ATASCADERO BASIN
Groundwater
Sustainability Agency

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Templeton CSD Board Meeting Room
206 5th Street
Templeton, California 93465

Virtual Attendance:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89467026737?pwd=AOyPzF2hqhnd8ZWsI4hemczOKQBzvO.1

Meeting ID: 894 6702 6737
Passcode: 563417

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call: Chairperson Heather Moreno
Vice Chairperson Navid Fardanesh
Secretary Rob Rossi
Committee Member Susan Funk
Committee Member John Hamon
Committee Member Grigger Jones
Non-Voting Committee Member Tom Mora

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Order of Business
Executive Committee members may request to change the order of business.

5. Introductions

6. General Public Comments
The Executive Committee invites members of the public to address the committee on any subject that is within the purview of the committee and that is not on today's agenda. Comments shall be limited to three minutes.

7. Consent Agenda
The following items are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Executive Committee wishes an item removed. If discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by an Executive Committee member and will be considered separately. Questions or clarification

may be made by the Executive Committee members without removal from the Consent Agenda. Individual items on the Consent Agenda are approved by the same vote that approves the Consent Agenda unless an item is pulled for separate consideration. Members of the public may comment on the Consent Agenda items.

a. Minutes – March 25, 2026

8. Old Business:

9. New Business:
   a. Periodic Evaluation Preparation
   b. Next meeting: To be determined

10. Informational Items

11. Adjournment

ATASCADERO BASIN
Groundwater
Sustainability Agency

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7.a, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes for the meeting held on March 25, 2026

MEETING MINUTES:
The Executive Committee (Committee) of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was held at the Templeton Community Services District boardroom and via teleconference on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Item 1 – Call to Order: Chairperson Moreno called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Item 2 – Roll Call: Present in person at the Committee meeting were voting members Heather Moreno, Navid Fardanesh, Grigger Jones, and Susan Funk. Voting members Rob Rossi and John Hamon and non-voting member Tom Mora were absent. A quorum (minimum of 4 voting representatives) of the Committee was established.

Item 3 – Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Moreno lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4 – Order of Business: The Committee Members reviewed the order of the meeting's agenda and confirmed to conduct the meeting as presented in the agenda.

Item 5 - Introductions: The attendees listed below were noted.

Templeton Community Services District Justin Black	GEI Consultants Mike Cornelius (via Zoom)
Atascadero Mutual Water Company John Neil	

Item 6 – General Public Comments: Chairperson Fardanesh opened public comment. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 7.a: February 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes – The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 18, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made by Member Fardanesh to approve the minutes. Member Jones provided a second. Voice Vote of Voting Members: Ayes –Fardanesh, Jones, Moreno, Funk. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Item 8 – Old Business: None

Item 9 – New Business

Agenda Item 9.a: Filing of Annual Report with Department of Water Resources – Staff informed the Committee that a draft of the annual report for Water Year 2025 was made available for public comment on the Atascadero Basin communications portal (https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/) on February 18, 2026. As of March 25, 2026. Only two comments were received. The first regarded PFAS contamination in the Atascadero Basin. The second regarded the poor resolution of some of the figures in the draft report.

Staff noted that there were no substantive changes made to the draft report presented to the Committee on February 18 and that figure resolution issue was rectified.

Staff informed the Committee that the annual report is required to be filed with the State Department of Water Resources by April 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Member Jones to adopt Resolution 2026-01 authorizing the filing of the Atascadero Groundwater Basin Plan Annual Report with the California Department of Water Resources for the water year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. Member Funk provided a second. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Funk, Fardanesh, Moreno. Absent – Hamon, Rossi. Abstain – none. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 9.b: Periodic Evaluation/GSP Amendment – Informational item. No action required. Mike Cornelius of GEI Consultants provided additional information on the periodic evaluation process for the Atascadero Basin groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). It is his opinion that a periodic evaluation is warranted versus a GSP amendment since there have been no significant or material changes in the sustainable management of the Atascadero Basin based on the water year 2025 annual report. He informed the Committee that efficiencies can be achieved by combining the periodic evaluation process with the annual report process. The periodic evaluation is due on January 1, 2027.

Agenda Item 9.c: Future Meetings – The following date and time was set for the next meeting:

- May 6, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – review periodic evaluation scope of work

Item 10 - Informational Items – none

Item 11 – Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Moreno adjourned the meeting at 4:28p.m.

