

County of Monterey

Monterey County Government Center
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

1:30 PM

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

Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Chair Supervisor Wendy Root Askew - District 4

Vice Chair Supervisor Kate Daniels - District 5

Supervisor Luis A. Alejo - District 1

Supervisor Glenn Church - District 2

Supervisor Chris Lopez - District 3

For information on The Ralph M. Brown Act: Open Meetings please click on the link below:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

Participation in meetings

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

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

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

- a. submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at cob@co.monterey.ca.us. In an effort to assist the Clerk in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting body (i.e. Board of Supervisors Agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.
- b. you may participate through ZOOM. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

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

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

Enter this Meeting ID number: 224397747 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you.

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

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

Participación en reuniones

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1:30 P.M. - Call to Order

Roll Call

Additions and Corrections by Clerk

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

General Public Comments

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

Scheduled Matters

1. Receive information on Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability: Overview of Feasibility Studies and Implementation Strategy and provide input on approach to addressing groundwater sustainability challenges in the Salinas Valley.

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

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 26-129

April 28, 2026

Introduced: 4/17/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Receive information on Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability: Overview of Feasibility Studies and Implementation Strategy and provide input on approach to addressing groundwater sustainability challenges in the Salinas Valley.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors (Board):

Receive information on Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability: Overview of Feasibility Studies and Implementation Strategy and provide input on approach to addressing groundwater sustainability challenges in the Salinas Valley.

BACKGROUND:

The Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin consists of six subbasins under the jurisdiction of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA). Currently, four of these subbasins are not meeting sustainability criteria due to two primary concerns: seawater intrusion and chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the region must achieve sustainability by 2040/2042 and submit Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluations to the Department of Water Resources by January 2027.

This spring, in collaboration with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), the SVBGSA completed a series of feasibility studies and technical investigations evaluating potential projects and management actions intended to achieve the Sustainability Management Criteria established in the GSPs and is now considering the recent findings to inform decision-making about future planning efforts.

DISCUSSION:

The SVBGSA, has developed an Integrated Implementation Strategy (IIS) to evaluate combinations of projects and management actions across the basin. The IIS process translates technical work into policy-level options for consideration by the SVBGSA Board of Directors.

Six major feasibility studies have been completed:

1. Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) - Store excess surface water during wet periods in aquifer for recovery during dry periods
2. Brackish Groundwater Restoration (BGR) - Extract and treat brackish/saline

groundwater from intruded coastal aquifers to create new water supply and slow seawater intrusion

3. Castroville & Eastside Canals and Alternatives (C&E) - Expand surface water diversion and distribution capacity to reduce groundwater pumping
4. New Seawater Intrusion Project (NSIP) - Develop a new distribution system to deliver alternative irrigation supplies in-lieu of groundwater extractions to protect inland aquifers
5. Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) Optimization - Enhance performance of existing irrigation supply infrastructure to reduce groundwater pumping
6. Demand Management - Reduce overall groundwater extraction through efficiency improvements, conservation incentives, and water use practice improvements

Today's presentation provides an overview of these feasibility studies, including project objectives, key findings, and implementation challenges.

Timeline:

- April 28, 2026: Board of Supervisors overview presentation (today)
- May 18, 2026: Joint workshop with MCWRA Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors, and SVBGSA Board of Directors
- Summer 2026: PMA Portfolio development and analysis
- Fall 2026: SVBGSA Board selects preferred implementation portfolio
- January 2027: Submit GSP Periodic Evaluations to DWR
- 2027-2040: Phased project planning, implementation, and adaptive management

Roles and responsibilities:

SVBGSA leads the IIS coordination and decision process, facilitates public engagement, and will select the preferred portfolio of projects and management actions.

MCWRA provides technical and project development support and coordinates regional infrastructure planning.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No direct fiscal impact at this time. Future implementation of selected projects will require significant capital investment and operational funding. Cost estimates and funding strategies will be developed as part of the IIS process.

CEQA DETERMINATION:

Not applicable.

PREPARED BY:

Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Piret Harmon, General Manager, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency



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Monterey County Water Resources Agency & Salinas Valley Basing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Selection of New Water Project for Further Consideration

RECOMMENDATION:

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Not applicable.

PREPARED BY:

Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Piret Harmon, General Manager, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency