

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-80

RECEIVING A PRESENTATION ON THE PREPARATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR A PORTION OF THE 180/400 FOOT AQUIFER SUBBASIN.

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, Water Code Sections 10720 – 10736.6 (“SGMA”) was signed into law on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that each California groundwater subbasin be managed by a single Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) or by a combination of GSAs and that such management be implemented pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan, or multiple coordinated GSP’s, as the case may be; and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is to provide for sustainable management of groundwater subbasins, to enhance local management of groundwater, to establish minimum standards for sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and the technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the City’s jurisdictional boundaries overlie a portion of the 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to the sustainable management of groundwater within the Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin and intends to coordinate with the other GSAs and affected parties and consider the interests of all beneficial users and uses of groundwater within the 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin.

WHEREAS, on March 20th, 2018, the City Council of the City of Marina held a public hearing and passed Resolution 2018-25 forming the Marina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MGSA) to undertake sustainable groundwater management within the portion of the Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin within the City; and

WHEREAS, the MGSA is required to assess the conditions in its local subbasin and to adopt a locally-based SGMA-compliant groundwater sustainability plan (GS Plan) for the critically over drafted 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin by January 31st, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Marina that does hereby receive a presentation on the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for a portion of the 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on the 7th day of August 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Berkley, O’Connell, Morton, Delgado

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

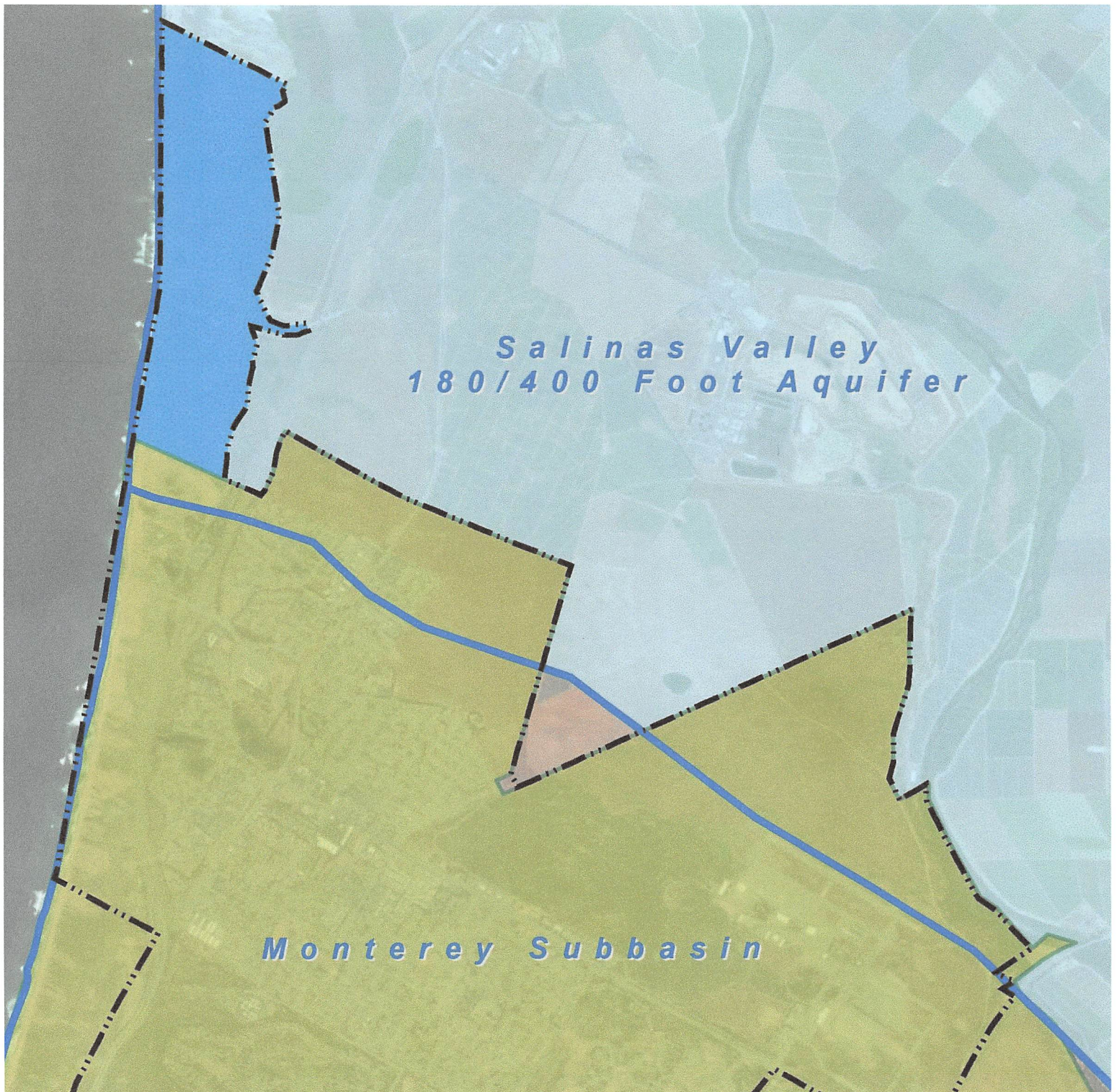
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Urrutia

