

Personnel:

After four years with the Agency, our Senior Secretary Eva Gonzales has announced her resignation as of September 19th. Eva has been a valued member of the Agency team and we will miss her administrative expertise “herding the cats”, clerking the Board, and generally keeping the trains running on time. As for recruitment of a Water Resources Engineer, it remains in process with additional interviews held recently. Lastly, staff is preparing a recruitment for a Maintenance Worker to augment the south crew at the dams.

GMP Implementation:

During the last month, Agency staff has completed data collection for three groundwater level monitoring events – August Trough, August monthly, and August Representative Monitoring Sites. The data are currently under review for quality control and, in the coming weeks, will be used to develop groundwater elevation contour maps. Staff has also been collecting groundwater quality samples to inform an analysis of seawater intrusion.

For the well registration program, Agency and SVBGSA staff have been coordinating on development of outreach materials to inform all well owners of new well registration requirements and the current opportunity to register wells with the Agency for free prior to January 31, 2026. Postcards, a sample is attached, with information about well registration and a link to the Agency’s updated well registration webpage will be mailed out to well owners within the next 1-2 weeks. Finally, activity around the groundwater extraction reporting program has been ramping up in anticipation of the Water Year 2025 reporting period, which will be from October 1-31, 2025. Agency staff are preparing informational letters for well owners and operators, which will be distributed within the next week.

Deep Aquifers Monitoring Plan:

A Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers (“MPDA”) has been prepared as part of the Agency’s work under the Round 1 Subgrant Agreement with the SVBGSA. The MPDA captures all existing groundwater level, quality, and extraction monitoring activities conducted by the multiple entities with responsibility over the Deep Aquifers; describes an approach for aligning the timing and frequency of data collection to streamline data sharing between entities; and includes enhancements to existing monitoring programs in response to recommendations in the 2024 Deep Aquifers Study. Input on the scope and content of the MPDA has been provided by the SVBGSA’s Groundwater Technical Advisory Committee and partner monitoring entities such as the SVBGSA, the County’s Health Department, Marina Coast Water District GSA, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and the Seaside Watermaster. Because the Deep Aquifer spans a number of political boundaries, the Agency is also working with these partner entities towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding to document the roles and responsibilities of the various entities towards implementing the MPDA.

Dam Safety & Operations Future Funding Strategy:

On July 9th, the Agency hosted a Dam Safety & Operations Financial Strategy stakeholder workshop. Turnout was good, with over 50 participants. Agency staff presented on the Mission of the Agency and the ingredients for success, the work being performed with existing grant funds, status of the 2025-26 fiscal-year budget, the unmet financial needs of the future, and options for funding them. Staff received numerous constructive comments and set a September 1 due date for

submission of formal comments, three of which have thus far been received and are included in this Agenda packet under Correspondence. The Agency is reviewing the comments and will begin developing a scope of work to support next steps with the aim of holding another stakeholder workshop in early December. A recording of the July 9th workshop can be found on the Agency website under the Board of Directors tab at:

[WRA Dam Safety & Operations Financial Strategy Workshop - Zoom](#)

Salinas River Habitat Conservation Plan:

On September 9th, the Agency held our third Stakeholder Engagement meeting related to the Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The focus of the workshop was to present the recommended reservoir reoperation protocols, activities that will be covered under the HCP, and next steps in HCP development. Agency staff and our HCP consulting team from ICF (HCP team) presented the reservoir reoperation protocols that were developed with the input of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of subject matter experts that met between December 2023 and April 2025. The HCP team provided an overview of the TAC process and the goals of the reoperation protocols followed by a description of the major components of the reoperation protocols and a high-level overview of the modeled outcomes. The HCP team also discussed the process used to evaluate activities for coverage under the HCP and discussed specific activities that will be covered, some examples of activities that did not meet the screening criteria for coverage, and the amendment process that could be used to add additional activities in the future. To close out the meeting, the HCP team discussed next steps including the goal of completing the second Administrative Draft HCP by the end of this calendar year and the uncertainty of future grant funding that has been requested to complete the environmental review and reach an approved permit. The team also expressed the goal of holding another Stakeholder Engagement Workshop early in 2026 if funding is available. Meeting materials will be emailed to the stakeholder working group and posted to the project web site [Salinas River Management Program | Overview](#) in the near future.

Property Management:

Recent discussions with the Town Creek Association, which is a group of homeowners situated on Nacimiento Reservoir and a tenant of Agency land, have been very positive and productive. The Association has taken decisive steps towards improving compliance with its Agency lease and educating its homeowners regarding the importance of the mussel prevention program. Included with this packet is an email from Association Secretary Danette Henthorn describing recent steps taken to address concerns expressed by the Agency in its July 24th letter. Also included is a copy of a letter the Association sent notifying its members of the Agency's concerns and of the immediate actions being taken to address them. These important steps to enforce the terms of our lease and to protect the interests of both the Agency and Association are much appreciated. On September 8th, Property Specialist Tom Shepard and I met with the Association's President, Jason Linker, to discuss the Agency's concerns and the Association's responses, and the potential extension of their lease and construction of a permanent boat ramp on the Agency's land. I requested the Association draft a proposal for further discussion and Agency consideration.

