



October 19, 2022

**TO:** Utilities Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3 – 10/19/2022 Utilities Advisory Committee Meeting**  
BMC Update

**President**

Matthew D. Fourcroy

**Vice President**

Charles L. Cesena

**Directors**

Troy C. Gatchell  
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Christine M. Womack

**General Manager**

Ron Munds

**District Accountant**

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**Unit Chief**

Eddy Moore

**Battalion Chief**

Paul Provence

The BMC met on October 19<sup>th</sup>; the following are the key highlights from the agenda:

**Calendar Year 2023 Sustainable Yield-** Staff is recommending a sustainable yield of 2,380-acre feet per year for calendar year 2023. This is the same number as 2022.

**Phase 2 Lower Aquifer Nitrate Investigation-** S&T Mutual Water Company funded phase 1 of the study and has requested that the BMC fund phase 2. The purpose of the study is to identify the source(s) of Nitrate impacting their only water supply well.

**Funding & Organization Study Follow-up-** The BMC has been working a potential funding plan that would include all properties overlying the Los Osos Groundwater Basin. The Executive Director provide and update on the progress of the study and next steps.

**Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Budget & Water Recycling Funding Program Facilities Planning Study Grant-** Draft budget was presented along with an update of the grant status.

Attached is a staff report from James Bishop that summarized the Los Osos Groundwater Basin status. Dan Heimel provided a presentation to the Regional Water Board which provide comprehensive information on the 2021 annual monitoring report. More information will be provided at the meeting.

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## LOS OSOS GROUNDWATER BASIN, BASIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### NOTICE OF MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Los Osos Groundwater Basin, Basin Management Committee Board of Directors will hold a **Regular Board Meeting at 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022** at the **Los Osos Community Services District Boardroom**, located at 2122 9th Street, Suite 106, Los Osos, CA 93402 Members of the public may participate in this meeting in person or via teleconference and/or electronically.

For quick access, go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/778762508>

(This link will help connect both your browser and telephone to the call)

**If not using a computer**, dial 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (346) 248-779 and enter **778 762 508**

All persons desiring to speak during any Public Comment can submit a comment by:

- Email at danheimel@ConfluenceES.com by 5:00 PM on the day prior to the Committee meeting.
- Teleconference by phone at 1 (669) 900-6833 and enter **778 762 508**
- Teleconference by phone at 1 (346) 248-7799 and enter **778 762 508**
- Teleconference meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/778762508>
- Mail by 5:00 PM on the day prior to the Committee meeting to:  
Attn: Dan HeimeI (Basin Management Committee)  
2122 9th St.  
Suite 110  
Los Osos, CA 93402

*Directors: Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and may not necessarily be considered in numerical order.*

*NOTE: The Basin Management Committee reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to participate in the meeting of the BMC are encouraged to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of the meeting from Dan HeimeI at danheimel@ConfluenceES.com.*

### BASIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. ROLL CALL

#### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 4. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members may make brief comments, provide project status updates, or communicate with other directors, staff, or the public regarding non-agenda topics.

#### 5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

The following routine items listed below are scheduled for consideration as a group. Each item is recommended for approval unless noted and may be approved in their entirety by one motion. Any member of the public who wishes to comment on any Consent Agenda item may do so at this time. Consent items generally require no discussion. However, any Director may request that any item be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda and moved to the "Action Items" portion of the Agenda to permit discussion or to change the recommended course of action. The Board may approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda on one motion.

- a. **2022 Budget Update and Invoice Register**
- b. **Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2022 BMC Meeting**

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Basin Management Committee will consider public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Basin Management Committee. The Basin Management Committee cannot enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments at this time. Such items may only be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. The presiding Chair shall limit public comments to three minutes.

## 8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## 9. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Calendar Year 2023 Sustainable Yield Estimate**

Recommendation: Receive information on the Sustainable Yield calculations and approve the proposed Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,380 AFY for Calendar Year 2023; or provide alternate direction to staff.

- b. **Phase 2 Lower Aquifer Nitrate Investigation**

Recommendation: Approve funding for Cleath-Harris Geologists to perform additional Nitrate Source Investigation; or provide alternate direction to staff.

- c. **Funding & Organization Study Follow-Up**

Recommendation: Receive requested follow-up information on cost, timing and decision points for establishing a more formal governance and funding structure for the BMC.

