

D-R-A-F-T
MINUTES

**Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
August 11, 2021
(Meeting Held Using Zoom Conferencing)**

Attendees: **TAC Members**
City of Seaside – Scott Ottmar
California American Water – Tim O’Halloran
City of Monterey – Cody Hennings
Laguna Seca Property Owners – Wes Leith
MPWMD – Jon Lear
MCWRA – Tamara Voss
City of Del Rey Oaks – John Gaglioti
City of Sand City – Leon Gomez
Coastal Subarea Landowners – No Representative

Watermaster
Technical Program Manager - Robert Jaques
Administrative Officer – Laura Paxton

Consultants
None

Others
None

The meeting was convened at 1:33 p.m.

Note: Because Jon Lear had to attend to a bid opening at MPWMD, Tamara Voss chaired this meeting.

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2. Administrative Matters:

A. Approve Minutes from the June 9, 2021 Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Gaglioti, seconded by Mr. O’Halloran, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Mr. Jaques briefly presented this item and asked for input on whether TAC members wished to continue receiving the monthly meeting summaries.

Mr. Gaglioti, Ms. Voss, and Mr. O'Halloran all said they would like to continue getting the monthly meeting summaries, and Mr. Jaques said he would continue including them in the TAC meeting agenda packets.

C. Information from MPWMD on the Pure Water Monterey Expansion Project Schedule

Mr. Jaques summarized the agenda packet materials for this item. There was no other discussion.

D. Geologic Reports from MCWRA

Mr. Jaques summarized the agenda packet materials for this item. There was no other discussion.

3. Discuss Recommendation to the Board Regarding Preparing a Sustainable Yield Analysis

Mr. Jaques summarized the agenda packet materials for this item.

Mr. Gaglioti commented that the ultimate goal is to protect the basin by replenishing it to achieve protective water levels. He went on to say that the TAC needs to get something to the Board in order to get the Board started on taking action to protect the basin. He said he agreed that performing a sustainable yield analysis would not result in protecting the basin, because projects such as expansion of the Pure Water Monterey Project, or ASR, will not by themselves be able to replenish the basin.

Mr. O'Halloran said he agreed with Mr. Gaglioti's comments. He went on to say that the Board needs to get started working on plans to replenish the basin, both physical and financial plans. He commented that a continued drought will intensify the problem.

Mr. Lear said he felt the TAC and conclude that the sustainable yield approach was the technically most desirable approach for basin management.

In response to a question from Mr. Gaglioti, Mr. Jaques said his intent was to provide all 3 of the attachments from this agenda item to the Board when he prepares his transmittal to the Board with regard to performing a sustainable yield analysis.

Mr. Ottmar said he was comfortable with Mr. Jaques' recommendation and background information being provided to the Board.

Mr. Lear said that achieving protective water levels could be included within the definition of "sustainability" in the preparation of a sustainable yield analysis.

Ms. Voss commented that once protecting water levels are achieved, the sustainable yield would tell you how much you could pump on an ongoing basis without causing damage to the basin.

Mr. Leith said he agreed with Mr. Jaques, and that the sustainable yield analysis should be revisited at a future time when progress in implementing the proposed water supply projects is better known.

Following further discussion a motion was made by Mr. Gaglioti, seconded by Mr. O'Halloran, that Mr. Jaques' provide to the Board the following TAC recommendation:

Sustainable Yield (SY) is a technically superior Basin management approach compared to the Natural Safe Yield (NSY) approach used in the Decision, and an SY analysis should be performed either now or at some point in the future.

Because of the historical over pumping from the Basin, regardless of the approach that is used for Basin management, be it NSY or SY, even reducing pumping levels to match either the NSY or SY pumping levels will not achieve protective groundwater elevations. This is because these approaches only seek to stabilize groundwater levels and do not take into account that the Basin would still be at risk of seawater intrusion at some time in the future. An additional source(s) of water (replenishment water) that can be injected into the Basin to raise groundwater levels, and to maintain them at protective water levels, will be necessary regardless of which approach is used for Basin management.

The motion also directed Mr. Jaques to place the agenda item asking the Board to approve having Montgomery & Associates perform the updated replenishment water modeling (covered in Agenda Item 4 of today's meeting) ahead of the SY recommendation in the Board's upcoming meeting agenda packet.

The motion passed on a vote of 7 to 1, with Mr. Leith voting no.

4. Approve Montgomery & Associates RFS No. 2021-01, Amendment No. 2 for Replenishment Water Modeling

Mr. Jaques summarized the agenda packet materials for this item.

Mr. Gaglioti and Ms. Voss said they concurred with moving forward with this work. Ms. Voss commented that the work should include the climate change optional task.

On a motion by Mr. O'Halloran, seconded by Mr. Gaglioti, Montgomery and Associates RFS No. 2021-01, Amendment No. 2, including the optional climate change task, was approved on a vote of 7 to 1, with Mr. Leith voting no.

5. Approve Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) for FY 2022

Mr. Jaques briefly summarized the agenda packet materials for this item.

On a motion by Mr. Gaglioti, seconded by Mr. O'Halloran, the 2022 Monitoring and Management Program was approved.

6. Approve the FY 2022 Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) Operations and Capital Budgets

Mr. Jaques summarized the agenda packet materials for this item.

Mr. Ottmar asked if the 2022 assessments to fund the Monitoring and Management Program would be lower, if the replenishment water modeling update work is performed in 2021. Mr. Jaques responded that the assessments would be lower if that work was performed this year rather than in 2022.

On a motion by Mr. Gaglioti, seconded by Mr. Ottmar, the Monitoring and Management Program Operations and Capital Budgets for 2022 were unanimously approved.

Ms. Voss asked Mr. Lear for an update on Monitoring Well FO-9 Shallow. Mr. Lear responded that he had just opened a bid for \$25,000 from Maggiora Brothers to destroy the existing well, and that only one bid had been received. With regard to installing a new well to replace the existing one, he said that the Water Supply Planning Committee did not take any action on that item at its recent meeting.

7. Approve Initial RFSs for Montgomery & Associates, MPWMD, Martin Feeney, and Todd Groundwater for 2022

Mr. Jaques briefly summarized the agenda packet materials for this item.

On a motion by Mr. O'Halloran, seconded by Mr. Gaglioti, these contracts were approved with Mr. Lear abstaining.

8. Schedule

Mr. Jaques reported that there does not appear to be any need to have a TAC meeting in either September or October, and that the next TAC meeting would likely be held on the third Wednesday, not the second Wednesday, in November, which will be November 17. He went on to say that he would send out an email to confirm this, or to update this, prior to the normal September and October meeting dates.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.