

Salinas Valley Groundwater Integrated Implementation Strategy (IIS)

Section 1. Introduction to the IIS

DRAFT

Prepared by:

Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

and

Montgomery & Associates

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	ii
1 INTRODUCTION TO THE INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (IIS).....	1-4
1.1 Introduction to SGMA in the Salinas Valley and Purpose of IIS.....	1-4
1.2 Salinas Valley Background.....	1-7
1.3 Current Groundwater Challenges	1-8
1.4 Anticipated Groundwater Level Decline	1-9
1.5 Anticipated Future Seawater Intrusion	1-9
1.6 Water Management Agencies and Authorities.....	1-10
1.6.1 SVBGSA.....	1-10
1.6.2 Partner GSAs within the Salinas Valley	1-12
1.6.3 Other Water Management Agencies.....	1-13
1.6.4 Regulatory Agencies and Their Roles.....	1-14
1.6.5 Relationship to SGMA Implementation	1-15

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1. SVBGSA Subbasins.....	1-6
Figure 1-4. Jurisdictional (left) and Management (right) Areas in the Northern Part of the Salinas Valley	1-16
Figure 1-5. Jurisdictional (left) and Management (right) Area in the Southern Part of the Salinas Valley.	1-17
Figure 1-6. Other Groundwater Management Agencies	1-18

LIST OF TABLES

No table of figures entries found. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFacre-foot or acre-feet
AF/yr.acre-feet per year
ASCMAArroyo Seco Cone Management Area
ASGSAArroyo Seco GSA
BasinSalinas Valley Groundwater Basin
Basin PlanWater Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
CCGC.....Central Coast Groundwater Coalition
CCRWQCB....Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CCWC.....Clark Colony Water Company
COCconstituents of concern
CSD.....Community Services District
CSIPCastroville Seawater Intrusion Project
DACs.....Disadvantage Communities
DDWDivision of Drinking Water
DWRCalifornia Department of Water Resources
EDFEnvironmental Defense Fund
EIREnvironmental Impact Report
EPA.....Environmental Protection Agency
ET.....evapotranspiration
King City.....City of King
GDEgroundwater-dependent ecosystem
GEMSMonterey County Groundwater Extraction Management System
gpmgallons per minute
GSA.....Groundwater Sustainability Agency/Agencies
GSP or Plan....Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HCMhydrogeologic conceptual model
IIS.....Integrated Implementation Strategy
ISWinterconnected surface water
LAFCOLocal Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County
MCLsMaximum Contaminant Levels
MBGWFM.....Monterey Subbasin Groundwater Flow Model
MCWDGSA...Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MCWRA.....Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Monterey County GSA ...County of Monterey Groundwater Sustainability Agency
MOUMemorandum of Understanding
MPWMD.....Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
NCCAG.....Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater
PV Water.....Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
RMSRepresentative Monitoring Sites

SAGBI.....Soil Agricultural Groundwater Banking Index
SGMASustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMCSustainable Management Criteria
SMCLsSecondary Maximum Contaminant Levels
SMP.....Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program
SRDF.....Salinas River Diversion Facility
SVA.....Salinas Valley Aquitard
SVBGSA.....Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
SVIHM.....Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model
SWIM.....Seawater Intrusion Model
SWRCB.....State Water Resources Control Board
URCs.....Underrepresented Communities
USGSU.S. Geological Survey
ValleySVBGSA Salinas Valley Subbasins
WYwater year

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (IIS)

1.1 Introduction to SGMA in the Salinas Valley and Purpose of IIS

The Salinas Valley has a long history of groundwater use and management, which includes the following significant milestones:

- Groundwater extraction increased in the early 1900s with agricultural expansion and new well technology.
- Seawater intrusion was first reported in 1946.
- The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), formerly known as Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, completed the Nacimiento Reservoir in 1957 and the San Antonio Reservoir in 1967, which together regulate Salinas River flow to control flooding and recharge the groundwater.
- In 1998, the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) was established to deliver recycled water, groundwater, and starting in 2010, Salinas River water to the seawater-intruded area to reduce groundwater extraction.
- In 2010, MCWRA completed the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP), contributing surface water to the CSIP to increase the in-lieu water supply in the seawater-intruded area and increased groundwater recharge throughout the Salinas Valley, among other benefits.
- MCWRA has monitored seawater intrusion and groundwater elevations since 1947 and groundwater extraction since 1993 throughout most of the Salinas Valley.

While these efforts have helped to recharge groundwater and slow seawater intrusion, the Salinas Valley has still experienced groundwater elevation declines and further intrusion.

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires groundwater basins and subbasins that are designated as high or medium priority to be managed sustainably by 2040 or 2042, respectively. In general, satisfying the requirements of SGMA requires 4 activities:

1. Forming 1 or more Groundwater Sustainability Agency(s) (GSA) in the basin
2. Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP, or Plan)
3. Implementing the GSP and managing to measurable, quantifiable objectives
4. Providing regular reports to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

In 2017, local GSA-eligible entities jointly developed the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) to develop GSPs and manage groundwater in the Salinas Valley. The SVBGSA represents diverse interests including agriculture, cities, public utilities, disadvantaged communities, county governance, and the environment. It is partially or entirely responsible for developing GSPs across much of the Salinas Valley.

The Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin includes 9 subbasins, 6 of which fall partially or entirely within the jurisdiction of the SVBGSA and are referred to as the Salinas Valley or Valley (Figure 1-1):

- 180-400-Foot Aquifer (180/400) Subbasin (3-004.01)
- Eastside Aquifer (Eastside) Subbasin (3-004.02)
- Forebay Aquifer (Forebay) Subbasin (3-004.04)
- Upper Valley Aquifer (Upper Valley) Subbasin (3-004.05)
- Langley Area (Langley) Subbasin (3-004.09)
- Monterey Subbasin (3-004.10)

These 6 subbasins under SVBGSA authority are hydraulically connected. Of the remaining 3 subbasins, the Seaside Subbasin is adjudicated and not subject to SGMA. The Paso Robles and Atascadero Subbasins are managed by other agencies, are upstream of the Salinas River confluence with flows from the Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs, and provide limited recharge through surface water or subsurface inflow into the 6 subbasins of the Salinas Valley.

DWR designated the 180/400 Subbasin as critically overdrafted and the other 5 SVBGSA subbasins as either high or medium priority basins. The SVBGSA co-manages the 180/400 Subbasin with the Marina Coast Water District GSA (MCWDGSA) and Monterey County GSA (MCGSA), the Monterey Subbasin with MCWDGSA, and the Forebay Subbasin with the Arroyo Seco GSA (ASGSA). SVBGSA and partner GSAs completed the GSP for the 180/400 Subbasin in 2020 and for the other 5 subbasins in 2022.

Although SGMA requires the development of a standalone GSP for each subbasin, groundwater management is a Valley-wide challenge. Projects and management actions implemented in a subbasin have the potential to affect other subbasins in the Salinas Valley. Recognizing the interdependence among the subbasins, the SVBGSA has developed this Integrated Implementation Strategy (IIS) to describe the Salinas Valley as a whole, highlight how the GSPs align, and provide a basis for the SVBGSA to implement the subbasin GSPs in coordination with partner GSAs an integrated manner. While SVBGSA is responsible for reaching sustainability in each subbasin independently, implementation of projects and management actions must acknowledge and account for how the subbasins are hydraulically connected.

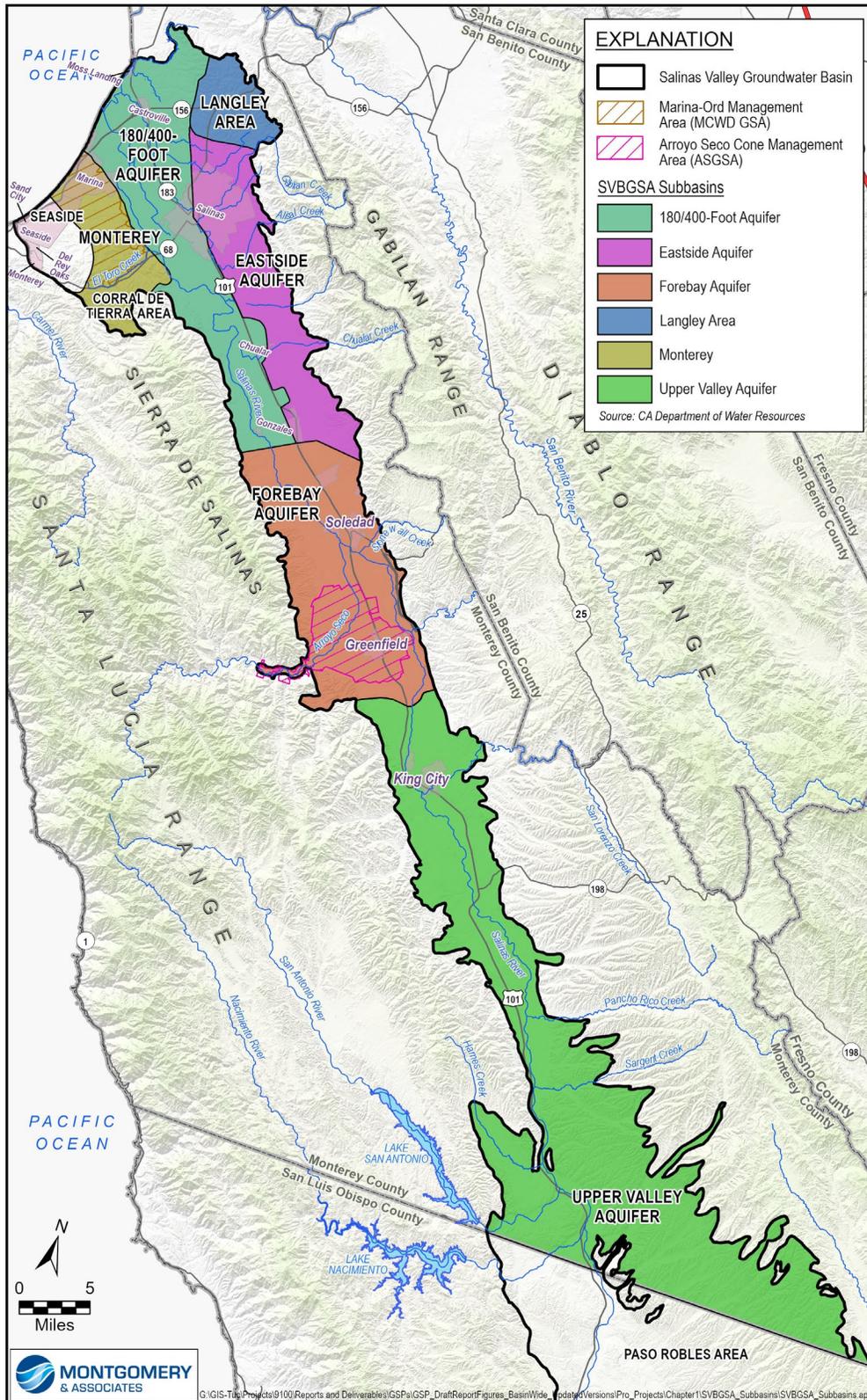


Figure 1-1. SVBGSA Subbasins

SVBGSA is developing the IIS to provide a Valley-wide basis for implementing the subbasin GSPs in an integrated manner in coordination with partner GSAs. Supporting this purpose, Part I of the IIS:

