



# Supplement to 10/18/2021 MPWMD Board Packet

Attached are copies of letters received between September 15, 2021 and October 12, 2021. These letters are listed in the October, 2021 Board packet under Letters Received.

Author	Addressee	Date	Topic
Paul Bruno	Chair Alvin Edwards	September 16, 2021	Importance of Maintaining a Paso Robles Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Well at the Fort Ord 09 Site and Seeking Three-Party Funding of a Replacement Well at that Location
Paul Bruno	Chair Alvin Edwards	May 13, 2021	Importance of Maintaining a Paso Robles Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Well at the Fort Ord 09 Site and Seeking Three-Party Funding of a Replacement Well at that Location
David J. Stoldt	Mr. Paul Bruno, Chair	September 1, 2021	Fort Ord Monitor Well FO-09 Shallow (“FO-09 Shallow”)

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Seaside Basin Watermaster  
P.O. Box 51502, Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
(831) 595-0996

September 16, 2021

Alvin Edwards, Chair  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District 5 Harris  
Court, Building G  
Monterey, CA 93940

Subject: Importance of maintaining a Paso Robles shallow aquifer monitoring well at the FO-09 site and seeking three-party funding of a replacement well at that location.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

At the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's (MPWMD) meeting of June 21, 2021 under Agenda Item 34 you discussed the attached letter dated May 13, 2021 from the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster seeking three-party funding for the replacement of critical monitoring well FO-9 Shallow. You referred the Watermaster's request to your Water Supply Planning Committee for further review, and directed that body to bring the issue back to your full Board for a decision on what to do regarding sharing in the cost of replacing that monitoring well. This is an important issue. We look forward to its return to the Board.

At its August 2, 2021 meeting your Water Supply Planning Committee discussed the Watermaster's request under Agenda Item No. 3. That Committee took no action regarding this issue, other than Board Member Riley's verbal support (not supported verbally by any other members of this 3-person Committee) of your General Manager's proposal to seek a less-than 1/3-1/3-1/3 sharing in costs between MPWMD, the Watermaster, and the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) for replacing this critically needed monitoring well.

It is noteworthy that the Watermaster was neither informed that this topic would be discussed at those meetings, nor was it invited to participate in them.

This is a matter of much greater import than your Water Supply Planning Committee is charged with dealing. It is a matter of protecting the Seaside Basin from seawater intrusion, which if it were to progress inland, would have devastating effects on the water supply for the entire Monterey Peninsula! The charter of your Water Supply Planning Committee, as stated on your website is:

*"The Committee shall facilitate water supply project planning to benefit the Monterey Peninsula area. This effort shall include use of subpotable water; purified recycled wastewater; greywater; aquifer storage and recovery, seawater desalination, groundwater replenishment, or other water supply alternatives that may be proposed in the future. The effort may include agreements to share sites and facilities, and develop agreements to clarify private and public roles and responsibilities related to water supply planning."*

The need for this monitoring well clearly goes beyond water supply planning, as defined in its charter.

It is unfortunate that your Board Member Mr. Riley allowed his self-acknowledged personal biases to influence his comments on this issue at both of these Committee and Board meetings. His derogatory comments regarding the Watermaster's fiscal and Basin-monitoring activities, such as his comments about the Watermaster presenting "ghost ideas" "without any details provided" and "passing the hat" for money to replace the well, inaccurately reflect the work with which the Watermaster has been charged by the Superior Court of Monterey County, and with which its Board of Directors has been, and continues to be, diligently pursuing. Persons participating in the Watermaster's Board meetings would agree that Mr. Riley speaks alone when he makes such disparaging remarks.

At your June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting several Board members and attendees acknowledged the importance of maintaining a seawater intrusion monitoring well at the location of Monitoring Well FO-9 Shallow. For instance, Board Member Adams, who also serves on the Watermaster, noted that it is important to monitor for seawater intrusion in the long-term. Mr. Stoldt also acknowledged the need for seawater intrusion monitoring. Even attendees Susan Schiavone and Tom Rowly commented on the importance that we continue monitoring for seawater intrusion in this area.

Comments were made that other entities have a “regulatory responsibility” to maintain this well. That is categorically incorrect. Neither the Watermaster nor the MCWD have any regulatory requirement to maintain this well. Rather, as stewards of groundwater they have an ethical responsibility to monitor for seawater intrusion, as does MPWMD (as a “Water Management District” this is implicit) in order to ensure that groundwater is safe and available as a water supply source to the public.

Some comments were made regarding the Watermaster’s cancelling of meetings, with the inference that the Watermaster was not diligently performing its function. The Watermaster always conducts meetings whenever there are issues where action or deliberation is needed, and never cancels meetings when holding a meeting would be productive toward making progress on any Basin-related issues. As a quasi-public entity, the Watermaster is conscious of its fiduciary responsibility to minimize costs to the public, and only holds meetings when they will benefit the Basin.

Mr. Stoldt’s letter dated September 1, 2021 (copy attached) expresses his recommendation, and not that of the Board, regarding replacement and sharing of costs for monitoring well FO-9 Shallow. It is striking that he makes the statement that *“There are no data or reports that support the possibility of active seawater intrusion occurring into the Paso Robles Aquifer of the Northern Coastal Sub-Area of the Seaside Groundwater Basin at this well site.”* MPWMD’s own consultants, Montgomery and Associates, which are the same consultants the Watermaster uses, have for years reported that with regard to seawater intrusion into the Seaside Basin it is not “if” but “when that will occur,” given the fact that areas of the Seaside Basin are far below sea level. Mr. Lear’s own statements indicate that seawater in the overlying Aromas Sands is already threatening to intrude the Paso Robles aquifer in the vicinity of monitoring well FO-9 Shallow.