- d. **Draft Calendar Year 2023 Budget and Water Recycling Funding Program Facilities Planning Study Grant**

Recommendation: Receive information on potential items for BMC Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Budget and provide direction to staff for how to proceed with the CY 2023 Budget and the Water Recycling Funding Program Facilities Planning Study Grant.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 13-14, 2022**

Prepared on September 23, 2022

**ITEM NUMBER:** 12

**SUBJECT:** Los Osos Groundwater Conditions Update

**STAFF CONTACTS:** James Bishop (805) 542-4628  
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**ACTION:** Information/Discussion

**SUMMARY**

This staff report provides a brief update on groundwater conditions in the Los Osos Groundwater Basin. Dan Heimel, executive director of the Los Osos Basin Management Committee, will be on hand to give a presentation and answer questions regarding the basin management component of this staff report.

**DISCUSSION**

**Los Osos Groundwater Basin Conditions**

Since 2015, the Los Osos Basin Management Committee has been monitoring and managing groundwater in the Los Osos groundwater basin (Basin). The Los Osos Groundwater Basin Plan and Basin Management Committee (BMC) were developed as part of the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court's stipulated judgment agreement among Los Osos Community Services District, Golden State Water Company, S&T Mutual Water Company, and San Luis Obispo County (BMC Parties). The BMC Parties have been implementing the Los Osos Basin Plan by monitoring basin sustainability metrics, including nitrate concentrations in the upper aquifer, groundwater elevations, and seawater intrusion in the lower aquifer. In addition, the BMC Parties have been implementing various management strategies to try to achieve basin sustainability.

To date, none of the basin sustainability metrics have been achieved. However, monitoring data indicate that groundwater conditions are trending toward sustainability. Currently, the nitrate concentration for the upper aquifer is at 17 mg/L as nitrogen (N) and is anticipated to achieve the target concentration metric of 10 mg/L as N or less by 2050. The metrics for water levels and chloride (a proxy for seawater intrusion) are also improving and are anticipated to achieve their respective metrics in approximately the same timeframe as for nitrate. Comparison of estimated basin-wide groundwater production to basin sustainable yield (referred to as the basin yield metric) indicate that

production volume is sustainable (e.g., production is less than sustainable yield). However, production still exceeds the target production volume of 20% less than the sustainable yield estimate to account for uncertainty and the Basin Plan's intent to push seawater intrusion back to its historic extents. Although these metrics appear to indicate a trend towards improving conditions, including evidence that seawater intrusion along the historic LA 10 (Rosina Dr.) and LA 14 (Palisades Ave) preferential pathway may have stalled, increasing chloride concentrations at LA 40 (Lupine St./Cuesta by the Sea) and LA 11 (Pasadena Dr.) indicate potential increasing seawater intrusion occurring in Zone E of the lower aquifer along the bay front. See Attachment 1 for a map of lower aquifer wells. The BMC is actively monitoring, and the BMC Parties are managing pumping to mitigate against these potential seawater intrusion threats, including recently completing the 8<sup>th</sup> St. upper aquifer well that will allow the Los Osos Community Services District to reduce lower aquifer pumping in this portion of the Basin.

Implementation of Los Osos Basin Plan management programs is ongoing, and the majority of the recommended programs identified in the Los Osos Basin Plan have been or are in the process of being implemented. Implementation of the remaining management activities identified in the Los Osos Basin Plan is contingent on the BMC's and the BMC Parties' ability to generate funding for the projects. The BMC is currently conducting a study to understand what funding options may be available.

Additional information is available on San Luis Obispo County's [Los Osos Basin Management Committee](#) website.<sup>1</sup>

### **Nitrate contamination at the S&T Mutual Water Company well**

Despite the improving conditions indicated by the BMC's groundwater monitoring data, the western portion of the Los Osos groundwater basin is still experiencing increases in nitrate concentrations in some wells. Nitrate concentrations are elevated and increasing in S&T Mutual Water Company's well LA8 and Golden State Water Company's well LA9, which are located approximately 600 feet apart and are both screened in the lower aquifer. The most recent sampling results document nitrate concentrations of 7.2 mg/L and 6.0 mg/L as N in the LA8 and LA9 wells, respectively. See Attachment 1 for locations of these wells. Based on the trajectory of the concentration trend, it is estimated that these wells will exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate of 10 mg/L as N in approximately 20-30 years. Preliminary investigations regarding the source of nitrate in the water supply wells suggest that the Cabrillo Estates neighborhood in Los Osos, which utilizes individual on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) for wastewater treatment and disposal, may be a source of nitrate contamination in these wells. However, additional investigations are needed to make a definitive determination regarding the source or sources of nitrate in the wells.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Groundwater-Sustainability/Groundwater-Basins/Los-Osos-Basin-Management-Committee-\(BMC\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Groundwater-Sustainability/Groundwater-Basins/Los-Osos-Basin-Management-Committee-(BMC).aspx)