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Rob Rossi, Secretary

ATASCADERO BASIN
Groundwater
Sustainability Agency

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.a, Contract Award for Preparation of a Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-02 authorizing Atascadero Mutual Water Company to enter into an agreement with the consulting team of GEI Consultants and Confluence Engineering to prepare the 2027 Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) to provide a written assessment evaluating the effectiveness of their basin's GSP at least once every five years from the initial GSP submittal to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The 2027 Periodic Evaluation is an opportunity for GSAs to convey to the DWR, interested parties, and the public progress on GSP implementation.

Water Code § 10728.2 identifies the criteria that GSAs should consider when conducting their GSP Periodic Evaluation and § 356.4 of the GSP Regulations further details the components of a Periodic Evaluation. The Periodic Evaluation should:

- Provide the status of groundwater conditions and progress toward meeting interim milestones and measurable objectives

- Describe the advancement of projects and management actions over the evaluation cycle including the associated quantified cumulative benefits.

- Explain how those cumulative benefits are contributing to the basin achieving its sustainability goal and operating within its sustainable yield.

- Describe any unforeseen challenges encountered with the development or implementation of certain projects and management actions and the outcome of responding to those challenges.

- Explain trends seen in data collected for previously submitted Annual Reports.

- Include responses to the DWR's GSP approval letter of April 2025 (see Attachment A).

The first Periodic Evaluation of the Atascadero Basin GSP must be submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review in January 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT:

See Attachment C for the consulting team's fee proposal for preparation of the periodic evaluation. AMWC will invoice the GSA participants on a pro-rata basis as described in the MOA and summarized below.

Participant	MOA Cost Allocation	Participant Cost
AMWC	43%	$73,039
Atascadero City	1%	$1,699
Paso Robles City	22%	$37,369
SLOCO	16%	$27,177
Small Systems	1%	$1,699
TCSD	17%	$28,876
TOTAL	**100%**	**$169,859**

ATTACHMENTS:

A. DWR GSP approval letter
B. Resolution 2026-02
C. 2027 Periodic Evaluation Cost Proposal

ATTACHMENT A

2. Explore how groundwater level data from the existing monitoring network will be used to make progress towards sustainable management of the basin given increasing aridification and effects of climate change, such as prolonged drought.
3. Take into consideration changes to surface water reliability and that impact on groundwater conditions.
4. Evaluate updated watershed studies that may modify assumed frequency and magnitude of recharge projects, if applicable, and
5. Continually coordinate with the appropriate groundwater users, including but not limited to domestic well owners and state small water systems, and the appropriate overlying county jurisdictions developing drought plans and establishing local drought task forces to evaluate how their Plan's groundwater management strategy aligns with drought planning, response, and mitigation efforts within the basin.

5 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Department staff recommend approval of the GSP with the recommended corrective actions listed below. The Atascadero Area GSP conforms with Water Code Sections 10727.2 and 10727.4 of SGMA and substantially complies with the GSP Regulations. Implementation of the GSP will likely achieve the sustainability goal for the Atascadero Area Basin. The GSA) has identified several areas for improvement of its Plan and Department staff concur that those items are important and should be addressed as soon as possible. Department staff have also identified additional recommended corrective actions that should be considered by the GSA for the first periodic evaluation of its GSP. Addressing these recommended corrective actions will be important to demonstrate that implementation of the Plan is likely to achieve the sustainability goal.

The recommended corrective actions include:

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 1

Provide a timeline for addressing data gaps related to improving understanding of the Rinconada Fault as a barrier to groundwater flow and vertical gradients in the Subbasin.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 2

Provide supporting data for the groundwater elevation and elevations of the Salinas River thalweg used in the analysis of interconnected surface water.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 3

Explain what "a defined area" as used in the criteria to quantitatively define undesirable results for chronic lowering of groundwater levels refers to.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 4

Address the following items related to the minimum thresholds established for chronic lowering of groundwater levels:

a. Assess potential impacts to supply wells, including domestic wells, at the proposed minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels and document the degree/extent of the potential impacts including the percentage, number, and location of potentially impacted wells.

b. Assess potential impacts on beneficial uses and users of shallow groundwater (e.g., GDEs) that may be impacted by the established minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 5

Define what constitutes "average hydrogeologic conditions" and how the "long-term average over all hydrogeologic conditions" will be calculated for the consideration of undesirable results for reduction of groundwater storage.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 6

Address the following items related to the sustainable management criteria for degraded water quality:

a. Define what constitutes "on average" and how it will be determined for the evaluation of undesirable results for degraded water quality.

b. Revise the definition of undesirable results for degraded groundwater quality so that exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater pumping, whether the GSA has implemented pumping regulations or not, are considered in the assessment of undesirable results in the Subbasin.

c. Provide the concentration values (i.e., numerical values) that will be used as the measurable objective at each representative monitoring well for the identified constituents of concern.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION 7

Address the following items related to sustainable management criteria for land subsidence:

a. Describe critical infrastructure and surface land uses in the Subbasin that may be impacted by land subsidence.

b. Define criteria that will be used to define when and where the effects of land subsidence cause undesirable results, which should be based on a quantitative description of the combination of minimum threshold exceedances that cause significant and unreasonable effects in the Subbasin.

