

Water Resources Agency Joint Boards Leadership Committee

March 30, 2026

Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability: Upcoming Public Engagement & Decision Process

Presentation Outline

1. Purpose of Presentation

- Inform Executive Leadership Committee on upcoming public meetings and engagement process
- Provide overview of coordinated effort led by SVBGSA in partnership with MCWRA
- Seek input on approach, messaging, and stakeholder engagement

2. Background and Context

- Status of groundwater conditions in Salinas Valley
 - 6 subbasins under SVBGSA jurisdiction
 - 4 subbasins not currently meeting sustainability criteria
 - Seawater intrusion remains a primary concern (especially 180/400-Foot Aquifer)
- SGMA requirements and timelines
 - Achieve sustainability by 2040/2042
 - Prepare and submit GSP Periodic Evaluations to DWR by January 2027
- Transition from planning to implementation and decision-making

3. Integrated Implementation Strategy (IIS) – Overview

- Builds on completed feasibility studies (technical analyses and modeling)

- Approach: identify and recommend a suite of supply projects and demand management measures
- Outcome: select a preferred portfolio by November 2026

5. Upcoming Outreach

Goals

- Inform larger audience of groundwater challenges and options
- Build transparency and regional support

Public Meeting Structure

- Meeting - Board of Supervisors (BOS) April 28, 2026
 - Overview of main activities
 - Timeline
 - Deliverables
- Workshop – BOS, MCWRA BOD, SVBGSA BOD May 18, 2026
 - Introduction of projects evaluated by SVBGSA
 - Discuss tradeoffs (cost, supply reliability, impacts)

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- SVBGSA
 - Lead coordination and IIS process
 - Facilitate public engagement
 - Select a preferred portfolio of PMAs
- MCWRA
 - Provide technical and project development support
 - Coordinate regional infrastructure planning

- Executive Leadership (BOS)
 - Strategic guidance
 - Alignment across agencies

7. Key Policy and Communication Considerations

- Communicating urgency vs. uncertainty
- Addressing cost and funding questions early
- Managing expectations on timelines and outcomes
- Consistency of messaging across agencies