

ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater
Sustainability Agency



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Meeting Time: 4:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Templeton CSD Board Meeting Room
206 5th Street
Templeton, California 93465

Virtual Attendance:

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84179627194?pwd=s0TJLIYOnRXQyEaBh3Q6FezQngrqh.1>

Meeting ID: 841 7962 7194

Passcode: 650066

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Chairperson Navid Fardanesh
Vice Chairperson Susan Funk
Secretary Rob Rossi
Committee Member Debbie Arnold
Committee Member John Hamon
Committee Member Grigger Jones
Non-Voting Committee Member Tom Mora
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Order of Business
Executive Committee members may request to change the order of business.
5. Introductions
6. General Public Comments
The Executive Committee invites members of the public to address the committee on any subject that is within the purview of the committee and that is not on today's agenda. Comments shall be limited to three minutes.
7. Consent Agenda
The following items are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Executive Committee wishes an item removed. If discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by an

Executive Committee member and will be considered separately. Questions or clarification may be made by the Executive Committee members without removal from the Consent Agenda. Individual items on the Consent Agenda are approved by the same vote that approves the Consent Agenda unless an item is pulled for separate consideration. Members of the public may comment on the Consent Agenda items.

- a. Minutes – January 3, 2024
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
 - a. Atascadero Basin GSP Evaluation Status
 - b. Adopt Resolution 2024-01, Filing of Annual Report with DWR
 - c. Next Meeting: To be determined.
10. Informational Items
11. Adjournment

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*



TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7.a, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on January 3, 2024.

MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Committee (Committee) of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was held at the Templeton Community Services District board room and via teleconference on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order: Chairperson Robert Jones called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Item 2 – Roll Call: Present in person at the Committee meeting were Voting Members Robert Jones, Navid Fardanesh, John Hamon, Rob Rossi, Debbie Arnold and Susan Funk. A quorum (minimum of 4 voting representatives) of the Committee was established. Non-voting member Tom Mora was absent.

Item 3 – Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Jones lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4 – Order of Business: The Committee Members reviewed the order of the meeting’s agenda and confirmed to conduct the meeting as presented in the agenda.

Item 5 - Introductions: The attendees listed below were noted.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <u>Atascadero Mutual Water Company</u> John Neil | <u>Templeton Community Services District</u> Jeff Briltz | <u>GEI Consultants</u> Mike Cornelius |
| <u>GSI Water Solutions</u> Nate Page | <u>County of San Luis Obispo</u> Blaine Reely | <u>Public</u> John Hollenbeck |

Item 6 – General Public Comments: Chairperson Jones opened public comment and, seeing none, closed public comment.

Item 7 – Consent Agenda:

Agenda Item 7.a: March 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes – The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 22, 2023, meeting. One correction noted in first paragraph, changing “February” to “March”.

A motion was made by Member Hamon to approve the minutes. Member Funk provided a second. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Fardanesh, Arnold, Hamon, Rossi, Funk. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Item 8 – Old Business: None

Item 9 – New Business

Agenda Item 9.a: Executive Committee Officers – In accordance with Article 5 of the Memorandum of Agreement, the Committee shall vote for the appointment of officers at the first meeting of the Committee for the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Chairperson

A motion was made by Member Hamon to nominate Vice Chairperson Fardanesh to be Chairperson. Member Rossi provided a second.

Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Fardanesh, Arnold, Hamon, Rossi, Funk. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Past Chairperson Jones turned the meeting over to Chairperson Fardanesh.

Vice Chairperson

A motion was made by Member Rossi to nominate Member Jones to be Vice Chairperson. Member Funk provided a second.

Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Fardanesh, Arnold, Hamon, Rossi, Funk. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Secretary

A motion was made by Member Arnold to nominate Member Rossi to be Secretary. Vice Chairperson Jones provided a second.

Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Fardanesh, Arnold, Hamon, Rossi, Funk. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Treasurer

The Committee opted not to fill this position because the GSA does not have any monetary matters to manage at this time.

Agenda Item 9.b: Annual Report Preparation – An annual report for Water Year 2023 is required to be submitted by the GSA to the State Department of Water Resources by April 1, 2024. The AMWC solicited proposals from the firms of GEI Consultants and GSI Water Solutions to prepare the annual report under professional services agreement with AMWC. The report will be prepared and delivered to the GSA, and the consultants’ invoices will be paid by AMWC which in turn will invoice the GSA for

reimbursement. The EC discussed the procurement of the consultants. The AMWC, serving as the Bookkeeping Party of the GSA, can use their procurement processes to acquire professional services. Member Funk suggested that occasionally the GSA may want to consider soliciting services via a formal Request for Proposal process.

A motion was made by Member Arnold to direct staff to prepare the annual report for water year 2023. Member Rossi provided a second.

Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Fardanesh, Arnold, Hamon, Rossi, Funk. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 9.c: Next Meeting – Chairman Fardanesh announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the TCSD Board Room in Templeton.

Item 10 - Informational Items:

Agenda Item 10.a: Project Report (final) – AMWC General Manager John Neil advised of the final project report to DWR regarding the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Mike Cornelius of GEI Consultants advised that the Committee could expect feedback from DWR to the Atascadero Basin's GSP by the end of January.

Item 11 – Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Fardanesh adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Rob Rossi, Secretary

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.a – Atascadero Basin GSP Evaluation Status

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive letter from the Department of Water Resources regarding the review status of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

DISCUSSION:

Staff received a letter regarding the status of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) evaluation of the Atascadero Basin groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) on January 31, 2024 (see Attachment A).

