

## ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater  
Sustainability Agency



### Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 17, 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/81087144862?pwd=ulz2YQptTYBiPnFhfzag5BiPQQh2a9.1>

Meeting ID: 810 8714 4862

Passcode: 046448

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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 – March 19, 2025
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
  - a. Contract Award for Preparation of the Water Year 2025 Annual Report
  - b. Period Evaluation/GSP Amendment
  - c. Future Meetings:
    - February 18, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – review draft annual report, appoint Executive Committee Officers
    - March 18, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – approve annual report
10. Informational Items
11. Adjournment



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: December 17, 2025

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

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on March 19, 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, March 19, 2025, 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, Heather Moreno, Grigger Jones, and alternate member Nick DeBar. Voting members John Hamon and 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

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

Agenda Item 7.a: February 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes – The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 12, 2025, meeting.

*A motion was made by Member Moreno to approve the minutes. Member Jone provided a second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Monreno, Jones, Rossi, Fardanesh, DeBar. Nays – none. Motion carried.*

Item 8 – Old Business: None

Item 9 – New Business

Agenda Item 9.a: Annual Report Preparation – Mike Cornelius of GEI presenting. He informed the Committee that a public draft of the annual report for Water Year 2024 was posted on the Atascadero Basin Communications portal on February 13, 2025, and that no comments were received. He informed the Committee that final draft of the annual report was identical to that presented to the Committee at its meeting on February 12, 2025, except for the addition of a statement that there were no dry wells reported in the Atascadero Basin in WY 2024. He informed the Committee that the annual report needs to be filed with the Department of Water Resources by April 1, 2025. He recommended that the Committee authorize staff to file the annual report for WY 2024 with the Department of Water Resources.

*A motion was made by Member Jones to adopt Resolution 2025-02 authorizing the filing of the Atascadero Groundwater Basin Plan Water Year 2024 Annual Report with the California Department of Water Resources for the water year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. Member Moreno provided a second. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Moreno, Fardanesh, DeBar. Absent – Hamon, Rossi. Abstain – none. Nays – none. Motion carried.*

Agenda Item 9.b: Future Meetings – The date and time of next Executive Committee to be determined.

Item 10 - Informational Items – none

Item 11 – Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Fardanesh adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

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Rob Rossi, Secretary



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: December 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.a, Contract Award for Preparation of the WY 2025 Annual Report

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt Resolution 2025-03 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, 2025 (WY 2025).

**DISCUSSION:**

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to prepare annual reports before April 1 of each year following submittal of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The DWR reviews annual reports to ensure conformance with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act 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. GEI Consultants, GSI Water Solutions, and Confluence Engineering prepared last year's annual report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

See Attachment B for the consulting team's fee proposal for preparation of the annual report. AMWC will invoice the GSA participants on a pro-rata basis as described in the MOA and summarized below.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>MOA Cost Allocation</b>	<b>Participant Cost</b>
AMWC	43%	\$21,820
Atascadero City	1%	\$507
Paso Robles City	22%	\$11,163
SLOCO	16%	\$8,119
Small Systems	1%	\$507
TCSD	17%	\$8,626
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$50,742</b>

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Resolution 2025-03
- B. Annual Report Cost Proposal

**RESOLUTION 2025-03**

**AUTHORIZING ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY TO ENTER 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**

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 Resourced (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 GSA staff requested proposals from five consulting firms that have experience with preparation of GSPs in and around San Luis Obispo County, and the consulting team of GEI Consultants, GSI Water Solutions, and Confluence Engineering was found to be the most responsive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin GSA hereby authorizes Atascadero Mutual Water Company to enter an agreement with the consulting team of GEI Consultants and Confluence Engineering to prepare the Annual Report for water year ending September 30, 2025 (WY 2025).

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the  
Atascadero Basin GSA on December 17, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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*Navid Fardanesh, 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 December 17, 2025, at which time a quorum was present, and no  
motion to amend or rescind the above resolution was made.

