



# **SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

## **AGENDA PACKET**

### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**12/11/2025 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**CAPITOLA LIBRARY, 2005 WHARF ROAD, CAPITOLA**

The public may attend and provide public comment in person.

The meeting will also be publicly streamed (viewing only) via Zoom webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83649044349>

Webinar ID: 836 4904 4349; Webinar audio by phone +16694449171

### **Disability Access**

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Please contact Sophia Sholtz at [admin@midcountygroundwater.org](mailto:admin@midcountygroundwater.org) or 831.662.2055 if you need assistance in order to participate in a public meeting or if you need the agenda and public documents modified as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act



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midcountygroundwater.org • 5180 Soquel Drive • Soquel, CA 95073

## MGA Acronyms and/or Defined Terms

**AF** – Acre Foot

**ACWA** – Association of California  
Water Agencies

**ACWA JPIA** – ACWA Joint Powers  
Insurance Authority

**ASR** – Aquifer Storage and Recovery

**Basin** – Santa Cruz Mid-County  
Groundwater Basin

**BMP** – Best Management Practices

**City** – City of Santa Cruz

**CEQA** – California Environmental  
Quality Act

**County** – County of Santa Cruz

**CWD** - Central Water District

**DWR** – Department of Water  
Resources

**EIR** – Environmental Impact Report

**FY** – Fiscal Year

**GSA** – Groundwater Sustainability  
Agency

**GSP** - Groundwater Sustainability  
Plan

**IRWM** – Integrated Regional Water  
Management

**JPA** – Joint Powers Agreement

**LAFCO** – Local Agency Formation  
Committee

**MGA** – Santa Cruz Mid-County  
Groundwater Agency

**MOA** – Memorandum of Agreement

**MOU** – Memorandum of  
Understanding

**PWS** – Pure Water Soquel

**PV Water** – Pajaro Valley Water  
Management Agency

**RCD** – Resource Conservation District  
of Santa Cruz County

**RMP** – Representative Monitoring  
Points

**RWMF** – Regional Water  
Management Foundation

**RFP** – Request for Proposals

**RFQ** – Request for Qualifications

**SCWD** – City of Santa Cruz Water  
Department

**SGMA** – Sustainable Groundwater  
Management Act

**SGMI Grant** – Sustainable  
Groundwater Management  
Implementation Grant

**SMC** – Sustainable Management  
Criteria

**SMGWA** – Santa Margarita  
Groundwater Agency

**SqCWD** – Soquel Creek Water  
District

**SWRCB** – State Water Resources  
Control Board

**SWIP** – Seawater Intrusion  
Prevention

**WASC** – Water Supply Advisory  
Committee

**WY** – Water Year



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## GUIDANCE FOR ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND DISABILITY ACCESS

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

MGA Board meeting agendas set aside time for oral communications regarding items not on the agenda but within the purview of the MGA. Oral communications are also heard during the consideration of an agenda item.

Anyone wishing to provide public comment should come to the front of the room to be recognized by the Board Chair. Individual comments are limited to three (3) minutes; a maximum time of 15 minutes is set aside each time for oral communications. The time limits may be increased or decreased at the Board Chair's discretion. Speakers must address the entire Board; dialogue is not permitted between speakers and other members of the public or Board members, or among Board members.

While the Board may not take any action based upon oral communications, an issue raised during oral communications may be placed on the agenda for a future Board meeting.

Organized groups wishing to make an oral presentation to the Board may contact Sophia Sholtz at 831-662-2055 or [admin@midcountygroundwater.org](mailto:admin@midcountygroundwater.org), preferably at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Written communications to the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) Board may be submitted as follows:

- Via email: [comment@midcountygroundwater.org](mailto:comment@midcountygroundwater.org)
- Via mail or hand delivery: MGA Board of Directors, c/o Emma Western, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, CA 95073

Deadlines for Submittal:

- Written communications received by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday of the week prior to a regularly scheduled (Thursday) Board meeting will be distributed to the Board and made available on the MGA's [website](#) at the time the Agenda is posted.
- Written communications received after the 4:00 p.m. deadline will be posted on the MGA [website](#) and Board members informed of the communications at the earliest opportunity. Please note, communications received after 9:00 a.m. the day before the Board Meeting may not have time to reach Board members, nor be read by them prior to consideration of an item.
- Written communications received at a Board meeting will be distributed to Board members and posted on the MGA [website](#) at the earliest opportunity.