The letter acknowledges the receipt of the Atascadero Basin GSP.

The letter indicates that evaluation of the Atascadero Basin GSP by the DWR has been given a lower priority since the Atascadero Basin has been designated as a very low-priority basin. The DWR is focusing its efforts on evaluating GSPs submitted for medium- and high-priority basins to meet statutory deadlines.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. DWR Groundwater Sustainability Plan Determination Status Letter

ATTACHMENT A

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street, 8th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

January 31, 2024

John Neil
Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
5005 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422
jneil@amwc.us

RE: Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area Subbasin – Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear John Neil,

The Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) submitted the Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP or Plan) to the Department of Water Resources (Department) for evaluation. The Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area Subbasin is designated by the Department as very low-priority and therefore, is not required to be managed under a GSP and is not subject to state intervention under Chapter 11 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). However, SGMA encourages and authorizes basins designated as low- and very low-priority to be managed under a GSP. The Department appreciates the Atascadero Basin GSA voluntarily submitting a GSP for the very low-priority Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area Subbasin. This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the GSP and provide an update regarding the Department's evaluation and assessment of the GSP.

The Department has prioritized the evaluation of GSPs submitted for medium- and high-priority basins to meet statutory deadlines for those plans in which state intervention applies. The Department will evaluate GSPs submitted for low- and very low-priority basins now that the evaluation of medium- and high-priority-basin GSPs has been completed and will provide assessments and determinations as soon as practicable. In the meantime, the Department encourages the Atascadero Basin GSA to continue implementing its GSP and providing information to the Department through annual report submittals by April 1.

The Department appreciates your patience and should you have any questions, please contact the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office by emailing sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Thank you,

Paul Gosselin
Paul Gosselin
Deputy Director of Sustainable Groundwater Management

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.b, Filing of Annual Report with the Department of Water Resources

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution 2024-01 authorizing the filing of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report with the California Department of Water Resources for the water year October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023 (WY 2023).

DISCUSSION:

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to prepare annual reports before April 1 of each year following submittal of their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The DWR will be reviewing annual reports and GSPs to ensure that they are in conformance with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, regulations, and likely to achieve the sustainability goal of the basin.

The annual report includes data and information used in the development of the GSP updated to reflect the most recent hydrologic data, and maps representing current conditions with narrative describing the progress made toward implementing the GSP.

On March 11, 2024, a public draft of the annual report for the WY 2023, was made available on the Atascadero Basin communication portal (<https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>) for a minimum 15-day public review and comment period.

The annual report notes that WY 2023 was an extremely wet year Statewide (third wettest on record) and as a result groundwater storage increased significantly in the Atascadero Basin. The Basin continues to be managed sustainably, and none of the projects or management strategies described in the GSP required implementation in WY 2023.

Some of the changes in this year's annual report include adding graphics for the water source and water use by sector and use of the DWR SGMA portal to produce the hydrographs in Attachment F.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The report was prepared by the consultants GSI Water Solutions and GEI Consultants under contracts with Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC). AMWC will invoice the GSA participants on a pro-rata basis as described in the MOA and summarized below.

| Participant | MOA Cost Allocation | GSI Fee | GEI Fee | Total |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AMWC | 43% | \$8,091 | \$9,063 | \$17,154 |
| Atascadero City | 1% | \$188 | \$211 | \$399 |
| Paso Robles City | 22% | \$4,140 | \$4,637 | \$8,776 |
| SLOCO | 16% | \$3,011 | \$3,372 | \$6,383 |
| Small Systems | 1% | \$188 | \$211 | \$399 |
| TCSD | 17% | \$3,199 | \$3,583 | \$6,782 |
| TOTAL | 100% | \$18,816 | \$21,076 | \$39,892 |

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution 2024-01
- B. Annual Report for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Atascadero Basin (via weblink - <https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>)

RESOLUTION 2024-01
**APPROVING THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
FOR THE ATASCADERO BASIN, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING ITS FILING WITH
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR THE WATER YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

WHEREAS in August 2014, the California Legislature passed, and in September 2014 the Governor signed, legislation creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) “to provide local groundwater sustainability agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater” (Wat. Code, § 10720, (d)); and

WHEREAS SGMA requires sustainable management through the development of groundwater sustainability plans (“GSPs”), which can be a single plan developed by one or more groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) or multiple coordinated plans within a basin or subbasin (Wat. Code, § 10727); and

WHEREAS the Atascadero Basin GSA Executive Committee approved submittal of a GSP for the Atascadero Basin (3-004.11 Salinas Valley Atascadero Area) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS the Atascadero Basin GSA submitted the GSP for the Atascadero Basin to the DWR on January 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS GSAs are required to prepare annual reports before April 1 of each year following submittal of their GSP to the DWR; and

WHEREAS a public draft of the annual report for the water year ending September 30, 2023, was made available for review and comment on the Atascadero Basin communication portal (<https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>) for a minimum 15-day public review on March 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS an email was sent to all interested parties who have registered on the communications portal notifying them that the annual report was available for review and comment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin GSA hereby approves and authorizes the filing of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report with the California Department of Water Resources or the water year ending September 30, 2023, including consideration of comments received during the public review period.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin GSA on March 20, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Navid Fardanesh, Chairperson

Secretary's Certification

I, Rob Rossi, Secretary of the Atascadero Basin GSA Executive Committee, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy entered into the Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2024, at which time a quorum was present, and no motion to amend or rescind the above resolution was made.

Rob Rossi, Secretary