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk/Agency Secretary



**CITY OF MARINA**

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 Marina, CA 93933
 831-884-1278; FAX 831-384-9148
www.cityofmarina.org

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

July 31, 2019

Mr. Mark Nordberg
 GSA Project Manager
 California Department of Water Resources
 901 P Street, Room 213A
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Subject: Initial Notification To Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plan for a Portion of the 180/400-Foot Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

In accordance with California Water Code § 10727.8 and the Title 23, Section 353.6 of the California Code of Regulations, the City of Marina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“MGSA”) hereby gives notice that the MGSA intends to initiate preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) within a portion of the 180/400-foot Aquifer Subbasin (DWR Basin Number 3-004.01).

On March 20, 2018, the City Council of the City of Marina formed the MGSA. On April 16, 2018, the MGSA notified the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”), pursuant to Water Code § 10723.8(a), of its intent to become the exclusive GSA in an area within its jurisdictional limits, but which lies outside the jurisdictional limits of the Marina County Water District (“MCWD”) GSA. The MGSA boundaries include Monterey County Assessor Parcel Numbers (“APN”) 203-011-001; 203-011-019; 203-011-020; and portions of APN 203-011-023; 175-011-046; 175-011-031; and 203-011-011 (Figure 1).

Recent research work in this area of the 180/400-Foot Subbasin¹ has demonstrated that it includes significant freshwater resources within otherwise seawater-intruded portions of the Dune Sand and 180-Foot Aquifers, and that the water quality of the underlying 400-Foot and 900-Foot Aquifers is potentially vulnerable to water quality degradation from additional seawater intrusion

¹ See for example the following references:

Goebel, Pidlisecky, and Knight, 2017. Resistivity imaging reveals complex pattern of saltwater intrusion along Monterey coast. *Journal of Hydrology* (manuscript accepted February 17).
 Gottschalk, Ian, R. Knight and others, 2018. Interpretation of Hydrostratigraphy and Water Quality from AEM Data Collected in the Northern Salinas Valley, CA. Prepared for Marina Coast Water District. March 15.
 Monterey County Water Resources Agency, 2017. Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. Special Reports Series 17-01. October.
 Pidlisecky, Moran, Hansen, and Knight, 2016. Electrical resistivity imaging of seawater intrusion into the Monterey Bay aquifer system. *Groundwater*, Vol. 54, No. 2, p. 255-261.

as a result of local conditions. Development of a locally-focused GSP is therefore warranted to coordinate with the GSP currently under preparation for the remainder of the 180/400-Foot Subbasin by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SVBGSA”). The MGSA locally-focused GSP will establish the MGSA GSP Area, define local hydrogeologic conditions, and establish local sustainable management criteria to protect the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the area, and assure sustainable groundwater management in accordance with 23 C.C.R. § 350.4(e).

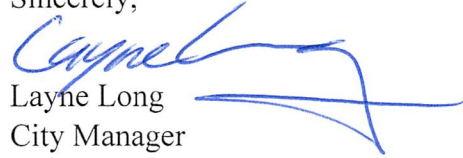
The GSP will be developed by MGSA staff and its consultants using information compiled by the SVBGSA and the MCWD GSA for preparation of their respective GSPs, supplemented by local investigation, monitoring data and other relevant information. The MGSA will work to establish an intra-basin coordination agreement with the SVBGSA pursuant to Water Code § 10727.6 and 23 C.C.R. § 357.4, and an inter-basin coordination agreement or equivalent document with the MCWD GSA to assure that preparation and implementation of the two GSPs in the 180/400-Foot Subbasin is effectively coordinated, subbasin sustainability goals are met, and the interests of all beneficial water users and uses in the subbasin are recognized and protected.

