

**Personnel:**

First, I'd like to congratulate Chris Calderon on his recent, competitive promotion to Water Resources Engineer. Chris joined the Agency 3 years ago as a technician, starting out in our operations section, before moving over to engineering after his successful completion of an Engineer In Training program. We appreciate Chris' initiative towards improving his skills and service to the Agency and look forward to his continuing success. Next, I want to welcome Joshua Diaz to our northern maintenance crew. Josh comes to us from the County's Public Works Department and began with the Agency on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, diving in with both feet, literally, as he and the northern crew worked to prepare the Old Salinas River slide gate for the 2026 Salinas River Diversion Facility operational season. As Josh settles in with his new team, we wish him great success in the future. Finally, the Agency is working with the County's Human Resources Department on 4 active recruitments: a Water Resources Engineer, a Water Maintenance Worker II, a Water Resources Technician, and a Senior Account Clerk.

**Groundwater Monitoring Program:**

Over the past several months, Agency staff have been working closely in support of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's efforts to develop a number of feasibility studies on projects aimed at advancing groundwater sustainability in the Salinas Valley. This includes Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), Brackish Groundwater Restoration (BGR), Castroville and Eastside Canals and Alternatives (C&E), New Seawater Intrusion Project (NCIP), Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) Optimization and Demand Management. All projects are evaluated against a baseline scenario. This work is documented in a series of studies and reports that were submitted to the California Department of Water Resources at the end of March. These materials are the foundation for consideration of projects and management actions (PMA) portfolios over the summer and fall, as the SVBGSA Board of Directors is expected to select a preferred implementation path in Fall 2026 and is preparing periodic evaluations of its Groundwater Sustainability Plans by January 2027.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, SVBGSA General Manager, Piret Harmon, and I will present to the Agency's Board of Supervisors an overview of the feasibility studies addressing Salinas Valley groundwater challenges, key challenges and findings, and the next steps to evaluate and determine what projects and management actions to carry forward.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the SVBGSA and Agency will host a joint boards workshop on the same studies, but over a 2-hour timeframe, and with staff and consultants present, to allow for more in-depth engagement. A flier for the workshop is attached.

Lastly, following development of the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers and execution of the related Memorandum of Understanding to implement it, the Agency, SVBGSA, Marina Coast Water District GSA, and the County of Monterey have been collaborating on the development of a Deep Aquifers Management Recommendations Memorandum under a grant secured by Marina Coast. MCWDGSA, as the grantee, will be the first to present the Memorandum to their Board of Directors, which is currently scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. Presentations to the Agency's Board of Directors

and Board of Supervisors are tentatively scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The working group is also planning to hold a workshop for Deep Aquifers well owners, which is tentatively scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**SVBGSA Advisory Committee Update:**

Deputy General Manager, Shaunna Murray, is the Agency's representative on the SVBGSA Advisory Committees. She reports that the Advisory Committee did not hold a meeting in March and the next scheduled meeting is April 16, 2026. The AC agenda was published prior to the Agency BOD agenda deadline; therefore staff is providing this brief overview of the expected meeting topics. The discussion items begin with a review of the Integrated Implementation Strategy Process Roadmap, which reaffirms that the Advisory Committee's primary goals are to evaluate and deliberate the merits of suite of Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) and to develop consensus-based recommendations for the SVBGSA Board. Next topic is an overview of the Baseline and No Action Alternative Simulation modeling results that all PMAs are evaluated against. The next two items provide a summary of two PMAs: Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Feasibility Study Overview and the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) Optimization Overview. A special Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2026, to continue the discussion of additional feasibility studies for PMAs.

**Strategic Plan Update:**

The Agency is now under contract with Jacob Green and Associates to perform an update to the Strategic Plan. The team held a kickoff meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> and has begun collecting and reviewing documents of the Agency. The next steps are performing a robust stakeholder engagement including one-on-one interviews, small group stakeholder meetings, and surveys for staff and public members. This will then inform a workshop to discuss and formulate the key pieces of the plan, this summer. Staff will continue to work with Planning Committee through this process.



**Salinas Valley Basin**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT** **FEASIBILITY STUDIES WORKSHOP**

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency are hosting a joint boards workshop on May 18, at 9:30 a.m., at 1441 Schilling Place, Salinas.

The workshop is intended to bring together our respective Board members, staff, and consultants for a detailed review of the findings from several recently completed feasibility studies on projects aimed at advancing groundwater sustainability in the Salinas Valley. This includes Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), Brackish Groundwater Restoration (BGR), Castroville and Eastside Canals and Alternatives (C&E), New Seawater Intrusion Project (NCIP), Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) Optimization and Demand Management. All projects are evaluated against a baseline scenario. This work is documented in a series of studies and reports that were submitted to the California Department of Water Resources at the end of March. These materials are the foundation for consideration of projects and management actions (PMA) portfolios over the summer and fall, as the SVBGSA Board of Directors is expected to select a preferred implementation path in Fall 2026 and is preparing periodic evaluations of its Groundwater Sustainability Plans by January 2027.

To ensure adequate space and seating, please RSVP with Lorena Imperial at [imperial@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:imperial@countyofmonterey.gov)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED VIA THE FOLLOWING ZOOM LINK:**

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99922973840?pwd=TG2X9drH6ZUpeUgnM3t8LkApIXYQaT.1>

Password: 581522