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*Rob Rossi, Secretary*



## COVER LETTER

November 20, 2025



Submitted via email to: John B. Neil/jneil@amwc.us

Consulting  
Engineers and  
Scientists

Mr. John B. Neil, P.E.  
General Manager  
Atascadero Mutual Water Company

**Subject: Cost Proposal for Groundwater Technical Assistance**

Dear Mr. Neil:

The GEI Team which includes **GEI Consultants, Inc.**, **GSI Water Solutions Inc.** and **Confluence Engineering Solutions Inc.** is pleased to submit this cost proposal to the Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC) separately to support the preparation of the Water Year 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report and provide ongoing support to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the Atascadero Subbasin. The scope of work and cost proposal is based on our experience preparing the prior Atascadero Subbasin Annual Reports.

Sincerely,

**GEI Consultants, Inc.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Cornelius".

Michael Cornelius, P.G.  
Project Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Petersen".

Chris Petersen, P.G., C.Hg.  
Principal-in-Charge

## SCOPE

The GEI Team will work with the AMWC and the Atascadero Subbasin GSP Executive Committee (Executive Committee) to prepare the Water Year 2025 Annual Report, in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and GSP Regulations (§ 356.2. Annual Reports). Pursuant to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regulations, a GSP Annual Report must be submitted to DWR by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP.

This is the fifth GSP Annual Report for the Atascadero Basin. The Water Year 2025 Annual Report will be of similar format and content as the prior annual reports and cover the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. This cost proposal includes the scope of work, schedule, and estimated budget to prepare and submit the Water Year 2025 Annual Report and provide additional support for ongoing SGMA compliance.

### TASK 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The GEI Team will coordinate with AMWC during the preparation of the Annual Report and provide monthly invoices and progress reports to track progress.

### TASK 2. COORDINATION WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The GEI Team will meet with the Atascadero Subbasin Executive Committee to support the development and approval of the Water Year 2025 GSP Annual Report and provide ongoing support to AMWC and the Executive Committee during 2026. We anticipate two meetings with the Executive Committee during the development of the Annual Report to:

- Review the Admin draft and prepare release of the public draft for review.
- Present the final draft for approval by the Executive Committee prior to upload to the DWR portal.

During the remaining portion of 2026, the GEI Team suggests up to two additional Atascadero Subbasin Executive Committee meetings during 2026 as needed to support ongoing SGMA activities including updates regarding the WY 2025 Annual Report and planning for the 5-Year update which would need to be submitted to DWR by January 2027.

### TASK 3. ANNUAL REPORT PREPARATION

The GEI Team will work with AMWC and Atascadero Subbasin Executive Committee members to prepare the Water Year 2025 Annual Report, which will contain a compilation and analysis of data in the basin from the previous water year and a summary of GSP implementation progress. The GEI Team will be responsible for assembling and packaging the information by providing updates to the annual report. Some of the specific tasks include:

#### TASK 3.1 DATA COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS

The GEI Team will generate data requests for groundwater elevation data, groundwater production data, imported surface water, precipitation data, land use spatial data, and satellite-based evapotranspiration data from the appropriate entities for the Water Year 2025 period. These data will be analyzed along with publicly available groundwater quality and Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) datasets to produce:

- Groundwater Elevation Contours Maps for each Principal Aquifer (Spring and Fall 2024).
- Groundwater Extraction Quantification by water use sector.
- Quantification of Surface Water used or available for use.
- Quantification of Total Water Use by water use sector.
- Groundwater Elevation Change Maps for each Principal Aquifer.
- Estimate of Change in Groundwater in Storage for each Principal Aquifer.

### TASK 3.2 REPORT PREPARATION

The GEI Team will work with AMWC and Atascadero Subbasin Executive Committee members to prepare an Administrative Draft, a Public Draft, and Final Report. Preparation of the Administrative Draft and Public Draft will be followed with periods of GSP Executive Committee review and public review, respectively.

- The public draft of the Annual Report will be posted on the Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Communication Portal for a 30-day public review period.
- Comments from the Executive Committee and the public will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the Final Report.

### TASK 4. REPORT SUBMITTAL TO DWR

The GEI Team will submit the Atascadero Subbasin GSP – Water Year 2025 Annual Report to DWR via the SGMA portal by March 31, 2026. The GEI Team will coordinate this effort with AMWC as needed.

### TASK 5. SGMA COMPLIANCE SUPPORT

The GEI Team will provide ongoing support to the Atascadero Subbasin GSA Executive Committee as needed to provide SGMA compliance through December 2026. One known task will include and will upload the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 water level monitoring network data as required.

## SCHEDULE

The draft project schedule assumes a start date of December 18, 2025. The work will begin upon full execution of this Task Order by AMWC and continue through December 2026 to accommodate the fall and summer meetings with the Atascadero Subbasin Executive Committee. The estimated completion dates for the deliverables described in this Task Order are shown in **Table 1**.

**TABLE 1: TASK COMPLETION SCHEDULE**

Tasks	Deliverables	Estimated Completion / Deliverable Date
Task 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly invoices and progress reports</li> </ul>	Ongoing through project duration estimated to be December 2026
Task 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting planning and support materials to support Executive Committee Meetings:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of draft Annual Report to Atascadero Basin Executive Committee</li> <li>Presentation of Final Annual Report to Atascadero Basin Executive Committee</li> <li>Participation in up to two additional Executive Committee Meetings as needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Week of February 16, 2026 Week of February 16, 2026 Summer and Fall of 2026
Task 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Atascadero Basin GSP Annual Report</li> <li>Final Atascadero Basin GSP Annual Report</li> </ul>	Week of February 2, 2026 Week of March 16, 2026
Task 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upload Atascadero Basin GSP Annual Report to DWR SGMA Portal</li> </ul>	By March 31, 2026
Task 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upload Fall 2025 water level data to SGMA Portal</li> <li>Upload Spring 2026 water level data to SGMA Portal</li> </ul>	By December 31, 2025 By August 31, 2026

## ESTIMATED LEVEL OF EFFORT

The GEI Team's estimated level of effort for preparing the Water Year 2025 Annual Report is provided in **Table 2**. Our GEI Team members have worked on Atascadero Basin GSP and all four Annual Reports and are very familiar with the Atascadero Subbasin and thus, can work efficiently. The 2026 rate sheets for the GEI Team members are used to estimate the budget shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 2: ITEMIZED TASK SCHEDULE**

Task Number/Name	GEI		Confluence ES		TOTAL		
	Labor Hours	Total Costs	Labor Hours	Total Costs	Labor Hours	5% markup on subs	Total Costs
Task 1- Project Management	12	\$ 3,502	4	\$ 1,020	16	\$ 51	\$ 4,573
Task 2 - Coordination with Executive Committee	8	\$ 3,064	14	\$ 3,718	22	\$ 186	\$ 6,968
Task 3- Annual Report Preparation	80	\$19,860	47	\$15,582	127	\$ 779	\$36,221
Task 4- Report Submittal to DWR	10	\$ 2,398	3	\$ 555	13	\$ 28	\$ 2,981
Task 5- SGMA Compliance Support	8	\$ 2,228	0	\$ -	8	\$ -	\$ 2,228
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>118</b>		<b>68</b>		<b>186</b>		
<b>Total Costs</b>		<b>\$28,824</b>		<b>\$20,874</b>			<b>\$50,742</b>

2026 RATE SHEETS



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: December 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.b, Periodic Evaluation/GSP Amendment

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive oral presentation from GEI Consultants on periodic evaluation or amendments to the groundwater sustainability plan.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires groundwater sustainability agencies to submit either a periodic evaluation or a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) amendment to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 2027. The evaluation or amendment must include responses to the DWR's GSP approval letter of April 2025. One of the tasks is addressing the eight corrective actions identified by DWR (see Attachment A).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Corrective Actions from DWR GSP approval letter

## ATTACHMENT A

2. Explore how groundwater level data from the existing monitoring network will be used to make progress towards sustainable management of the basin given increasing aridification and effects of climate change, such as prolonged drought.
3. Take into consideration changes to surface water reliability and that impact on groundwater conditions.
4. Evaluate updated watershed studies that may modify assumed frequency and magnitude of recharge projects, if applicable, and
5. Continually coordinate with the appropriate groundwater users, including but not limited to domestic well owners and state small water systems, and the appropriate overlying county jurisdictions developing drought plans and establishing local drought task forces to evaluate how their Plan's groundwater management strategy aligns with drought planning, response, and mitigation efforts within the basin.

