

MONTEREY COUNTY

WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

PO BOX 930
SALINAS , CA 93902
(831)755-4860
FAX (831) 424-7935

DAVID E. CHARDAVOYNE
GENERAL MANAGER



STREET ADDRESS
893 BLANCO CIRCLE
SALINAS, CA 93901-4455

January 21, 2016

Paul Bruno, Chair
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
2600 Garden Road, Suite 228
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Bruno,

Your letter to Supervisor Salinas, dated December 18, 2015, regarding collaboration on the management of groundwater levels in the Laguna Seca portion of the Seaside Basin and the Corral de Tierra subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin has been referred to me for a response.

As you are aware, the County and the Water Resources Agency (WRA) have worked with the Watermaster since its inception in 2007 by participating on the Watermaster Board, as well as providing technical support on the Watermaster's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). We look forward to continuing this relationship.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is complex legislation that changes the paradigm on how groundwater will be managed in California. By June 2017, a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) needs to be established for groundwater basins in California.

The establishment of a GSA is critical for compliance with SGMA, and the first of many deadlines established by SGMA. As the County and the WRA work with the community on the establishment of a GSA for the Salinas Valley, the Watermaster can participate in that process. Once a GSA is established, cooperative management efforts are necessary for adjacent basins. The timing of SGMA compliance provides an opportunity to address the Watermaster's concerns.

Data does show that there is the potential for hydrologic communication between all subareas in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. More specifically, the Geosyntec report (2007) describes the El Toro Planning area (within the Corral de Tierra subbasin) is hydrogeologically contiguous with the Laguna Seca area.

As you may know, the County is developing a new model, the Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrologic Flow Model (SVIHM) for the WRA Zone 2C area of Monterey County. Once this model is completely developed, it can then be expanded to evaluate and quantify groundwater flow interactions between the Corral de Tierra and Seaside (contains the Laguna Seca area) subbasins and the adjudicated Seaside

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Basin. The SVIHM is being developed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and will be available to the public. When available, the SVIHM could be an important analysis tool for GSA cooperative-management work.

If the Watermaster has questions moving forward, please contact Robert Johnson, WRA's Deputy General Manager at (831) 755-4860.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David F. Chardavoyne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

cc: Supervisor Simón Salinas – District 3
Lew Bauman, Monterey County Administrative Officer
Gina Bartlett, CBI