Any written communication submitted to the Board will be made available on the MGA website at <http://www.midcountygroundwater.org/committee-meetings> and constitutes a public record. Please do not include any private information in your communication that you do not want made available to the public.

**DISABILITY ACCESS:** Please contact Sophia Sholtz at [admin@midcountygroundwater.org](mailto:admin@midcountygroundwater.org) or 831-662-2055 for information or to request an accommodation.



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## **SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Capitola Branch Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola

### **AGENDA**

The public may attend and provide public comment in person.

The meeting will also be publicly streamed (viewing only) via Zoom webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83649044349>

Webinar ID: 836 4904 4349; Webinar audio by phone +1 669 444 9171

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Closed Session**  
*Conference with counsel regarding threatened litigation.*  
Public Correspondence: Notice of Intent to File Legal Action (November 29, 2025)
- 4. Oral Communications Related to Items Not on the Agenda**  
*Issues within the purview of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency. Guidelines attached.*
- 5. Consent Agenda**
  - 5.1 Approve September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - 5.2 Treasurer's Report for Period Ending November 30, 2025
  - 5.3 2026 Board Meeting Schedule
  - 5.4 Consider Amendment 6 to Contract No. 2020-04 with Montgomery & Associates for Groundwater Model Improvements
- 6. General Business**
  - 6.1 Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance Funding Options Assessment
  - 6.2 Consider Appointments of Two Private Well Owner Directors and Resolution to Establish the Term Effective Date
  - 6.3 Consider Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Cost Sharing Agreement



**7. Informational Updates**

- 7.1 Presentation on the use of Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Planning
- 7.2 Staff Reports
  - GSP Implementation Status Update
  - SGMI Grant Update
  - Other

**8. Future Agenda Items**

**9. Written Communications and Submitted Materials**

*Written communications received by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday of the week prior to a regularly scheduled (Thursday) Board meeting will be distributed to the Board and made available on the MGA website at the time the Agenda is posted.*

**10. Adjournment**

**Next Board Meeting:** March 19, 2026

December 11, 2025

**MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Subject:      Agenda Item 3.1

Title:          Closed Session: Conference with counsel regarding threatened litigation.

Attachment(s):

1. Public Correspondence: Notice of Intent to File Legal Action (dated November 29, 2025)
- 

Conference with counsel regarding threatened litigation.



Tim Carson &lt;admin@midcountygroundwater.org&gt;

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE LEGAL ACTION Re: Santa Cruz MidCounty Groundwater Agency Failure to Conduct AEM Analysis of Saltwater / Freshwater Interface Conditions**

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Becky Steinbruner &lt;ki6tkb@yahoo.com&gt;

Sat, Nov 29, 2025 at 6:32 PM

To: Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency &lt;admin@midcountygroundwater.org&gt;

Cc: Soquel Creek Water District &lt;melanies@soquelcreekwater.org&gt;, Heidi Luckenbach &lt;hluckenbach@santacruzca.gov&gt;, Ralph Bracamonte &lt;rmb@centralwaterdistrict.us.com&gt;, Sierra Ryan &lt;sierra.ryan@santacruzcountyca.gov&gt;, Becky Steinbruner &lt;ki6tkb@yahoo.com&gt;

Dear Santa Cruz MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board and Staff,

I am hereby placing ON NOTICE the Santa Cruz MidCounty Groundwater Agency ("MGA") and all Real Parties in Interest inclusive (Soquel Creek Water District, the City of Santa Cruz, Central Water District, and the County of Santa Cruz) that I intend to file legal action to remedy the failure of the MGA to conduct current Airborne Electromagnetic analysis ("AEM") using the identical flight lines as the 2017 AEM studies.

Because the PureWater Soquel Project is due to finally become operational in 2026, it is imperative that the MGA have accurate, complete and current data showing the saltwater / freshwater interface condition of the Basin now or within the next six months.

I have repeatedly requested the MGA Board consider initiating such study, but your Board has been unresponsive. Your Board has failed to publicly discuss the issue as an agenda item.

On September 17, 2025, I wrote your Board to formally request the MGA conduct a new AEM analysis using the identical flight lines as the 2017 AEM analysis because the State's 2022 AEM flight lines largely did not comport, thereby providing incomplete data. I also pointed out that the Basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") promised the AEM analysis would be repeated in 2022.

