



County of Monterey

Item No.8

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-121

April 20, 2026

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Recommend that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency:

- a. Approve and authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to accept donation of monitoring wells ES-1A valued at \$350,806; ES-1B valued at \$152,388; ES-1C valued at \$92,109; ES-ISW-1 valued at \$38,110; F-DA-1 valued at \$350,806; F-ISW-1 valued at \$74,528; F-ISW-2 valued at \$43,133; F-ISW-3 valued at \$43,133; L-GWL-1 valued at \$67,244; L-GWL-4 valued at \$127,272; UV-GWL-2 valued at \$200,109; UV-GWL-3 valued at \$149,877; and UV-ISW-2 valued at \$43,133 from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
- b. Authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to enter into Agreements to Convey Ownership in Monitoring Wells ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2; and
- c. Authorize the Water Resources Agency to use monitoring wells ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL-4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2 for implementation of its Groundwater Monitoring Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency:

- a. Approve and authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to accept donation of monitoring wells ES-1A valued at \$350,806; ES-1B valued at \$152,388; ES-1C valued at \$92,109; ES-ISW-1 valued at \$38,110; F-DA-1 valued at \$350,806; F-ISW-1 valued at \$74,528; F-ISW-2 valued at \$43,133; F-ISW-3 valued at \$43,133; L-GWL-1 valued at \$67,244; L-GWL-4 valued at \$127,272; UV-GWL-2 valued at \$200,109; UV-GWL-3 valued at \$149,877; and UV-ISW-2 valued at \$43,133 from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
- b. Authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to enter into Agreements to Convey Ownership in Monitoring Wells ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2; and
- c. Authorize the Water Resources Agency to use monitoring wells ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL-4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2 for implementation of its Groundwater Monitoring Program.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

In 2025, the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”) constructed monitoring wells throughout the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin in furtherance of their regulatory activities pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) and to expand the extent of Monterey County Water Resources Agency’s (“MCWRA”) groundwater monitoring network.

Construction of the monitoring wells was funded through Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grants awarded to the SVBGSA. SVBGSA intends to convey ownership of thirteen monitoring wells, referred to as ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL-4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2 to MCWRA. Five of the wells were constructed to monitor shallow groundwater conditions related to evaluating the connection between groundwater and surface water (ES-ISW-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, UV-ISW-3). One well (F-DA-1) was constructed to monitor the Deep Aquifers. Seven wells were constructed in areas of the Eastside, Langley, and Upper Valley subbasins to fill data gaps in the groundwater level monitoring network: ES-1A, ES-1B, and ES-1C in the Eastside Subbasin; L-GWL-1 and L-GWL-4 in the Langley Subbasin; and UV-GWL-2 and UV-GWL-3 in the Upper Valley Subbasin (Attachment 1). The SVBGSA has furnished MCWRA with Well Completion Reports for all thirteen of the subject monitoring wells and a Certification of Project Completion, which confirms that the monitoring wells were inspected by a licensed professional and installed as design in accordance with all technical specifications.

MCWRA is agreeable to accepting ownership of ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL-4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2 pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Agreement to Convey Ownership for each well, which include maintenance and reporting responsibilities related to the wells.

The MCWRA Board of Supervisors is empowered to accept this gift in order to serve a public purpose which, in this instance, is monitoring groundwater conditions within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin to inform water resources management. If the MCWRA Board of Supervisors authorizes acceptance of the donated monitoring wells, MCWRA has an opportunity to enhance its understanding of groundwater level and groundwater quality conditions in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and provide data that local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies require to meet regulatory mandates from SGMA.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) requires, by regulation, that local officials that accept gifts for local agency purposes document the transaction and post information about the transaction on the agency website if the fair market value is worth more than \$2,500. Based on information provided by the SVBGSA, fair market value of each monitoring well is as follows: ES-1A (\$350,806); ES-1B (\$152,388); ES-1C (\$92,109); ES-ISW-1 (\$38,110); F-DA-1 (\$350,806); F-ISW-1 (\$74,528); F-ISW-2 (\$43,133); F-ISW-3 (\$43,133); L-GWL-1 (\$67,244); L-GWL-4 (\$127,272); UV-GWL-2 (\$200,109); UV-GWL-3 (\$149,877); and UV-ISW-2 (\$43,133).

The recommended action is consistent with prior actions approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 10, 2024 and May 20, 2025, wherein the donations of monitoring wells from the

SVBGSA were accepted following recommendations from the Agency's Finance Committee and Board of Directors (reference: Board Orders WRAG 24-135 and WRAG 25-070).

The recommended action aligns with the following strategies and goals from the MCWRA Strategic Plan: Goal B, Strategy 2 - *Collaborate with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, define MCWRA's role, and implement a GSA integration plan*; Goal B, Strategy 7 - *Use data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science*; and Goal C, Strategy 6 - *Pursue grant funding and cost saving opportunities from all available sources, including collaborating with the GSA*.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency assisted with development and review of the Agreements.

FINANCING:

There is no immediate financial impact to accepting donation of the monitoring wells. It is estimated that maintenance of these monitoring wells may be required every 10 years, at a cost ranging from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per well based on recently completed repairs. More substantial repairs could be required periodically, with costs varying depending on the extent of the necessary repairs. Funding for maintenance and eventual destruction of the donated monitoring wells would be funded by the Groundwater Monitoring Program regulatory fee. Sufficient appropriations and estimated revenues for the Groundwater Monitoring Program are included in the FY 2025-2026 Adopted Budget in Fund 111 (1501).

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Attachments:

1. Individual Well Location Maps
2. Agreements to Convey Ownership