- Describes how the Salinas Valley’s groundwater system functions holistically
- Provides an integrated understanding of Salinas Valley current groundwater conditions and SGMA sustainability goals
- Highlights how the subbasin GSPs align

Part I also introduces SVBGSA, partner GSAs in the Salinas Valley, and other agencies related to groundwater management and implementation of the GSPs. It outlines the Valley-wide context of the GSPs, including the Salinas Valley’s land use, water use, interested parties, and how the existing regulatory environment relates to GSP implementation. The IIS describes the Valley-wide geology and hydrogeology. Finally, by incorporating the SGMA SMC and current conditions from each subbasin, Part 1 of the IIS shows the state of groundwater conditions in the entire Salinas Valley, the conditions for which it is aiming, and how the GSPs align.

SVBGSA intends to build on these initial IIS sections with a Valley-wide water budget and summary of projects and management actions for reaching Valley-wide groundwater sustainability. This will combine initial feasibility efforts with consideration for how projects and management actions impact multiple subbasins and how multiple projects and management actions fit together.

1.2 Salinas Valley Background

While the Salinas Valley has a long history of groundwater management, additional actions are needed to eliminate overdraft in several subbasins, address seawater intrusion, and collectively use supplemental sources of supply. The goal of management for SGMA is to ensure groundwater resources are sustainable for long-term community, economic, and environmental benefits, and to avoid undesirable effects like lasting groundwater level declines, loss of groundwater storage, and groundwater quality degradation, including seawater intrusion.

Groundwater extraction has been the primary source of water for the Salinas Valley for over 150 years. It makes up over 95% of water used within the Salinas Valley, providing water for agricultural, domestic, and other beneficial uses. Agriculture in Salinas Valley relies heavily on groundwater, attributing to about 90% of the extractions. Agriculture provides 1 in 5 jobs in Monterey County and is important nationally because it exports a diverse selection of produce.

The aquifers by the coast are directly connected to the Pacific Ocean, providing a pathway for seawater intrusion. Before groundwater pumping, groundwater levels in the inland aquifers were higher than sea level. Higher inland groundwater levels maintained pressure and groundwater

flow toward the ocean, keeping salty water at bay. As pumping caused inland groundwater levels to decline below sea level, it reduced the pressure that freshwater in the aquifers exerted toward the ocean and the direction of groundwater flow shifted toward the land. Seawater has intruded into the coastal 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers, causing well owners to drill deeper into the Deep Aquifers. Although seawater intrusion has not been observed in the Deep Aquifers to date, they are at risk. Over many decades, MCWRA has studied seawater intrusion and implemented several projects to halt the seawater intrusion.

Groundwater elevation contour maps prepared in the mid-1990s document a landward groundwater gradient in the 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers from the coast toward the City of Salinas and the Gabilan Mountain Range. A prominent and persistent groundwater characteristic in the Eastside Subbasin is the large groundwater depression referred to as the Eastside trough. Groundwater levels in portions of the shallow and deeper zones of the aquifer in the Eastside Subbasin remain below sea level.

Since 1998, MWCRA and Monterey One Water (MIW), formerly the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, have cooperated to implement Monterey County Water Recycling Projects. The Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant (SVRP) provides advanced treatment of municipal wastewater and delivers it to CSIP to augment groundwater supplies for agricultural irrigation on about 12,000 acres in the seawater intruded area near Castroville. In 2010, MCWRA began to operate the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) to add surface water to the CSIP water supply. This was done as part of the Salinas Valley Water Project, which also reoperated the reservoirs to release water during the summers when it's needed for irrigation.

While investments in supplemental supply and recharge projects have slowed the rate of seawater intrusion, they have not fully addressed the problem. Groundwater elevations remain below sea level and have continued to decline. Following the 2014-2016 drought, MCWRA identified new islands of seawater intrusion in the 400-Foot Aquifer where salty water intruded downward from the 180-Foot Aquifer, prompting new investigations for actions to slow or halt the advancement of seawater intrusion.

1.3 Current Groundwater Challenges

Local groundwater is the primary water source for the Salinas Valley's communities, farms, and environment — but it is being used faster than being replenished. In parts of the valley, groundwater levels are declining, seawater is pushing further inland, and more wells are at risk of failure. In the face of these warning signs, management efforts have historically been fragmented, infrastructure is aging, and opportunities to capture and store water are limited. Regulatory compliance, climate extremes, data uncertainty, and the high cost of new supply projects add to the challenge and urgency.

SVBGSA is working to protect and restore the region’s groundwater by balancing use with recharge, studying supplemental supply projects, improving coordination, and guiding local solutions through inclusive, science-based planning.

1.4 Anticipated Groundwater Level Decline

Groundwater flow models provide tools to estimate future groundwater levels under certain conditions. The County of Monterey funded the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a coupled groundwater-surface water model called the Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM). It covers most of the Salinas Valley, from the San Luis Obispo County line to the coast. The USGS published the SVIHM in April 2025, and SVBGSA and MCWDGSA updated it to account for more recent data and groundwater management needs. The SVIHM was calibrated to historical data and used to develop the Salinas Valley Operational Model (SVOM), a predictive version that incorporates reservoir operation rules.