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this GSP development. Specific avenues of participation that are or will be available pursuant to Water Code §§ 10723.2, 10723.4 and 10727.8(a) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Interested parties can comment on this notification in accordance with 23 C.C.R. § 353.8 by posting their comments on the DWR SGMA Portal (<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/init/all>);
- Interested parties can comment on the GSP for a 45-day public comment period after it is released in early October 2019;
- Interested parties can attend and provide comments at public meetings/workshops convened by the MGSA in the City Council chambers, currently scheduled on August 7 and October 29, 2019, which will be noticed and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code §§ 54950, *et seq.*) and Water Code § 10727.5(a);
- MGSA will post information regarding GSP preparation and the draft GSP on its SGMA webpage at: <https://cityofmarina.org/918/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plan>, where parties can get additional information, sign up for the interested stakeholder email list, see materials for past or upcoming meetings related to the GSP development, and access a public review draft of the GSP;
- MGSA will distribute information regarding GSP preparation and related activities to a list of interested parties maintained in accordance with Water Code § 10723.4 and § 10723.8(a)(4);
- Interested parties can attend and provide public comment at MGSA hearings to adopt the draft GSP in or before January 2020 that will be noticed and conducted in accordance with the Brown Act and Water Code § 10727.5(a); and
- Marina City Council meetings are open to the public and include multiple opportunities for public comment. Presentations by technical specialists will occur as needed as the GSP preparation process continues.

A GSP Plan Manager and single point of contact for the GSPs in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin will be designated in the Coordination Agreement that will be developed with the SVBGSA in accordance with 23 C.C.R. § 357.4 and Water Code § 10727.6. The MGSA has designated Brian McMinn, Public Works Director for the City of Marina, as the manager for its GSP preparation efforts. Please contact Mr. McMinn regarding any questions regarding this notification or if you would like additional information. He may be reached at bmcminn@cityofmarina.org or (831) 884-1212.

Sincerely,



Layne Long
City Manager
City of Marina

July 31, 2019

Item No. **11a**

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting
of August 7, 2019

**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2019-,
RECEIVING A PRESENTATION AND PROVIDING COMMENTS AND
DIRECTION ON THE PREPARATION OF A GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR A PORTION OF THE 180/400 FOOT AQUIFER
SUBBASIN**

REQUEST:

It is requested that the City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2019-, receiving a presentation and providing comments and direction on the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for a portion of the 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed historic legislation requiring that California's critical groundwater resources be sustainably managed by local agencies. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) gives local agencies including cities, counties and water districts or agencies, authority to sustainably manage groundwater over the long-term. Water Code Section 10721(n) defines local agency as "a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin." Therefore, the City of Marina qualifies as a SGMA local agency since it has land use responsibilities within the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

On March 20th, 2018, City Council passed Resolution 2018-25 forming the Marina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MGSA) to undertake sustainable groundwater management within the portion of the Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin within the City and outside of the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) service area. A map of the GSA Boundary is attached as **EXHIBIT A**. On April 16th, 2018, the MGSA notified the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR"), pursuant to Water Code § 10723.8(a), of its intent to become the exclusive GSA for this area. The DWR accepted this filing, but because it overlaps with a filing by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) for the entire groundwater basin in which the MGSA is located, a coordination agreement between the two GSAs will be needed.

The MGSA is required to assess the conditions in its local subbasin and to adopt a locally-based groundwater sustainability plan (GS Plan). The cornerstone of SGMA is the development and adoption of a GS Plan by a GSA or coordinated GS Plans by a collection of GSAs. The SGMA-compliant GS Plan for the critically over drafted 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin must be adopted by January 31st, 2020, or be subject to State Water Resources Control Board intervention pursuant to Water Code Section 10735.2(a)(2). The GS Plan must be designed to achieve basin sustainability within 20 years of adoption. SGMA defines sustainable management as managing and using groundwater in a way that can be sustained over a long period of time. Sustainable yield is defined as the amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn annually over the long term without causing "significant and unreasonable impacts" related to any of the following "undesirable results": chronically lowering groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, causing seawater intrusion, degrading water quality, causing land subsidence or depleting interconnected surface water such as creeks, streams, rivers and wetlands. Sustainable groundwater management is defined as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