The MGA has failed to uphold the promise to the State of California and the public that the GSP would rely upon gathering accurate, and complete data in order to monitor the saltwater / freshwater interface conditions that are imperative for fulfilling the mandate under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Without a new AEM analysis that is based on identical flight lines of the 2017 AEM study, the MGA cannot make any accurate report to the State Department of Water Resources ("DWR") regarding the efficacy of the PureWater Soquel Project in achieving groundwater sustainability in the future because the MGA has failed to ascertain accurate, complete and current information that would support any such claim moving forward,

The MGA will also have failed to act with transparency to the public.

Although the PureWater Soquel Project is purportedly due to become operational in early 2026, there is ample time to commission a new AEM analysis that would not be significantly affected by the Project's treated water injection activity if such analysis is conducted within the next six months.

This is because the models provided by Soquel Creek Water District in 2022 grant application to the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and other Project documents indicate the injected water will travel very slowly within the Purisima Aquifer.

- The model on page 22 of the March 15, 2022 District Application for PureWater Soquel Project grant funding with the Bureau of Reclamation claims **the injected water will take 9-12 years minimum to travel to the Highway One area, and 23-25 years to reach the wells in the downstream flow production and private wells.**
- <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/docs/applications/authorized/2022/TitleXVI-Soquel-Creek-Water-District-508.pdf>

Simulations of injected treated water at the Project's injection wells provided to the Central Coast Regional Quality Control Board for Permit R3-2023-0033 indicates more rapid travel time but still supports the MGA's ability to conduct a new AEM analysis within the next six months: (pages 42-25):

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2023/dec/item\\_11\\_att01.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2023/dec/item_11_att01.pdf)

Simulations provided in the PureWater Soquel Project Engineer's Report (pages 234-236) in Figures 11-2 and 11-3 are dated September 30, 2025 but must be updated to support accurate recharge information and reporting. <https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/DocumentCenter/View/2074/Pure-Water-Soquel-Engineering-Report-PDF>

Therefore, it is possible to assess the freshwater/saltwater interface situation with scientific confidence if an AEM flight line and analysis is conducted within the next six months, and it is imperative that the MGA do so.

**I hereby make one final request that the MGA Board consider commissioning a new AEM analysis that will follow identical flight lines as were conducted in the 2017 AEM analysis. If your Board elects not to do so, I will have exhausted all**

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remedies for relief and will be forced to file legal action.

Please respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner

\*\*\*\*\*

Becky Steinbruner  
From: [ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)  
To: MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board  
Cc: Becky Steinbruner

Wed, Sep 17 at 11:06 AM

Dear MidCounty Groundwater Agency Board,  
I have read the agenda packet and want to request a public presentation of the AEM analysis report recently completed by GIP;  
(Item 6.3 pg. 72)

*"In 2022, the Department of Water Resources conducted AEM surveys in high- and medium-priority groundwater basins throughout California, including Basins in Santa Cruz County. The flightlines of 2017 and 2022 AEM surveys were not identical, however there are some areas where the surveys overlapped or were in close proximity.*

*In December 2024, the MGA Executive Team approved the sole source selection of Geophysical Imaging Partners (GIP) to evaluate the 2017 and 2022 AEM investigations with a focus on saltwater intrusion in the area from Rio Del Mar to La Selva Beach to investigate the presence of increasing chlorides in the Seascap area. Mr. Halkjaer, previously of Ramboll, is now a partner with GIP and was determined to be uniquely qualified to conduct an evaluation of the two surveys. The objective of the investigation was to ensure that the two datasets were processed using the same procedures and techniques to ensure the data were comparable. In March 2025, an amendment to the agreement added an additional task to consider available alternatives for additional analysis. The processing of the data was successfully completed at a cost of \$9,800. The data will be incorporated into the report on the current seawater intrusion investigation"*

Here are my comments:

