

April 20, 2026

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
168 W. Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901

Subject: Request to Amend Exhibit F of the SVBGSA Joint Powers Agreement – Update to Environmental Nominating Group

Dear Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus associated with the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA), we respectfully request that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, as the Appointing Authority, approve updates to Exhibit F of the SVBGSA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) related to the Environment Director Position Nominating Group. Pursuant to Section 6.5(g) of the JPA, modifications to the composition of the nominating group may be made with notification to the Appointing Authority, including both the addition and removal of participating entities. Consistent with these provisions, the Environmental Caucus requests the following updates:

1. Addition of Central Coast Wetlands and Elkhorn Slough Foundation

In accordance with Section 6.5(g)(vii), the Caucus supports inclusion of both Central Coast Wetlands and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation in Exhibit F. These organizations bring strong regional expertise in watershed management, habitat restoration, estuarine systems, and water quality protection. Their work is closely aligned with SGMA objectives and the mission of SVBGSA, particularly in protecting environmental beneficial uses and understanding groundwater–surface water interactions. Their participation will strengthen the diversity, technical depth, and regional representation of the Environmental Nominating Group.

2. Removal of The Nature Conservancy

In accordance with Section 6.5(g)(vi), the Caucus requests removal of The Nature Conservancy from Exhibit F. Despite multiple attempts, the Caucus has been unable to reach or engage the organization in the nominating group process. As a result, their continued inclusion does not reflect active participation in the caucus.

These updates will help ensure that the Environmental Nominating Group remains active, engaged, and representative of organizations contributing to groundwater sustainability efforts in the Salinas Valley.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Board acknowledge these changes and direct that Exhibit F of the SVBGSA JPA be updated to (1) add Central Coast Wetlands and Elkhorn Slough Foundation and (2) remove The Nature Conservancy.

We appreciate your consideration and continued support of effective and inclusive governance of the SVBGSA.

Sincerely,

Janet Brennan
On behalf of Environmental Caucus

cc: SVBGSA Board of Directors
SVBGSA Staff