The Watermaster respectfully requests that this topic promptly be brought back to the full MPWMD Board for discussion and direction, and that the Watermaster be invited to attend and participate in those discussions to provide its input and response to questions.

Sincerely,



Paul Bruno  
Chair, Watermaster Board of Directors

cc: Mr. David Stoldt, General Manager

**Seaside Basin Watermaster**  
**P.O. Box 51502, Pacific Grove, CA 93950**  
**(831) 595-0996**

May 13, 2021

Alvin Edwards, Chair  
 Monterey Peninsula Water Management District 5 Harris  
 Court, Building G  
 Monterey, CA 93940

**Subject:** Importance of maintaining a Paso Robles shallow aquifer monitoring well at the F0-09 site and seeking three-party funding of a replacement well at that location.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster (WM) seeks a three-party arrangement between MPWMD, Marina Coast Water District, and WM to fund replacement of monitoring well F0-09 Shallow that MPWMD intends to destroy with a new shallow monitoring well in the same general location.


Once F0-09S is destroyed there will be no source of water level or water quality data obtainable for the Paso Robles aquifer in that area of the Seaside Basin. The data obtained from the recent induction logging of F0-09S indicates that the dune sand deposits overlying the Paso Robles aquifer may have already been seawater intruded this far inland. If so, this means that there is a risk for intrusion into the Paso Robles aquifer to occur throughout this area, either by openings (gaps) in the clay layer that separates the dune sands from the Paso Robles, or through other wells that might have leaks. A properly operating shallow monitoring well at the location of F0-09 could provide an early alert to such an occurrence.

MPWMD asserts that F0-09 is not needed for its monitoring purposes. However, Table 2 in the contract between the Watermaster and MPWMD to perform monitoring work lists the wells to be monitored, and identifies which wells are part of which party's monitoring network. Table 2, and Footnote 1 in that table, shows F0-09 Shallow to be a well that is in MPWMD's Monitoring Well Network, and is a well that MPWMD monitors monthly for water level as part of its own monitoring program. That information was provided by MPWMD when Table 2 was created some years ago, and that assignment of monitoring responsibilities has not changed over the years.

Marina Coast Water District may be including F0-09S in official monitoring plans for its developing GSP so most likely will want it replaced – WM also seeks that agency's participation in a cost share arrangement.

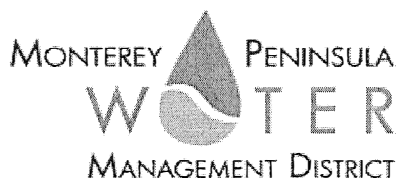
In view of the potential seawater intrusion from dunes sands to the Paso Robles aquifer occurring in the F0-09S well, the Watermaster agrees that MPWMD should have the well destroyed using proper procedures. At the same time, Watermaster requests that MPWMD participate in a cost-share arrangement to install a new shallow monitoring well to replace the destroyed well. Mr. Stoldt has mentioned there could be cost savings to MPWMD by having the F0-09S well destroyed at the same time a new monitoring well at that location is constructed.

Thank you for MPWMD's consideration of cooperating in the proposed endeavor.  
 Sincerely,

  
 Paul Bruno  
 Chair, Watermaster Board of Directors

cc: Mr. David Stoldt, General Manager





September 1, 2021

Mr. Paul Bruno Chair  
 Seaside Basin Watermaster PO Box 51502  
 Pacific Grove, CA 93950

RE: Fort Ord Monitor Well FO-09 Shallow ("FO-09 Shallow") Dear Paul:

FO-09 Shallow, a coastal monitoring well in the Seaside Basin, has recently been identified as compromised due to a failure of the well casing that is allowing saltier water from the shallow zone to mix with groundwater in the Paso Robles Aquifer. There are no data or reports that support the possibility of active seawater intrusion occurring into the Paso Robles Aquifer in the Northern Coastal Sub-Area of the Seaside Groundwater Basin at this well site. Rather, the Monterey County Health Department has identified this as cross-contamination between aquifer zones and has agreed on a destruction plan for the well, which is owned by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District). The District has bid the permanent destruction and plans to award and execute in the next few weeks.

While the District concedes that it is important to monitor for seawater intrusion in this region of the Seaside Basin, the District is not compelled by regulatory requirements to collect data from FO-09 Shallow. Before the formation of the Watermaster, the District monitored for seawater intrusion in the Seaside Basin from 1976 to 2008, but did not historically use this well, FO-09 Shallow, for seawater intrusion monitoring prior to the Watermaster hiring the District to collect MMP samples from this well. As such, the District has little interest in replacing the well.

However, as stated above, both the Watermaster and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) have an active interest in the replacement of the well. At this time, the District encourages you to coordinate with MCWD to determine which of your entities will be the project lead on schedule, design, and procurement, and to make a proposal about cost sharing. Despite the fact that the District does not need the well for its purposes, as overall manager of the Monterey Peninsula Water Resource System

– sometimes physical assets, sometimes just data – we are willing to share in costs at approximately the 15% level of contribution. We will leave it to your the Watermaster and MCWD to determine how you would like to proceed and then bring us into the conversation.

We thank you for taking the time to examine these issues and propose a path going forward. Sincerely,

David Stoldt General Manager  
 Monterey Peninsula Water Management District .