D.

c. Revise “and” to “or” in the definition of the minimum threshold for land subsidence or explain why an exceedance of 0.1 foot in any one year would not be considered an exceedance (by itself) unless a cumulative exceedance of 0.5 foot over a 5-year period has also occurred.

Recommended Corrective Action 8

Department staff understand that estimating the location, quantity, and timing of stream depletion due to ongoing, Subbasin-wide pumping is a complex task and that developing suitable tools may take additional time; however, it is critical for the Department’s ongoing and future evaluations of whether GSP implementation is on track to achieve sustainable groundwater management. The Department plans to provide guidance on methods and approaches to evaluate the rate, timing, and volume of depletions of interconnected surface water and support for establishing specific sustainable management criteria in the near future. This guidance is intended to assist GSAs to sustainably manage depletions of interconnected surface water.

In addition, the GSA should work to address the following items by the first periodic evaluation of the Plan:

a. Consider using, as appropriate, the technical papers released by the Department on methods for determining the location, quantity, and timing of interconnected surface water depletion due to ongoing Subbasin-wide groundwater pumping, and guidance when issued by the Department, to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.

b. Continue to fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, and implement the current strategy to manage depletions of interconnected surface water and define segments of interconnectivity and timing.

c. Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA’s jurisdictional area.

ATTACHMENT B

RESOLUTION 2026-02

AUTHORIZING ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSULTING TEAM OF GEI CONSULTANTSAND CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING TO PREPARE A 5-YEAR PERIODIC EVALUATION OF THE ATASCADERO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

WHEREAS in August 2014, the California Legislature passed, and in September 2014 the Governor signed, legislation creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) "to provide local groundwater sustainability agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater" (Wat. Code, § 10720, (d)); and

WHEREAS the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Atascadero Basin (3-004.11 Salinas Valley Atascadero Area) to the Department of Water Resourced (DWR) on January 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS SGMA requires the GSA to submit either a periodic evaluation of or an amendment to the GSP to the DWR by January 2027; and

WHEREAS the GSP periodic evaluation or amendment is meant to evaluate whether a GSA is meeting the basin's groundwater sustainability goals and whether the GSP continues to meet the requirements of SGMA including responses to the DWR's GSP approval letter of April 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin GSA hereby authorizes Atascadero Mutual Water Company to enter an agreement with the consulting team of GEI Consultants and Confluence Engineering to prepare the Annual Report for water year ending September 30, 2025 (WY 2025).

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Atascadero Basin GSA on May 5, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

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Heather Moreno, Chairperson

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Secretary's Certification

I, Rob Rossi, Secretary of the Atascadero Basin GSA Executive Committee, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy entered into the Minutes of the Meeting of May 6, 2026, at which time a quorum was present, and no motion to amend or rescind the above resolution was made.

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Rob Rossi, Secretary

ATTACHMENT C

COVER LETTER

April 30, 2026

Submitted via email to: John B. Neil/jneil@amwc.us

Mr. John B. Neil, P.E.
General Manager
Atascadero Mutual Water Company

Subject: Cost Proposal for Atascadero Basin 2027 Periodic Evaluation

Dear Mr. Neil:

The GEI Team which includes **GEI Consultants, Inc**. and **Confluence Engineering Solutions, Inc**. is pleased to submit this cost proposal to the Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC) to support the preparation of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation to provide ongoing support to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) for the Atascadero Subbasin. The scope of work and cost proposal is based on our prior experience preparing the Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and GSP Annual Reports.

Sincerely,

GEI Consultants, Inc.

Michael Cornelius, P.G.
Project Manager

Chris Petersen, P.G., C.Hg.
Principal-in-Charge

SCOPE

The GEI Team will work with the AMWC and the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Executive Committee (Executive Committee) to prepare the 2027 Periodic Evaluation, in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and GSP Regulations Pursuant to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regulations, a Periodic Evaluation must be submitted to DWR by January 31, 2027.

