



**Final Minutes
Water Supply Planning Committee Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Zoom**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Paull called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Karen Paull, Chair
Alvin Edwards (Alternate)
Amy Anderson

Committee Members Absent

Rebecca Lindor

District Staff Members Present

David Stoldt, General Manager
Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager
Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager
Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer
Sara Reyes, Board Clerk

District Staff Members Absent

None

District Counsel Present

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo
Fran Farina, De Lay & Laredo

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

None

Comments from the Public

Chair Paull opened the public comment period, and the following comment was made to the committee:

- 1) John Tilley, urged the District to discuss the source waters for the Pure Water Monterey expansion. He raised concerns about the return on investment, suggesting that if the water sources are only temporarily available or not contractually secured, it would be wise to reconsider the expansion investment.

Action Items

1. Consider Adoption of Committee Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2025

Chair Paull introduced this item and opened public comment; however no comments were directed to the committee.

On a motion by Anderson and seconded by Edwards, the minutes of the March 3, 2025, committee meeting were approved on a roll call vote of 3 Ayes (Edwards, Paull and Anderson) and 0 Noes.

Informational Items

2. Seaside Municipal Well Funding Request

Chair Paull introduced this item.

General Manager Stoldt reported that in 2024, the District worked with Congressman Panetta’s office and City of Seaside staff to apply for a Community Project Funding grant for a second municipal well. The grant was approved for \$1.1 million, but all earmarks were removed when Congress passed the Continuing Resolution in January.

For FY2026, Rep. Panetta’s office and the Senators’ offices will resubmit the FY2025 earmark requests. The District has coordinated with the City and Congressman Panetta’s office and submitted a letter of support.

Discussion Items

3. Follow-Up On Watermaster Board Workshop on April 2, 2025

Chair Paull introduced this item.

General Manager Stoldt referred to his report and summarized the following:

- As part of the District’s ongoing efforts to understand how groundwater levels in the Salinas Valley affect conditions in the Seaside Subbasin, Montgomery & Associates were contracted to investigate and summarize the dynamics of the groundwater flow divide that defines the northern boundary of the Seaside Subbasin in a Technical Memorandum.
- March 3, 2025: MPWMD Water Supply Planning Committee reviewed the memorandum and recommended informing the full Board.
- March 17, 2025: The Board directed staff to send a letter summarizing the findings to the Watermaster (Exhibit 3-A).
- April 2, 2025: The Watermaster held a workshop and responded to the District’s letter in a presentation titled “What is the Problem?” highlighting physical and institutional problems. District staff felt the presentation mischaracterized their position on several issues and stated the importance of maintaining adequate water levels to prevent leakage, overdraft, and seawater intrusion.

The committee engaged in discussions with District staff. General Manager Stoldt announced that Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer, has a presentation that displays where the District currently stands and where the Seaside Basin stands.

Chair Paull opened the public comment period, and the following comment was made to the committee:

- 1) Susan Schiavone attended the April 2, 2025, workshop and noted defensiveness at the meeting and hopes for collaboration to overcome initial resistance. She acknowledged Cal-Am’s influence and the support for desalination despite challenges. She encouraged continued efforts to work together and appreciated the hard work being done.

Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer, presented a slide-deck presentation titled “MPWMD and the Seaside Groundwater Basin”. She discussed the April 2 workshop and addressed institutional problems with MPWMD, summarizing their activities like investing in staff, maintaining wells, and conducting tracer studies. She highlighted efforts beyond monitoring, such as constructing the ASR site and investing in the Pure Water Monterey project. She noted a rebound in groundwater levels since 2022, supported by detailed data and graphs. *The presentation is available at the District office and on the District website.*

Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager, explained that the adjudication decision mechanism includes 10% ramp downs every three years to achieve natural safe yields. While water levels have stabilized and started to increase slightly, the full impact of the adjudication decision will be seen after the 25-year payback period. This mechanism is designed to gradually restore water levels without increasing overdraft.

4. Update on Fort Ord Wells 09, 10, and 11 Status

Chair Paull introduced this item.

General Manager Stoldt provided an update on Fort Ord Wells. He stated about a year and a half ago, a cost-sharing agreement was made to replace a shallow well. Recently, Wells 10 and 11 were evaluated. Marina Coast Water District, now the groundwater sustainability agency for the Monterey sub-area outside the adjudicated basin, analyzed Well 10 and recommended its destruction. The District agreed and will budget for its destruction in the coming fiscal year. Jonathan Lear provided additional information on the Wells. The committee engaged in discussions.

5. Timeline for Pure Water Monterey Expansion – AWP, Injection Wells, CAW Extraction Wells, and Regulatory Approvals

Due to time constraints, the Committee did not discuss this matter.

6. Committee Activities Related to Adopted 2025 Strategic Goals and Objectives

Due to time constraints, the Committee did not discuss this matter.

Suggest Items to Be Placed on a Future Agenda

There were no items suggested for placement on a future agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Paull adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

/s/ Sara Reyes

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk to the
MPWMD Water Supply Planning Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Water Supply Planning Committee on July 7, 2025.

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director's on July 21, 2025.