

Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Draft Chapter for Public Comment

Section 2

Agency Information

Released for Comment April 3, 2019

Comments for this draft document are being collected via an electronic form available online at www.atascaderobasin.com. If you require a paper form to submit by postal mail, please contact Atascadero Mutual Water Company at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422.

Thank you for your interest in sustainable groundwater management.





Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

Draft Atascadero Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Atascadero Groundwater Basin

DRAFT

April 2019



Prepared for: Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
ac	Acres
Act (or SGMA)	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
AF	acre-feet
AFY	acre-feet per year
AMWC	Atascadero Mutual Water Company
ASH	Atascadero State Hospital
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
CCGC	Central Coast Groundwater Coalition
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCRWQCB	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
County	San Luis Obispo County
CSD	Community Services District
CWWCP	Countywide Water Conservation Program
DBCP	Dibromochloropropane
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
du	Dwelling Unit
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EC	Executive Committee
ETo	Evapotranspiration
FAR	Floor Area Ratio
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment
GMP	Groundwater Management Plan
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Program
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LOS	Level of Severity
LUCE	Land Use and Circulation Element
LUFTs	Leaky Underground Fuel Tanks
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWC	Mutual Water Company
MWR	Master Water Report
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWIS	National Water Information System
pp	Projected Population
RMC	Recycled Water Policy
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SGMA	State Groundwater Management Act
SGMP	Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning
SGWP	Sustainable Groundwater Planning
SLOFCWCD	San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
SMR	Santa Margarita Ranch
SNMP	Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
Subbasin	Atascadero Subbasin
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
US	United States
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
USFW	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USTs	Underground Storage Tanks
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
WPA	Water Planning Area

2. Agency Information (§ 354.6)

The purpose of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency is to serve as the GSA for the entire Atascadero Basin and to develop, adopt, and implement a GSP for the entire Atascadero Basin pursuant to SGMA and other applicable provisions of law.

2.1 Agency Names and Mailing Addresses

The following contact information is provided for each party pursuant to California Water Code §10723.8.

Atascadero Mutual Water Company
5005 El Camino Real
Atascadero CA 93422

Garden Farms Water District
17005 Walnut Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422

Atascadero State Hospital
10333 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422

Santa Ysabel Ranch Mutual Water Company
935 Riverside Ave Suite 13
Paso Robles CA 93446

City of Atascadero
6500 Palma Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422

SMR Mutual Water Company
750 Pismo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

City of Paso Robles
1000 Spring Street
City of Paso Robles, CA 93635

Templeton Community Services District
420 Crocker Street
Templeton, CA 93465

County of San Luis Obispo
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Walnut Hills Mutual Water Company
317 South Main Street
Templeton, CA 93465

2.2 Agency Organization and Management Structure

The Atascadero Basin GSA is comprised of four forming parties and six participating parties.

Forming Parties

- City of Atascadero
- City of Paso Robles
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Templeton Community Services District

Participating Parties

- Atascadero Mutual Water Company
- Atascadero State Hospital
- SMR Mutual Water Company
- Santa Ysabel Ranch Mutual Water Company
- Walnut Hills Mutual Water Company
- Garden Farms Water District

The organization and management structures of each of the parties of the GSA are described below. The GSA is governed by an Executive Committee (EC) and has both Voting and Non-voting Representatives, which is further described in Section 2.3.2.

2.2.1 Atascadero MWC

The Atascadero Mutual Water Company (MWC) is a participating party of the GSA. It was incorporated on August 12, 1913 and provides water for domestic and irrigation purposes at cost to its shareholders. It is one of the largest retail mutual water companies in the state and is responsible for meeting the water requirements of more than 30,000 people. One member from the Atascadero MWC sits on the GSA Executive Committee.

2.2.2 City of Atascadero

The City of Atascadero is a forming party of the GSA. It is an incorporated city that operates under a Council-Manager general law form of government. The city council consists of five members elected at-large on a non-partisan basis. Council members serve four-year overlapping terms. The mayor is directly elected and serves a two-year term. One member from the City sits on the Executive Committee that coordinates activities among the GSA. This member will be appointed by and be a duly-elected member of the city council.

