



SWIG Meeting #7



Welcome and Agenda

- Welcome -Roll Call
- Check in on meeting time and date
- Monterey County Well Ordinance Update- Changes to Well Permitting Process.
- Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Update
- Future Areas of Study
- Next Steps
- Adjourn



Meeting Time and Date



Meeting Dates and Times

- Fourth Monday
- 9:00 AM
- 2 hours

Change in Schedule for Participant

- M-- 10 to 12 or from 2 to 5
- W--anytime---
- Th- 8 to 11, but would prefer 3 to 5



Updates
Deep Aquifer Wells Working Group
(DAWWG)



Current Status of Deep Aquifer Well Ordinance

- Existing Ordinance expired May 21, 2020.
- Default is General Plan language which reads:

PS-3.5 of the 2010 Monterey County General Plan which provides

The Monterey County Health Department shall not allow construction of any new wells in known areas of saltwater intrusion as identified by Monterey County Water Resources Agency or other applicable water management agencies:

a. Until such time as a program has been approved and funded that will minimize or avoid expansion of salt water intrusion into useable groundwater supplies in that area; or

b. Unless approved by the applicable water resource agency.

This policy shall not apply to deepening or replacement of existing wells, or wells used in conjunction with a desalination project.

Formation and Purpose of Working Group and Forums

- **Purpose** of the Deep Aquifer Well Working Group (DAWWG) is to advise the County Administrative Officer (CAO) on issues associated with reinstating some form of the Ordinance that expired in May.
- **Process** of developing information on which to advise the CAO included analysis of existing and historical data to determine potential future impacts.
- **Forums** and surveys are designed to include stakeholder input into recommendations made to the CAO.

Impact of Well Permit Suspension



California Supreme Court – Some Well Permits Are Subject to CEQA

- On August 27, 2020, the California Supreme Court held that Stanislaus County could not categorically classify its issuance of groundwater well construction permits as ministerial decisions exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”).

The issue

The issue is whether some level of environmental review is necessary for issuance of well construction permits. The Board of Supervisors enacted an urgency ordinance resulting in a 90-day suspension of the processing of any well permit applications to ensure that the ruling in the *Protecting Our Water* case is understood, and necessary changes to the County’s well construction permit ordinance are considered.

Updated Status of Deep Aquifer Well Ordinance

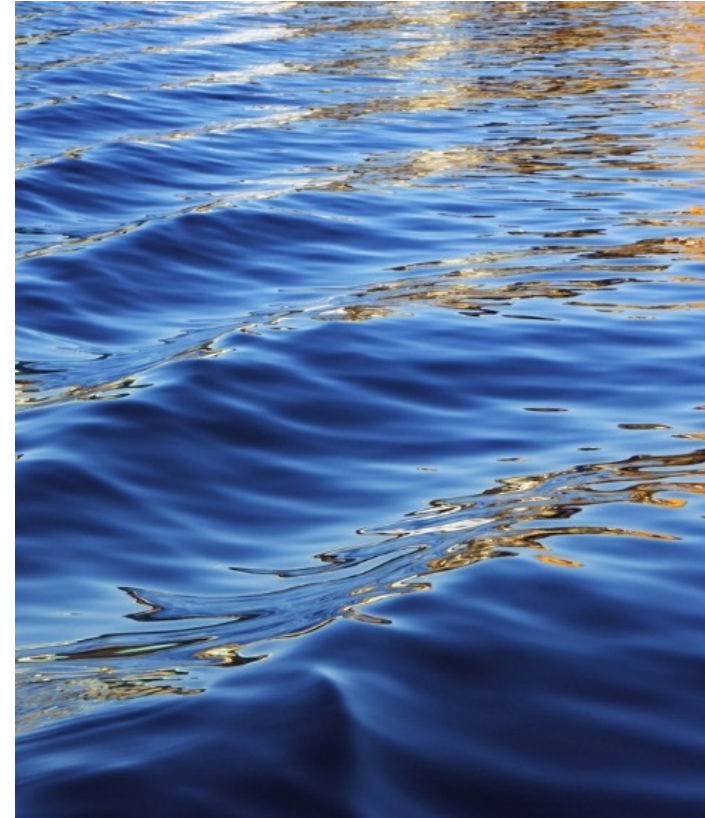
- Development of a Draft Ordinance to amend Chapter 15.08 of the Monterey County Code
- It is likely necessary that this Ordinance be evaluated and understood before the Deep Aquifer Well Ordinance can be processed.
 - Many more wells, including drinking water wells need this information as quickly as possible
 - Deep Aquifer Wells are will require some form of CEQA review -what level is yet to be determined.
- A replacement well permit into the Deep Aquifer can still be pursued but will require a CEQA review paid for by applicant – level of mitigation will depend on results of CEQA review.
- Once the full implication of CEQA requirements are understood on all wells the Deep Aquifer Well Ordinance process can be understood.
- Goal is to find the best path forward to comply with the law while getting permits approved.

