

MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT

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September 21, 2016

Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
Chair Ralph Rubio
P.O. Box 51502
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Re: Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Dear Chair Rubio;

After many months of research, study and discussion, the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) Board of Directors on September 6, 2016 conducted a public hearing on whether to form one or two Exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) for the Seaside Area and Corral de Tierra Subbasins within our service area. At that hearing, the Board voted unanimously to proceed with the formation of a GSA for each of the afore mentioned areas. The Board did not form a third GSA for its service area within the 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin, which has been designated by the State as a Critically Overdrafted Subbasin, but reserves the right to do so if necessary to protect MCWD's groundwater rights. Attached are the exhibit maps for the proposed MCWD GSA areas that were submitted to the Department of Water Resources.

I think it is important that you, as a regional leader and stakeholder, understand MCWD's motivations to pursue this path to avoid any misunderstanding.

The 2014 State Groundwater Management Act defines "basin" as subbasin or basin and the Department of Water Resources' staff have further explained that in multi-subbasin groundwater basins, SGMA GSA and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GS Plan) requirements apply to each subbasin and not to the larger basin as a whole. It's fundamental to the implementation of SGMA that each subbasin be viewed as the individual building block for effective sustainable groundwater management. Under SGMA, each subbasin is required to have one or more GSAs and a GS Plan or coordinated GS Plans. While it's still early in this process and the eventual outcomes are unknown at this time, I can assure you that MCWD will approach the development of GS Plans for the respective GSA areas in a collaborative fashion with other GSAs serving the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (SVGB).

MCWD has a unique profile of customers. Our approximately 33,000 customers are almost exclusively residential users with a diverse socio-economic demographic profile. Formation of GSAs within the MCWD service areas ensures that our ratepayers have a voice in the management of their only water source. In a recent survey of our ratepayers, we learned of their strong desire for MCWD to focus on regional collaboration to secure future water supplies and to keep rates affordable. We view formation of GSAs very much in keeping with the desires of the ratepayers to whom we are ultimately accountable.

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MCWD has proven its commitment to collaboratively identify regional solutions to secure future water supplies for the Monterey Region. Examples include the recent completion of the Urban Water Management Plan; water facility master planning; implementing the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Plan (RUWAP); securing 1,427 acre-feet per year of advanced treated water (Pure Water Monterey) for the Ord Community; entering into an agreement with MRWPCA to design, finance, construct, own and operate the Pure Water Monterey transmission pipeline; entering into a three-party agreement with FORA and MRWPCA to identify 973 acre-feet of water to satisfy the vision established via the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan. Implementation of SGMA will require that the GS Plan be consistent and complimentary with these efforts. Establishing GSAs as MCWD has proposed will also allow us the flexibility to pursue the most cost effective solutions.

For nearly 60 years, MCWD has effectively and responsibly managed its water supply and defended its rights while collaborating with organizations and leaders such as yourself. We have given the formation of GSAs a great deal of study and thought and do not take this policy decision lightly. If you have any questions or require any additional information, I am happy to meet at a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely,
MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT



Keith Van Der Maaten,
General Manager





Attachments:

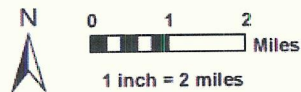
Attachment 1: "Exhibit 5: MCWD GSA Map- Seaside Area Subbasin"

Attachment 2: "Exhibit 3: MCWD GSA Map-Corral De Tierra Subbasin"



Exhibit 5: MCWD GSA Map - Seaside Area Subbasin

-  Marina Coast Water District service area
-  Proposed MCWD GSA Area - Seaside Subbasin
-  Adjudicated Seaside Groundwater Basin
-  Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin boundary



Map Date: September 2016

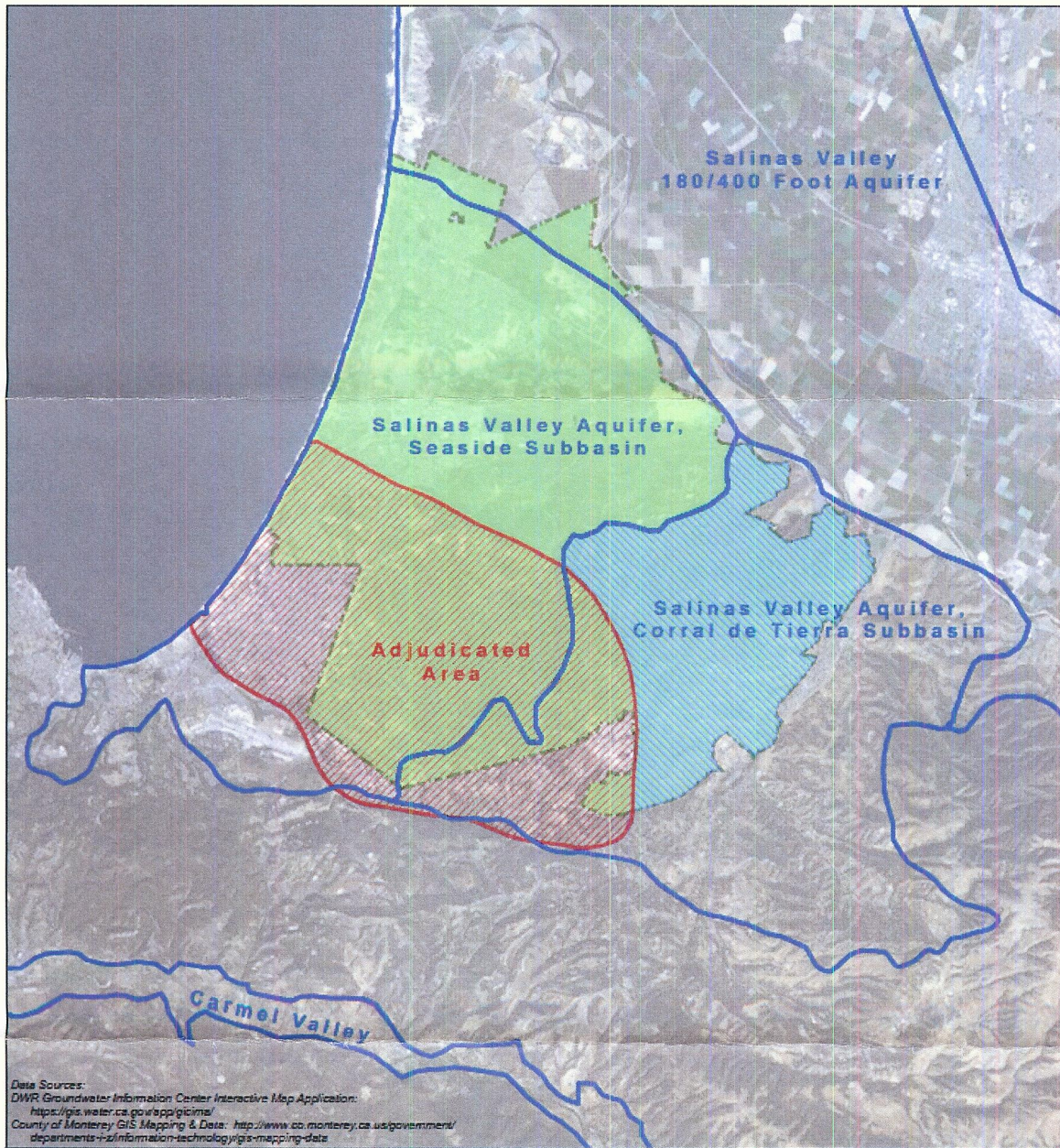


Exhibit 3: MCWD GSA Map - Corral de Tierra Subbasin