2.2.3 City of Paso Robles

The City of Paso Robles is a forming party of the GSA. It is an incorporated city that operates under a Council-Manager general law form of government. The city council consists of five members elected at-large on a non-partisan basis. Council members serve four-year overlapping terms. The mayor is directly elected and serves a two-year term. One member from the City sits on the Executive Committee that coordinates activities among the GSA. The member will be appointed by and be a duly-elected member of the city council. One member of the City sits on the GSA Executive Committee.

2.2.4 County of San Luis Obispo

The County of San Luis Obispo is a forming party of the GSA. It is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors representing five districts in San Luis Obispo County. Board of Supervisor members are elected to staggered four-year terms. One member from the county sits on the Executive Committee that coordinates activities among the GSA. The member will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and shall be a duly-elected supervisor from any district that has legislative territory over the Atascadero Basin. One member of the county sits on the GSA Executive Committee.

2.2.5 Templeton Community Services District

Templeton Community Services District is a forming party in the GSA. It is an unincorporated community located along Highway 101 between the Cities of Past Robles and Atascadero. Templeton is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected to a four-year term. One member of the Board of Directors sits on the Executive Committee that coordinates activities among the GSA. This member will be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall be a duly-elected board member of the Templeton Community Service District.

2.2.6 Other Small Water Systems

There are five other small water systems that collectively are a participate in the Atascadero GSA. These small water systems collectively appoint a single member to represented them on the GSA executive committee that coordinates activities among the GSA. The executive committee appointee must be a duly-elected member of the governing board from one of the small water systems. The executive committee member appointee will be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo

2.2.6.1 Atascadero State Hospital

Atascadero State Hospital (ASH) is a participating party of the GSA. It opened in 1954 and is a secure forensic hospital that houses inmates that were committed to psychiatric facilities by California's courts. It operates under the Department of XXXX of the State of California. ASH is the largest employer in the City of Atascadero.

2.2.6.2 Garden Farms Community Water District

Garden Farms Community Water District is a participating party in the GSA. It is a small water system that was adopted in 2007. It operates under a Local Agency Formation Commission and serves the majority of the people living in Garden Farms. It is managed by a Board of Directors.

2.2.6.3 Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC

Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC is a participating party in the GSA. It is a nonprofit, incorporated on July 15, 2002. It is managed by a Board of Directors.

2.2.6.4 SMR MWC

The Santa Margarita Ranch Mutual (SMR) Water Company is a participating party in the GSA. SMR Mutual currently consists of one shareholder, three directors and three officers. The directors are elected annually.

2.2.6.5 Walnut Hills MWC

Walnut Hills MWC is a participating party in the GSA. Walnut Hills was incorporated on September 17, 1999. The owners of the 18 lots in the Walnut Hills Ranch development each own a share in the Walnut Hills MWC. Each year the owners elect three directors for WHMWC to a one year term. The directors select the corporate officers.

2.3 Authority of Agencies

The GSA developing this coordinated GSP was formed in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code §10723 *et seq.* The resolutions of formation for the GSA are included in Appendix A. The specific authorities for forming a GSA and implementing the GSP for the formed GSA are summarized below.

2.3.1 Individual GSA Members

[water Code§ 10721 “Local agency” means a local public agency that has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.]

2.3.1.1 Atascadero MWC

Atascadero MWC provides water to the residents of the City of Atascadero and some of the adjacent unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. It is an urban water supplier with an approved Urban Water Management Plan that was verified as complete by DWR on April 28, 2017. The MWC is also a surface water diverter that has and utilizes riparian, pre-appropriative, and appropriative rights to the Salinas River. Therefore, it is a local agency under California Water Code§ 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a member of a GSA. Upon establishing itself as part of a GSA, the Atascadero MWC retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* Atascadero MWC is a participating party in the GSA and is categorized as a large water system. Atascadero MWC is a member of the Executive Committee and has 20 percent of the vote for the large water system representatives.

2.3.1.2 Atascadero State Hospital

Atascadero State Hospital is a Small Water System. The Hospital maintains their own municipal well field and wastewater treatment facility. Atascadero State Hospital is a participating party in the GSA and is categorized as an Other Small Water System. The Small Water Systems in aggregate have 10 percent of the vote for other representatives on the Executive Committee.

2.3.1.3 City of Atascadero

The City of Atascadero is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The City provides land use planning services to its residents. The City is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon entering as a party of the GSA, the City retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code §10725 *et seq.* The City is a forming party in the GSA and is categorized as a Land Use/Small Water System. The City is a member of the Executive Committee and has 13.33 percent of the vote for other representatives on the Executive Committee.

