

# PROTECTING YOUR WATER SUPPLY

A Project to Better Manage Our Water Supply and Stop Seawater Intrusion  
You Will Be Asked to Support This Project

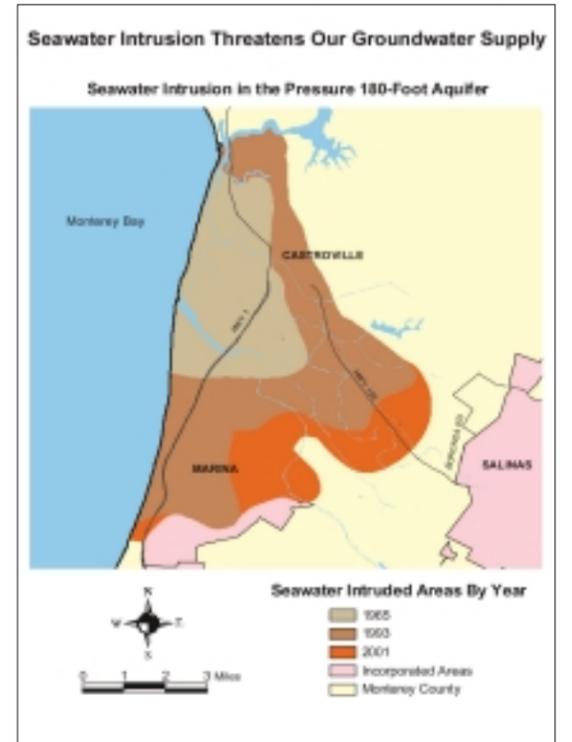
The Monterey County Board of Supervisors has authorized a Prop. 218 mail-in election to fund the Salinas Valley Water Project. In this newsletter is a description of the project and what the Monterey County Water Resources Agency is proposing to do to protect your water supply. Look for your ballot in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

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 in 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.



Protecting your water supply...



www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us

Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
893 Blanco Circle  
Salinas CA 93901

Important Information About Your Property Inside  
For information, call 831-755-4700  
Información importante acerca de su propiedad.  
Si gusta esta información en Español, por favor llame al 831-424-1134.

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## Public Meetings on the SVWP

### Informational Meetings

**Prunedale** – Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Prunedale Grange, 17890 Moro Road

**Castroville** – Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Castroville Water District, 11499 Geil St.

**North Salinas** – Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Sherwood Hall, 940 N. Main St.

**Prunedale** – Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Prunedale Grange, 17890 Moro Road

**Salinas** – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Monterey County Ag Commissioner Center,  
1428 Abbott St.

**Soledad** – Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Soledad City Hall, 248 Main St.

**King City** – Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,  
Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, Orradre Ag Center

### Public Hearing on Ballot Measure

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



### MCWRA's Mission

Monterey County Water Resources Agency manages, protects, and enhances the quantity and quality of water and provides specified flood control services for present and future generations of Monterey County.



www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us



Nacimiento Spillway



An example of a diversion facility

## 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.
- **Stops** seawater intrusion and **secures** local water supplies for future generations.

Look for your ballot in the mail

## Cost Allocation Committee Supports SVWP Strategy

The agency formed the Cost Allocation Committee and together, using the best available science, developed a plan to share the \$18.8 million cost of the SVWP. Those who specially benefit from the SVWP will pay the project costs in proportion to those benefits, fairly and equitably dividing the cost among all property owners in the Salinas Valley.

The committee members represented urban and agricultural interests throughout the valley. With a majority of the committee present, unanimous support was given to the Salinas Valley Water Project.

