

On March 20, 2018, to comply with the requirements of the California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the City Council of the City of Marina formed the City of Marina Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("MGSA"). The MGSA occupies an area within the City's jurisdictional limits, but which lies outside the jurisdictional limits of the Marina County Water District ("MCWD") GSA. 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 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 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 will develop a locally-focused GSP for its jurisdictional area. This GSP 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. MGSA will coordinate its efforts with the more regional GSP currently under preparation for the remainder of the 180/400-Foot Subbasin by the SVBGSA. The MGSA's GSP will provide the local detail needed to address the unique conditions and groundwater uses in the area where MGSA has jurisdictional responsibilities,

The GSP is being developed by MGSA staff and its consultants using information compiled by the SVBGSA and the Marina Coast Water District ("MCWD") 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-subbasin coordination agreement or equivalent document with the MCWD GSA. These agreements, and close communication between agency staff and their consultants, will help assure that preparation and implementation of the two GSPs in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin is effectively coordinated, subbasin sustainability goals are met, and the interests of all beneficial water users and uses are recognized and protected.

MGSA is committed to an open and inclusive process to develop the GSP, and interested parties are encouraged to participate. Specific avenues of participation that are or will 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;
- MGSA will post information and updates regarding GSP preparation and the draft GSP on this webpage; 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 the public review draft of the GSP when it is available;
- MGSA 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 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.

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.