

# ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency



## Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Templeton CSD Board Meeting Room  
206 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Templeton, California 93465

Virtual Attendance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87192575939?pwd=ud2sHmtJ7mZqvi0hsaTkviXQnBR5C.1>

Meeting ID: 871 9257 5939

Passcode: 664021

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Chairperson Navid Fardanesh  
Vice Chairperson Susan Funk  
Secretary Rob Rossi  
Committee Member Heather Moreno  
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 – December 18, 2024
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
  - a. Appointment of Executive Committee Officers
  - b. Presentation of draft WY 2024 Annual Report
  - c. Amendment to Appendix A of the Conflict of Interest Code
  - d. Next meeting: March 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
10. Informational Items
  - a. Letter to Senator John Laird re: annual reporting requirements
11. Adjournment

**ATASCADERO BASIN**

*Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: February 12, 2025

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

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on December 18, 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, December 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order: Chairperson Fardanesh called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

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

Item 3 – Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Fardanesh 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>Templeton Community Services District</u> Jeff Briltz	<u>GEI Consultants</u> Mike Cornelius (via Zoom)
<u>Atascadero Mutual Water Company</u> John Neil	<u>County of San Luis Obispo</u> Blaine Reely
<u>Confluence Engineering</u> Nate Page (via Zoom)	

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

Agenda Item 7.a: March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes – The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 20, 2024, meeting.

*A motion was made by Member Jones to approve the minutes. Member Hamon provided a second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes - Jones, Hamon, Arnold, Fardanesh. Abstain – Bourbeau. Nays – none. Motion carried.*

Item 8 – Old Business: None

Item 9 – New Business

Agenda Item 9.a: Contract Award for Preparation of the Water Year 2024 Annual Report

Staff informed the Committee that it sent requests for proposals (RFP) for preparation of the annual report for WY2024 to five consulting firms that have experience with preparation of GSPs in and around San Luis Obispo County. Staff informed the Committee that the only respondent to the RFP was the consulting team of GEI Consultants, GSI Water Solutions, and Confluence Engineering.

Staff recommended that the Committee adopt Resolution 2024-02 authorizing Atascadero Mutual Water Company to enter into an agreement with the consulting team of GEI Consultants, GSI Water Solutions, and Confluence Engineering to prepare the Annual Report for water year ending September 30, 2024 (WY 2024).

Member Bourbeau asked why an annual report was needed for the Atascadero Basin since the Department of Water Resources considers it to be a low-priority basin. Staff informed the Committee that Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) that have submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to the DWR are required to prepare annual reports before April 1 of each year following submittal of the GSP. The DWR reviews annual reports to ensure conformance with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations and the sustainability goals identified in the GSP. The annual report includes data and information used in the development of the GSP update to reflect the most recent hydrologic data, and maps representing current conditions with narrative describing the progress made toward implementing the GSP. Previous years' annual reports were prepared by the consulting team of GEI Consultants and GSI Water Solutions.

Mike Cornelius briefly described the history of how the Atascadero Basin boundary was established during the early stages of SGMA compliance and why the Committee chose to move forward with preparation of a GSP using state grant funds even though the Atascadero Basin is considered low priority.

Staff will contact state senator John Laird to investigate whether he be willing to support an abbreviated annual reporting process for low-priority basins.

*A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2024-02 by Member Jones. Member Hamon provided second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes - Jones, Funk, Peschong, Rodin, Fardanesh. Nays – none. Motion carried.*

Agenda Item 9.c: Future Meetings

- February 12, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
- March 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Item 10 - Informational Items: none

Item 11 – Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Fardanesh adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

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Rob Rossi, Secretary

DRAFT

**ATASCADERO BASIN**

*Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.a, Appointment of Executive Committee Officers

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The Executive Committee, by motion, elect a member to serve as Chair for 2025
2. The Executive Committee, by motion, elect a member to serve as Vice Chair for 2025
3. The Executive Committee, by motion, elect a member to serve as Secretary for 2025
4. The Executive Committee, by motion, elect a member to serve as Treasurer for 2025

**DISCUSSION:**

Article 5 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) forming the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) addresses Officers of the Executive Committee (EC). The article reads:

5.1 Officers. Officers of the Agency shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Vice Chair shall exercise all power of the Chair in the Chair's absence or inability to act.

5.2 Appointment of Officers. Officers shall be elected annually by, and serve at the pleasure of, the EC. Officers shall be elected by simple majority vote at the first EC meeting, and thereafter at the first EC meeting following January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, or as duly continued by the EC. An officer may serve for multiple consecutive terms, with not term limit. Any officer may resign at any time upon written notice to the EC, and may be removed and replaced by a simple majority vote of the EC.