The Atascadero Basin submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan in January 2022, that was accepted by DWR. On April 14, 2025, DWR provide a letter, that approved the GSP for the Salinas Valley – Atascadero Area Subbasin. The Staff Report included proposed Recommended Corrective Actions to enhance the GSP and facilitate future evaluation by the Department. DWR encourages the Recommended Corrective Actions be given due consideration and suggests incorporating all resulting changes to the GSP in future updates.

This 2027 Periodic Evaluation will focus on filling data gaps and addressing the Recommended Corrective Actions identified in the DWR Acceptance Letter to continue to support the Adaptive Management approach currently working successfully in the Atascadero Basin. If we decide we will need to a Plan Amendment, we will need to rescope to add the elements required in a Plan Amendment that are not needed for a Periodic Evaluation. That is not anticipated due to the very low priority status of the basin and that is it being managed sustainably.

Some of the activities supporting the development of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation will also be used to support the development of the Water Year 2026 Annual Report which will need to be submitted to DWR by April 1, 2027. This overlap of tasks occurs because the information for Water Year 2026 will be used in both the 2027 Periodic Evaluation (which covers the period from WY 2022 through WY 2026) and the 2026 Annual Report (which covers the period from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027).

This cost proposal includes the scope of work, schedule, and estimated budget to prepare and submit the 2027 Periodic Evaluation and provide additional support for ongoing SGMA compliance.

TASK 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The GEI Team will coordinate with AMWC during the preparation of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation. This includes providing monthly invoices and progress reports to track progress.

TASK 2. COORDINATION WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The GEI Team will meet with the Atascadero Subbasin GSA Executive Committee to support the development and approval of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation and provide ongoing support to AMWC and the Executive Committee Through January 2027. We anticipate four meetings with the Executive Committee during the development of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation to:

- **Project Initiation Update** –The purpose of this meeting is to review data collection efforts (**Task 3**) and review the draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation outline. This meeting is anticipated to take place in August 2026.
- **Periodic Evaluation Update** – The purpose of this meeting is to review progress on the Update Basin Information (Task 4) and Address Recommended Corrective Actions (Task 5). This meeting is anticipated to take place in October 2026.

- **Review Draft 2027 Period Evaluation** – The purpose of this meeting is to review the draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and provide comments. This meeting is anticipated to take place in November or December 2026.
- **Review and Approve 2027 Periodic Evaluation** – The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2027 Periodic Evaluation for submittal to DWR. This meeting is anticipated to take place in January 2027.

TASK 3. NEW INFORMATION COLLECTED

The purpose of this task is to identify and collect any new relevant readily available information that improves the understanding in the Atascadero Basin and adjacent basins. This task will be built upon the 2022 GSP and Annual Reports to determine if the new information identified and collected warrants changes to any aspect of the Plan, including the evaluation of the basin setting, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, or the criteria defining undesirable results. Additionally, this section should evaluate whether those changes associated with the new information led to a Plan Amendment.

Because the Atascadero Basin has a very-low designation and has continued to be operated sustainably as documented in the WY 2021 to WY 2025 Annual Reports, it is not anticipated that a Plan Amendment will be needed at this time. The outreach to well owners will be informed by input from GSA members and will be focused to specific areas described below.

The GEI Team will generate data requests for groundwater wells and associated data such as groundwater elevation data, groundwater production data from the appropriate entities.

The activities in this task will include:

- Identification of new wells that could be added to the existing monitoring network. Added focus will emphasize data collection efforts associated with:
    - Areas with identified data gaps
    - Areas experiencing changes in groundwater levels
    - Wells near the Rinconada Fault
    - Shallow Domestic Wells
    - Shallow wells near the Salinas River
- Collection of readily available well logs, well construction information, and other relevant information to support the review of the hydrogeologic conceptual model and monitoring networks.
- Integration of data from the DWR AEM survey in the Atascadero Basin and Paso Robles Basin near the basin boundary.
- Rainfall data and groundwater level data will be collected for Water Year 2026 to support the development of the current hydrologic conditions and support the development of an updated water budget. This information will also be used to support the development of the Water Year 2026 Annual Report.
- Digital land use spatial data, and satellite-based evapotranspiration data will be collected from the appropriate entities for the Water Year 2026 period.