Development of a Draft Ordinance to amend Chapter 15.08 of the Monterey County Code

- The purpose of this ordinance is to distinguish between ministerial well permits that will be issued by the Health Officer if an applicant meets certain standards, as opposed to well permits that do not meet certain standards that are discretionary and will be subject to CEQA.
- Board of Supervisors were advised of Ordinance at meeting on December 8.
- Urgency Ordinance for well permitting expires 12/14
 - Any issued well permit will require some form of CEQA to go forward.
 - Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau will have oversight.
- County Staff will continue to work on update considering future workshops
- Further delays may be expected as Supreme Court has remanded the decision back to Appeals Court for clarifications.



Prop 68 Implementation Grant





Where to Next – Areas of Study

Recent SWIG Activities

- **Formation Meetings**
- **TAC**
 - TAC recommendations for Deep Aquifer Study.
- **CSIP Discussions**
 - Overview of O&M costs
- **Monterey County Well Ordinance Update Deep Aquifer Well Working Group Public Process**
- **West Water – Water Markets**
- **Prop 68 – Implementation Grant**
- **Where next?**

Next Steps



Prop 68 SGMA
Implementation Grant
180/400-ft Aquifer
Subbasin



Background

- Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant
- Two Competitive Rounds (\$103 million total state-wide):
 - 1st Round: \$26 million for critically over-drafted (COD) basins only
 - 2nd Round: \$62 million for medium-high and COD basins +\$15 million for underrepresented communities (URCs)
- Range of grant funds: \$2 - \$5 million per basin
- Round 1 Proposals were due 1/8/2021; Round 2 in 2022
- 25% local cost share required, unless serving URCs

Grant Proposal:

Salinas Multi-benefit Groundwater Project

Implements projects from the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin. Coordinated effort with implementing partners.

Objective: Decrease groundwater use, reduce overdraft, increase groundwater elevations, slow seawater intrusion and protect drinking water supplies

Goal is to

1. increase in lieu groundwater recharge with increased use of surface and recycled water for agricultural irrigation, and
2. reduce evapotranspiration through removal of *Arundo donax*, an invasive species predominant in the Valley.

Salinas Multi-benefit Groundwater Project

Proposal Components

1. Grant Administration
2. CSIP Optimization: Increases CSIP use of recycled water and river water and decreases groundwater use. ↓ 1,600 AF/year.
 - ❖ CSIP Hydraulic Modeling
 - ❖ Develop web-based software for CSIP grower water orders
 - ❖ Install remaining remote monitoring units
 - ❖ Upgrades critical pipeline components for high volumetric flows and pressure regulation
3. M1W Winter Modifications: Upgrades Monterey One Water's chlorine scrubber system to avoid maintenance shutdowns and reduce groundwater extraction. ↓ 345 AF/year
4. Arundo eradication (500 acres): reduces evapotranspiration and increases groundwater recharge

Budget

	Requested Grant Amount	Local Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source	Total Cost
Component 1: Grant Administration	\$0	\$210,000	\$210,000
Component 2: CSIP Distribution System Optimization	\$3,025,200	\$946,100	\$3,971,300
Component 3: M1W Recycled Water Plant Winter Modifications: Scrubber Upgrade	\$1,329,600	\$462,500	\$1,792,100
Component 4: Reduced Evapotranspiration through Arundo Eradication	\$475,000	\$0	\$475,000
<i>Total</i>	\$4,829,800	\$1,618,600	\$6,448,400

Coordination and Letters of Support

- Implementing Partners

- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Monterey One Water
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

- Underrepresented Communities

- Castroville Community Service District
- City of Salinas

- Other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

- Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Monterey County

- Beneficial Users

Nine letters from beneficial users representing environmental, agricultura;, and landowners

DWR's Schedule:

March 2021: Publish draft funding list

May 2021: Issue final awards

Future Opportunities

- **Governor's Budget** - \$60M included in the remaining FY 20 and 21 budget – this is General Fund money and we are investigating possible roll out of the funds with regards to projects
- **Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program** - \$100 million – concept proposals summer 2021.
 - Groundwater recharge to prevent or reduce contamination of municipal or domestic wells
 - Extraction wells combined with treatment systems
 - Centralized groundwater treatment systems
 - Groundwater injection