Once elected, the officers should begin their service immediately. Staff recommends electing the Chair first, with the Chair then presiding over the remainder of the officer elections, and the remainder of the meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

## **ATASCADERO BASIN**

*Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.b, Draft Annual Report for Water Year 2024

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Review and comment on the draft annual report for the Atascadero Basin for water year ending September 30, 2024 (WY 2024).

### **DISCUSSION:**

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) are required to prepare annual reports before April 1 of each year following submittal of their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to the California 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 (SGMA), regulations, and likely to achieve the sustainability goal of the basin.

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

A public draft of the annual report for WY 2024 will be made available on the Atascadero Basin communication portal (<https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>) for a minimum 15-day public review and comment period. The final report will be brought before the Executive Committee for approval at its March meeting.

Following are key findings in the WY 2024 annual report:

- The Atascadero Basin experienced above average precipitation year in WY 2024. Current hydrologic trends suggest that the state's annual hydrologic conditions are going to continue to be highly variable oscillating between wet and dry years.
- Total groundwater extractions in the Basin for WY 2024 totaled 14,500 acre-feet (AF). Since 2017, groundwater extractions in the Basin have ranged from a low of 14,100 acre-feet in WY 2023 to a high of 16,700 acre-feet in WY 2021.
- Groundwater elevations observed in the Atascadero Basin during WY 2024 are similar to WY 2023 across a majority of the Basin due to above-average rainfall during the winter of 2023/2024. This corresponded an increase in groundwater storage of 3,600 acre-feet. This is much smaller than the 15,700 acre-feet change in storage in WY2023 but does represent an increase in groundwater storage.

- Both positive and negative changes in groundwater elevations are observed from year to year in different parts of the Basin, which has been the pattern in the Basin for many years. Seasonal trends of slightly higher spring ground water elevations compared with lower fall levels continued in each of the water years. This pattern of seasonal and geographic changes in groundwater elevations is expected to continue moving forward in response to annual changes in hydrologic conditions.
- The Basin continues to be managed sustainably with respect to the requirements of the SGMA and the DWR which identifies the Basin as very-low priority.
- The water managers of the Basin will continue to proactively manage the Basin to achieve sustainably and comply with the SGMA requirements. This includes the preparation and submittal of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan WY 2024 Annual Report which is underdevelopment now and will be submitted to DWR by the April 1, 2025 deadline.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost for preparation of the annual report is summarized below.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>MOA Cost Allocation</b>	<b>Participant Cost</b>
AMWC	43%	\$21,393
Atascadero City	1%	\$497
Paso Robles City	22%	\$10,945
SLOCO	16%	\$7,960
Small Systems	1%	\$497
TCSD	17%	\$8,457
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$49,749</b>

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Draft Annual Report for Water Year 2024



## **ATASCADERO BASIN**

*Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Co.

DATE: February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.c - Amendment to Appendix A of the Conflict of Interest Code

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt Resolution 2025-01 amending Appendix A of the Atascadero Groundwater Basin Executive Committee's Conflict of Interest Code to revise the designated position list for the City of Atascadero.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Political Reform Act (Gov. Code, § 81000 et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes governing the political activities and financial disclosure requirements of certain officers and employees. A conflict of interest code tells public officials, governmental employees, and consultants who are listed within the code what financial interests they must disclose on their Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). Consistent with this requirement, on January 3, 2018, the Committee voted to adopt the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Conflict of Interest Code ("the Code"), including a designated position list (Appendix A to the Code).

The Political Reform Act also requires every local government agency to amend its Conflict of Interest Code when change is necessitated by changed circumstances, including the creation of new positions and to submit any amendments to its conflict of interest code for approval to the County Board of Supervisors, as the code reviewing body. (Gov. Code, §§ 87306).

Due to the addition of the City of Atascadero Director of Public Works (or designee) as a designated position of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the City of Atascadero City Manager and Deputy City Manager positions are no longer needed and should be removed from Appendix A of the Conflict of Interest Code.

Attachments A and B show the recommended changes to the Conflict of Interest Code and Appendix A to the Code.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Committee Code
- B. Resolution 2025-01 Amending Appendix A to the Committee Code

<b>ATTACHMENT A</b>
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CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE

**ATASCADERO BASIN**

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

The Political Reform Act (Gov. Code, § 81000, et. seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) has adopted a regulation (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which may be adopted by local agencies and its provisions incorporated by reference in an agency’s code. After public notice and hearing, the FPPC may amend section 18730 to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the FPPC are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached appendices, designating positions and establishing disclosure requirements, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).