## 5 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Department staff recommend approval of the GSP with the recommended corrective actions listed below. The Atascadero Area GSP conforms with Water Code Sections 10727.2 and 10727.4 of SGMA and substantially complies with the GSP Regulations. Implementation of the GSP will likely achieve the sustainability goal for the Atascadero Area Basin. The GSA has identified several areas for improvement of its Plan and Department staff concur that those items are important and should be addressed as soon as possible. Department staff have also identified additional recommended corrective actions that should be considered by the GSA for the first periodic evaluation of its GSP. Addressing these recommended corrective actions will be important to demonstrate that implementation of the Plan is likely to achieve the sustainability goal.

The recommended corrective actions include:

### RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 1

Provide a timeline for addressing data gaps related to improving understanding of the Rinconada Fault as a barrier to groundwater flow and vertical gradients in the Subbasin.

### RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 2

Provide supporting data for the groundwater elevation and elevations of the Salinas River thalweg used in the analysis of interconnected surface water.

### RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 3

Explain what “a defined area” as used in the criteria to quantitatively define undesirable results for chronic lowering of groundwater levels refers to.



#### **RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 4**

Address the following items related to the minimum thresholds established for chronic lowering of groundwater levels:

- a. Assess potential impacts to supply wells, including domestic wells, at the proposed minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels and document the degree/extent of the potential impacts including the percentage, number, and location of potentially impacted wells.
- b. Assess potential impacts on beneficial uses and users of shallow groundwater (e.g., GDEs) that may be impacted by the established minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

#### **RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 5**

Define what constitutes “average hydrogeologic conditions” and how the “long-term average over all hydrogeologic conditions” will be calculated for the consideration of undesirable results for reduction of groundwater storage.

#### **RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 6**

Address the following items related to the sustainable management criteria for degraded water quality:

- a. Define what constitutes “on average” and how it will be determined for the evaluation of undesirable results for degraded water quality.
- b. Revise the definition of undesirable results for degraded groundwater quality so that exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater pumping, whether the GSA has implemented pumping regulations or not, are considered in the assessment of undesirable results in the Subbasin.
- c. Provide the concentration values (i.e., numerical values) that will be used as the measurable objective at each representative monitoring well for the identified constituents of concern.

#### **RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 7**

Address the following items related to sustainable management criteria for land subsidence:

- a. Describe critical infrastructure and surface land uses in the Subbasin that may be impacted by land subsidence.
- b. Define criteria that will be used to define when and where the effects of land subsidence cause undesirable results, which should be based on a quantitative description of the combination of minimum threshold exceedances that cause significant and unreasonable effects in the Subbasin.

- c. Revise “and” to “or” in the definition of the minimum threshold for land subsidence or explain why an exceedance of 0.1 foot in any one year would not be considered an exceedance (by itself) unless a cumulative exceedance of 0.5 foot over a 5-year period has also occurred.

#### **RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 8**

Department staff understand that estimating the location, quantity, and timing of stream depletion due to ongoing, Subbasin-wide pumping is a complex task and that developing suitable tools may take additional time; however, it is critical for the Department's ongoing and future evaluations of whether GSP implementation is on track to achieve sustainable groundwater management. The Department plans to provide guidance on methods and approaches to evaluate the rate, timing, and volume of depletions of interconnected surface water and support for establishing specific sustainable management criteria in the near future. This guidance is intended to assist GSAs to sustainably manage depletions of interconnected surface water.

In addition, the GSA should work to address the following items by the first periodic evaluation of the Plan:

- a. Consider using, as appropriate, the technical papers released by the Department on methods for determining the location, quantity, and timing of interconnected surface water depletion due to ongoing Subbasin-wide groundwater pumping, and guidance when issued by the Department, to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.
- b. Continue to fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, and implement the current strategy to manage depletions of interconnected surface water and define segments of interconnectivity and timing.
- c. Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA's jurisdictional area.