- 1) The GIP evaluation should also include the common flight lines that covered the areas near beaches to provide a comparison of the status of the potential advancement saltwater intrusion interface. Did it?
- 2) The GIP evaluation should be presented publicly to the MGA Board and the public. When will this presentation be scheduled and how can the information be publicly accessed?
- 3) The GSP stated that there would be a follow-up AEM evaluation conducted by the MGA in 2022. (page 27 and page 410)  
*5.1.1.4.5 Data Collection: Offshore Airborne Electromagnetics Geophysical Surveys  
In May 2017, the MGA successfully completed an offshore Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) geophysical survey to assess groundwater salinity levels and map the approximate location of the saltwater/freshwater interface in the offshore groundwater aquifers. This important data will inform the assessment of the extent and progress of seawater intrusion into the Basin and the management responses. The MGA anticipates repeating the AEM survey on a five-year interval (2022) to identify movement of the interface and assess seawater intrusion. The estimated cost is presented in Table 5-1.*
- 4) The MGA Executive Committee narrowed the focus of the comparison of the 2017 and 2022 analysis to only include the Seascap area, but should have include the shoreline flight patterns as well. In effect, the GSP intention has not been fulfilled.
- 5) The GSP stated on page 406 that the MGA would budget \$30,000 annually to accrue to the anticipated \$150,000 cost of a new AEM study every five years. Therefore, since the MGA did not conduct any AEM study in 2022 or since the 2017 initial AEM study, **there is money available in the budget for a new AEM study that will comply with the terms of the GSP approved by the State and give a clear picture to the MGA and the public the status of the seawater intrusion.** The GIP comparative analysis cost was \$9,800.
- 6) It is imperative that the MGA conduct a new AEM study, repeating the flight lines of the 2017 AEM study, before the PureWater Soquel Project and/or City ASR projects become operational in order to determine and verify the true effectiveness of the individual projects.

Otherwise, how would the MGA be able to scientifically verify the impacts of the seawater intrusion well project component that have been significantly funded with public monies?

7) It is imperative that Montgomery & Associates have this critical data to accurately inform the modeling work those consultants are doing for the grant-funded Water Optimization Analysis work that appears to be on-going and will be critical to effective and efficient operation of the PureWater Soquel Project and the City of Santa Cruz's ASR work.

**Therefore, I again request, as I have done so publicly at the past three MGA Board meetings, that the MGA immediately fund a new AEM study that will follow the 2017 flight lines. It is critical that the work commence this year and before any of the PureWater Soquel Project's three SWIP wells become operational.**

Please respond.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner



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## SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY

### Board of Directors Meeting

September 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Capitola Branch Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola

Meeting webcast (via Zoom) for remote viewing.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Kennedy.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Directors present:** (Alternates acting as voting Directors shown in *italics*)

Jon Kennedy (Chair) – Private Well Owner

Carla Christensen (Vice Chair) – Soquel Creek Water District (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)

Jim Kerr (Secretary) – Private Well Owner

Curt Abramson – Private Well Owner

David Baskin – City of Santa Cruz

Kimberly De Serpa – County of Santa Cruz (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)

Dr. Bruce Jaffe – Soquel Creek Water District

Manu Koenig – County of Santa Cruz

Marco Romanini – Central Water District

*Jillian Ritter – County of Santa Cruz*

**Alternates present as non-voting observers:**

Robert Schultz – Private Well Owner

**Member Agency Staff present:**

Heidi Luckenbach – City of Santa Cruz

Melanie Mow Schumacher – Soquel Creek Water District

Sierra Ryan – County of Santa Cruz

Ralph Bracamonte – Central Water District

**Supporting Staff and Consultants:**

Tim Carson, Rob Swartz, Sophia Sholtz – Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF)

Ryan Aston (remote via Zoom) – SCI Consulting Group (SCI)

#### 3. Oral Communications Related to Items Not on the Agenda

Becky Steinbruner commented.

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

- 4.1 Approve June 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- 4.2 Response to Board Direction related to a 2021 Security Breach at Kisters Water Resources, Inc.
- 4.3 Approve Annual Statement of Investment Policy Fiscal Year 2025-26
- 4.4 Approve Well Water Meter Agreement with Landowner (agricultural property at southern end of Sumner Avenue, Aptos)

Director Baskin pulled item 4.3 from the consent agenda to discuss.

Director Jaffe pulled item 4.4 from the consent agenda to discuss.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Baskin; to approve items 4.1 and 4.2 from the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Board discussed item 4.3 including investment types, the policy's delegation of authority to determine the allocation of investments, and state statutory requirements that guide investment policy. The Board requested that the Treasurer attend the next meeting to provide an update on investments performance.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

MOTION: Director Baskin; Second: Director Romanini; to approve item 4.3 from the consent agenda with the request that collateralized mortgage obligations be removed as a potential investment vehicle. Motion passed unanimously.

