

ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater
Sustainability Agency



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Templeton CSD Board Meeting Room
206 5th Street
Templeton, California 93465

Virtual Attendance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81667896418?pwd=ptjwF0Op83BdFCHj8Qts2xOxhmeYXp.1>

Meeting ID: 816 6789 6418

Passcode: 757724

One tap mobile

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Chairperson Navid Fardanesh
Vice Chairperson Heather Moreno
Secretary Rob Rossi
Committee Member Susan Funk
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 – February 12, 2025

8. Old Business:

9. New Business:

a. Approval of WY 2024 Annual Report

b. Next meeting: TBD

10. Informational Items

11. Adjournment

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: March 19, 2025

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on February 12, 2025.

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, February 12, at 4:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order: Chairperson Fardanesh called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Item 2 – Roll Call: Present in person at the Committee meeting were Voting Members Navid Fardanesh, Rob Rossi, Heather Moreno, and Grigger Jones. Voting members John Hamon and Susan Funk 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>City of Paso Robles</u> David Athey

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 Rossi provided a second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes - Jones, Rossi, Fardanesh, Moreno. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Item 8 – Old Business: None

Item 9 – New Business

Agenda Item 9.a: Appointment of 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 Rossi to nominate Chairperson Fardanesh to be Chairperson. Member Moreno provided a second.

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

Vice Chairperson

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

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

Secretary

A motion was made by Member Jones to nominate Member Rossi to be Secretary. Member Moreno provided a second. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Moreno, Fardanesh, Rossi. 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 – A draft of the annual report for Water Year 2024 was distributed electronically to the Executive Committee and GSA staff for review and comment ahead of it being posted on the Atascadero Basin communications portal (<https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>). Staff informed the Committee that the report is required to be submitted by the GSA to the State Department of Water Resources by April 1, 2024.

Member Moreno asked about the management projects identified in the GSP such as filling in monitoring gaps. Staff gave an example where additional monitoring wells would be beneficial, such as the area north of Highway 46 and west of Highway 101. Member Rossi mentioned that he may have access to well data in this area and areas along the Salinas River south of River Gardens.

The Executive Committee directed GSA staff to post the annual report for Water Year 2024 on the Atascadero Basin Communication Portal for a minimum 15-day public review period.

Agenda 9.c: Amendment to Appendix A of the Committee’s Conflict of Interest Code – Staff recommended that the Executive Committee adopt Resolution 2025-01 amending Appendix A of the Committee’s Conflict of Interest Code by adding the City of Atascadero Director of Public Works (or designee) as a designated position of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and removing the City of Atascadero City Manager and Deputy City Manager as designated positions.

A motion was made by Member Moreno to adopt Resolution 2025-01 amending Appendix A of the Committee’s Conflict of Interest Code to add the City of Atascadero Director of Public Works (or designee) as a designated position of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and remove the City of Atascadero City Manager and Deputy City Manager as designated positions. Member Jones provided a second. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Moreno, Jones, Fardanesh, Rossi. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 9.d: Future Meetings – The next Executive Committee meeting will be on March 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Item 10 - Informational Items – The agenda included a letter prepared by GSA staff requesting that State Senator John Laird support changes to the SGMA legislation that would exempt or reduce the annual reporting requirements for basins designated as low or very-low priority.

Item 11 – Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Fardanesh adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Rob Rossi, Secretary

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: March 19, 2025

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution 2025-02 authorizing the filing of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Water Year 2024 Annual Report with the California Department of Water Resources for the water year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (WY 2024).

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 February 13, 2025, a public draft of the annual report for WY 2024 was made available on the Atascadero Basin communication portal (<https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>) No comments were received as of March 13, 2025.

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 report was prepared by the consulting team of GSI Water Solutions, GEI Consultants, and Confluence Engineering under a contract 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	Participant Cost
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
TOTAL	100%	\$49,749

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution 2025-02
- B. Annual Report for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Atascadero Basin (via weblink - <https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>)

RESOLUTION 2025-02

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, 2024

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, 2024, 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 February 13, 2025; and

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 for the water year ending September 30, 2024, 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 19, 2025, 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 19, 2025, at which time a quorum was present, and no motion to amend or rescind the above resolution was made.

Rob Rossi, Secretary