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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF	THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	FOR THE COU	JNTY OF MONTEREY
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11	CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER,	Case No. M66343
12	Plaintiff,	Assigned for All Purposes to the Honorable Leslie C. Nichols
13	v.	SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN
14	CITY OF SEASIDE, et al.,	WATERMASTER'S CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
15	Defendants.	WANAGEMENT STATEMENT
16	MONITED BY DENIDIGH A WATED	
17	MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,	Astion Filade Assessed 14, 2002
18	Intervenor.	Action Filed: August 14, 2003 Trial Date: December 13, 2005
19		Post-Judgment Case Management Conference: March 17, 2017
20	MONTEREY COUNTY WATER	17, 2017
21	RESOURCES AGENCY,	
22	Intervenor.	
23	AND RELATED CROSS-ACTIONS.	
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:		SE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

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		WATERMASTER'S CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT	

I. INTRODUCTION

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A post-judgment case management conference is scheduled in this action for March 17, 2017. This case management conference was set by the Honorable Leslie C. Nichols during the last post-judgment case management conference, held on June 17, 2016. On June 20, 2016, this office, on behalf of the Scaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster ("Watermaster") served notice of the March 17, 2017 case management conference on all parties.

The last case management conference was the first appearance before the Honorable Leslie C. Nichols following his assignment to this action for all post-judgment proceedings. In conjunction with the setting of the last case management conference, Watermaster provided the Court with a detailed report (the "2016 Status Report") explaining various historical background pertaining to this action, management of the Seaside Groundwater Basin ("Seaside Basin" or "Basin"), and contemporaneous matters that may affect the Basin. A copy of the 2016 Status Report is attached to this case management statement as Attachment 1 for the Court's convenience and ease of reference.

At the last case management conference, the Court requested that, in preparation for the upcoming case management conference, Watermaster provide additional information to the Court to assist in further familiarization with the Basin, Basin management, and other contemporaneous water planning and management activities that may affect the Basin. Specific requested information included:

- 1. Anticipated subjects that an informed judge would want to have addressed by Watermaster;
- 2. A glossary of key terms and subjects applicable to the Basin and water management on the Monterey Peninsula; and
- 3. An overview of Watermaster's organization.

This case management statement responds to these requests and provides other helpful information. Section II provides a glossary of key terms and subjects together with an explanation of their relevance to the Seaside Basin. This section also includes an explanation of key local and

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state agencies with jurisdiction that potentially affect Basin management activities or pertinent regional water matters and an overview of Watermaster's organization. Section III discusses current Basin conditions and long-term issues to be monitored and addressed over time. Section IV discusses the status of long-term regional water management activities that may affect community water supplies and the Basin. Finally, Section V summarizes Watermaster's intended 2017 action items and recommendations for the Court's consideration.

II. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS, ESSENTIAL AGENCIES, AND OVERVIEW OF WATERMASTER

A. Glossary of Key Terms

The following glossary includes key terms relevant to Basin management that are not contained in the list of defined terms in the Amended Decision issued in this action, dated February 9, 2007 ("Decision"). The definitions in the Decision begin on page 11. The Decision is available on the Watermaster's website at:

http://www.seasidebasinwatermaster.org/Other/Amended%20Decision0207.pdf.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery, or "ASR", means the injection of water into a groundwater aquifer for later recovery (normally by being pumped back out) and subsequent beneficial use.

ASR is a water management practice employed throughout California for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses.

Relevance to the Seaside Basin. ASR is an essential aspect of water management on the Monterey Peninsula. Pursuant to a State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB") diversion permit jointly held by the MPWMD and Cal-Am, wet-period flows are diverted from alluvial wells in the Carmel River Valley and then piped to the Basin where they are injected through injection wells into the Basin. The stored water is then recovered during dry periods to reduce Carmel River diversions when in-stream flow is needed to support riparian and instream habitat. ASR has been limited in quantity during the recent drought, but has been robust this year with over 750 acre-feet of ASR water stored in the basin this water year.

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Cease and Desist Order ("CDO") means the cease and desist order issued by the SWRCB on October 20, 2009 (SWRCB Order WR 2009-0060), which among other things restricts Cal-Am's unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River. At that time, Cal-Am was diverting an average of 10,978 acre-feet per annum from the Carmel River, with an average of 7,602 acre-feet diverted in excess of its valid water rights. The CDO required Cal-Am to take various actions, and to terminate all unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River by December 31, 2016. At the time the CDO was issued, Cal-Am and the SWRCB anticipated that the Coastal Water Supply Project, a proposed large desalination project, would be developed and used as the primary water supply for the Monterey Peninsula communities prior to the December 31, 2016 deadline. For a number of reasons, pursuit of the Coastal Water Supply Project was discontinued, and Cal-Am and the Monterey Peninsula community are now pursuing an alternative desalination project known as the "Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project," or the "MPWSP." In compliance with the CDO and amended CDO (see below), Cal-Am has substantially reduced its unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River since 2009., Despite this progress, unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River continue and will continue until the MPWSP is brought on line.