S&T Mutual Water Company has asked the Central Coast Water Board to designate groundwater in proximity to well LA8 as impaired by OWTS. This designation would invoke requirements in the San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Management Program that state that the county must intervene to mitigate OWTS contamination. The Central Coast Water Board is working with San Luis Obispo County and S&T Mutual Water Company to determine the sources of nitrate contamination observed in wells LA8 and LA9.

### **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detections in Los Osos Groundwater**

In July 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board issued an order requiring publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities with flows greater than 1 million gallons per day to sample for PFAS in influent, effluent, biosolids, and groundwater and to upload the results of the sampling to GeoTracker. Sampling conducted by the Los Osos Water Reclamation Facility (LOWRF) detected PFAS compounds in influent, effluent, and all three groundwater monitoring wells associated with the LOWRF discharge. The groundwater monitoring wells sampled for PFAS are located in the Los Osos groundwater basin, downgradient from the Bayridge Estates and Broderson leachfields where the LOWRF disposes of wastewater. Concentrations for some of the PFAS compounds detected in groundwater exceeded relevant notification levels established by the Division of Drinking Water. One of the wells with concentrations that exceeded the notification level is used as a private domestic water supply well. The owner of the private domestic water supply well along with the three water purveyors in Los Osos were notified of the PFAS detections and were provided with the analytical results of the sampling. PFAS sampling has not been required for any of the public water supply wells in Los Osos.

### **Human Right to Water**

California Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a) states that it is the policy of the State of California “that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitation purposes.” On January 26, 2017, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Resolution No. R3-2017-0004, which affirms the realization of the human right to water and the protection of human health as the Central Coast Water Board's top priorities.

Staff is working with stakeholders to protect water quality for all users of the Los Osos groundwater basin, including any disadvantaged communities.

### **Environmental Justice**

Environmental Justice principles call for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of all environmental laws, regulations, and policies that affect every community's natural resources and the places people live, work, play, and learn. The Central Coast Water Board implements regulatory activities and water quality projects in a manner that ensures the fair treatment of all people,

including Underrepresented Communities. Underrepresented Communities include but are not limited to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs), Tribes, Environmentally Disadvantaged Communities (EnvDACs), and members of Fringe Communities.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the Central Coast Water Board is committed to providing all stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the public process and provide meaningful input to decisions that affect their communities.

According to the California Department of Water Resources DAC mapping tool,<sup>3</sup> only Baywood Park within the broader Los Osos area is currently listed as a DAC block group based on 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) census data. However, eastern portions of the Los Osos area were previously designated as a DAC census tract and block group based on 2014-2018 ACS census data. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure fair and meaningful involvement of the community.

### **Climate Change**

The Central Coast faces the threat and the effects of climate change for the foreseeable and distant future. To proactively prepare and respond, the Central Coast Water Board has launched the Central Coast Water Board's Climate Action Initiative, which identifies how the Central Coast Water Board's work relates to climate change and prioritizes actions that improve water supply resiliency through water conservation and wastewater reuse and recycling; mitigate for and adapt to sea level rise and increased flooding; improve energy efficiency; and reduce greenhouse gas production. The Climate Action Initiative is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 and the State Water Board's Climate Change Resolution No. 2017-0012.

Climate change could potentially affect the Los Osos groundwater basin sustainability due to drought-induced decreases of freshwater recharge and sea level rise. Staff will

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<sup>2</sup> Disadvantaged Community: a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income (Public Resources Code section 80002(e)); Severely Disadvantaged Community: a community with a median household income of less than 60% of the statewide average. (Public Resources Code section 80002(n)); Economically Distressed Area: a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less with an annual median household income that is less than 85% of the statewide median household income and with one or more of the following conditions as determined by the department: (1) financial hardship, (2) unemployment rate at least 2% higher than the statewide average, or (3) low population density. (Water Code section 79702(k)); Tribes: federally recognized Indian Tribes and California State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List; EnvDACs: CalEPA designates the top 25 percent scoring census tracts as DACs. Census tracts that score the highest five percent of pollution burden scores but do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data are also designated as DACs (refer to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Mapping Tool or Results Excel Sheet); Fringe Community: communities that do not meet the established DAC, SDAC, and EDA definitions but can show that they score in the top 25 percent of either the Pollution Burden or Population Characteristics score using the CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

<sup>3</sup> <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

continue to monitor basin management efforts and work with stakeholders to help facilitate ongoing actions that promote water supply resiliency.