Board discussed item 4.4 including the frequency of meter reading and type of meter.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Christensen; to approve item 4.4 from the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. General Business**

- 5.1 Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance Funding Options Assessment

Sierra Ryan, County of Santa Cruz, and Ryan Aston, SCI Consulting, presented answers to questions posed by Directors at the previous (June 12, 2025) Board meeting. Sierra Ryan reported on discussions amongst the MGA Agency Executive Staff on approaches and considerations in assessing the funding options. Ryan Aston reviewed questions concerning Agency cost apportionment and the legality of different fee structures. Ryan Aston and Rob Swartz reviewed different funding mechanisms employed by different GSAs across California and reviewed different fee types (e.g.,



Proposition 26, Proposition 218), examples of various fee methodologies (e.g., groundwater extraction volumetric charges, by acreage, by parcel, other) including hybrid approaches, examples of various ways to apportion costs, and examples of how other GSAs categorize user types and user classes. The content of the forthcoming funding options assessment memo, the next steps in the process and the estimated timeline were presented.

Directors asked further questions from Ryan Aston and discussed his presentation.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

#### 5.2 Initiate solicitation for two Private Well Owner Director positions and Consideration of a Temporary Subcommittee to Recommend Private Well Owner Representatives for Board Appointment

Tim Carson provided an overview of the proposed solicitation for two Private Well Owner Directors. Terms for Private Well Owner Directors Kennedy and Abramson expire at the end of 2025. A solicitation will be conducted for Private Well Owners to fill the vacancies. The Bylaws outline the public solicitation process and the use of a temporary subcommittee to oversee the development of the application and applicant evaluation criteria, to conduct applicant interviews, and to provide its recommendations on nominees to the Board at the next Board meeting.

A draft schedule has the application period open in October, interviews in November, and final subcommittee discussion and deliberation during late November and early December, with final recommendations to the Board at the December 11, 2025 Board meeting.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

Directors discussed the item and asked questions to Tim Carson about the process.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Alternate Director Ritter; to establish a temporary subcommittee to screen and nominate candidates for the appointments of two (2) Directors to represent private well owners. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Alternate Director Ritter; to nominate Sierra Ryan, Director Jaffe, Director Kerr, Alternate Director Schultz, and Director De Serpa as Alternate to participate on the temporary subcommittee. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Director Romanini; Second: Alternate Director Ritter; to provide direction to staff to follow recommendations from the previous Private Well Owner solicitation subcommittee to, among other suggestions, conduct an outreach meeting for interested Private Well Owner applicants in advance of the application deadline. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 5.3 Establish a Policy to Review Applicable County of Santa Cruz Well Construction Permit Applications

Rob Swartz discussed the County of Santa Cruz (County) Well Permit Application. The County in its recent Well Ordinance update, recognized the importance of GSAs in the sustainability of the Basin; the Well Ordinance now allows for 10 days for GSAs to provide comments on any new well permit application submissions within their management areas. The GSAs can provide comment, request additional information, or identify any other requirements that must be met, for the construction and use of a new well. The County anticipates that most well permit applications will be for Domestic wells and will require a low level of review.

The policy authorizes the Member Agency executive staff to appoint a reviewer to complete the timely review of well permit applications within 10 business days of receipt. If the well permit is straightforward and there are no concerns, the reviewer will respond as such, and if there are concerns, the reviewer will notify the executive staff of the potential concerns and solicit feedback on how to proceed with the County.

Rob Swartz clarified that under the new Well Policy, all non de minimis users are required to install a meter on their well. Sierra Ryan noted that there was not currently a procedure for releasing meter data to the GSA and a separate agreement with the landowner may be required.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Romanini; to approve and adopt Well Construction Permit Application Review Policy. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Informational Updates**

### **6.1 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report is included in the Agenda Packet for review.

No questions or comments were received on the item.

### **6.2 Staff Reports**

- **GSP Implementation Status Update**

The GSP Implementation Status Update table can be found in the Agenda Packet for review.

Rob Swartz called attention to the Small GSA Coalition (Coalition) in the staff report. Sonoma Valley Water has been funding the administrator and legislative advocate used by the Coalition. The Coalition is now working on a cost share agreement amongst the 10 – 12 participating agencies to jointly fund the Coalition expenses.

