

SUMMARY OF
PURE WATER MONTEREY,
SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY, AND
MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY
ZOOM MEETINGS
IN DECEMBER 2021

Note: This is a synopsis of information from these meetings that may be of interest to the Seaside Basin Watermaster

SVBGSA Monterey Subbasin GSP Committee Meeting December 13, 2021:

Because of a scheduling conflict I was not able to attend this meeting. The primary purpose of this meeting was to receive a presentation on the Final Draft of the Monterey Subbasin GSP. Included in an appendix to that document is a listing of comments that were received on the draft chapters when they were released for review, and how the authors of the GSP responded to those comments. I went through the comments I had made and reviewed the responses. I then submitted my findings on those responses to Emily Gardner who is the SVBGSA staff member associated with the development of the GSP. I found that some of my comments and/or questions had not been adequately responded to or addressed in the Final Draft GSP and asked that adequate responses and edits to the GSP be made. There was no other information discussed or reported at this meeting of particular interest to the Watermaster.

SVBGSA Advisory Committee Meeting December 16, 2021:

This meeting was attended by Laura Paxton to represent the Watermaster. She reported that the following issues of interest to the Watermaster were discussed.

Nancy Isackson asked for clarification of how the implementation committees will work with the planning committees and other SVBGSA committees. Implementation committees will help to implement the actions described in the GSPs. She felt there was quite a bit of confusion, and asked if the January 14th deadline could be extended.

Chris Bunn also sought clarity on committee and board interworking, such as the SWIG with planning and implementation, etc. The integrated committee is for general GSP implementation to address hydrology questions in the basin as a whole. The MCWDGSA is the lead for purposes of developing the Marina-Ord portion of the Monterey Subbasin GSP, and the SVBGSA is the lead for the Corral de Tierra portion of the GSP. MCWDGSA and SVBGSA will coordinate with each other when implementing the GSP.

The DWR Round 1 Implementation grant being sought for the critically over drafted 180/400 foot Aquifer Subbasin would be \$7.6 million fully funded if awarded with no match necessary. Application deadline is February 18. SVBGSA staff is the lead and has been working for a couple months already on the application. They will present the grant application to the 180/400' Implementation Committee. The GSP for that basin did not have projects prioritized, however projects would be prioritized with input from partners (i.e. CSIP) to list in the grant application.

It was stated that monitoring well installation could be funded by the grant under “enhancing metering” that allows projects that improve operations. Chris Bunn requested Subbasin interaction modeling and analysis of river percolation locations be added to projects requested to be funded. Tom Ward noted the extraction barrier project is not decided upon, and the desal plant is too far down the road, so a more immediate project is needed. Beverly Bean suggested grant funding be used for a legal analysis of a moratorium on deep aquifer pumping. The committee concurred recommendation to pursue the grant and bring back a list of prioritized projects.

A \$200 million state grant for high priority basins (such as the Monterey Subbasin) was announced yesterday. It is expected that the federal government will fund regional solutions.

It was noted that arsenic is found in Corral de Tierra groundwater.

Abby Ostovar stated that Watermaster’s request for LSSA data and conditions to be included in management and modeling was presented “late in the game” but perhaps can be incorporated into annual reports. [Note: The Watermaster has raised this issue for months, not “late in the game.” The SVBGSA has encountered a lot of difficulty in putting together the GSP for the Corral de Tierra area and is facing a tight deadline to complete its work by the DWR deadline for GSP submittal in January 2022. Hence, it has been saying that some of the issues raised by commentors will be addressed in the early phases of GSP implementation, and not in the GSP itself.]