The SVOM enables estimation of future groundwater levels with and without new projects or management actions. It begins after at the end of the historical model, WY 2023, and is run through WY 2070. To compare various options for new projects and management actions, a Baseline Scenario is run to estimate future groundwater conditions without new projects or management actions. It assumes current infrastructure is maintained, land use remains the same including crops grown, and urban demand grows at their projected rates.

[FIGURES AND TEXT SUMMARIZING ANTICIPATED CONDITIONS TO BE ADDED]

1.5 Anticipated Future Seawater Intrusion

SVBGSA and the County of Monterey supported the development of the Salinas Valley Seawater Intrusion Model (SWIM) as a tool to assist in designing and assessing projects and management actions (PMAs) that address seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley (Montgomery & Associates, 2023a, 2024a, 2025). The SWIM is a groundwater flow model that includes chloride transport and accounts for the differing densities of freshwater, seawater, and brackish water to simulate seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley. It covers multiple subbasins, including portions of the 180/400 Subbasin and Eastside Subbasin, and the entirety of the Monterey, Langley, and Seaside Subbasins. It is run together with the SVIHM or SVOM.

The predictive version of the SWIM enables estimation of future groundwater conditions with and without projects or management actions. It simulates potential seawater intrusion starting from the end of the historical model, WY 2023, through WY 2070. Projected impacts are typically reviewed by comparing predictive simulation results of various projects and management actions to a Baseline Scenario.

The Baseline Scenario includes current infrastructure and operational rules. It does not include climate change assumptions, as that introduces uncertainty; however, SVBGSA plans to evaluate climate scenarios and compare the results in 2026. The Baseline Scenario follows similar assumptions as the SVOM.

[FIGURES AND TEXT SUMMARIZING ANTICIPATED CONDITIONS TO BE ADDED]

1.6 Water Management Agencies and Authorities

Groundwater management in the Salinas Valley involves a coordinated network of local, regional, and state agencies, each with defined roles and authorities. Under SGMA, responsibility for achieving groundwater sustainability rests primarily with locally formed GSAs. These GSAs work alongside long-standing water management agencies, land use authorities, and regulatory bodies that oversee water quality, well permitting, surface water operations, and public health.

Because the Salinas Valley groundwater system is hydraulically connected across subbasin boundaries, effective implementation of the GSPs requires ongoing coordination among these entities. This section describes the roles and responsibilities of the primary groundwater management agencies and authorities relevant to implementation of the IIS.

1.6.1 SVBGSA

The SVBGSA is a Joint Powers Authority established in 2017 by local agencies under California Water Code § 10721 with water or land use authority that are independently eligible to serve as GSAs. Its members include the County of Monterey, Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), City of Salinas, City of Soledad, City of Gonzales, City of King (King City), the Castroville Community Services District (CSD), and Monterey One Water (formerly the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency). The SVBGSA was formed in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code §10723 *et seq.*, which lists its specific authorities for GSA formation and groundwater management.

The SVBGSA is governed and administered by an 11-member Board of Directors, representing public and private groundwater interests throughout the Salinas Valley (see Box 1). The Board of Directors is supported by a robust set of committees that prepare and vet policies, programs, plans, and projects for the SVBGSA and provide multiple avenues for stakeholder engagement.

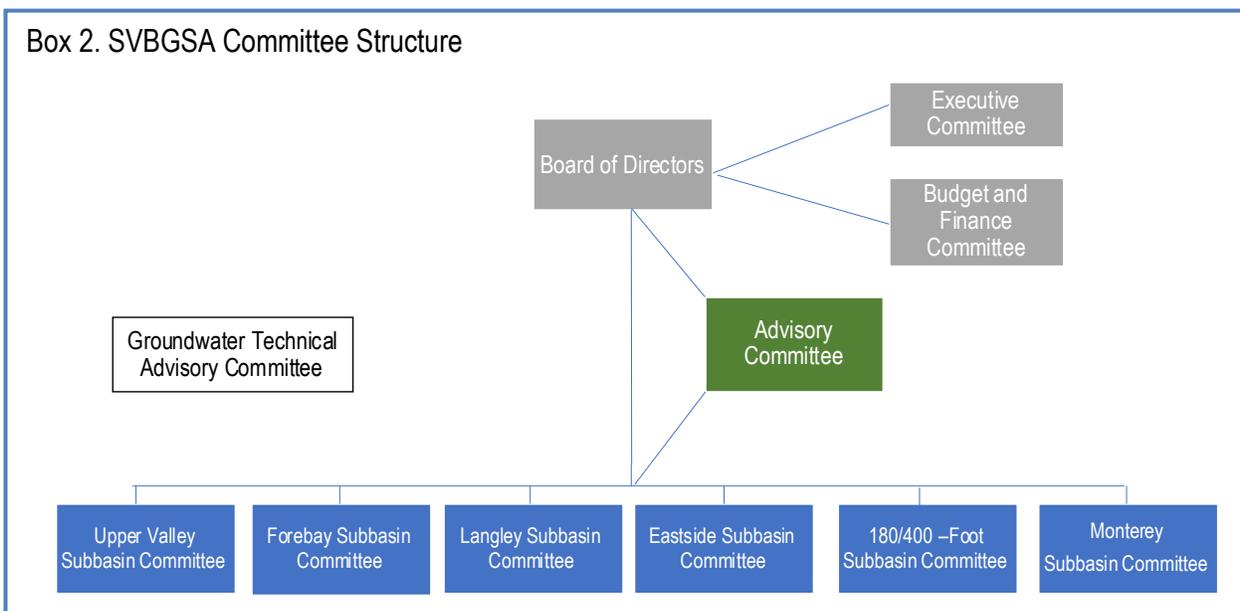
These committees are designed to ensure participation by constituencies with a wide variety of interests (Box 2). The SVBGSA's activities, staff, and consultants are managed by General Manager Piret Harmon.