Rob Swartz highlighted the successful efforts of the Coalition as recent revisions to the State budget include \$3.5M allocated exclusively to small GSAs as a direct result of the Coalition's efforts to raise awareness of the issues facing small GSAs. Rob Swartz is also the lead on the

Coalition’s Compliance Expense Committee, which meets regularly with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to streamline the compliance requirements.

No questions or comments were received on the item.

- **SGMI Grant Update**

The SGMI Grant Update can be found in the Agenda Packet for review.

Tim Carson gave a brief update on the SGMI Grant and the status of the 5 component projects. The Cunnison Lane well is completed, and the rest of the projects are still underway.

No questions or comments were received on the item.

### **6.3 Selection of Geophysical Imaging Partners, Inc. to conduct a Geophysical Survey to Map Potential Saltwater Intrusion**

Geophysical Imaging Partners (GIP) was a sole-source selection to collect additional geophysical data to help inform assessments of seawater intrusion. GIP was selected based upon the unique qualifications and experience of GIP’s staff with the specialized geophysical data analyses and familiarity with the prior related work in the Basin. The MGA Executive Staff approved the selection of GIP on August 18, 2025 with a not-to-exceed budget for the proposed work of \$24,965.

Becky Steinbruner commented.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

Director Romanini requested that the Treasurer’s report be moved to the Consent Agenda in future Board meetings.

## **8. Written Communications and Submitted Materials**

Written comments can be found at the MGA website.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting:** December 11, 2025

SUBMITTED BY:

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Sophia Sholtz  
Regional Water Management Foundation

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Jim Kerr, Secretary  
Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 5.2

Title: Treasurer's Report

Attachment(s):

1. Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2025

**Recommended Board Action:** No action required, informational report only.

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Attached is the Treasurer's Report for September through November 2025. These reports contain three sections:

- Statement of Changes in Revenues, Expenses and Net Position
  - This interim financial statement provides information on the revenue that has been invoiced to the member agencies and the expenses that have been recorded as of the period ending date.
- Statement of Net Position
  - This interim financial statement details the cash balance at Wells Fargo Bank, the investment funds at West Coast Community Bank and the IntraFi Investment Account, membership revenue still owed through accounts receivable, if any, prepaid expenses such as insurance, outstanding grant receivables or liabilities, and the resulting net income as reported on the Statement of Changes in Revenues, Expenses and Net Position.
- Warrants
  - The list of warrants reflects all payments made by the MGA, either by check or electronic means, for the period covered by the Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report will be provided at each board meeting according to statutory requirement and to promote transparency of the agency's financial transactions.

Recommended Board Action:

1. No action required, informational report only.

**Submitted by:**

**Leslie Strohm**

Treasurer

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency

# Treasurer's Report

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency  
For the period ended November 30, 2025



Prepared by

**Leslie Strohm, Treasurer**

Prepared on

**December 1, 2025**

# Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

September - November, 2025

	Total
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
5100 Groundwater Management Services	58,840.75
5110 Grndwtr Mgmt - Groundwater Monitoring	65,189.14
5300 Administrative Personnel Services	46,176.49
5315 Office Services	201.60
5340 Computer Services	774.31
5355 Insurance	843.75
5415 Outreach Services	21,506.75
5510 GSP Consulting Services	19,338.00
5515 Audit & Accounting Services	3,000.00
5520 Legal Services	3,575.00
5600 Pass-through Grant Expenses	825,472.33
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,044,918.12</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>-1,044,918.12</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	
4300 Interest Revenue	5,750.77
4401 Grant Revenue - DWR SGMI Grant	1,030,613.03
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1,036,363.80</b>
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>1,036,363.80</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -8,554.32</b>

# Statement of Net Position

As of November 30, 2025

		Total
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
1100 Wells Fargo Business Checking		902,029.17
1110 WCCB Business Money Market Account		5,017.95
1120 IntraFi Investment Account		806,653.67
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>		<b>1,713,700.79</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
1220 Accounts Receivable - Grants		1,061,908.37
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>		<b>1,061,908.37</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
1400 Prepaid Expenses		281.25
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>		<b>281.25</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>2,775,890.41</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$2,775,890.41</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable</b>		
2100 Accounts Payable		-234.67
2110 Accounts Payable - Grants		1,121,749.58
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>		<b>1,121,514.91</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,121,514.91</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,121,514.91</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
3100 Retained Earnings		1,717,073.51
Net Income		-62,698.01
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>1,654,375.50</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		<b>\$2,775,890.41</b>