On July 19, 2016, the SWRCB amended and extended the CDO and CDO scheduled to coordinate the CDO's diversion reduction schedule and provisions to the current schedule for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The details of the amendment are discussed in Section IV of this case management statement. Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The CDO is the driving legal impetus to develop supplemental water supplies for the Monterey Peninsula. During the interim period, until the supplemental water supplies become available, Cal-Am must balance demands from the Carmel River and the Basin to comply with the amended CDO as well as the Decision in this action. Corral de Tierra Subarea means a portion of the Monterey Subbasin, which is a subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, as defined in Department of Water Resources ("DWR") Bulletin 118. The subarea comprises the eastern portion of the former Fort Ord and other unincorporated areas and is located immediately east of the Seaside Basin. The Monterey

	Subbasin, of which the Corral de Tierra Subarea is part, was previously called the Corral de
	Tierra Subbasin, but the subbasin's boundaries were modified and the subbasin was renamed the
	Monterey Subbasin by DWR in 2016 in response to the request for basin boundary modifications
•	to render the Bulletin 118 boundaries of the Seaside Basin coterminous with the adjudicated
	boundaries of the Seaside Basin.
	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. As explained at pages 15 and 16 of the 2016 Status Report,
	Groundwater levels in the Laguna Seca Subarea of the Seaside Basin have declined since the
	Decision was entered. The declines are attributable to production occurring both within and
	outside of the adjudicated Basin boundaries. Pumping from within the Corral de Tierra Subbarea
	by itself may be contributing to the decline in water levels within the Laguna Seca Subarca.
	Watermaster intends to collaborate with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency being formed for
	the Monterey Subbasin to address these groundwater level declines and to assess the relative
	effects of pumping within and outside of the subbasin.
	Bulletin 118 means DWR's official statewide report on known groundwater conditions in all
	basins and subbasins in California. Bulletin 118 defines the boundaries and describes the known
	hydrologic characteristics of each of California's groundwater basins.
	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. Bulletin 118 (2016) establishes the boundaries of the Seaside
	Basin for purposes of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance. Bulletin 118's
	boundaries for the Seaside Basin and its neighboring subbasins were recently amended by DWR.
	The Seaside Basin is a subbasin of the broader Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The
	boundaries for the Seaside Subbasin, as defined in Bulletin 118, were changed to be coterminous
	with the Basin's adjudicated boundaries set forth in the Decision. The portion of the previously
	defined Seaside Subbasin that were located outside of the adjudicated boundaries of the Seaside
i	Basin to the north, prior to the Bulletin 118 amendments, are now included in the new Monterey
	Subbasin. The new Monterey Subbasin also includes the Corral de Tierra Subarea, which was
	previously defined by Bulletin 118 as the Corral de Tierra Subbasin.
ı	

Groundwater Replenishment Project ("GWR") means the Pure Water Monterey Project,
defined below.
Relevance to the Seaside Basin. Please see discussion with the description of the Pure Water
Monterey Project.
Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") means the agency created in accordance with the
requirements of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act that is responsible for developing and
implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for a basin to ensure that the basin is operated
sustainably to avoid "undesirable results." The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
requires the formation of locally-controlled GSAs in the State's high and medium priority
groundwater basins and subbasins by June 30, 2017.
Relevance to the Seaside Basin. As an adjudicated basin, the Seaside Basin is exempt from the
requirement that a GSA be formed for the Basin. However, a GSA will be formed for the
adjoining Monterey Subbasin, which includes the Corral de Tierra Subarea, and that GSA will
develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Monterey Subbasin.
Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") means the plan developed by a GSA pursuant to the
requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to achieve sustainable
groundwater management within 20 years of the GSP's implementation. GSPs must identify
when and where groundwater conditions cause "undesirable results" (e.g., seawater intrusion), the
specific projects and management actions that local agencies will implement to prevent
undesirable results, and milestones to track plan progress. GSPs must also describe how local
agencies will monitor groundwater and how monitoring data will be used to improve conditions
in the basin.
Relevance to the Seaside Basin. As an adjudicated basin, the Seaside Basin is exempt from the
requirement that a GSP be developed for the Basin. However, a GSP will be developed for the
adjoining Monterey Subbasin. Watermaster will work with the GSA for the Corral de Tierra
Subarea to ensure that the GSP for the subbasin is coordinated with management for the Seaside
Basin to ensure that groundwater in both areas is managed as necessary to maintain sustainable

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groundwater conditions as required in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the Decision.

Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project ("MPWSP") means the project that Cal-Am and the Monterey community is presently pursuing and permitting to provide a reliable supply of water to the Monterey Peninsula and to eliminate Cal-Am's unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River pursuant to the CDO and to maintain withdrawals of groundwater from the Seaside Basin pursuant to the Decision. The MPWSP is anticipated to consist of a seawater and brackish water intake system, a 6.4 million gallons per day ("MGD") desalination plant and related facilities, desalinated water conveyance facilities, an expanded ASR system, and a water purchase agreement for GWR water from the Pure Water Monterey Project. Cal-Am's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") for the MPWSP has not yet been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC"), but the CPUC has authorized Cal-Am to enter into a water purchase agreement for GWR water and to construct a pipeline and pump station to maximize use of the GWR and ASR water as well as ASR injections into the Seaside Basin. A Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIR/DEIS") for the MPWSP was released by the CPUC and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary on January 12, 2017. Further discussion of the status of development efforts for the MPWSP is set forth in Section IV below. Relevance to the Seaside Basin. Once all components of the MPWSP are online, Cal-Am will have sufficient water supplies to meet current and projected future demands (including lots of record but not full general plan build out), consistent with Cal-Am's water rights and the amended CDO. Cal-Am will also use water from the MPWSP to offset and reduce its annual production of groundwater from the Seaside Basin by 700 acre-feet per year on average to satisfy Cal-Am's replenishment obligation under the Decision. This "in-lieu" recharge is consistent with the Decision and will replenish the Basin for Cal-Am's Over-Production/groundwater withdrawals in excess of the natural safe yield since Water Year 05/06. The recharge program

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will help to alleviate overdraft conditions and pumping depressions in the Basin that could result in seawater intrusion or other adverse impacts to the Basin.

Pure Water Monterey Project ("Pure Water") means the advanced water recycling project being jointly developed by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency in northern Monterey County. The project will reclaim treated municipal wastewater, agricultural wash water, and urban stormwater runoff through an advanced, multi-stage treatment process, which includes ozone pre-treatment, microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and oxidation with ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide. The product water will exceed strict state and federal drinking water standards.

Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The CPUC has authorized Cal-Am to enter into a water purchase agreement to purchase 3,500 acre-feet per year of water from the Pure Water Project. The product water will be injected into the Seaside Basin, temporarily stored in the Basin, and recovered by Cal-Am for customer service. 1 Cal-Am's agreement to purchase water from Pure Water will allow it to reduce the size of the MPWSP desalination facility from 9.6 MGD (without Pure Water) to 6.4 MGD (with Pure Water). The smaller capacity desalination facility will reduce the potential environmental effects of the MPWSP. The 6.4 MGD desalination facility combined with 3,500 acre-feet per year ("AFY") from the Pure Water Project was deemed the environmentally superior project alternative in the recently released DEIR/DEIS for the MPWSP desalination project.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") means an act adopted by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2014 to require sustainable management of medium and high priority groundwater basins throughout the state. SGMA requires that local agencies coordinate with one another, , and with private stakeholders, including CPUC-regulated water utilities such as Cal-Am, to form GSAs prior to June 30, 2017. The new GSAs must then

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¹ The water received from Cal-Am from the Pure Water Project (i.e., the water supply recovered after injection and storage in the Basin) is commonly referred to as GWR ("groundwater replenishment") because the water is replenished to the Basin before recovery by Cal-Am.

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formulate GSPs, which must be adopted and approved by the state by either 2020 or 2022, depending on basin overdraft conditions.

Relevance to the Seaside Basin. As noted above, SGMA exempts certain adjudicated groundwater basins from the act's requirements to form a GSA and to develop a GSP. The Seaside Basin was specifically identified in SGMA on the list of comprehensively adjudicated basins. As a consequence, a GSA and GSP are not required for the Seaside Basin. SGMA nevertheless requires the Watermaster to file an annual report with the Department of Water Resources concerning the Basin, including groundwater and surface water use, groundwater levels, and other basin conditions. Watermaster is complying with these SGMA reporting requirements.

SGMA will require the formation of a GSA and development of a GSP for the Monterey Subbasin, which includes the Corral de Tierra Subarea. As discussed above, Watermaster intends to collaborate with the GSA for the Monterey Subbasin to address groundwater conditions within the eastern portion of the Laguna Seca Subarea of the Seaside Basin.

Progress has been made on the formation of a GSA for the entire Salinas Valley, including the Corral de Tierra Subarea, and a GSA is expected to be formed this spring in advance of the June 30, 2017 SGMA deadline for formation of groundwater sustainability agencies.

Essential Agencies В.