Dan Anderson – Forebay Area  
 Bob Antle – Pressure Area  
 Mike Armstrong – Urban Community  
 Chris Bunn – Pressure Area  
 Don Chapin Jr. – North Monterey County  
 Carl Chase – North Monterey County  
 Jan Collins – Urban Community  
 Matt Gourley – Urban Community  
 Chris Indelicato – Upper Valley Area  
 Nancy Isakson – Arroyo Seco Area  
 Steve Jensen – East Side Area  
 Jim Manassero – East Side Area  
 Bob Martin – Forebay Area  
 Roger Moitoso – Upper Valley Area  
 Arvid Myhre – Upper Valley Area  
 Greg O'Neal – Pressure Area  
 Jim Perrine – Urban Community  
 Rich Smith – Arroyo Seco Area  
 Jim Smith – Urban Community

### Voters to Decide on SVWP Funding

The costs vary throughout the valley and are based on the benefits provided. The costs to property owners range from \$4 an acre to \$25 an acre. The urban acreage will be assessed proportionately based on the size of the lot. A Salinas Valley homeowner with a quarter-acre lot will pay in the range of \$2.21 to \$6.23 annually, about the cost of a hamburger and a Coke a year.

Within the next two weeks, a mail-in ballot will be mailed to landowners – people with property within the proposed Zone 2C – asking them to vote on replacing the current Zone 2 and 2A property assessments with Zone 2C assessments and fund the SVWP.

See the public meeting schedule on the back of this flyer.

### Areas Affected



Look for your ballot in the mail

### If this vote fails...

- Storage of water at the reservoirs is reduced, limiting supplies for groundwater recharge and recreational activities.
- Seawater intrusion will continue to migrate inland, threatening irrigation and drinking water supplies.
- The agency would not have enough 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.



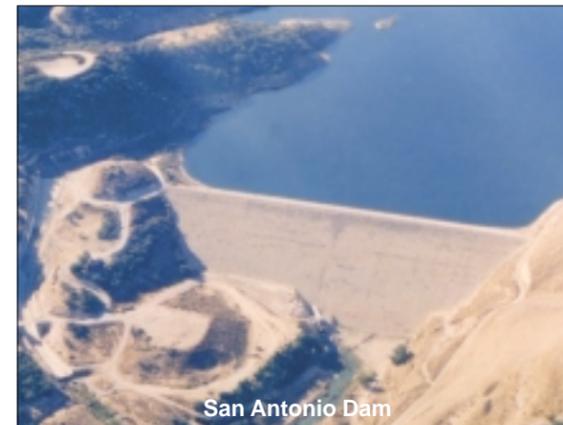
[www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us](http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us)

## More Than 50 Years of Water Resource Solutions

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency has worked with the Salinas Valley community to conserve water and control floods for more than half a century.

Since 1947, the water resources agency has implemented and secured water resource solutions. Key examples of water resource management solutions in the Salinas Valley include:

- The Nacimiento Dam (1957) and San Antonio Dam



(1965) have provided critical flood protection and added in excess of 1 million acre-feet of water to the Salinas Valley groundwater basin. Without the dams, that water would



have flowed to Monterey Bay and would not have been available for agricultural and urban use.

- Hydropower Production at Nacimiento Dam, since 1987, has generated revenues of more than \$4.7 million that have contributed to local water solutions and to California's energy self-reliance.
- Monterey County Water Recycling Projects, a combination of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project and the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project, began construction in 1995 and started delivering recycled water to fields near Castroville in 1998. The projects reduce pumping of groundwater and slow down seawater intrusion.
- Monterey County installed the first-ever automated flood warning system in the nation in 1977. Over the past 25 years, four remote sensors have been expanded to 53 stations that monitor rain and stream levels on the Salinas, Arroyo Seco, Pajaro, and Carmel rivers and their tributaries so that flood warnings can be issued and emergency services can be supported.
- Other services include outreach and education for water conservation; water level and water quality monitoring; and nitrate research and management.

### What is an acre-foot?

One acre-foot equals 326,000 gallons, covering one acre a foot deep. An acre is the size of a football field. In the Salinas Valley, a typical household uses approximately a third of an acre-foot per year.

### Recycled Water is Reducing Seawater Intrusion

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency has partnered with the Salinas Valley community to stop seawater intrusion.

By using recycled water pumped from the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, farmers found they can safely irrigate their crops and reduce pumping of seawater-tainted groundwater.

The unprecedented success of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project has led to the next step in fighting seawater intrusion – the Salinas Valley Water Project.

Through the SVWP's installation of a rubber dam on the Salinas River near Marina, seasonally stored water can be pumped into the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project's pipelines for delivery as irrigation water, thus reducing the need to pump groundwater.