# Warrants

September - November, 2025

Date	Transaction Type	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Clr	Amount
<b>Bill Payment (Check)</b>						
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10465	ACWA/JPIA	Auto and General Liability Insurance		-1,125.00
						-1,125.00
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10466	SCI Consulting Group	Evaluate fee alternatives, parcel database		-6,688.00
						-6,688.00
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10467	Trout Unlimited Inc	Streamflow and groundwater monitoring		-12,687.39
						-12,687.39
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10468	County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency	RWMF admin and planning services		-110,213.64
						-110,213.64
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10469	County of Santa Cruz (County Counsel)	Legal services		-3,575.00
						-3,575.00

Date	Transaction Type	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Clr	Amount
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10470	Regional Water Management Foundation	SGMI grant admin		-20,177.72
						-20,177.72
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10471	Soquel Creek Water District (2)	Quickbooks, Mailchimp, Zoom, Google, and audit		-3,301.43
						-3,301.43
11/19/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10472	Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc	Model update, evaluate seawater intrusion		-55,361.50
						-55,361.50
10/22/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10463	Tree Top Web Design	Website redesign	R	-6,200.00
						-6,200.00
10/22/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10464	Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc	MGA model, GSP annual report, data management system	R	-30,630.50
						-30,630.50
10/07/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10461	Soquel Creek Water District (2)	Quickbooks, Mailchimp, Zoom, Google Telecom	R	-430.43
						-430.43

Date	Transaction Type	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Clr	Amount
10/07/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10462	Errol L Montgomery & Associates Inc	Groundwater Model Update, Data Management System, Evaluate Seawater Intrusion	R	-25,124.00
						-25,124.00
09/08/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10456	Trout Unlimited Inc	Streamflow and Groundwater Monitoring	R	-10,500.96
						-10,500.96
09/08/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10457	County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency	GSP and MGA Admin	R	-79,097.85
						-79,097.85
09/08/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10458	Regional Water Management Foundation	Grant Admin	R	-15,760.10
						-15,760.10
09/08/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10459	McCromerter Inc	Mag Meter	R	-1,882.11
						-1,882.11
09/08/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	10460	Soquel Creek Water District (2)	Audit, Quickbooks, Mailchimp, Zoom, Docusign	R	-1,826.31

Date	Transaction Type	Num Name	Memo/Description	Clr	Amount
					-1,826.31
<b>Expense</b>					
10/06/2025	Expense	US0048Dt7J Google - Online Payments	G Suite Subscription	R	-100.80
			Google Payment - G Suit		100.80
09/05/2025	Expense	US00480F1I Google - Online Payments	G Suite Subscription	R	-100.80
			Google Payment - G Suit		100.80

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 5.3

Title: 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Attachment(s): None

**Recommended Board Action:** Approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

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In 2026, four (4) regular Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) Board meeting dates are proposed. All Board meetings will take place at the Capitola Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries at 2005 Wharf Road in Capitola and begin at 6:00 p.m. Please note the December meeting is proposed for the 2nd Thursday of the month, the March, June, and September meetings are on the 3rd Thursday.

### 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

March 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)

- June 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
- September 17 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
- December 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

If additional meetings are necessary, the Board may consider amending the regular meeting schedule or convening a special meeting. The intent (as feasible) will be to schedule meetings to occur on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month pending availability of meeting room/facilities.

Recommended Board Action:

1. By MOTION, approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule.

**Submitted by:**

**Tim Carson**

Program Director

Regional Water Management Foundation

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 5.4

Title: Consider Amendment 6 to Contract No. 2020-04 with Montgomery & Associates for Groundwater Model Improvements

Attachment(s):

1. Amendment 6

**Recommended Board Action:** Authorize the General Manager of Soquel Creek Water District or the Chair of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency to amend Contract No. 2024-04 with Montgomery and Associates for Groundwater Model Improvements with a no-cost schedule extension to March 31, 2026.

---

### Background

The MGA contracted with Montgomery & Associates (M&A) to make improvements to the Basin groundwater model to inform ongoing assessments of Basin conditions and inform the next Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation. This work is funded part by the Agency's Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation grant from the Department of Water Resources. Work was initially anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2025 based upon the grant end date. The grant end date for this task has been extended to March 31, 2026 and the proposed no-cost schedule extension would allow M&A additional time needed to complete the task.

