



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers

168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

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Update on the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

In 2024, Montgomery & Associates completed the Deep Aquifers Study ("Study") for the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SVBGSA") and collaborative funding partners, which included Alisal Water Company, California Water Service, Castroville Community Services District, the City of Salinas, the County of Monterey, Irrigated Agriculture, the Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("MCWDGSA"), and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ("MCWRA"). The Study addresses critical questions regarding the geology and hydrogeology of the Salinas Valley's Deep Aquifers and provides a scientific basis for sustainable management (M&A, 2024).

The Study included recommendations for refining existing monitoring networks to track trends, identify changes, and enhance the understanding of groundwater conditions in the Deep Aquifers which, as defined in the Study, are present within portions of the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin, the Forebay Subbasin, the Monterey Subbasin, and the Seaside Subbasin within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

In response to the Study recommendations related to monitoring the Deep Aquifers, the MCWRA prepared the Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin ("Monitoring Plan"). The Monitoring Plan captures, in a single document, the type and frequency of existing monitoring of the Deep Aquifers that is conducted by the MCWRA, the MCWDGSA, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District ("MPWMD") and the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster ("SGBW"). The Monitoring Plan also presents an approach for enhancing and expanding monitoring of groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and groundwater extraction in the Deep Aquifers to minimize or eliminate data gaps and improve the collective regional understanding of conditions in the Deep Aquifers (Attachment 1).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The County of Monterey Health Department (Environmental Health Bureau), the MCWDGSA, the MPWMD, the SVBGSA, and the SGBW contributed content to the Monitoring Plan.

FINANCING:

Funding to prepare the Monitoring Plan was provided in full through a subgrant agreement with the SVBGSA, which received funds from the Budget Act of 2021 and through an agreement with the

State Department of Water Resources.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Development and implementation of the Monitoring Plan align with the adopted Strategic Plan Goal B, Strategy 2; Goal B, Strategy 5; Goal B, Strategy 7; and Goal C, Strategy 6.

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Attachments:

1. Monitoring Plan for the Deep Aquifers in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin