lingo, “hallucinations.” But the public has a right under applicable open meeting laws – on which the Board and staff is periodically trained – to offer facts, historic data, law, and opinions as well. The goal is to inform both the public and those who may make decisions. Precluding the public from input is at a minimum not helpful, but under present circumstances, it’s genuinely counterproductive.

Director Scattini offered his opinion¹ that

- The Historic Benefits Analysis of 1998 was a “back-room deal” as well as strongly implying that the present Zone 2C rates were part of that “deal.”
- That demand management is “adjudication” in some areas and not in others and that the “state” will eventually determine that the entire Valley has a right to a certain uniform amount of water use.

¹ The bullet points are a good faith attempt to capture the multiple sentences of content without the aid of any transcript or recording.

- That “honesty” is required about benefits.

Chair Simis then agreed with Director Scattini’s remarks and adjourned the meeting.

Director Scattini is 100% correct that honesty is required if the local water challenges are to be resolved. His comments were most notable for what he chose not to say more than what he said. His comments avoided the single most important term in all of the water issues at play: seawater intrusion. If the northern coastal area had not been over drafted² starting over 100 years ago, the present water issues would not exist. That is bedrock honesty.

The 1998 HBA is anything but a backroom deal and that is even more true for the Zone 2C rates. If Director Scattini knows of any “back-room deal” and especially what parties/individuals were involved, the public would be well served if he were to so publicly disclose. His apparent blood-relative, Robert Scattini, was on the MCWRA Board³ when the HBA was adopted so its possible current Director Scattini knows something the rest of us do not. The public events around the HBA and what became the Zone 2C rates – in which I was personally involved – included a cost allocation process started by Hon. Richard Silver (a Superior Court Judge of the era assigned to multiple legal cases challenging the MCWRA), the public litigation events including judgments and settlements, public work product from top-tier engineering and other firms, an engineer’s report for the Proposition 218 process, the notably successful Proposition 218 election, and a legal challenge by a group of disgruntled landowners in the wake of the election and its public resolution. The path to the Zone 2C rates is hardly mysterious and nobody need credit my recollection – the genesis of and steps in adopting Zone 2C are detailed in contemporaneous Ordinance 04203.

Notably, the cost allocation process included a broad cross-section of Director Scattini’s neighbors and cohorts. The final CAC Report, including the list of participants and their affiliations, is available on the MCWRA site. The Chair of the Board of Directors during the relevant period was Stephen Collins, an executive officer of a fellow major artichoke grower. To the extent Director Scattini, a full generation later, is unhappy with outcomes, his complaint is with his cohorts’ choices a generation ago. Nevertheless, Director Scattini and all others similarly unhappy had ample opportunities in response to the validation

² As my oral comment on another agenda item noted, the SVBGSA posted an excellent animation explaining that seawater intrusion is caused by an excess of local pumping. <https://youtu.be/2vDg6Wcx7TM?si=Mr79tSfnJfLmI71n>

³ E.g., the 1997 Groundwater Extraction Summary report, published in 1999, reflects Robert Scattini filling the Agricultural Advisory committee seat.

lawsuits before and after Zone 2C, public noticing, SGMA enactment, and the statutory steps for seeking modification of the SGMA “lines” in DWR Bulletin 118⁴, but never availed themselves of any of those opportunities.

Director Scattini’s opinions about adjudication and how the state (which one assumes is DWR and/or the SWRCB) views this Valley are also curious. DWR Bulletin 118 lists and defines the “basins” subject to SGMA. In the present Bulletin 118, there is no “Salinas Valley Basin” but a series of basins, i.e., the 180/400, Langley, Monterey, Eastside, Forebay, and Upper Valley. To the extent that a prior publication listed a “Salinas Valley Basin,” that term referred to an area that far exceeds the County lines – nine subbasins. The thousands of pages of analysis and advocacy involved in any of the SGMA probation events amply reflect that while a basin may complain about a neighboring basin’s actions or inactions, the entire focus by the DWR or SWRCB under SGMA is on a specific Bulletin 118 basin. Thus, if “the state” were to manage a local area under SGMA, it would do so on a basin basis, and the obvious front runner is the sole critically over-drafted (per Bulletin 118) one, the 180/400 basin.

Adjudication is similar. The post-SGMA statutes authorize adjudication based on the Bulletin 118 basins, not by a “folk” definition of a basin. Thus, a landowner in the 180/400 has no legal ability to commence, for example, an adjudication in the Monterey basin.

Director Scattini’s opinion that demand management is “adjudication light” is a common one among those who are unfamiliar with or fear SGMA. The SVBGSA has provided robust presentations and discussion -- many of which involve Dave Ceppos – to counter that myth. Director Scattini or anyone else fearing that “demand management is adjudication under a different name” may wish to avail themselves of the robust resources at the SVBGSA.

CONCLUSION

Ultimatums – whether by a Director or an interest group – are poison that may have a pleasant taste when consumed to the one trading in it but remains lethal. An open public process must allow comments, factual or fanciful, without censorship and is not served when the public is not allowed to engage with especially comments that come from the putative decision-makers.

While the omission of public comments after the Directors’ Comments may have been the result of mere human error or technical glitches, not even such a minor

⁴ The “lines” in DWR Bulletin 118 are not sacrosanct. If the “Gloria Road” demarcation offended Director Scattini, he or any like-minded person could have sought changes rather than only complaining. The southern interests obtained a change in the southern Upper Valley “line” by advocating for and supporting the SVBGSA’s petition under SGMA to modify Bulletin 118, rather than waiting a decade and only complaining.