This section lists and discusses agencies that affect Watermaster's management of the Seaside Basin or other regional water supplies, which, in turn, affect management of the Basin. California Coastal Commission ("Coastal Commission"). The Coastal Commission plans and regulates land use and other development activities in the coastal zone. Development activities in the coastal zone generally require a coastal development permit ("CDP") from either the Coastal Commission or a local government that has Local Coastal Program certified by the Coastal Commission. Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The Coastal Commission possesses the ultimate discretion to

determine whether a coastal development permit should be issued for the construction and

operation of the water intake system (including the source water wells) that will supply the
MPWSP desalination plant. The wells will be located entirely within the coastal zone.
California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC"). The CPUC regulates investor owned public
utilities, including water utilities such as Cal-Am.
Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The CPUC exercises jurisdiction over Cal-Am, and will decide
whether to issue a CPCN for the MPWSP. The CPUC is the lead agency for compliance with the
California Environmental Quality Act for the MPWSP.
City of Marina. The City of Marina is located immediately north of the City of Seaside and the
Seaside Basin.
Relevance to the Seaside Basin. Under its Local Coastal Program, and subject to appeal to the
Coastal Commission, the City of Marina will exercise initial jurisdiction over Cal Am's
application for a coastal development permit for the water intake system supplying the MPWSP
desalination plant.
Department of Water Resources ("DWR"). DWR is a state agency responsible for the
conservation and management of much of California's water supply. Working with other agencies
and the public, DWR develops strategic goals, and near-term and long-term policy actions to
conserve and manage water resources.
Relevance to the Seaside Basin. DWR administers portions of the state's responsibilities under
SGMA including defining basin boundaries and reviewing and approving submitted GSPs. DWR
will, therefore, review and determine the adequacy of the GSP developed for the Monterey
Subbasin, which includes the Corral de Tierra Subarea.
Fort Ord Reuse Authority ("FORA"). FORA is responsible for the oversight of the Monterey
Bay area economic recovery from the closure of and reuse planning of the former Fort Ord
military base. The former Fort Ord, now referred to as the Ord Community, partially overlies the
Seaside Basin.

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Relevance to the Seaside Basin. FORA sets certain land use and water and sewer service policies
for Ord Community, a portion of which is located within the boundaries of the adjudicated
Seaside Basin.

Marina Coast Water District ("MCWD"). The MCWD is a county water district that was originally formed in 1960 to provide potable water service to the City of Marina. In the 1970s it also began providing wastewater services and in 1997, FORA selected and awarded a contract to MCWD to manage the water and wastewater systems in the former Fort Ord (now known as the Ord Community). The water delivered by MCWD to its customers is supplied from groundwater wells pumping from the new Monterey Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

Relevance to the Seaside Basin. MCWD serves the Ord Community, a portion of which overlies the Seaside basin. MCWD also previously contracted with the City of Seaside to exchange water for land granted by the city to MCWD. The city used the water from MCWD as a substitute for irrigation of the City of Seaside's two golf courses in lieu of groundwater use. The exchange caused in-lieu replenishment of the Basin as discussed at page 20 of the 2016 Status Report. The program is now complete. However, it is possible that a future water exchange and in-lieu replenishment program could be pursued if the City of Seaside used recycled water from MCWD to irrigate the city's golf courses.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary ("MBNMS") The MBNMS is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The MBNMS enforces fourteen federal regulatory prohibitions designed to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources and qualities of the ocean and estuarine areas within its boundaries. Prohibitions restrict seabed disturbance, discharges, wildlife harassment, and disturbance of historical resources. Relevance to the Seaside Basin. Authorization from the MBNMS is required for Cal-Am to construct certain components of the MPWSP. Under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the MBNMS must provide authorization and permits to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission subsurface water intake facilities under the sanctuary and to allow brine discharges

	through an existing ocean outfall facility within the sanctuary. The MBNMS is also the federal
	lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act for the desalination
	project.
	Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA"). The MCWRA manages, protects,
	stores and conserves water resources in Monterey County for beneficial and environmental use,
	while minimizing damage from flooding to create a safe and sustainable water supply for present
	and future generations.
	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The MCWRA is a party to this action, a member of
	Watermaster's Board of Directors, and is a party to the CPUC proceeding processing Cal-Am's
	application for the MPWSP. The MCWRA also operates many of the groundwater management
	programs that will be essential to the future sustainable management of the Salinas Basin, which
	includes the Monterey Subbasin, which includes the Corral de Tierra Subarea that adjoins the
	Laguna Seca Subarea of the Seaside Basin.
	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District ("MPWMD"). The MPWMD was formed in
	1978 and serves approximately 112,000 people within the cities of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey
	Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Sand City, Monterey Peninsula Airport District and
	portions of unincorporated Monterey County including Pebble Beach, Carmel Highlands and
	Carmel Valley. Among its functions, the MPWMD helps to augment water supply through
	integrated management of ground and surface water, promotes water conservation, promotes
	water reuse and reclamation of storm and wastewater, and protect environmental and recreational
	interests on the Monterey Peninsula and in the Carmel River Valley.
	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The MPWMD is a party to this action, a member of
1	COLIC proceeding processing Cal-Am's

Watermaster's Board of Directors, and is a party to the CPUC proceeding processing Cal-Am's application for the MPWSP. The MPWMD is also a co-developer of the Pure Water Project, and in coordination with the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority, advocates for water supply solutions for the Monterey Peninsula.