Also on September 8th, Property Specialist Tom Shepard and I met with San Antonio Reservoir Grazing Lease 3 tenant Ray Franscioni to inspect and discuss the state of Agency fencing along the lease's property line. Similar to fencing on other leases around San Antonio, it was constructed approximately sixty-years ago with the dam. The fencing in some areas remains in adequate condition, while in others it has completely failed. During the meeting, we also discussed the concept of a tenant replacing fencing in return for lease credit. While this concept has been around for a while now, it has not been put into practice. To do so would require the Agency to establish standards for fencing to ensure proper construction and accountability regarding cost. It would also require discussions with other tenants to ascertain interest and explore other ideas that could potentially improve workability. I suggested to Mr. Franscioni that if he has a proposal, please send it to the Agency for consideration. In the meantime, we will expand our outreach to the other tenants for further consideration.



Salinas Valley Basin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency



New well registration requirement

— Learn more!

Nuevo requisito de registro de pozos

— ¡Aprenda más!

California now requires groundwater management across the state. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) was formed to meet this mandate through local control. The foundation of a strong groundwater plan is reliable data about wells and water conditions.

To utilize existing expertise and keep costs low, SVBGSA partnered with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency for carrying out the new Groundwater Monitoring Program, which was adopted in October 2024.

What's next? All wells in the Salinas Valley Basin must be registered. If you own a well, please register it now to help protect the shared water supply and maintain local control.

Register at no cost by Jan. 31, 2026

California ahora exige la gestión de las aguas subterráneas en todo el estado. La Agencia de Sostenibilidad de las Aguas Subterráneas de la Cuenca del Valle de Salinas (SVBGSA) se creó para cumplir con este mandato mediante el control local. La base de un plan sólido de aguas subterráneas son los datos fiables sobre los pozos y las condiciones del agua.

Para aprovechar la experiencia existente y mantener bajos los costos, la SVBGSA se asoció con la Agencia de Recursos Hídricos del Condado de Monterey para implementar el nuevo Programa de Monitoreo de Aguas Subterráneas, que se adoptó en octubre de 2024.

¿Qué sigue? Todos los pozos de la Cuenca del Valle de Salinas deben estar registrados. Si usted es el propietario de un pozo, regístrelo ahora para ayudar a proteger el suministro de agua de todos y mantener el control local.

Regístrate sin costo antes del 31 de enero de 2026

**Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater
Sustainability Agency**
P.O. Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924



Scan to register, visit
svbgsa.org/gmp, or call
831-755-8905 to get started.

Escanear para registrarse, visite
svbgsa.org/gmp, o llame al
831-755-8905 para comenzar.

From: DANETTE HENTHORN

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 6:54 PM

To: Azhderian, Ara <AzhderianA@countyofmonterey.gov>

Cc: Jason Linker; Shepherd, Thomas J. <ShepherdTJ@countyofmonterey.gov>; Fenley, Jessell M. <fenleyjm@countyofmonterey.gov>

Subject: Re: Town Creek Ramp Concerns

[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.]

Hi Ara,

I'm reaching out to provide updates on our recent efforts to enhance lake safety and compliance, as well as to discuss scheduling a meeting.

Meeting Availability: Jason and I are typically at our properties on weekends, but Jason is available on the morning of September 8th if that works for you. Please let us know if this date suits your schedule.

Recent Improvements:

We've made significant upgrades to ensure safety and compliance at the lake, including:

- New Signage: Installed at the main gate and launch ramp for clear guidance.
- Locked Launch Ramp: Equipped with accompanying signage to enhance security.
- Security Cameras: Now operational at the main gate, launch ramp, and dock area.

Attached are photos showcasing these improvements, including camera vantage points, along with the member notice sent on August 7.

Additional Efforts:

- We've appointed a Mussel Coordinator and informed members about the resident vessel program to strengthen compliance.
- We've requested a QR code sign from Layla Decker at the marina to streamline lake fee payments at the ramp. We're awaiting its delivery.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to collaborating with Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Our association remains dedicated to securing a long-term lease and permanent launch ramp, which we believe is the best path to ensuring the safety and sustainability of our community and the lake.

Please let us know a convenient time to discuss further. We look forward to your feedback.

Best regards,
Danette











Town Creek Association: Commitment to Monterey County and Our Lake

Dear Members,

Monterey County has expressed significant concern about the community's commitment to preventing a mussel infestation in our lake, noting a perceived lack of engagement with the mussel prevention program. This perception conflicts with our association's mission to secure a long-term lease and a permanent launch ramp for our community.

To address these concerns and demonstrate our dedication to partnering with Monterey County, we are implementing the following improvements effective immediately:

- **Enhanced Signage:** Clear, updated signs to reinforce rules and expectations.
- **Locked Launch Ramp:** Access restricted to ensure compliance and security.
- **Video Surveillance:** Monitoring to protect our facilities and ensure proper use.

Launch Ramp Access Details:



- **Exclusive Use:** The launch ramp is reserved for paid, current Town Creek Association members and their guests only. Please do not share access with non-members or those who have opted out of the association. Unauthorized use increases wear, tear, and liability risks, jeopardizing our efforts to secure a long-term lease and permanent ramp.

Important Reminders:

- All members and guests must have a current mussel inspection and stamped permit and pay the daily lake fee before using the launch ramp.
- Please ensure you and your guests clean up all trash and debris, leaving no trace. This is a recurring concern raised by Monterey County.

Your cooperation is critical to maintaining our lake's health and achieving our shared

goals. Thank you for your commitment to our community and Monterey County.

Danette McFarland
Secretary
Town Creek Association



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