Upon establishing itself as a GSA, the SVBGSA retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* as well as the powers held in common by the

members. GSAs have and may use the powers in this Section to provide the maximum degree of local control and flexibility consistent with its sustainability goals. SVBGSA is both a management agency and a regulatory agency responsible for complying with SGMA by developing adequate GSPs and reaching sustainability across 6 sustainability indicators, as described in the GSPs. To do so, it has the authority to undertake a variety of actions, including:

- Adopting rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of groundwater sustainability or related to GSP development and implementation
- Conducting investigations related to groundwater management
- Requiring registration of groundwater extraction facilities
- Regulating groundwater extractions or undertaking other regulatory actions related to groundwater management
- Taking revenue raising actions related to groundwater management or SVBGSA activities, such as passing regulatory fees and extraction fees
- Implementing projects and management actions
- Submitting to the electorate or property owners (as required by law) decisions to impose fees or taxes

Where SVBGSA does not have authority, such as land use, it will work with the responsible agencies.



1.6.2 Partner GSAs within the Salinas Valley

SGMA responsibilities in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin are shared among multiple GSAs that manage distinct portions of the basin. These agencies coordinate through formal agreements to ensure consistent planning assumptions, aligned sustainability criteria, and integrated implementation of projects and management actions. The jurisdiction and area over which each has authority are shown on Figure 1-3 for SVBGSA, MCWDGSA, and MCGSA in the northern part of the Salinas Valley. Figure 1-4 shows the southern part of the Salinas Valley, where SVBGSA and ASGSA have jurisdiction and the areas they each manage. Additionally, these 2 figures show management areas that are discussed in Section 1.3.2.

Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MCWDGSA)

MCWDGSA is a single-agency GSA formed by the Marina Coast Water District. MCWDGSA manages groundwater within the District's service area in the Monterey Subbasin and portions of the 180/400 Subbasin, excluding federally owned lands not subject to SGMA.

MCWDGSA and SVBGSA operate under cooperation and framework agreements that define management areas, responsibilities for GSP preparation and implementation, data sharing, and coordination protocols. These agreements support development and implementation of a single GSP for the Monterey Subbasin and coordinated management of the 180/400-Foot Subbasin. Ongoing coordination occurs through joint technical and policy-level committees that address monitoring, modeling, and implementation issues.

Monterey County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MCGSA)

The Monterey County Groundwater Sustainability Agency is governed by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and serves as the GSA for County-owned lands within the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin that are not otherwise covered by another GSA.

SVBGSA and the County GSA executed a Cooperation Agreement in January 2020 to coordinate SGMA compliance in the 180/400 Subbasin. The Agreement provides for preparation, adoption, and implementation of a single GSP for the subbasin, while each agency retains its independent SGMA authorities within its jurisdiction.

Under the Agreement, SVBGSA prepares the subbasin-wide GSP and supporting technical analyses, and the County GSA adopts and implements the applicable GSP provisions within County GSA lands. Coordination occurs through a GSA Workgroup that provides a forum for addressing subbasin-wide technical, policy, and implementation matters.

Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ASGSA)

The Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency manages groundwater in the Arroyo Seco Cone area of the Forebay Subbasin. ASGSA and SVBGSA jointly prepared the Forebay

Subbasin GSP and operate under an implementation agreement that establishes the Arroyo Seco Cone Management Area. ASGSA is responsible for implementing the GSP within this management area, while SVBGSA implements the GSP in the remainder of the Forebay Subbasin. Staff-level coordination occurs regularly to address monitoring, projects, and management actions affecting shared groundwater conditions.

1.6.3 Other Water Management Agencies

Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA)

MCWRA plays a central role in water management throughout the Salinas Valley. MCWRA owns and operates Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio, which regulate Salinas River flows for flood control, groundwater recharge, and water supply benefits. MCWRA also owns and operates the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project and the Salinas River Diversion Facility.

MCWRA's responsibilities relevant to groundwater sustainability include:

- Operation of surface water and reservoir infrastructure that influences recharge
- Long-term monitoring of groundwater levels, groundwater extractions, and seawater intrusion
- Implementation of regional water supply and recharge projects
- Technical review of higher capacity well permits issued by Monterey County

Although MCWRA is not a GSA for most of the Salinas Valley, it is a member agency of SVBGSA and provides technical, operational, and monitoring support that is foundational to GSP implementation and IIS development.

Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau (EHB)

EHB is the primary well permitting authority for unincorporated areas of Monterey County. EHB reviews and issues permits for new wells, well modifications, and well destruction, coordinating with MCWRA, GSAs, and land use agencies as appropriate.

EHB's role is critical for:

- Protecting groundwater quality and public health
- Ensuring proper construction, modification, and abandonment of wells
- Coordinating technical review of wells with the potential to affect groundwater sustainability

GSAs coordinate with EHB to help ensure that well permitting decisions are consistent with

adopted GSPs and do not undermine progress toward achieving groundwater sustainability.

1.6.4 Regulatory Agencies and Their Roles

Groundwater sustainability in the Salinas Valley is influenced not only by GSAs and water management agencies, but also by state regulatory agencies and local land use authorities whose decisions directly affect groundwater demand, recharge opportunities, and water quality. While SGMA assigns GSAs responsibility for achieving sustainable groundwater management, successful implementation depends on ongoing coordination with these entities.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

The California Department of Water Resources is responsible for statewide oversight and implementation of SGMA. DWR does not manage groundwater locally, but it plays a critical role in providing guidance, technical support, and regulatory review.

