



Marina Coast Water District

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency Fact Sheet

- 1** MCWD was founded in 1960 and has been effectively managing its groundwater resources for many years. MCWD is a municipal water service provider whose customers are socio-economically and culturally diverse. MCWD will protect, safeguard, and manage MCWD's valuable groundwater resources and ensure that our customers' voices are heard. MCWD is directly responsive to and transparent with our ratepayers. Enhancing local management is best achieved by maintaining this direct relationship with our customers. Customer feedback is critically important to MCWD and, according to a recent survey among existing ratepayers, their strong desire is that MCWD work to identify solutions for future water supply while maintaining low rates.
- 2** The purposes of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) are to provide for sustainable management of groundwater subbasins, to establish standards and regulations for local sustainable groundwater management, and to provide local agencies such as MCWD with additional powers and authorities to sustainably manage its groundwater for its customers through the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).
- 3** Many people do not realize that SGMA is founded upon California Department of Water Resources-designated subbasins. There is no mandatory requirement in SGMA that the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (SVGB) have a single GSA or a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan). SGMA requires that each of the eight SVGB subbasins be managed by a GSA or combination of individual GSAs and have a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) or multiple coordinated Plans. As MCWD moves forward to implement SGMA, MCWD will continue to work cooperatively with others in the County, including the SVBGSA, to optimize intra- and inter-subbasin coordination and public agency resources to achieve the goal of groundwater sustainability. In furtherance of that goal, MCWD is continuing to study the groundwater within and adjoining its service area. MCWD is also investigating new water sources, which could include new groundwater recharge projects for both north and south of the Salinas River within the Monterey Subbasin and the 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin.
- 4** MCWD filed notice of intent to form GSAs over portions of the 180/400 and Monterey subbasins to protect its own right to pump groundwater for its customers; to protect our and the Army's groundwater allocations, which includes the Fort Ord Reuse Authority's allocations (owned by MCWD) to FORA member agencies; to protect our water rights and water system infrastructure, which MCWD owns within both Central Marina and the Ord Community; and to protect our customers' interests and rates from outside threats. MCWD has no interest in interfering with Salinas Valley agricultural interests' right to pump for their own uses.
- 5** MCWD has been designated by the State of California as the exclusive GSA for lands within MCWD's political boundaries both within the Monterey and 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasins.

- 6** MCWD has had an ongoing dispute with the County and SVBGSA over MCWD's legal ability to be the GSA over lands within MCWD's service area but outside of its political boundaries. Now that MCWD is an exclusive GSA within the two subbasins, MCWD is looking forward to coordinating with the SVBGSA on developing Plans for each of the two subbasins, focusing on the sustainability goal and MCWD's continued and ongoing management over the Ord Community's groundwater resources. The Plan for the 180/400 subbasin is due January 31, 2020, and must set forth and implement measures to reverse seawater intrusion and return to January 1, 2015 water quality levels by 2040. The Plan for the Monterey subbasin is due two years later on January 31, 2022.
- 7** MCWD has demonstrated its environmental stewardship and its water leadership in the region through the development and implementation of its Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP); water conservation programs; water facility master planning; implementing the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Plan (RUWAP); securing 1,427 acre-feet per year of advanced treated water for the Ord Community; entering into an agreement with the MRWPCA to design, finance, construct, own, and operate the Pure Water Monterey Project transmission pipeline; and entering into the MCWD-FORA-MRWPCA study agreement to identify new water source(s) to provide 973 acre-feet of additional potable water required under the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan. Any Plan must be consistent and complimentary with these efforts and that comprehensively, all of those efforts work to achieve groundwater sustainability, optimize water use efficiency, and maximize water supply reliability while minimizing risk. All the while, MCWD is committed to a track record of keeping costs as low as possible for its customers.