2.3.1.4 City of Paso Robles

The City of Paso Robles is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The City provides water supply and land use planning services to its residents. The City is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, Paso robles retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code §10725 *et seq.* The City is a forming party in the GSA and is categorized as a large water system. The City is a member of the Executive Committee and has 20 percent of the vote for the large water system representatives.

2.3.1.5 County of San Luis Obispo

The County of San Luis Obispo has land use authority over the unincorporated areas of the county, including areas overlying the Paso Robles Subbasin. The county of San Luis Obispo is therefore a local agency under California Water Code§ 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, the county retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* The County is a forming party in the GSA and is categorized as a Land Use/Small Water System. The County is a member of the Executive Committee and has 16.67 percent of the vote for other representatives on the Executive Committee.

2.3.1.6 Garden Farms Community Water District

Garden Farms Community Water District is a nonprofit entity that runs a small water system that provides water to a majority of the residents of Garden Farms, 240 residents with 113 water service connections. Besides two small commercial establishments, all connections are residential. Garden Farms is therefore a local agency under California Water Code§ 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, the Water District retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* Garden Farms Community Water District is a participating party in the GSA and is categorized as an Other Small Water System.

2.3.1.7 Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC

Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC provides water to the residents of Santa Ysabel. Therefore, it is a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, the MWC retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC is a participating party in the GSA and is categorized as an Other Small Water System.

2.3.1.8 SMR MWC

SMR MWC provides water to the residents of Santa Margarita Ranch. Therefore, it is considered to be a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, the MWC retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* The SMR MWC is a participating party in the GSA and is categorized as an Other Small Water System.

2.3.1.9 Templeton Community Services District

Templeton Community Services District (CSD) is a public entity that manages water, sewer, fire, parks and recreation, as well as other services it provides to the areas that have been adopted into the District. The Templeton area has several homes on larger lots, and thus exhibits a relatively large per capita water demand as a result. The Templeton CSD is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, the District retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* Templeton CSD is a forming party in the GSA and is categorized as a large water system. Templeton is a member of the Executive Committee and has 20 percent of the vote for the large water system representatives.

2.3.1.10 Walnut Hills MWC

Walnut Hills MWC provides water to the residents of Walnut Hill, an unincorporated area of the County of San Luis Obispo south of the City of Paso Robles. Therefore, it is a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a party of the GSA, the Walnut Hills MWC retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.* Walnut Hills MWC is a participating party in the GSA and is categorized as an Other Small Water System.

2.3.2 Memorandum of Agreement

The GSA parties entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) effective on May 30, 2017. The purpose of the MOA is to establish a single GSA over the Atascadero Subbasin, which will develop the a Subbasin GSP, and following the adoption thereof, will take actions necessary to implement the GSP. The single GSP developed under this MOA will be considered for adoption

by each individual party and subsequently submitted to DWR for approval. A copy of the MOA is included in Appendix A.

The MOA establishes the Executive Committee, a nine-member body, consisting of one member and one alternate (optional for at-large members) from each of the Large Water System Representatives (three total), Other Representatives (three total), and one each for at-large members from rural residential, agricultural, and environmental. The Executive Committee conducts activities related to GSP development and SGMA implementation. The full list of activities that the Executive Committee is authorized to undertake is included in the MOA in Appendix A. Highlights include:

- Developing a GSP that achieves the goals and objectives outlined in SGMA
- Reviewing and participating in the selection of consultants related to Executive Committee efforts
- Developing annual budgets and additional funding needs
- Developing a stakeholder participation plan
- Coordinating with neighboring GSAs

The MOA sets forth each parties' weighted voting percentages and the votes needed to implement certain actions or make certain recommendations to the individual members. The MOA states that the Executive Committee must unanimously adopt the final GSP by an accumulated two-thirds (2/3, 66.67%) super majority affirmative vote tally.

2.3.3 Coordination Agreements

A coordination agreement is not required for the Atascadero Subbasin because there is only a single GSA that manages the basin.

2.4 Contact Information for Plan Manager(s)

The plan manager is Mr. John B. Neal, P.E. from the Atascadero Mutual Water Company. His contact information is below.

John Neil, General Manager
Atascadero Mutual Water Company
5005 El Camino Real
Atascadero CA 93422
(805) 466-2428
jneil@amwc.us

