

ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater
Sustainability Agency



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Templeton CSD Board Meeting Room
206 5th Street
Templeton, California 93465

Virtual Attendance:

<https://zoom.us/j/96326690981?pwd=TIbSIP9OrQN7MEGadqxTdFqrjOx0oi.1>

Meeting ID: 963 2669 0981

Passcode: 443732

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
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 – May 6, 2026
- 8. Old Business:
- 9. New Business:
 - a. Periodic Evaluation Preparation
 - b. Next meeting: October 21, 2026
- 10. Informational Items
- 11. Adjournment



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: September 2, 2026

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on May 6, 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, May 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order: Chairperson Moreno called the meeting to order at 3:58 p.m.

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

Item 3 – Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Moreno 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> Justin Black Jeff Briltz	<u>GEI Consultants</u> Mike Cornelius (via Zoom)
<u>Atascadero Mutual Water Company</u> John Neil	

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

Agenda Item 7.a: March 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes – The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 25, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made by Member Rossi to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2026, Executive Committee meeting. Member Hamon provided a second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes –Moreno, Rossi, Hamon, Fardanesh, Jones, Funk. Nays – none. Absent – none. Abstain -none. Motion carried.

Item 8 – Old Business: None

Item 9 – New Business

Agenda Item 9.a: Periodic Evaluation Contract Award – Staff member Neil introduced the item and turned it over to Mike Cornelius of GEI Consultants who provided an overview of the purpose of the Period Evaluation (PE) that is due January 31, 2027. He described why a PE is appropriate for the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) versus a GSP amendment, noting that there have been no significant or material changes in the sustainable management of the Atascadero Basin based on the water year 2025 annual report. He informed the Committee that the PE must address the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) comments on the GSP as Recommended Corrective Actions. He described how the work required for the PE could be leveraged for the preparation of the Annual Report for water year 2026 that is due April 1, 2027. He described the cost savings that would be achieved in preparation of the PE by not preparing technical memorandums as the work progresses. Rather, the consulting team will present chapters of the PE to the Executive Committee at three specific milestones to give the Committee and the public to comment on new information collected, updated basin information, Recommended Corrective Actions, and the public draft of the completed PE.

Member Hamon asked about the savings that might be realized in the preparation of the annual report. Mr. Cornelius estimates the savings at about \$15,000.

Member Jones asked whether the drilling of new wells would be required to improve the monitoring network in response to the DWR's comment on the GSP. Mr. Cornelius responded that the goal is to find existing wells that can be added to the monitoring network. He informed the Committee that grant funds may be available, but it is likely that the Atascadero Basin GSA would not be competitive due to the basin's very low priority.

Member Funk asked if the new information generated during the PE evaluation process would be made available to others noting the City of Atascadero's new waste discharge requirements and its efforts with upgrading its wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Cornelius said that it would.

Member Rossi informed the Committee that there are numerous wells in and around the Santa Margarita Ranch that may be candidates for inclusion in the monitoring network.

Mr. Cornelius informed the Committee that no groundwater modeling work is anticipated for the PE. Rather, the PE will rely on using a spreadsheet-based water balance.

Member Hamon asked how many wells are currently in the Atascadero Basin monitoring network. Mr. Cornelius responded that there are 22 in the GSP network and that San Luis Obispo County monitors approximately 100 in the basin.

Member Funk asked if the project schedule can realistically meet the January 31, 2027, deadline. Mr. Cornelius said the eight months built into the schedule should be sufficient.

A motion was made by Member Hamon to adopt Resolution 2026-02 authorizing the Atascadero Mutual Water Company to enter into an agreement with the consulting team of GEI Consultants and Confluence Engineering to prepare the 2027 Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Member Rossi provided a second. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Moreno, Hamon, Rossi, Jones, Funk, Fardanesh. Nays – none. Absent – none. Abstain – none. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 9.c: Future Meetings – The following dates and times was set for the next meetings:

- August 5, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – review progress on preparation of periodic evaluation
- October 21, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – review progress on preparation of periodic evaluation

Item 10 - Informational Items – none

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

Rob Rossi, Secretary



TO: Executive Committee

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

DATE: September 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.a, Status Update of the Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive status report from the consulting team of GEI Consultants and Confluence Engineering on the preparation of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) to provide a written assessment evaluating the effectiveness of their basin's GSP at least once every five years from the initial GSP submittal to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The 2027 Periodic Evaluation is an opportunity for GSAs to convey to the DWR, interested parties, and the public progress on GSP implementation.

Water Code § 10728.2 identifies the criteria that GSAs should consider when conducting their GSP Periodic Evaluation and § 356.4 of the GSP Regulations further details the components of a Periodic Evaluation. The Periodic Evaluation should:

- Provide the status of groundwater conditions and progress toward meeting interim milestones and measurable objectives
- Describe the advancement of projects and management actions over the evaluation cycle including the associated quantified cumulative benefits.
- Explain how those cumulative benefits are contributing to the basin achieving its sustainability goal and operating within its sustainable yield.
- Describe any unforeseen challenges encountered with the development or implementation of certain projects and management actions and the outcome of responding to those challenges.

- Explain trends seen in data collected for previously submitted Annual Reports.
- Include responses to the DWR's GSP approval letter of April 2025 (see Attachment A).

The first Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin GSP must be submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review in January 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT:

See Attachment C for the consulting team's fee proposal for preparation of the periodic evaluation. 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%	\$73,039
Atascadero City	1%	\$1,699
Paso Robles City	22%	\$37,369
SLOCO	16%	\$27,177
Small Systems	1%	\$1,699
TCSD	17%	\$28,876
TOTAL	100%	\$169,859

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. 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

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.