Individuals holding designated positions shall file their statements of economic interests with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo (“Clerk of the Board”), who is hereby designated as the filing official for all statements of economic interest filed pursuant to this code. All statements will be retained by the Clerk of the Board in accordance with applicable law, and, upon request by any member of the public, such statements will be made available for public inspection and reproduction in accordance with Government Code Section 81008. Upon the Agency’s behalf, the Clerk of the Board will maintain the statements at the clerk’s office located at 1055 Monterey Street, Suite D430, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE

**ATASCADERO BASIN**

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**APPENDIX A - Designated Positions**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Disclosure</u>
<u>Category</u>	
Executive Committee Members	1,2
(Includes both voting and non-voting representatives)	
City of Paso Robles Director of Public Works	1,2
<del>City of Atascadero City Manager</del>	<del>1,2</del>
City of Atascadero <del>Deputy City Manager</del> <u>Director of Public Works (or designee)</u>	1,2
Atascadero Mutual Water Company General Manager	1,2

Templeton Community Services District General Manager	1,2
County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director	1,2
Attorney	1,2
Consultants/New Positions	*

Note: The position of Attorney is filled by an outside consultant but acts in staff capacity.

\*Consultants/new positions shall be included in the list of designated positions and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code subject to the following limitations:

The Agency may determine in writing that a particular consultant or new position, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to comply fully with the disclosure requirements described in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the consultant's or new position's duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Agency's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code. (Gov. Code Section 81008)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE  
  
**ATASCADERO BASIN**  
**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**APPENDIX B – Disclosure Categories**

1. Investments and business positions in business entities, and income, including receipt of loans, gifts, and travel payments, from sources of the type that provide services, supplies, materials, machinery, or equipment of the type utilized by the Agency.
2. Interests in real property located within the jurisdiction of the Agency, or within two miles of the jurisdictional boundaries of the Agency, or within two miles of any land owned or used by the Agency.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ATASCADERO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY AMENDING APPENDIX A TO ITS CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the Political Reform Act (Gov. Code, § 81000 et seq.) requires every state and local government agency to adopt and promulgate a conflict of interest code pursuant to Government Code section 87300; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 3, 2018, the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency adopted the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Conflict of Interest Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Appendix A to the Committee’s Conflict of Interest Code identifies those officials and employees who shall file statements of economic interests with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, upon assuming office, leaving office, and during each year in office disclosing those financial interests set forth in Appendix B of the Conflict of Interest Code; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the addition of the City of Atascadero Director of Public Works (or designee), the City of Atascadero City Manager and Deputy City Manager positions are no longer needed and should be removed from the Conflict of Interest Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved and ordered by the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency that:

1. Appendix A of the Conflict of Interest Code for the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency is hereby amended to remove the position of City of Atascadero City Manager and City of Atascadero Deputy City Manager and add City of Atascadero Director of Public Works (or designee) as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. Except as set forth in Paragraph 1, Appendix A and the Conflict of Interest Code shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.
3. The County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director, or his/her designee, is hereby directed to submit the Committee’s code amendment, as adopted herein, to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for approval by the board in accordance with Government Code section 87303 and 87306.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin GSA on February 12, 2025. On motion by Member \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by

Member \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing Resolution is hereby adopted in its entirety on the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

Atascadero Basin GSA

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, *Chairperson*

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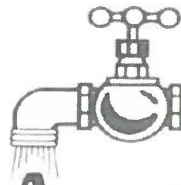
Secretary's Certification

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 February 12, 2025, at which time a quorum was present, and no motion to amend or rescind the above Resolution was made.

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, *Secretary*

Agenda Item 10.a, Letter to Senator Laird



5005 EL CAMINO REAL • P.O. BOX 6075 • ATASCADERO, CA 93423 • (805) 466-2428

**ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY**  
ESTABLISHED 1913

January 31, 2025

Senator John Laird  
1026 Palm Street, Suite 201  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Senator Laird:

You may recall that we met several months ago here at Atascadero Mutual Water Company's office. During our discussion, I mentioned how the one-size-fits-all approach taken in the administration of some legislation can be unnecessarily burdensome.

Enclosed is a staff report I've prepared for the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Executive Committee. The topic is the annual reporting requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for groundwater basins that have prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

For background, the Atascadero Basin has been designated as "very low priority" by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), which effectively exempts it from SGMA requirements. However, stakeholders in the basin chose to move forward with the preparation of a GSP as a tool to assist with the continued effective and sustainable management of the Atascadero Basin. The DWR has even delayed the evaluation of the Atascadero Basin GSP due to the basin's low priority (see enclosed letter from the DWR dated 1/31/2024).

I would like to investigate whether you would support changes to the SGMA legislation that would exempt or reduce the annual reporting requirements for basins designated as low- or very-low priority. The enclosed staff report shows that the costs associated with preparing these annual reports are not insignificant. We feel the funds would be better spent on management activities in the basin. We would continue to monitor representative wells within the basin on an annual or more frequent basis even if the annual reporting requirements were relaxed. We would also make adjustments to the GSP as needed during the 5-year update process.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John B Neil". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John B Neil  
General Manager

Encl.