

## Questions?

If you have any questions about the Salinas Valley Water Project or your assessments, please go to our website at [www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us](http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us) or call Chris Keehn at 831-755-4700. Si gusta esta información en Español, por favor llame al 831-424-1134.

## Protest Hearing

A public Protest Hearing will be held at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2003, before the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, in the Supervisors Chambers, Monterey County Courthouse, 240 Church St., Salinas. At the Protest Hearing, the Board of Supervisors will consider all oral and written protests against the proposed assessment, accept ballots and order tabulation of the ballots.

### Public Meetings on the SVWP

#### Informational Meetings

**Salinas** – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monterey County Ag Commissioner Center, 1428 Abbott St.

**Soledad** – Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Soledad City Hall, 248 Main St.

**King City** – Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, Orradre Ag Center

#### Protest Hearing on Ballot Measure

**Protest Hearing** – Tuesday, March 25, 11:45 a.m., Board of Supervisors Chambers, Monterey County Courthouse, 240 Church St., Salinas

## If this vote fails...

- Storage of water at the reservoirs will be reduced, limiting supplies for groundwater recharge and recreational activities.
- Seawater intrusion will continue to migrate inland, threatening irrigation and drinking water supplies.
- The MCWRA will not have revenue to construct any projects.
- Local control of our water supplies may be lost, potentially leading to degradation of our economy and quality of life.



# YOUR BALLOT IS ENCLOSED

## A Project to Better Manage Water Supply, with a Goal of Stopping Seawater Intrusion You Are Being Asked to Vote on the Salinas Valley Water Project

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors has authorized a Prop. 218 mail-in vote to fund the Salinas Valley Water Project. In this newsletter is a description of the project and what the Monterey County Water Resources Agency is proposing to do to protect your water supply. Your ballot is enclosed.

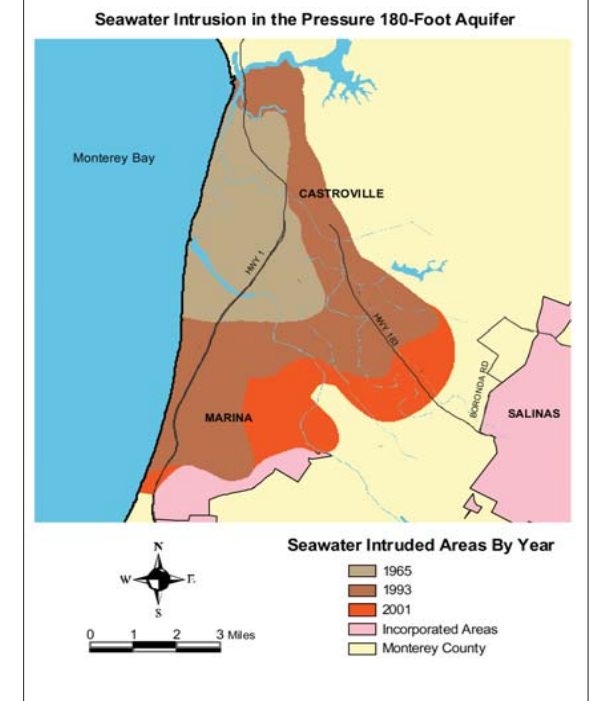
The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) has a solution to protect your local fresh water supply, stop seawater intrusion and improve flood control.

Seawater is slowly destroying our fresh groundwater by intruding into the groundwater basin of the Salinas Valley. The tainting of wells threatens our farms, our drinking water and the local economy.

About 9,000 acre feet of groundwater a year is being contaminated by seawater, creating a problem for the farming community and threatening drinking water supplies of Salinas, Marina, Fort Ord and Castroville.

Additional water management facilities are needed to better manage our ground and surface water supplies. The Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) provides those facilities and will deliver more water in a balanced manner to recharge the valley's groundwater supply.

### Seawater Intrusion Threatens Our Groundwater Supply



## Components of the SVWP:

- **Modify** the spillway of Nacimiento Dam to meet state and federal flood control mandates and improve operational flexibility to store more water. The dam height and storage volume will be unchanged, but prolonged releases of water will be able to recharge the Salinas River aquifers with additional percolation.
- **Construct** a diversion facility (rubber dam) on the Salinas River near Marina that can be lowered in wet times and raised in drier times when water will be released from the Nacimiento Reservoir. Seasonally stored water from the temporary diversion will be delivered for irrigation through existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project pipelines, reducing the need for pumping groundwater.
- **Provide** infrastructure to help **solve** the Salinas Valley water challenges.
- **Balance** the Salinas Valley groundwater basin.
- **Preserve** fish passage on the Salinas River.
- **Helps stop** seawater intrusion and **secure** local water supplies for future generations.



Nacimiento Spillway



An example of a diversion facility

**Your Salinas Valley Water Project Assessment ballot is enclosed.**

**Please vote and mail the ballot using the enclosed envelope.**

[www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us](http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us)



Protecting your water supply...

Información importante acerca de su propiedad.

Si gusta esta información en Español, por favor llame al 831-424-1134.



# Salinas Valley Water Project Proposed Assessments

(This table shows examples of assessments for properties classified as irrigated agricultural, residential, commercial or institutional.)

Subarea/Subarea Code	Reservoir Operations	Spillway	Diversion	Assessment Administration	Proposed Total Assessment per Acre
Extended Upper Valley Above Dam (AD)	\$7.04	\$1.82	-	\$1.03	\$9.89
Extended Upper Valley Below Dam (BD)	\$7.55	\$1.28	-	\$1.03	\$9.86
Upper Valley (UV)	\$6.77	\$1.05	-	\$1.03	\$8.85
Forebay (FB)	\$7.03	\$1.14	-	\$1.03	\$9.20
Pressure (PR)	\$14.85	\$2.87	\$6.18	\$1.03	\$24.93
East Side (ES)	\$8.07	\$2.19	\$5.15	\$1.03	\$16.44
Arroyo Seco (AS)	\$2.60	\$0.46	-	\$1.03	\$4.09

The proposed Salinas Valley Water Project assessments shown above would replace current Zones 2-2A assessments. Assessments will be based on acreage, for example, homes with quarter-acre lots would see charges ranging from as high as \$6.23 in the Pressure Subarea – about the cost of a hamburger and a soft drink per year – to as low as \$1.02 in the Arroyo Seco Subarea, the cost of a side salad.

Land designated dry farming, grazing and vacant or river channels and lands with frequent flooding are assessed at much lower rates.

## Sample Tax Bill Changes

**Current**

2002 – 2003

DESCRIPTION DIR CHRG  
MCWRA Zone 2A 1.30

**Proposed**

2003 – 2004

DESCRIPTION DIR CHRG  
MCWRA Zone 2C 6.23

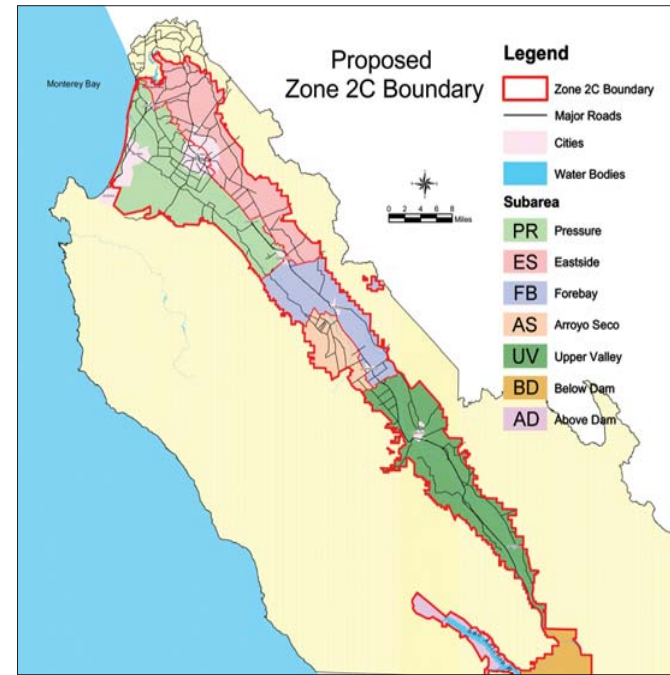
If the SWWP vote is successful, your current Zones 2-2A assessments will be replaced by Zone 2C assessments.

## Understanding Your Ballot

## Voting Instructions

- Please look at your enclosed ballot, checking to make sure the assessor's parcel number, acreage, subarea and land use designation are correct. **If something is wrong, please call 831-755-4700.**
- If you have lost your ballot or want to change the vote on a ballot submitted to the Registrar of Voters, please call 831-755-4700 to obtain a "pink" replacement ballot.
- Please indicate your support of or opposition to the proposed assessment by marking the circle next to the "Yes" or "No."
- If the parcel shown on the ballot is held by multiple owners, only one person is authorized to vote on behalf of that land. Please sign and date the ballot.
- Please return your ballot in the envelope provided.
- Ballots must be received at the address below by Tuesday, March 25, 2003, or submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at a Protest Hearing, which will be held at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at the Monterey County Courthouse, Supervisors Chambers, 240 Church St., Salinas. Property owners can change their votes until the close of the Protest Hearing and submit oral and/or written comments by the end of the Protest Hearing. Ballots must be in the hands of the Registrar of Voters prior to the Protest Hearing, or submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the Protest Hearing on March 25, 2003. Ballots received after that time will not be counted.**

## Areas Assessed



Map revision: Errata to engineer's report.

Mail to: Monterey County Registrar of Voters  
Post Office Box 4428  
Salinas CA 93912-9970

Deliver to: Monterey County Registrar of Voters  
1370 B South Main St.  
Salinas CA 93901