Mike LeBarre, Chair
MCWRA Board of Directors
16 September 2025

flub should go without correction and reassurance that public input is desired and will be given equal dignity to words that fall from a dais.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Virsik

Thomas S. Virsik

cc: Ara Azhderian, AzhderianA@countyofmonterey.gov
Kelly Donlon, DonlonKL@co.monterey.ca.us



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects

Division of Dam Safety and Inspections – San Francisco Regional Office

September 16, 2025

In reply refer to:
Project No. 6378-CA

VIA FERC Service

Mr. Ara Azhderian
General Manager
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
P.O. Box 930
Salinas, CA 93902-0930

Re: 8th Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report for Nacimiento Dam

Dear Mr. Azhderian:

This is in response to letters dated February 23, 2023, and April 24, 2023, from Mr. Chris Moss that submitted the 8th Independent Consultant's Safety Inspection Report (Part 12D report) and a plan and schedule to address the 8th Part 12D report recommendations for Nacimiento Dam, which is part of the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 6378. Two technical memorandums consisting of a repair plan of the crest-drain blockage of the south spillway and high-level outlet tunnel liner for addressing recommendations from the 7th Part 12D report were also included with the April 24, 2023, letter. An updated plan and schedule for addressing the Independent Consultant's (IC's) recommendations was submitted in a letter dated March 5, 2025. Our review of the Part 12D report concludes that the scope and content of the report satisfies the requirements of Part 12, Subpart D, §12.37 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Part 12D Report was found to be prepared in general accordance with the Engineering Guidelines Chapter 14 outline provided in our reminder letter dated April 6, 2022. Based upon our review, we have following comments:

1. Your updated plan and schedule for addressing several IC's recommendations from the 8th Part 12D report indicates as "TBD" and "not started." We cannot accept a plan and schedule which is not based on specific dates (day, month, and year). Therefore, provide an updated plan and schedule which includes specific dates for addressing the IC's recommendations.

2. Your plan and schedule indicates that several IC's recommendations regarding Supporting Technical Information Document (STID) have been completed. However, we have not received an updated STID as of the date of this letter which is now overdue and requires submittal.

Within 30 days of the date of this letter, address above comments, or provide a plan and schedule to address these comments. File your submittal using our eFiling system at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>. When eFiling, select Hydro: Dam Safety; San Francisco Regional Office from the eFiling menu. The cover page of the filing must indicate that the material was eFiled. For assistance with eFiling, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

We appreciate your continued efforts in this aspect of our dam safety program. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Mynul Chowdhury at (415) 369-3313.

Sincerely,

Frank L Blackett, PE

Digitally signed by Frank L

Blackett, PE

Date: 2025.09.16 10:41:33 -07'00'

Frank L. Blackett, P.E.

Regional Engineer

cc:

Mr. Mark Foxworthy

Senior Water Resources Engineer

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

P.O. Box 930

Salinas, CA 93902-0930



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects

Division of Dam Safety and Inspections – San Francisco Regional Office

September 23, 2025

In reply refer to:
Project No. 6378-CA

VIA FERC Service

Mr. Ara Azhderian
General Manager
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
P.O. Box 930
Salinas, CA 93902-0930

Re: 2025 Dam Safety Inspection Follow-up

Dear Mr. Azhderian:

On August 26, 2025, Mr. Mynul Chowdhury and Mr. Vinh Tran inspected the Nacimiento Project, FERC No. 6378. The project features were inspected, and no conditions were found that would require immediate remedial action to protect the safety of the project.

Nacimiento Dam (FED ID CA00812) is in Poor condition based on the National Inventory of Dams (NID) Condition Assessment definitions. You are currently in the design process to address deficiencies at the spillway plunge pool and have implemented Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) that will remain in place until the modifications are completed. We did not observe any conditions during the inspection that would change this Condition Assessment rating nor warrant the implementation of additional IRRMs at this time.

Based on observations made and discussions held during the inspection, we have the following follow-up items that require your attention:

1. During the inspection, it was observed that the battery bank inside the powerhouse was not secured by a double containment. A double containment system for the battery bank should be installed to prevent potential chemical leaks from the batteries from entering the sumps of the powerhouse.

2. We have not received the following overdue items as of the date of this letter, although discussions during the inspection indicated that progress has been made on preparing some of the items. If you continue to be unresponsive in filing the required items, this matter may be referred to DHAC for investigation of non-compliance with your license.

- a. Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Reports (DSSMRs) for the year 2023 and 2024.
- b. Updated Owners Dam Safety Program (ODSP).
- c. Updated Supporting Technical Information Document (STID).
- d. EAP Status Reports for the year 2023 and 2024

Note that if we identify any additional items requiring follow-up action during preparation of our Dam Safety Inspection Report, we will contact you by phone and/or email and subsequently issue another letter.

Within 30 days of the date of this letter, address Comment No. 1 or provide a plan and schedule to address the comment. The items in Comment No. 2 are overdue and require immediate submittal upon receipt of this letter. File your submittal using our eFiling system at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>. When eFiling, select Hydro: Dam Safety; San Francisco Regional Office from the eFiling menu. The cover page of the filing must indicate that the material was eFiled. For assistance with eFiling, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

We appreciate your cooperation in this aspect of our dam safety program. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Mynul Chowdhury at (415) 369-3313.

Sincerely,

Frank L Blackett, PE

Digitally signed by Frank L Blackett,
PE

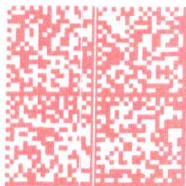
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Frank L. Blackett, P.E.
Regional Engineer

cc:

Erik Malvick - Division Manager
CA Dept. of Water Resources
Division of Safety of Dams
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
c/o Shawn.Jones@water.ca.gov

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Ara Azhderian
P.O. Box 930
Salinas, CA 93902-

Docket No.: P-6378

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