

ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater
Sustainability Agency



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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/88397119411?pwd=TfkQTZAKZlbzpcK8aVT33fxEPanbfe.1>

Meeting ID: 883 9711 9411

Passcode: 629785

One tap mobile

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Chairperson Heather Moreno
Vice Chairperson Navid Fardanesh
Secretary Rob Rossi
Committee Member Susan Funk
Committee Member John Hamon/Alt Member Fred Strong
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 18, 2026
8. Old Business:
9. New Business:
 - a. Filing of WY 2025 Annual Report
 - b. Periodic Evaluation Update
 - c. Next meeting: To be determined
10. Informational Items
11. Adjournment



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: March 25, 2026

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on February 18, 2026

MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Committee (Committee) of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was held at the Templeton Community Services District boardroom and via teleconference on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 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 Navid Fardanesh, Heather Moreno, Grigger Jones, and John Hamon. Voting members Rob Rossi 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>City of Atascadero</u> Nick Debar
<u>Atascadero Mutual Water Company</u> John Neil	<u>County of San Luis Obispo</u> Blaine Reely
<u>Confluence Engineering Solutions Inc.</u> Nate Page (via Zoom)	<u>GEI Consultants</u> Mike Cornelius (via Zoom)
<u>Department of Water Resources</u> Bryce Matsumara	

Item 6 – General Public Comments: Chairperson Fardanesh opened public comment. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 7.a: December 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes – The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the December 17, 2025, meeting.

A motion was made by Member Jones to approve the minutes. Member Moreno provided a second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Monreno, Hamon, Fardanesh. 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. Member Fardanesh nominated Member Moreno to serve as chair, Member Moreno nominated Member Fardanesh as vice chair, and Member Hamon nominated Member Rossi as secretary. The Committee opted not to fill the treasurer position because the GSA does not have any monetary matters to manage at this time.

The nominations were approved by a voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Moreno, Fardanesh, Hamon. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Member Moreno presided over the remainder of the meeting as the Executive Committee Chair.

Agenda Item 9.b: Annual Report Preparation – A draft of the annual report for Water Year 2025 was distributed electronically to the Executive Committee and GSA staff. Staff provided a summary of the key findings in the report and informed the Committee that the report would be made available to the public on the Atascadero Basin communications portal (<https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>). Staff informed the Committee that they could post comments on the draft report via communications portal or submit comments directly to staff. 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, 2026.

Member Fardanesh inquired about Atascadero Mutual Water Company's efforts to address PFAS contamination. Staff member Neil described the company's plan to construct a water treatment plant to remove PFAS from the drinking water using granulated activated carbon filtration.

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 Moreno recalled that Member Rossi mentioned that he may have access to well data in this area and areas along the Salinas River south of River Gardens.

Agenda Item 9.c: Periodic Evaluation/GSP Amendment – Informational item. No action required. Mike Cornelius of GEI Consultants described the differences between the periodic evaluation and a GSP amendment and how the periodic evaluation presents a lower hurdle. In either case, the GSA needs to demonstrate that it is on track to achieve its sustainability goals and how the GSA is complying with

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements. He described how the periodic evaluation or amendment must address the eight corrective actions noted in the DWR's letter accepting the GSP prepared for the Atascadero Basin.

Member Fardanesh asked what the anticipated cost of the periodic evaluation may be and if there were grant opportunities. Mike Cornelius informed the Committee that he was not aware of any grant opportunities. He estimates the cost of the periodic evaluation at approximately \$100,000 - \$150,000, which is about half the cost he's seen for GSP amendments in other more complicated basins.

Member Funk was having technical difficulties with attending the meeting remotely. She emailed the questions below to staff who read them to the Committee:

- What is driving the uptick in agricultural usage?
- To what extent are new fields being added versus changes in crops usages versus 2025 being a drier year?
- What accounts for the groundwater level drop seen on page 41 in the Santa Margarita area when agriculture is the biggest usage and no new crops are observed in that area?
- Why is water from Lake Nacimiento not being used water even in a drier year, and would this usage help the basin on PFAS or wastewater treatment objectives?

Agenda Item 9.d: Future Meetings – The following date and time was set for the next meeting:

- March 25, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – approve annual report

Item 10 - Informational Items – Member Hamon informed the Committee about the Paso Robles Basin GSA efforts to fund groundwater sustainability efforts under the procedural requirements of Proposition 26.

Item 11 – Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Moreno adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Rob Rossi, Secretary

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: March 25, 2026

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-01 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 through 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 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. Following are key findings in the WY 2025 annual report:

- Water Year (WY) 2025 in California was marked by below average rainfall along the Central Coast. Current hydrologic trends suggest that state's annual hydrologic conditions are going to continue to be highly variable, oscillating between wet and dry years.
- Groundwater elevations observed in the Subbasin during WY 2025 are generally lower than the previous year, due to below-average rainfall conditions during the winter of 2024/2025 and a moderate uptick in groundwater production. Both positive and negative changes in groundwater elevations from year to year are observed in different parts of the Subbasin, as has been the pattern in the Subbasin for many years. Seasonal trends of slightly higher spring groundwater elevations compared with lower fall levels continued in each of the water years.
- Groundwater extractions for WY 2025 totaled 16,100 acre-feet (AF).

- Groundwater storage for WY 2025 experienced a net reduction of 9,400 AF.
- The Basin continues to be managed sustainably, as evidenced by historic groundwater levels in the Basin so no projects or management actions are required to achieve sustainability at this time.
- Atascadero Mutual Water Company is working on a treatment plant to remove PFAS from the drinking water it produces. The plant is expected to come online in late 2028.

On February 18, 2026, a public draft of the annual report for WY 2024 was made available on the Atascadero Basin communication portal at <https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>. As of March 18, only one comment was received and is shown below.

Mark Gabler

3/11/2026 9:54 PM ✕

Section 8.5.3 Water Quality. I'm glad to see some information provided on PFAS. PFAS is not just an AMWC issue. The results for PFAS testing across the basin should be collected and evaluated for impact on sustainability. Treatment may be affordable for large entities like AMWC, but small systems and private wells will face prohibitive costs. The science on PFAS is building, and while current emphasis is on long chain PFAS which can be removed with relatively inexpensive treatment, treatment for short and ultrashort chain PFAS is much more difficult. I recommend the basin working group put more focus on PFAS in 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Participant	MOA Cost Allocation	Participant Cost
Atascadero Mutual Water Co.	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
TOTAL	100%	\$50,742

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 2026-01 - Annual Report for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Atascadero Basin (available via weblink - <https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>)

RESOLUTION 2026-01

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, 2025

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, 2025, 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 18, 2026; 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, 2025, 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 25, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Heather Moreno, 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 25, 2026, at which time a quorum was present, and no motion to amend or rescind the above resolution was made.

Rob Rossi, Secretary

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: March 25, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.b, Periodic Evaluation Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive oral presentation from GEI Consultants updating the Committee on the status of the periodic evaluation of 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.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS: