



PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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**AD HOC SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER PLANNING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 2:00-4:15 p.m.

Committee Members	
Present	Not Present
Kirk Schmidt, Chair	Mary Bannister, Director, <i>Alternate</i>
Bob Culbertson, Director, Vice Chair	Tom Broz, Director, <i>Alternate</i>
Amy Newell, Director	
Javier Zamora, Director	
Robert Rodoni	
Mayra Hernandez, <i>Alternate</i>	
Jonathan Pilch	
Sandy Coplin	
Gary Vincelet	
Robert Johnson	
Beau Kayser	
Sandra Hoppe	
Tannis Thorlakson	
Kyle Monper, <i>Alternate</i>	
Sierra Ryan	
Christi Suchil	
Marla Anderson	
Staff & Other Attendees	
Brian Lockwood, General Manager (GM)	Cameron Tana, Montgomery & Associates
Casey Meusel, Associate Hydrologist (AH)	Ellen Cross, Strategy Driver Inc.
Marcus Mendiola, Water Conservation and Outreach Specialist (WCOS)	Margie Kay, Member of Public
John Erickson, Community Water Center	Heather Lukacs, Community Water Center
Dennis Lebow, Member of Public	Michelaina Johnson, University of California at Santa Cruz Graduate Student
John Ricker, Member of Public	

- **INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m. Chair Schmidt and meeting facilitator Ms. Cross welcomed attendees. The roll call of GSU22 Committee Members followed (attendance presented in the table above), along with a review of the current meeting's objectives and guidelines. Mr. Tana introduced a revised schedule which now focuses on completing sustainability indicators one at a time.

- **Received Correspondence**

Ms. Cross noted comments were received from multiple GSU22 Committee Members on meeting structure as well as on the content of the interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystem technical memoranda and presentations.

- **Comments for Items Not on Agenda**

None received.

- **MANAGEMENT/GOVERNANCE**

- **Consider Corrections of GSU22 January 14th Meeting Summary**

None received.

- **Receive Report on PV Water Board Meeting**

GM provided a brief report on the January 20, 2021 [Board of Directors meeting](#).

- **Consider Any GSU22 Committee Member Appointments**

No appointments were requested for consideration.

- **COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT (C&E)**

- **Update on C&E Activities**

WCOS informed the Committee that the first [GSU22 Fact Sheet](#) (English Version) is complete and being translated into Spanish. Also, a [List of Acronyms](#) relevant to the GSU22 was developed at the request of the GSU22 Committee and is available on the GSU22 webpage.

- **Committee/Public Questions + Comments**

None received.

- **GSU22 DEVELOPMENT**

- **Update on Sustainability Indicators and DWR Recommendations**

Mr. Tana [presented a brief review](#) of the four sustainability indicators being addressed as part of the GSU22 and summarized the progress and next steps in addressing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) recommendations for the indicators. Mr. Tana also reviewed the four additional DWR recommendations that are not specific to the sustainability indicators. Discussion and comments proceeded on the following topics:

- Consideration of water quality in the development of groundwater level sustainable management criteria.
 - GSU22 documents will be submitted to DWR as a Five Year Update to the approved Alternative-Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and added as an attachment to the 2014 Basin Management Plan (BMP).
 - Groundwater in storage indicator not being covered because already sufficiently covered in the Approved Alternative, specifically within the 2014 BMP.
 - Sea-level rise as an issue of seawater intrusion.

○ **Update on Seawater Intrusion (SWI) SMC**

- Receive comments on [SWI Technical Memo](#)
- Provide Feedback on Statement of Significant and Unreasonable Conditions.
Comments were provided on the following topics:
 - The 2014 BMP already addresses SWI, and the SMC statement presented is awkward and unclear.
 - Agriculture tends to be more sensitive to chloride than domestic water uses and therefore set one threshold based on agriculture.
 - The seawater intrusion SMC should be based on the inland extent of the seawater front and not the DWZ.
 - Crops and varieties have different chloride tolerances. Recent research showed no yield impact at 142 ppm for chloride in strawberries.
 - While Salinas sets different thresholds for 180 ft. and 400 ft. aquifers because they are separate aquifers, Aromas aquifer behaves as a single aquifer system, one that serves as the primary aquifer for the Pajaro Valley.
 - More research should be done to define a SWI agriculture threshold.
 - PV Water's Project and Facilities Operations Committee has established Delivered Water quality objectives for many substances including chloride for the purpose of agricultural suitability not for sustainability indicators; ensure relevance of the values used for sustainability indicators.
 - DWR made recommendations not requirements, the choice is for the GSU22 Committee to make.
 - Chloride levels of 250 mg/l value is too high for crops.
 - Groundwater (GW) levels change seasonally.
- Consider Approach for Developing SWI SMC
Mr. Tana provided a presentation summarizing the SWI analysis and technical findings. Discussion and comments were received on the following topics:
 - Concern over reaching sustainability given future sea level rise.
 - Prepare an updated map illustrating chloride concentrations and bring back additional information about chloride impacts on various crops.
 - Consider SMC that allows for only limited expansion of SWI.
 - Two isocontour lines makes sense because secondary drinking water standards are higher than agriculture requirements.
 - Neighboring Groundwater Sustainability Agencies use 250 mg/L and 500 mg/L to map chloride concentrations.
 - Consider to use the 2025 inland extent of SWI as the SMC standard, and link to BMP implementation.

○ **Committee/Public Questions + Comments**

Director Zamora: Glad to see so many people involved. As a farmer, we have the responsibility to support the projects that will take place in the future to support a sustainable GW basin and allow farming to continue within the Pajaro Valley.

● **NEXT STEPS**

○ **Future Agenda Items Include:**

None requested.

○ **Next GSU22 Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.