

Water Governance and Agencies

FEDERAL

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – Oversee implementation of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, establishes water quality standards for drinking water and wastewater discharges to water bodies.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – Protects endangered plant, animal and some aquatic species per the Endangered Species Act.
- **NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service** – Protects endangered fish species in streams, rivers and oceans per the Endangered Species Act.
- **Bureau of Reclamation** – Oversees water management, builds and oversees projects, e.g., Central Valley Water Project, Colorado River system.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

- **California Environmental Protection Agency** – umbrella agency that oversees State Water Resources Control Board, among other environmental departments (<https://calepa.ca.gov/about/>) .
- **State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)**
 - Water quality - Implements federal Clean Water Act and approved water quality programs in conjunction with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water.
 - Water rights – oversees surface water rights licenses and permits
 - Division of Drinking Water: The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) regulates public drinking water systems.
 - Has primary responsibility for enforcing the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
 - Provides funding and support for water projects and grant programs
- **Department of Water Resources (DWR)** –
 - Holds primary responsibility for implementing the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
 - Provides oversight of dam safety, statewide flood preparedness and emergency management and water supply projects (e.g., State Water Project).
 - Provides funding and support for water projects and grant programs
- **Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB)**- Oversight and implementation of water quality standards at local level, permitting and enforcement authority over waste discharges, irrigated lands programs.

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WATER AGENCIES IN MONTEREY COUNTY

- **Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA)** – Countywide special district. Provides flood control and implements water supply projects. Operations of Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs, dams, Monterey County Water Recycling Projects developed with M1W - Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF), Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP).
- **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD)** – Covers the Carmel River watershed, Monterey Peninsula and Seaside Groundwater Basin. Manages water supply and riparian resources, implements water conservation programs, develops water supply projects in cooperation with Cal-Am and other agencies (Carmel River Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Pure Water Monterey)
- **Monterey One Water** - Formerly known as the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Authority. Treats wastewater from Peninsula cities, Marina, Castroville and Salinas. Developed the Monterey County Water Recycling Projects with MCWRA (water recycling for irrigation at the regional treatment plant, Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project and SRDF). Developed the Pure Water Monterey Project and the Advanced Water Treatment Facility with MPWMD.
- **Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA)** – Implements SGMA through Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the six Salinas Valley Subbasins in Monterey County (180/400-Ft. Aquifer, Eastside Aquifer, Langley, Monterey, Forebay and Upper Valley). Co-manages Monterey Subbasin Corral de Tierra Management Area with Marina Coast Water District GSA. Co-manages Forebay Subbasin with the Arroyo Seco GSA.
- **Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)/MCWD Groundwater Sustainability Agency** – Manages water supply and operated water systems with service to the City of Marina and other jurisdictions in the former Fort Ord area. Develops water supply projects and implements water conservation programs and SGMA in the Monterey Subbasin Marina-Ord Management Area (co-managed with SVBGSA).
- **Arroyo Seco GSA** - Co-manages Forebay Subbasin with the SVBGSA.
- **Seaside Watermaster** – Assures compliance with the Court Order for the Seaside Groundwater Basin Adjudication and related requirements. As an adjudicated Basin, reports to DWR under SGMA.
- **Cities** – Development, operations and maintenance of municipal water systems.
 - Cities of Salinas, King City, Monterey, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, Pacific Grove and Carmel all have franchise agreements with CPUC regulated utilities for their municipal water supply systems

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- City of Seaside operates a water system within a portion of the city
- Sand City constructed a small desal system
- Gonzalez, Soledad and Greenfield operated municipal systems.
- **CPUC Regulated Utilities**
 - a. California American Water – Monterey Peninsula, Chualar, Toro, Ambler, Ralph Lane satellite systems
 - b. California Water Service – Majority of Salinas
 - c. Alisal Water Company – East Salinas, nearby unincorporated areas
- **Mutual Water Companies, Small Water Systems and Private Wells Owners** –Rural residential domestic water supplies (regulated by the SWRCB DDW and Monterey County Health Dept.)
- **Monterey County Health Department/Environmental Health Bureau** – Water well permitting authority, Drinking Water Protection Branch - domestic water systems under 199 connections and domestic wells.