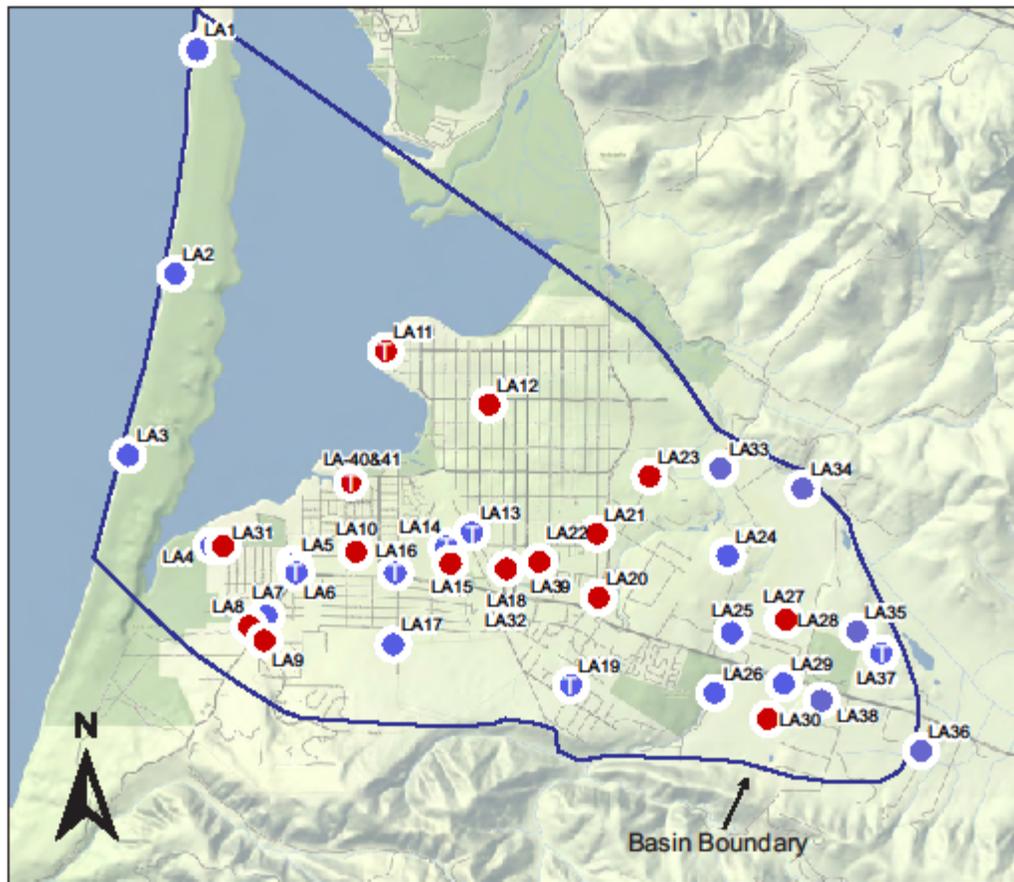
**ATTACHMENT**

1. Map of Lower Aquifer Wells

**CONCLUSION**

The Central Coast Water Board is committed to working with the BMC, BMC Parties, and community stakeholders to provide ongoing review, oversight, and coordination on the important water quality and supply issues facing the community.

Map of Lower Aquifer Wells



Base Image: Stamen-Terrain

Explanation

- LOBP Water Level Monitoring Well
- Ⓜ Water Level Transducer
- Water Level and Water Quality Monitoring Well
- Ⓜ Water Level Transducer and Water Quality Monitoring Well

Note: LA24 & FW24 and LA 40 & 41 are nested wells (same borehole)

LA18 and LA32 at same site (two symbols used in 2016 Annual Report figure to indicate LA32 was a program addition).

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 ft  
 Scale: 1 inch = 4,000 feet

Figure 4  
 Groundwater Monitoring Program  
 Lower Aquifer Wells  
 Los Osos Groundwater Basin  
 2021 Annual Report

Cleath-Harris Geologists