DWR's responsibilities include:

- Evaluating GSPs, GSP amendments, annual reports, and five-year periodic evaluations for adequacy and compliance with SGMA
- Developing and maintaining SGMA regulations, best management practices, and technical guidance
- Providing technical tools, datasets, and modeling resources to support groundwater management
- Administering grant programs that support GSP development and implementation

DWR serves as the primary state partner to GSAs, including SVBGSA and partner GSAs in the Salinas Valley, and provides the framework within which local agencies plan, implement, and demonstrate progress toward sustainability.

State and Regional Water Quality Regulatory Agencies

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board are responsible for protecting groundwater and surface water quality under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

Key responsibilities include:

- Regulation of drinking water quality through the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water
- Development and enforcement of the Central Coast Basin Plan
- Regulation of agricultural discharges and other sources of groundwater contamination

- Oversight of monitoring and reporting programs related to groundwater quality

GSAs do not replace these regulatory authorities. Under SGMA, GSAs are responsible for avoiding undesirable results related to groundwater quality where degradation is caused by groundwater management actions. Coordination among GSAs, water quality regulators, and local health agencies is therefore essential to ensure consistent data interpretation, avoid duplication of effort, and protect the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water.

Land Use Agencies

Land use decisions play a significant role in shaping groundwater demand, recharge potential, and water quality risk over time. While GSAs do not have land use authority, implementation of SGMA is closely linked to decisions made by local land use agencies.

Land use authority in the Salinas Valley resides with the County of Monterey and the Cities of Salinas, Marina, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and King City, each of which adopts and implements general plans, zoning ordinances, and development regulations within its jurisdiction.

Coordination between GSAs and land use agencies is important to:

- Align long-term land use planning with groundwater sustainability goals
- Identify and manage land use changes that may increase groundwater demand or affect recharge
- Reduce risks to groundwater quality associated with development, septic systems, and hazardous materials
- Support land use strategies that enhance recharge or reduce demand, where appropriate

1.6.5 Relationship to SGMA Implementation

GSAs do not replace or duplicate the regulatory authority of existing agencies. Under SGMA, GSAs are responsible for avoiding undesirable results related to groundwater quality where degradation is caused by groundwater management. Coordination among GSAs, local water management agencies, regulatory agencies, land use agencies, and local health departments is essential to data sharing, identification of emerging risks, and protection of the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water.

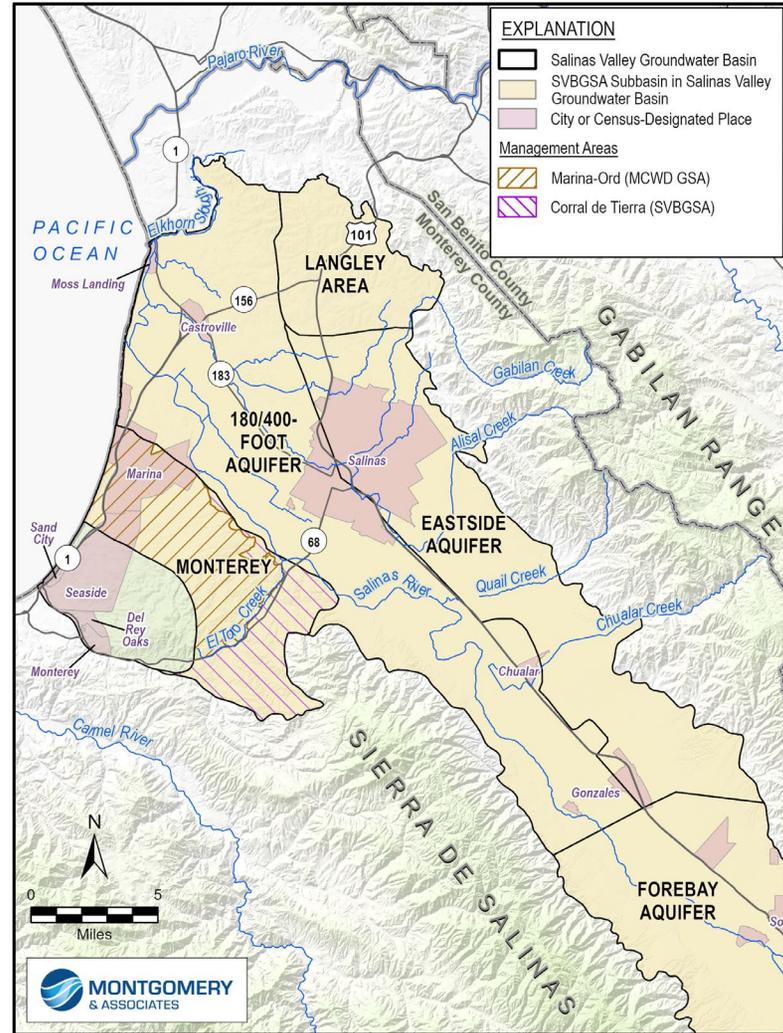
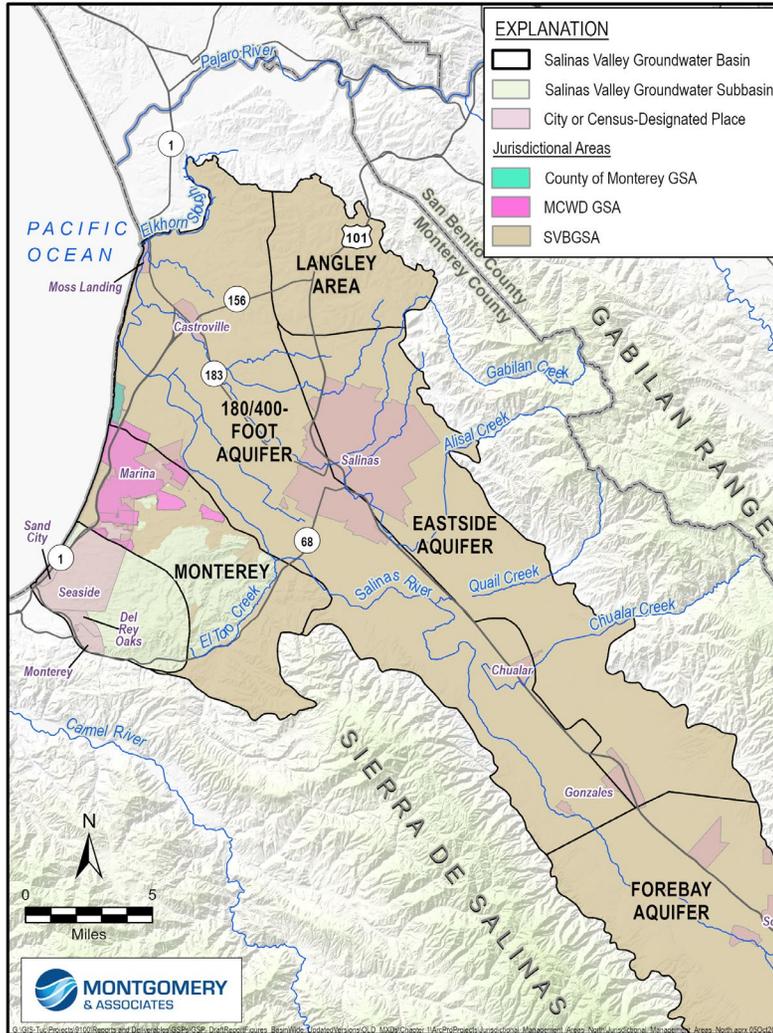