- Water use and water demand data will be collected for Water Year 2026 to support the development of an updated water budget. This information will also be used to support the development of the Water Year 2026 Annual Report.
- Assessment of land use planning documents with estimates of future water demands. This information will also be used to support the development of the Water Year 2026 Annual Report.

The deliverable for this task will be a draft *Section 2 - New Information Collected* documenting the new information collected to support ongoing groundwater management activities that will be provided to the Executive Committee for review. Comments received on the draft section will be incorporated into the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation.

TASK 4. UPDATE BASIN INFORMATION

The purpose of this task is to incorporate the new information and data collected in Task 3 to update Basin information and determine if this new information warrants a change to any aspect of the GSP. The draft sections identified in this task will be provided to the Executive Committee for review. Comments received on the draft sections will be incorporated into the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation.

Some of the specific tasks include:

TASK 4.1 HYDROGEOLOGIC CONCEPTUAL MODEL

The information collected in Task 3 will be used to refine Atascadero Basin hydrogeologic conceptual model if necessary. This will include updates to figures, maps, and cross-sections based on the new information if it changes the interpretation of the hydrogeologic conceptual model. This information will be incorporated into draft *Section 4- Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model* of the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation.

TASK 4.2 GROUNDWATER CONIDITIONS

The information collected in Task 3 will be used to document the current groundwater conditions in the Atascadero Basin. This information along with information collected during the preparation of the prior Annual Reports will be used to document the changes in groundwater conditions since the submittal of the GSP in 2022. This information will be presented as:

- Groundwater Elevation Contours Maps for each Principal Aquifer (Spring and Fall 2026).
- Groundwater Elevation Change Maps for each Principal Aquifer.
- Estimate of Change in Groundwater in Storage for each Principal Aquifer.

This information will be incorporated into Section *5 – Groundwater Conditions* of the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation. The change in groundwater conditions will also be used to support the development of *Section 6- Water Use and Water Budget* of the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation. This information will also be used to support the development of the Water Year 2026 Annual Report.

TASK 4.3 WATER BUDGET

The information collected in Task 3 and the information used to develop the Atascadero Basin GSP Annual reports prepared since 2022 will be used to develop an updated spreadsheet water budget to document the current conditions in the Basin.

Land use planning documents collected in Task 3 will be used to support the development of future water uses and demands to estimate the future water budget for the Basin.

This information will be incorporated into *Section 6- Water Use and Water Budget* of the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation.

TASK 4.4 MONITORNG NETWORKS

The information collected in Task 3 will be integrated into existing monitoring networks to refine Atascadero Basin monitoring networks if necessary. This will include information related to:

- Groundwater levels and well construction information
- Groundwater Quality data
- Land Subsidence monitoring

This information will be incorporated into *Section 7 – Monitoring Networks* of the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation. This information will also be used to support the development of the Water Year 2026 Annual Report.

TASK 5. ADDRESS RECCOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The purpose of this task is to develop the information needed to address the Recommended Corrective Actions identified in the DWR acceptance letter dated April 14, 2025. The draft sections will be provided to the Executive Committee for review. Comments received on the draft sections will be incorporated into the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation. Each of the Recommended Corrective Actions are described below.

TASK 5.1 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 1 - RINCONADA FAULT ANALYSIS

The Rinconada Fault has been identified as a semi-permeable boundary between the Paso Robles Subbasin and the Atascadero Subbasin. This Corrective Action includes the development of a timeline to address data gaps related to improving understanding of the Rinconada Fault as a barrier to groundwater flow.

- As part of this task the GEI Team will review the data collected in Task 3 including the DWR AEM data and groundwater level data to identify additional available information and identify additional data needed to improve the understanding of the fault.
- The GEI Team will also coordinate with the Paso Robles Subbasin GSA's to identify and coordinate future data collection efforts.

TASK 5.2 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 2 - SALINAS RIVER ANALYSIS

The Salinas River is one of the primary sources of recharge to the Atascadero Basin. This Corrective Action includes the identification of groundwater elevation data and the elevations of the thalweg of the Salinas River to support the analysis of interconnection between the river and the groundwater basin.

As part of this task the GEI Team will review the groundwater level data along the Salinas River and compare it to the thalweg of the Salinas Rier to support the analysis of surface water interactions along the Salinas River within the Atascadero Basin.

