

**Before the Board of Directors of the
Salinas Valley Basin Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency**

Resolution No. 2023 - 04

Establishing Arroyo Seco River
Watershed Protection Policy)

WHEREAS:

1. The Arroyo Seco Groundwater Basin, as defined in the State of California's Bulletin 52 and managed as the Arroyo Seco Cone Management Area ("ASCMA"), is historically and currently managed as a Sustainable Groundwater Basin in the Salinas Valley Forebay Subbasin;
2. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) and the Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ASGSA) are responsible for managing the Forebay Subbasin as set forth in the ASGSA/SVBGSA Implementation Agreement and as outlined in Section 1.2.4.3 of the Forebay Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP");
3. As required by the State of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"), the ASGSA has adopted the Forebay Subbasin GSP including the ASCMA;
4. The Forebay Subbasin GSP describes sustainable management criteria, and sets forth a menu of management actions that can be implemented, if needed, to maintain sustainability, by 2042 as required by SGMA, along with required GSP annual reports and updates, constituting the "sustainability program" for the Forebay Subbasin;
5. The ASCMA and the Forebay Subbasin receive significant direct recharge from the Arroyo Seco River as described in the Forebay Subbasin GSP in Sections 4.4.4, 4.5, 6.3.1, 6.4.2, 6.6.1 and 6.7.2 providing a sustainable source of water supply and water quality benefits from the unregulated flow of the Arroyo Seco River. Recharge from the Arroyo Seco River directly contributes to create a basin of high-quality groundwater forming the ASCMA;
6. The Arroyo Seco River provides the ASCMA and much of the Salinas Valley groundwater basin significant environmental benefits to maintaining the Arroyo Seco River in a natural (unregulated) state. The Arroyo Seco River is recognized as a Class 1 Recovery stream for threatened South-Central Coast Steelhead. It is the largest unregulated tributary to the Salinas River and as a result, it has the greatest potential for sustaining steelhead populations in the Salinas River watershed;
7. Historic and current management and use of the waters of the Arroyo Seco River Watershed including surface water and groundwater have resulted in a Sustainable Arroyo Seco Cone Management Area in the Forebay Subbasin as detailed in Section 6.3.4 and 6.6.4 of the Forebay Subbasin GSP;
8. One of the key objectives of this policy is to support the unregulated flow of the Arroyo Seco River so that opportunities for steelhead recovery will not be adversely impacted or diminished;
9. As required by SGMA, the ASGSA has adopted the Forebay Subbasin GSP including the Management Action to adopt and implement an Arroyo Seco River Watershed

- Protection Policy as described in Section 9.4.4 of the Forebay Subbasin GSP; and
10. The goal of this policy is to ensure that future actions within the Arroyo Seco River Watershed will not adversely impact, change, or threaten the Sustainability of the Forebay Subbasin or the ASCMA.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the SVBGSA, as follows:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The Arroyo Seco River Watershed Protection Policy is established as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto.
3. The General Manager and Agency Counsel are authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 29th day of June , 2023, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES: Alejo, Brennan, Chapin, Cremers, Gil, Granillo, McIntyre, Pereira, Rocha, Stefani and Chair Bramers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

I, Debra McNay, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Directors duly made and entered in the minutes for the meeting of June 29, 2023.

Dated: 6/29/2023

Debra McNay, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the Salinas
Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency,
County of Monterey, State of California

Debra McNay

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EXHIBIT A

ARROYO SECO RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION POLICY

The Arroyo Seco River Watershed means any natural or artificial watercourse, including the Arroyo Seco River, tributary creeks, ditch, channel, canal, conduit, drain, waterway, gully, ravine or arroyo or wash that contributes surface or subface water flow into Arroyo Seco River. Water flow means waters that flow towards the Arroyo Seco River.

1. The purpose of this Policy is to protect the flow and quality of water from a non-regulated (undammed) Arroyo Seco River Watershed so that the river will recharge the Arroyo Seco Cone Management Area (ASCMA), the Forebay Subbasin, and downstream Salinas Valley groundwater basins consistent with the Forebay Subbasin GSP, and support habitat for steelhead recovery in accordance with the Forebay Subbasin GSP.
2. In the event that any of the following actions occur, or a potential adverse impact to the sustainability of the ASCMA, the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) will participate in the appropriate governmental processes in furtherance of the implementation of the Forebay Subbasin GSP and protect (or support) the character of the Arroyo Seco Watershed and the sustainability of the ASCMA and to avoid adverse impacts to it.
 - Impairment, diversion, impediment or alteration of the flow of water running into and throughout the Arroyo Seco River that adversely impacts the sustainability of the ASCMA or the Forebay Subbasin in accordance with the Forebay Subbasin GSP.
 - Deposition of material in the Arroyo Seco Watershed watercourses that result in flow obstructions, or impairments, diversions, impediments or alterations the characteristics of the flow of water therein.
 - Alterations to the surface of land by construction, excavation, embankment or otherwise, that have the potential to alter the capacity of a watercourse or the characteristics of the flow of water therein
 - Process of new water right appropriations from the Arroyo Seco River Watershed and the Watercourses of the Arroyo Seco River which may adversely affect the sustainability of the ASCMA.