Figure 1-2. Jurisdictional (left) and Management (right) Areas in the Northern Part of the Salinas Valley

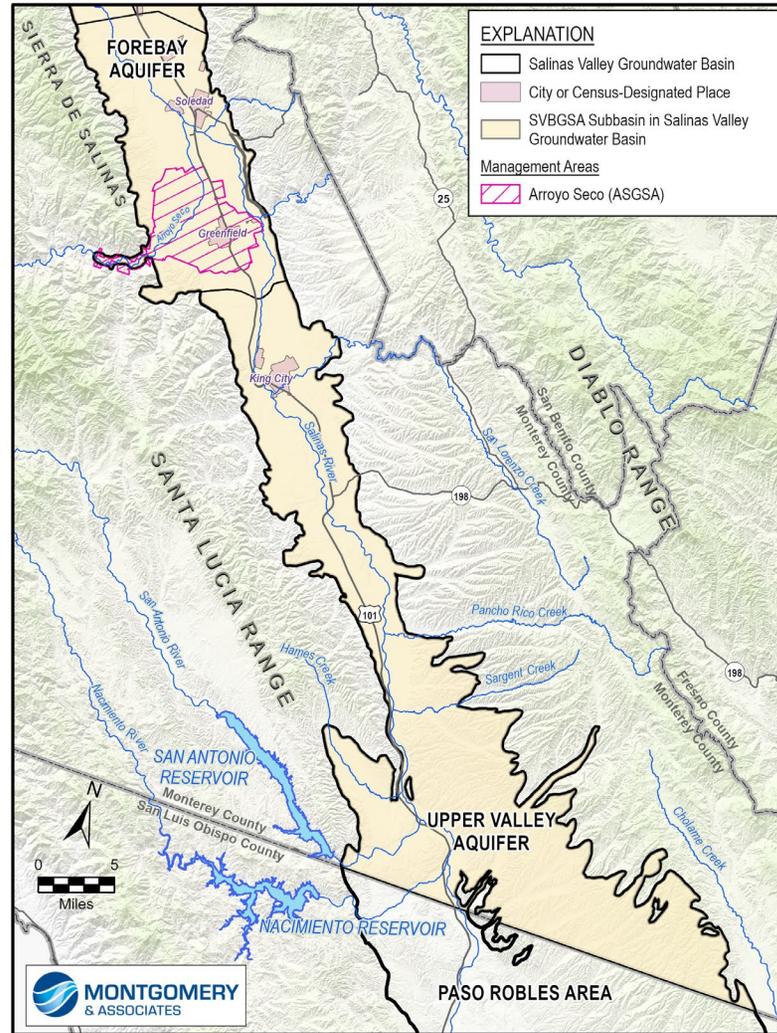
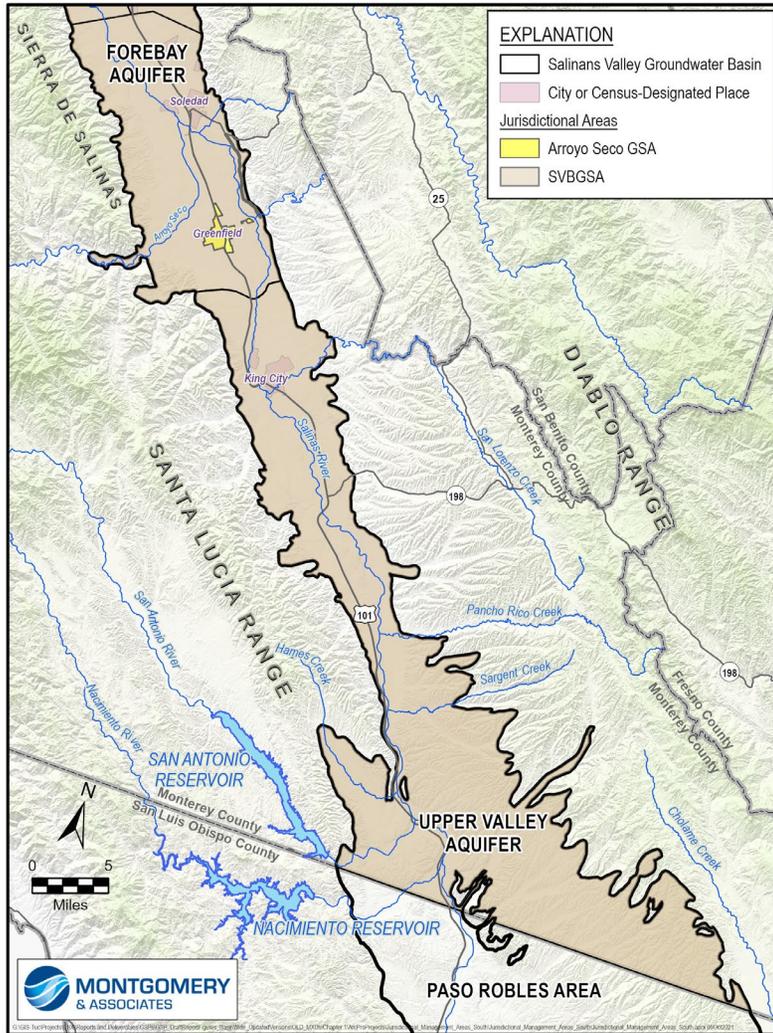