TASK 5.3 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 3. – GROUNDWATER LEVEL AREAL DESIGNATION

The GEI Team will revisit the areal designation of the groundwater level data used to develop groundwater level maps in the Atascadero Basin to revisit the criteria used to develop a more quantitative definition for the undesirable result for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

TASK 5.4 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 4. – REVIEW GROUNDWATER LEVEL MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

The Atascadero Basin has been sustainably managed for years even predating SGMA. Groundwater levels fluctuate on a year-to-year basis based on annual hydrologic conditions and changes in demand. This Corrective Action looks to refine the minimum thresholds established for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels. This focuses on domestic wells and users of shallow groundwater levels. Since 2022 only a few dry wells have been reported to the DWR Dry Well website. As part of this task, the GEI Team will:

- Identify shallow wells in the basin and their construction details from the available information collected in Task 3 to identify the shallowest well in each section. This information will be compared to local groundwater levels and groundwater level minimum thresholds to assess the effectiveness of current groundwater level minimum thresholds.
- Review the available dry well information available on DWR websites to identify and dry wells in the basin.
- Review the presence of beneficial uses and users of shallow groundwater such as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE's) to assess the effectiveness of current groundwater level minimum thresholds.
- This information will be used to determine if changes are needed in certain locations of the groundwater level minimum threshold.

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TASK 5.5 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 5. – REVIEW GROUNDWATER STORAGE DEFINITIONS

The GEI Team will revisit the 'average hydrogeologic conditions' definition used in the GSP and will consider updates and refinement as needed to support the evaluation of the undesirable result for reduction in groundwater storage. This will be done by evaluating existing information and any new information collected in Task 3 to refine groundwater aquifer parameters.

TASK 5.6 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 6. – REVIEW GROUNDWATER QUALITY SMC

Groundwater quality in the Atascadero Basin is suitable for current and projected future uses of groundwater. Most of the groundwater quality data used to establish groundwater quality conditions in the Atascadero Basin are collected as part of regulatory programs.

As part of this task, the GEI Team will revisit the groundwater quality suitable management criteria regarding degraded water quality to address this item as identified in this Corrective Action.

As described in the Recommended Corrective Action, this analysis will focus on the potential exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater pumping. The focus will continue to be on groundwater quality data collected as part of existing regulatory programs as described in the GSP. This information

will be evaluated in conjunction with any identified changes in groundwater pumping locations and/or amounts based on current information.

Additional information regarding water quality criteria will be identified for selected water quality parameters that may be associated with changes in pumping including the constituents of concern identified in the GSP (TDS, nitrate, sodium, chloride, and boron).

TASK 5.7 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 7. – REVIEW LAND SUBISDENCE SMC

The purpose of this task is to develop additional information that may inform the land subsidence SMC. Since 2022 the Atascadero Basin has not experienced any land subsidence, and hydrogeologic conditions do not suggest the area is subject to land subsidence due to groundwater pumping. This task will be informed by relevant information for the Atascadero Basin included in the DWR Land Subsidence BMP released on January 21, 2026. This will inform the approach to define criteria that could be used to update the land subsidence SMC for the Atascadero. This task will include the identification of critical infrastructure that may be impacted by land subsidence.

TASK 5.8 RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION NO. 8. – REVIEW SURFACE WATER DEPLETIONS

The purpose of this task is to update the information available to support the improved understating of stream depletions along the Salinas River. DWR has released guidance on interconnected surface waters that will be reviewed to inform this task. As mentioned, the Salinas River is one of the primary sources of recharge to the Atascadero Basin. To date, limited data has been collected to directly support the evaluation of stream seepage from Salinas River, the role of groundwater levels affecting the timing and amounts of seepage and the impacts to nearby beneficial users of groundwater adjacent to the river.

To address this, additional monitoring data including groundwater levels collected as part of Task 3 will be used to provide additional data to support both RCA 2 and RCA 8. Readily available streamflow data will also be collected to support this analysis.

As part of this task, additional historical imagery and/or satellite acquired vegetative health indices data such as normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) will be collected focusing on the 2014 to 2025 period to identify changes in vegetation patterns adjacent to the Salinas River to evaluate the patterns of vegetative growth. Individual reaches of the Salinas River that have experienced changes in groundwater levels will be identified to compare to seasonal vegetative growth patterns along the river. The seasonal vegetative growth patterns will be compared to stream flows and groundwater levels near the river to develop a correlation of the river flows, groundwater levels, and river -adjacent vegetation growth.