ANALYSIS:

The MGSA lies at the seaward end of the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin, where seawater intrusion has occurred. Recent research work in this area by a team from Stanford University and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“MCWRA”) has demonstrated that the hydrogeology and groundwater quality distribution here is more complex than was previously thought. Local recharge has resulted in the presence of a lens of high quality groundwater in the Dune Sand and 180-Foot Aquifers that helps to hold back further seawater intrusion. Groundwater resources that meet the State’s definition of a “Potential Source of Drinking Water” are present in the Dune Sand, 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers beneath and near the MGSA and are designated for protection under policies adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. The low permeability layers that help to protect the 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers in other parts of the groundwater subbasin are thin or absent in this area, making the underlying aquifers more vulnerable to vertical seawater intrusion. MCWRA has determined that the Deep Aquifers used for a municipal water supply by the City of Marina, and which are not seawater intruded at this point, are potentially at risk for seawater intrusion by downward percolation of seawater intruded groundwater from the 400-Foot Aquifer. As a result, MCWRA has prohibited construction of additional wells in the Deep Aquifers until the risk can be further investigated and any necessary actions taken.

To meet its obligations to protect local groundwater resources and comply with SGMA, MGSA must develop a locally-focused GS Plan for its jurisdictional area. This GS Plan will define local hydrogeologic conditions, establish sustainable management criteria to protect the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the area, and assure sustainable groundwater management in accordance with SGMA. Staff will coordinate efforts with the more regional GS Plan currently under preparation for the remainder of the 180/400-Foot Subbasin by the SVBGSA. The MGSA’s GS Plan will provide the local detail needed to address the unique conditions and groundwater uses in the area where MGSA has jurisdictional responsibilities. As authorized by resolution 2018-25, the City Manager has issued an initial notification to prepare a GS Plan to the California Department of Water Resources. A copy of the notification is attached as **EXHIBIT B**.

The GS Plan is being developed by staff and consultants using information compiled by the SVBGSA and MCWD for preparation of their respective GS Plans, supplemented by local investigation, monitoring data and other relevant information. Staff is working to establish an intra-basin coordination agreement with the SVBGSA pursuant to Water Code § 10727.6 and 23 C.C.R. § 357.4, and an inter-subbasin coordination agreement or equivalent document with the MCWD GSA. These agreements, and close communication between staff and the City’s consultants, will help assure that preparation and implementation of the two GS Plans in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin are effectively coordinated, subbasin sustainability goals are met, and the interests of all beneficial water users and uses are recognized and protected.

Staff proposes an open and inclusive process to develop the GS Plan where interested parties are encouraged to participate. Specific avenues of participation that are proposed to be available include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Interested parties can comment on the Initial Notification that MGSA filed on the DWR SGMA Portal (<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/init/all>);
- Interested parties can comment on the GSP for a 45-day public comment period after it is released in early October 2019;
- Interested parties can attend and provide comments at public meetings/workshops convened by the MGSA in the City Council chambers, currently scheduled on August 7 and October 29, 2019;

- Staff will post information and updates regarding GS Plan preparation and the draft GS Plan on a City webpage where interested parties can get additional information, sign up for the interested stakeholder email list, see materials for past or upcoming meetings related to the GS Plan development, and access the public review draft of the GS Plan when it is available;
- Staff will distribute information regarding GSP preparation and related activities to its list of interested parties;
- Interested parties can attend and provide public comment at MGSA hearings to adopt the draft GS Plan in or before January 2020 that will be noticed and conducted in accordance with the Brown Act and Water Code § 10727.5(a).

FISCAL IMPACT:

On June 24th, 2019, City Council approved a professional services agreement with Formation Environmental in the amount of \$274,780 from the General Fund. Additional funding will be required in the future to implement the GS Plan. The Draft GS Plan will include a preliminary estimate of plan implementation costs.

CONCLUSION:

This request is submitted for City Council consideration and comment.

Brian McMinn, P.E., P.L.S.
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Marina

REVIEWED/CONCUR:

Layne P. Long
City Manager
City of Marina