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	Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority ("MPRWA"). The MPRWA is a joint powers
	authority formed by the six Monterey Peninsula cities to coordinate the efforts of Monterey
	Peninsula cities to advocate for cost-efficient and expedient water supply solutions to the
	Monterey Peninsula's protracted water shortage and to provide representation of Monterey
	Peninsula residents on important water supply matters.
	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The MPRWA is a party to the CPUC proceeding processing Cal-
	Am's application for the MPWSP, is a party to a "governance committee" with Cal-Am and the
	MPWMD to ensure public input into Monterey Peninsula water supply planning and development
	efforts, and is a routine advocate for water supply efforts on the Monterey Peninsula.
	Montercy Regional Water Pollution Control Agency ("MRWPCA"). The MRWPCA is a joint
	powers authority with eleven members: Monterey County, City of Salinas, Boronda County
	Sanitation District, Castroville Community Services District, City of Del Rey Oaks, City of
	Monterey, City of Pacific Grove, City of Sand City, City of Seaside, Marina Coast Water District,
	Moss Landing County Sanitation District, and the U.S. Army as an ex-officio
	member. MRWPCA provides treatment and disposal of wastewater from each of its member
	entities at its regional treatment plant located north of the City of Marina, and also operates
	reclamation facilities providing reclaimed wastewater for agricultural irrigation in northern
	Monterey County.
	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. MRWPCA partnered with the MPWMD to develop the Pure
	Water Monterey Project, which is a component of the MPWSP and will provide advance-treated
	waste water for injection and storage in the Seaside Basin for later recovery and use by Cal-Am.
	Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Coast Basin ("RWQCB-CCB"). The nine
	regional water quality control boards, which are overseen by the State Water Resources Control
	Board have jurisdiction to protect water quality within California through rulemaking and
	regulatory activities. The RWQCB-CCB has jurisdiction over water quality matters within
	Monterey County.
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1	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. Among various water quality matters in the region, the RWQCB-
2	CCB is responsible for regulating and permitting the water quality aspects of injections of water
3	to recharge the Seaside Basin, like the advanced treated recycled water to be injected by the Pure
4	Water Project.
5	State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB"). The SWRCB oversees use of surface water
6	in California and administers permits and licenses for diversion of surface water and groundwater
7	flowing as subsurface underflow or within "subterranean streams." The SWRCB also oversees,
8	coordinates, and supports the Regional Water Quality Control Boards in implementing the federal
9	Clean Water Act in California.
10	Relevance to the Seaside Basin. The SWRCB issued the CDO that requires Cal-Am to reduce,
11	and ultimately eliminate, its unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River system. The SWRCE
12	also oversees the appropriation permit relied upon by the MPWMD and Cal-Am for wet period
13	diversions from the Carmel River Valley for the ASR project.
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14	C. Overview of Watermaster
14 15	C. Overview of Watermaster The Watermaster was created pursuant to the Decision.
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15 16 17	The Watermaster was created pursuant to the Decision. Board of Directors:
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2711

The Watermaster Board also appointed two standing committees: a Budget and Finance Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. Watermaster's operations are funded through Budget Assessments levied on parties producing groundwater pursuant to a Standard Production Allocation, as provided for in Section III.L.3.j.iv of the Decision.

Staff: Initially, the staff was composed of an Executive Officer, an Administrative Assistant, and a Technical Program Manager. In 2016 with the retirement of the Executive Officer the staff was reconfigured to consist of the Administrative Officer (Ms. Laura Dadiw) and the Technical Program Manager (Mr. Robert Jaques). The Staff prepares the meeting agendas, minutes of meetings, expenditure reports, makes presentations of a variety of items at meetings, performs all administrative and technical functions, and carries out the direction of the Board and the TAC with regard to the Watermaster's activities.

BASIN CONDITIONS AND LONG-TERM GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT III. CONCERNS

As discussed in detail at pages 5, 6, and 13 through 16 of the 2016 Status Report, the principal groundwater management concerns within the Basin arise from the overdrafting of the Basin leading to the Decision. Overdraft has resulted in depressed groundwater levels within the Northern Coastal Subarea and the Laguna Seca Subarea. Within the Northern Coastal Subarea, the primary concern pertains to potential seawater intrusion into the Basin. In the Laguna Seca Subarea, the primary concern pertains to long-term overpumping in and adjacent to the subarea, ultimately resulting in the water table falling such that wells are unusable at present depths.

Watermaster is happy to report that cumulative production has reduced throughout the Basin such that the cumulative 2016 pumping of 2,913.48 acre-feet was less than both the 2016 allowed Operating Safe Yield of 4,565.17 AFY as well as the Decision's initially assumed Native Safe Yield of 3,000 AFY.