TASK 6. PREPARE DRAFT 2027 PERIODIC EVALUATION

The purpose of this task is to prepare the draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation for review by the Atascadero Subbasin GSA Executive Committee. The draft will be prepared based on the work completed and documented in Tasks 3 through Task 5. A draft outline of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation is provided below:

- Executive Summary
- Section 1 – Project Background
- Section 2 - New Information Collected
- Section 3 – Status of Recommended Corrective Actions

- Section 4 – Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
- Section 5 - Groundwater Conditions
- Section 6 - Water Use and Water Budget
- Section 7 - Monitoring Networks
- Section 8- Groundwater Conditions Relative Sustainable Management Criteria
- Section 9 - Status of Projects and Management Actions
- Section 10 – GSA Authorities and Governance
- Section 11 - Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination with other Agencies

The draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation will be provided to the Executive Committee two weeks prior to the December 2026 Executive Committee Meeting.

TASK 7. PREPARE FINAL 2027 PERIODIC EVALUATION AND SUBMIT TO DWR

The purpose of this task is to finalize the 2027 Periodic Evaluation based on the comments received on the Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation and submit it DWR. The GEI Team will review the comments received to and work to finalize the 2027 Periodic Evaluation prior to the January 2027 Executive Committee Meeting.

SCHEDULE

The draft project schedule assumes a start date of May 15, 2026. The work will begin upon full execution of this Task Order by AMWC and continue through January 2027. The estimated completion dates for the deliveries described in this Task Order are shown in **Table 1.**

TABLE 1: TASK COMPLETION SCHEDULE

		2026								2027
Task No.	Task Name	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1	Project Management									
2	Coordination with Executive Committee				EC		EC		EC	EC
3	New Information Collected			D						
4	Update Basin Information					D				
	Task 4.1 - Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model									
	Task 4.2 - Groundwater Conditions									
	Task 4.3 - Water Budget									
	Taske 4.4 Monitoring Network									
5	Address Recommended Corrective Actions					D				
	Task 5.1 - Rinconada Fault Analysis									
	Task 5.2 -Salinas River Analysis									
	Task 5.3 - Groundwater Level Areal Designation									
	Task 5.4 - Review Groundwater Level MTs									
	Task 5.5 - Review Groundwater Storage Definitions									
	Task 5.6 - Review Groundwater Quality SMC									
	Task 5.7 - Review Land Subsidence SMC									
	Task 5.8 - Review Surface Water Depletions									
6	Prepare Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation							D		
7	Prepare Final Periodic Evolution and Submit to DWR									F

Project Management (Ongoing)
EC Executive Committee Meetings
Task Duration
D Draft Deliverable
F Final Report

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF EFFORT

The GEI Team's estimated level of effort for preparing the 2027 Periodic Evaluation is provided in Table 2. Our GEI Team members have worked on Atascadero Basin GSP and all five Annual Reports and are very familiar with the Atascadero Subbasin and thus, can work efficiently. The 2026 rate sheets for the GEI Team members are used to estimate the budget shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2: ITEMIZED TASK BUDGET

Task No.	Task Name	GEI Labor Hours	GEI Total Costs	Confluence ES Labor Hours	Confluence ES Total Costs	TOTAL Labor Hours	TOTAL 5% markup on	TOTAL Total Costs
1	**Project Management**	20	$ 6,620	13	$ 3,285	33	$ 164	$ 10,069
2	**Coordination with Executive Committee**	28	$ 9,684	8	$ 1,960	36	$ 98	$ 11,742
3	**New Information Collected**	30	$ 6,434	32	$ 6,560	62	$ 328	$ 13,322
4	**Update Basin Information**	102	$ 25,390	76	$ 15,100	178	$ 755	$ 41,245
	Task 4.1 - Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model	10	$ 2,478	20	$ 3,940	30	$ 197	$ 6,615
	Task 4.2 - Groundwater Conditions	14	$ 3,490	24	$ 4,600	38	$ 230	$ 8,320
	Task 4.3 - Water Budget	64	$ 15,932	8	$ 1,960	72	$ 98	$ 17,990
	Task 4.4 Monitoring Network	14	$ 3,490	24	$ 4,600	38	$ 230	$ 8,320
5	**Address Corrective Actions**	100	$ 25,232	132	$ 26,260	232	$ 1,313	$ 52,805
	Task 5.1 - Rinconada Fault Analysis	10	$ 2,478	20	$ 3,940	30	$ 197	$ 6,615
	Task 5.2 -Salinas River Analysis	24	$ 6,280	12	$ 2,300	36	$ 115	$ 8,695
	Task 5.3 - Groundwater Level Areal Designation	2	$ 766	4	$ 980	6	$ 49	$ 1,795
	Task 5.4 - Review Groundwater Level MTs	14	$ 3,646	28	$ 5,260	42	$ 263	$ 9,169
	Task 5.5 - Review Groundwater Storage Definitions	4	$ 1,532	4	$ 980	8	$ 49	$ 2,561
	Task 5.6 - Review Groundwater Quality SMC	2	$ 766	40	$ 7,880	42	$ 394	$ 9,040
	Task 5.7 - Review Land Subsidence SMC	2	$ 766	4	$ 980	6	$ 49	$ 1,795
	Task 5.8 - Review Surface Water Depletions	42	$ 8,998	20	$ 3,940	62	$ 197	$ 13,135
6	**Prepare Draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation**	80	$ 19,608	32	$ 6,240	112	$ 312	$ 26,160
7	**Prepare Final Periodic Evolution and Submit to DWR**	44	$ 11,072	16	$ 3,280	60	$ 164	$ 14,516
	TOTAL	404	$ 104,040	309	$ 62,685	713	$ 3,134	$ 169,859