Figure 1-3. Jurisdictional (left) and Management (right) Area in the Southern Part of the Salinas Valley

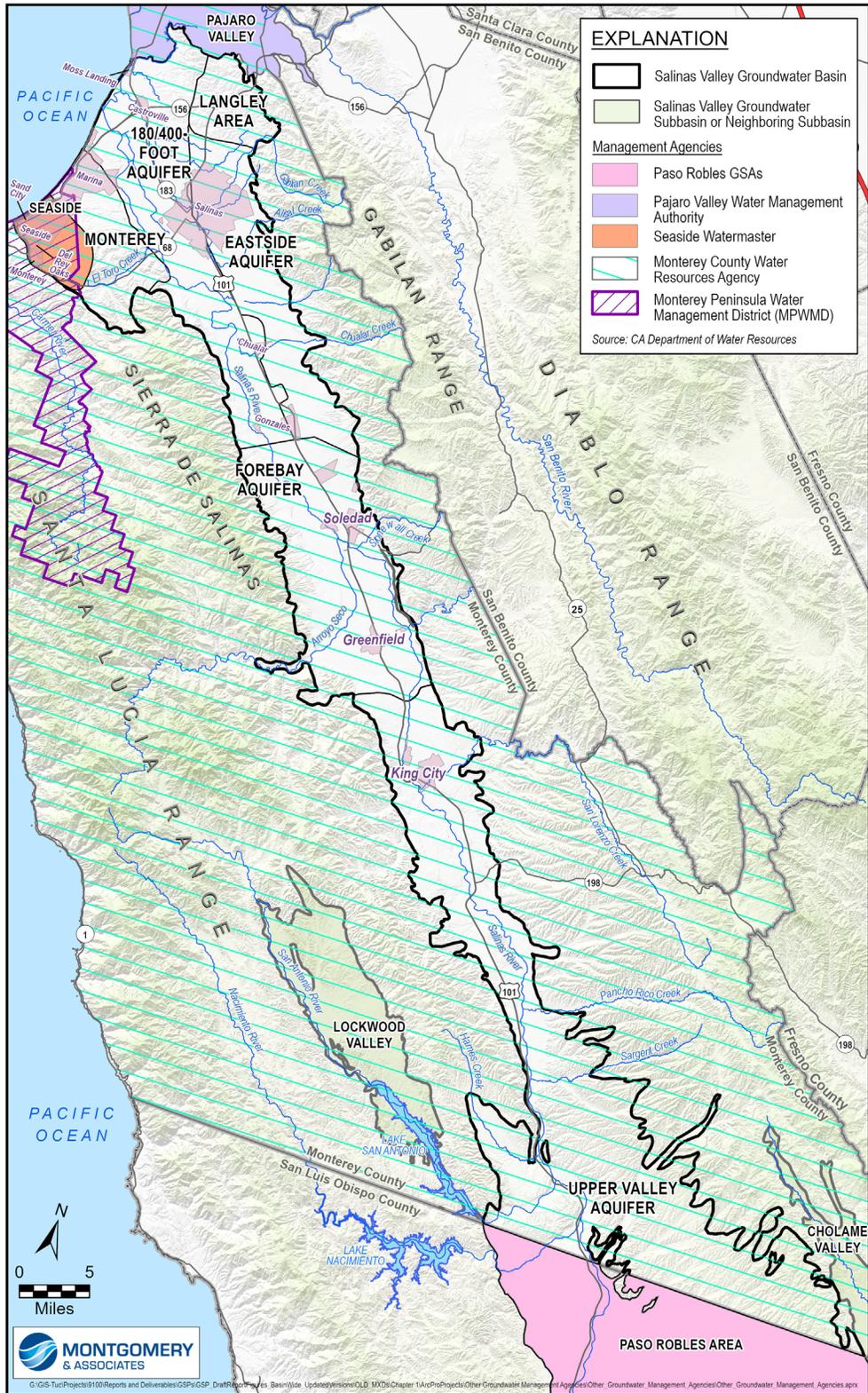


Figure 1-4. Other Groundwater Management Agencies