Northern Coastal Subarea Groundwater Levels and Potential Seawater A. Intrusion

The potential for seawater intrusion is a significant concern. Watermaster routinely monitors its "sentinel" monitoring wells along the coast for any advance indicators of seawater

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intrusion into the Basin. This past July, water quality samples from two of the four sentinel wells exhibited anomalous chloride concentrations. In response, and consistent with Watermaster's Seawater Intrusion Response Plan, these wells were resampled in December 2016. Watermaster's technical consultants (HydroMetrics, Todd Groundwater, and Martin Feeney) reviewed the results and determined that the samples do not establish that seawater intrusion is occurring. HydroMetrics explained its findings to Watermaster as follows:

> None of the samples definitively indicate incipient seawater intrusion. However, variations in groundwater quality from samples collected over the last year from wells SBWM-1 and SBWM-4 warrant increased vigilance regarding potential changes to the Basin's groundwater quality in the vicinity of the Sentinel Wells. There may be some seasonal changes in groundwater quality in the deepest portions of the aquifer that could be related to seasonal groundwater elevation changes. If this is true and groundwater elevations continue to decline, larger fluctuations might be seen in the fall when groundwater levels are at their lowest.

> The sources of increasing and fluctuating chlorides in wells SBWM-1 and SBWM-4 are unclear. Potential sources may include natural groundwater quality variations, upwelling or upconing of saline water in wells in response to declining groundwater levels, seawater intrusion, or downward leakage of shallow, poor quality groundwater.

HydroMetrics recommended that Watermaster:

- 1. Continue to sample SBWM-1 and SBWM-4 twice a year.
- 2. SBWM-2 should be resampled at the end of summer in 2017 and based on those results a decision should be made as to whether it should be sampled twice a year on an ongoing basis.
- To determine if groundwater quality samples reflect the influence of fluctuating 3. groundwater elevations, it is recommended that samples in the future be collected in the last week of September for the 4th quarter samples and in the first week of March for the 2nd quarter samples.
- Prepare a work plan that will direct an effort towards identifying the source of 4. fluctuating chloride concentrations. The work plan should outline the types of analyses and data to be used in identifying the chloride source. If the source of fluctuating chlorides is understood, it will help in developing management actions to prevent the higher concentrations increasing to the point that they cause groundwater degradation.
- Conduct downhole conductivity and temperature profiles within each of the 5. Sentinel Wells during the next sampling event. This tool measures the conductivity within the well, as opposed to induction logging which measures conductivity

- 6. Continue the process that has recently been implemented to review water quality results as soon as they are received, rather than waiting until they are used to prepare the annual Seawater Intrusion Analysis Report. This will enable action to be taken, including reanalysis of samples, if appropriate, immediately instead of at the end of the year when the data have historically been analyzed.
- 7. Continue conducting all groundwater quality sampling and analysis conducted in accordance with standard quality assurance and quality control procedures. This includes submitting field blanks and duplicates samples to the laboratory once every couple of years.

A copy of HydroMetric's technical memorandum on the resampling and its findings and recommendations, dated February 21, 2017, is attached as Attachment 2. Watermaster intends to implement HydroMetric's recommendations. Watermaster will update the Court on further sampling of the sentinel wells and any future analysis of the cause and potential implications of water quality observations at the sentinel wells.

B. <u>Laguna Seca Subarea Groundwater Levels and Coordination with the Future Monterey Subbasin GSA</u>

Groundwater levels in the Laguna Seca Subarea have declined since the Decision was entered and the declines likely are attributable to production occurring both within the Basin and outside of the adjudicated Basin boundaries within the Corral de Tierra Subarea. Because the Watermaster has no control or influence over pumping outside the Seaside Basin boundaries, it is unable to prevent the decline of groundwater elevations in a portion of the Laguna Seca Subarea absent a coordinated arrangement with the future management of the Corral de Tierra Subarea.²

Management of the Corral de Tierra Subarea will occur through the SGMA process. As noted above, the Corral de Tierra Subarea is now part of the Monterey Subbasin following DWR's recent amendments to basin boundaries in Bulletin 118. The Monterey Subbasin is a subbasin of the larger Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Diverse stakeholders within the valley, including the County of Monterey, the MCWRA, various cities, agricultural interests, and

² Additional discussion of the Laguna Seca Subarea and concerns regarding the decline in groundwater within the subarea are provided at pages 15 and 16 of the 2016 Status Report and in Section J of the 2016 Annual Report.

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environmental organizations have reached conceptual agreement on the structure of a new joint powers agency to act as the GSA for all subbasins of the valley including the Monterey Subbasin.³

Pursuant to SGMA, the GSA for the Corral de Tierra Subarea must coordinate with the Watermaster for the Seaside Basin to avoid "undesirable results," as defined in SGMA, including sustained groundwater depletion, in both areas. (Wat. Code § 10721(x).) Through the SGMA process, pumping in the Corral de Tierra Subarea may be curtailed to avoid undesirable results in the Basin. (Wat. Code § 10721(u), (w), and (x); 10727.2.) Watermaster intends to coordinate with the emerging GSA for the Corral de Tierra Area Subbasin to achieve sustainable groundwater management in both areas.