US FEE SCHEDULE AND PAYMENT TERMS

GEI Consultants

FEE SCHEDULE

Personnel Category	*Hourly Billing Rate* $ per hour
Staff Professional – Grade 1	$ 158
Staff Professional – Grade 2	$ 174
Project Professional – Grade 3	$ 190
Project Professional – Grade 4	$ 214
Senior Professional – Grade 5	$ 253
Senior Professional – Grade 6	$ 288
Senior Professional – Grade 7	$ 343
Senior Consultant – Grade 8	$ 383
Senior Consultant – Grade 9	$ 467
Senior Principal – Grade 10	$ 467
Senior Drafter and Designer	$ 190
Drafter / Designer and Senior Technician	$ 174
Field Professional	$ 176
Technician, Word Processor, Administrative Staff	$ 142
Office Aide	$ 111

These rates are billed for both regular and overtime hours in all categories.
Rates will increase up to 5% annually, at GEI's option, for all contracts that extend into the next calendar year. Rates for Deposition and Testimony are increased 1.5 times.

OTHER PROJECT COSTS

Subconsultants, Subcontractors and Other Project Expenses - All costs for subconsultants, subcontractors and other project expenses will be billed at cost plus a 15% service charge. Examples of such expenses ordinarily charged to projects are subcontractors; subconsultants: chemical laboratory charges; rented or leased field and laboratory equipment; outside printing and reproduction; communications and mailing charges; reproduction expenses; shipping costs for samples and equipment; disposal of samples; rental vehicles; fares for travel on public carriers; special fees for insurance certificates, permits, licenses, etc.; fees for restoration of paving or land due to field exploration, etc.; state and local sales and use taxes and state taxes on GEI fees. The 15% service charge will not apply to GEI-owned equipment and vehicles or in-house reproduction expenses.

Field and Laboratory Equipment Billing Rates – GEI-owned field and laboratory equipment such as pumps, sampling equipment, monitoring instrumentation, field density equipment, portable gas chromatographs, etc. will be billed at a daily, weekly, or monthly rate, as needed for the project. Expendable supplies are billed at a unit rate.

Transportation and Subsistence - Automobile expenses for GEI or employee owned cars will be charged at the rate per mile set by the Internal Revenue Service for tax purposes plus tolls and parking charges or at a day rate negotiated for each project. When required for a project, four-wheel drive vehicles owned by GEI or the employees will be billed at a daily rate appropriate for those vehicles. Per diem living costs for personnel on assignment away from their home office will be negotiated for each project.

PAYMENT TERMS

Invoices will be submitted monthly or upon completion of a specified scope of service, as described in the accompanying contract (proposal, project, or agreement document that is signed and dated by GEI and CLIENT).

Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice. Interest will accrue at the rate of 1% of the invoice amount per month, for amounts that remain unpaid more than 30 days after the invoice date. All payments will be made by either check or electronic transfer to the address specified by GEI and will include reference to GEI's invoice number.

2026 Rate Schedule

Confluence Engineering Solutions

Classification	Billing Rate ($/hour)
Principal Engineer	$265
Senior Engineer/Hydrogeologist	$245
Project Engineer	$190
Associate Engineer	$165
Assistant Engineer	$155
Engineering Assistant	$135

Direct expenses (e.g. travel, mileage (per IRS Rates), delivery/copy services, subconsultant services) will be invoiced with a 10% processing fee.

Confluence Engineering Solutions, Inc. reserves the right to revise our standard billing rates on an annual basis and personnel classifications may be added as necessary.