Provided that this proposed Salinas Valley GSA is established prior to the June 30, 2017 GSA deadline, development of a GSP for the Corral de Tierra Subarea will be underway this year. Watermaster will then begin discussions concerning coordinated management between the Corral de Tierra Subarea and the Laguna Seca Subarea of the Seaside Basin. Watermaster will provide an update to the Court concerning these coordination efforts in its 2017 Annual Report and the 2018 case management conference if scheduled.

STATUS OF REGIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND SUPPLY IV.

The MPWSP is anticipated to consist of a seawater and brackish water intake system, a 6.4 MGD desalination plant and related facilities, desalinated water conveyance facilities, an expanded ASR system, and a water purchase agreement for GWR water from the Pure Water Project. These projects will result in sufficient long-term water supplies for the Monterey Peninsula, when combined with Cal-Am's groundwater entitlements from the Seaside Basin and legal diversion rights from the Carmel River, 4 to: (1) meet current and projected future demands;

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³ The Salinas Valley GSA will exclude the Seaside Basin (which is technically a subbasin of the broader Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin) because it is adjudicated and exempted from SGMA's GSA and GSP requirements.

Cal-Am possesses 3,316 AFY of legal right (pre-1914 appropriative rights) to divert subterranean stream flow from the Carmel River Valley. Cal-Am's allocation of the Basin's Native Safe Yield is approximately 1,474 AFY.

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(2) eliminate all unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River Valley as required by the CDO; and (3) "pay-back" its extractions from the Basin in excess of the Native Safe Yield since the entry of the Decision.

A. **GWR and ASR**

On September 15, 2016, the CPUC authorized Cal-Am to enter into a water purchase agreement with the MPWMD and the MRWPCA to purchase 3,500 AFY of GWR water from the Pure Water Project at a cost of \$85.5 million, and for Cal-Am to invest up to \$50 million in a new pipeline (the "Monterey Pipeline") and pump station. The Monterey Pipeline will allow Cal-Am to move GWR and ASR water recovered from the Seaside Basin (and ultimately desalination water) into the Cal-Am distribution system and also allow additional ASR water to be pumped from the Carmel River to the Seaside Basin for injection during wet periods.

The CPUC's approval of the water purchase agreement and Monterey Pipeline and pump station was a significant milestone for the Pure Water Project. The Monterey Pipeline is now under construction and is anticipated to be completed in December 2017. Other recently completed tasks and upcoming undertakings for the Pure Water Project include the following:

- The City of Salinas completed a connection of produce wash water and storm water systems to feed source water to the Pure Water Monterey treatment facilities, thus increasing the quantity of water that can be processed for delivery by the Pure Water Monterey Project.
- The SWRCB and RWQCB-CCB approved the connection of the Blanco Drain and Reclamation Ditch to feed additional source water to the Pure Water Monterey treatment facilities, and design of the connection facility is complete. These flows will further increase the quantity of water that can be processed for delivery by the Pure Water Monterey Project.
- The RWQCB-CCB will hold a hearing on March 9, 2017 to consider adopting an order to establish waste discharge and water recycling requirements for the Pure Water project. The staff report and draft order for this hearing is attached as Attachment 3.

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- MRWPCA secured bids for four sets of equipment for the treatment facilities and recently solicited bids for construction of the project's facilities.
- State Revolving Fund grants and loans for design and construction of the Pure Water Monterey Project will become available beginning in March 2017.
- The project proponents anticipate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will soon issue a draft biological opinion regarding the project.
- The project proponents are also continuing work on the 12 remaining of the 26 required permits for the Project.

Completion of the Pure Water project is anticipated in September 2017 and water from the project should be recoverable from the Basin in January 2018 following a two-month minimum required residence time in the Basin.

To maximize water supply from the ASR project, Cal-Am and the MPWMD are also developing two additional ASR wells within the City of Seaside, to add to the four existing ASR wells operated by Cal-Am. A ground lease for the new ASR wells and associated facilities is expected to be approved by the Seaside City Council soon. The ASR ground lease will foster FORA's issuance of a right-of-entry to complete the ASR facilities.

MPWSP Desalination Project B.

Cal-Am's application for a CPCN to construct the MPWSP is still pending before the CPUC. However, progress is ongoing and a decision by the CPUC on a CPCN authorizing Cal-Am to construct and operate the project is anticipated in the second quarter of 2018. Last November, the assigned CPUC commissioner issued an updated scoping memo, which explained that an extension of the CPUC schedule on Cal-Am's application to June 30, 2018 is necessary to allow time for the currently planned completion of the environmental work, briefing, preparation of a proposed decision, and consideration of the matter by the Commission as early as March 2018, but with an additional three months to accommodate other possible limited contingencies.

On January 12, 2017, the CPUC and MBNMS released a joint DEIR/DEIS for the MPWSP consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National

Environmental Policy Act⁵ and the application is progressing consistent with the CPUC's updated schedule. Once a CPCN is issued for the project, Cal-Am will pursue a coastal development permit under the Coastal Act and other land use permits, but these regulatory steps should be more expeditious because a final EIR/EIS will have already been issued by the CPUC for the project. There remains certain opposition to the project and lawsuits could be filed against the project on environmental, water rights, or other grounds. Watermaster will continue to update the Court on the status of relevant elements of the MPWSP as they progress.

A schedule for completion of the GWR and desalination projects is depicted in Attachment 5.

C. CDO Amendment and Interim Water Supply

On July 19, 2016, in advance of the CDO's December 31, 2016 deadline, the SWRCB amended the CDO to establish a new compliance schedule that maintains an ongoing diversion level of 8,310 AFY as long as specified progress on the MPWSP is met, but sharply drops allowable diversions should progress slip. The amended CDO requires that unauthorized Carmel River diversions fully cease by December 31, 2021. The CDO amendments were necessary to accommodate delays in the desalination project's schedule and avoid the CDO's most severe diversion restrictions until after the MPWSP is in operation provided that the progress on the MPWSP continues. A copy of the SWRCB's amended CDO is attached as Attachment 6.

The charts attached as Attachment 7 show the current and projected Cal-Am water supplies and a comparison of demands through anticipated project implementation. If progress on the MPWSP remains on schedule and there are not responsive reductions in allowed interim Carmel River diversions (as required by the amended CDO if project milestones are missed), Cal-Am should be able to meet demands with its available interim supplies. If circumstances change and the amended CDO schedule cannot be met, Cal-Am may be challenged to meet Monterey Peninsula water demands as available supplies are reduced. Under these circumstances Cal-Am

⁵ We have attached Chapter 4.4. of the joint DEIR/DEIS concerning groundwater resources as Attachment 4 because it contains extensive background concerning groundwater resources throughout the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, including the Seaside Basin (Subbasin).

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and the community may be compelled to request relief from the Decision's mandated 2018 triennial ramp down.6

V. ACTION ITEMS AND WATERMASTER RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the course of 2017, Watermaster intends to do the following:

- 1. Monitor the GSA formation process for the Monterey Subbasin (inclusive of the Corral de Tierra Subarea), and once formed, begin coordination efforts with the GSA to discuss management options for the Corral de Tierra Subarea and the Laguna Seca Subarea of the Seaside Basin to arrest long-term water declines in both areas. Watermaster will monitor and discuss the development of the GSP for the Monterey Subbasin with the GSA to ensure that the GSP includes appropriate provisions concerning this matter.
- 2. Undertake the recommendations concerning sampling and further analysis of the chloride levels in the sentinel wells in the Northern Coastal Subarea as specified in Hydrometrics, February 21, 2017 technical memorandum.
- Consult with Cal-Am and monitor progress on the MPWSP, as well as the Pure 3. Water Project.
- Update the Court on each of these subjects in its 2017 Annual Report to the Court. 4.

Watermaster also recommends that the Court set a subsequent case management conference hearing for the first quarter of 2018 to discuss the status of these subjects and to receive further instruction from the Court.

Dated: March 2, 2017

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP

> RUSSELL M. McGLOTHLIN Attorneys for Seaside Groundwater Basin

Watermaster

⁶ A detailed discussion of this potential request and the basis for the potential request was set forth in the 2016 Status Report at pages 20 and 21.

For a copy of related attachments, please contact:

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You may also find the attachments to this case management statement on the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster website: http://seasidebasinwatermaster.org/

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF	CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA)	
l, Caitlin Malone, am employed by Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 1020 State Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101. On March 2, 2017, I served the within document:	
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster's Case Management Statement	
	BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY. By placing with an overnight mail company for delivery a true copy thereof, enclosed in a scaled package, delivery fees prepaid addressed as shown on the Service List below.
X	BY MAIL. By placing each envelope (with postage affixed thereto) in the U.S. Mail addressed as shown below.
X	By personally sending a true copy via e-mail to the parties at the e-mail addresses listed on the attached Service List, on the date below.
	By sending a true copy of the above document to the parties as set forth on the service list at the fax numbers indicated. The facsimile machine used complied with CRC Rule 2003(3), and the transmission was reported as complete and without error. Pursuant to CRC Rule 2005(i), a transmission confirmation report was properly issued by the transmitting facsimile machine, stating the time and date of such transmission.
SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST	
I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than on day after the date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.	
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. Executed on March 2, 2017, at Santa Barbara, California.	

Carrely Malone
CAITLIN MALONE

California American Water v. City of Seaside Monterey County Superior Court Case No. M66343

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