Recommended Board Action:

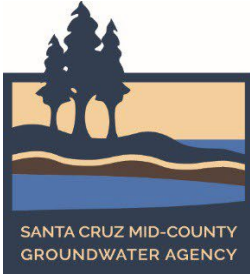
1. By MOTION, Authorize either the General Manager of Soquel Creek Water District or the Chair of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency to amend Contract No. 2024-04 with Montgomery and Associates for Groundwater Model Improvements with a no-cost schedule extension to March 31, 2026

**Submitted by:**

**Tim Carson**

Program Director

Regional Water Management Foundation



Groundwater is a vital resource, together let's protect it.

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## **AMENDMENT 6 TO CONTRACT NO. 2020 – 4**

This Amendment 6 (“Amendment”) shall serve to modify the existing Professional Services Agreement (“Agreement”) No. 2020-4 between the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) and Errol L. Montgomery Associates, Inc., (“Montgomery & Associates” or “Consultant”). MGA and Consultant may sometimes be referred to in this Amendment collectively as “Parties” or individually as “Party”.

### **I. Background**

- a. The Parties entered into the Agreement effective November 19, 2020.
- b. The Parties previously executed the following amendments to the Agreement: Amendment 1 (July 1, 2021), Amendment 2 (July 1, 2022), Amendment 3 (July 1, 2023), Amendment 4 (July 1, 2024), and Amendment 5 (December 12, 2024).
- c. The Parties wish to further amend the Agreement for improvements to the GSFLOW numerical groundwater model of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin (Basin) by March 31, 2026.

### **II. Effective Date and Term of Amendment**

- a. This Amendment shall be effective upon execution through March 31, 2026.

### **III. Changes to Contract.**

- a. By executing this Amendment, the Parties agree that the Agreement shall be changed in the following manner.
  - i. Exhibit C: Schedule is revised to include groundwater model improvement tasks to be completed by March 31, 2026.
- b. All other existing provisions of the Agreement not specifically addressed by this Amendment shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

### **IV. Attachments/Exhibits**

The following Exhibits are attached to this Amendment 6 and hereby incorporated into its terms by this reference as though set forth in full:

- a. Exhibit C: Schedule



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed Contract No. 2020-4, Amendment 6, on the day and year written below. This Amendment 6 may be executed in one or more counterparts by the Parties hereto. All counterparts shall be construed together and shall constitute one agreement. A signature reproduced electronically, by facsimile, or .pdf shall be treated as an original signature.

<b>SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY:</b>  By: _____  Date: _____  Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency 5180 Soquel Drive Soquel, CA 95073	<b>ERROL L. MONTGOMERY &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC.:</b>  By: _____ Hale Barter President  Date: _____  Montgomery & Associates 1970 Broadway, Ste 225 Oakland, CA 94612  Federal Tax I.D. Number: 86-0484626
<b>APPROVED AS TO FORM:</b>  _____ MGA Counsel	

**EXHIBIT C**  
**SCHEDULE**

The scope will be completed by March 31, 2026. Estimated completion months for the tasks are as follows:

Task 1: April 2025

Task 2: June 2025

Task 3: September 2025

Task 4: March 2026 with a draft report provided to MGA Executive Team for review by March 1, 2026.

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 6.1

Title: Receive Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance  
Funding Options Assessment

Attachment(s): None

**Recommended Board Action:** Provide direction to staff and consultant on key considerations as the funding options assessment memorandum development proceeds.

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### Background

Since the inception of Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA), the expenses associated with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance have been borne by the four MGA member agencies with grant funding from the Department of Water Resources. The MGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan identifies the four MGA member agencies as the source of funding for SGMA regulatory compliance through 2025 and states that MGA will further evaluate funding mechanisms for ongoing compliance from 2026 and beyond. Examples of ongoing activities that are required to comply with SGMA include, but are not limited to, annual reporting and periodic evaluations of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, MGA administration, Basin monitoring and data reporting, and maintaining a Data Management System.

In March 2024, the Department of Water Resources published a guidance document titled: [Funding SGMA Implementation](#) that presents an overview of common funding mechanisms available to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) for SGMA implementation and presents the general process that agencies may consider when developing a funding mechanism and rate structure. The guide includes information intended to support GSAs in the selection and development of self-funding streams. It states that there is no “one size fits all” approach – a GSA should assess approaches based upon its specific Basin characteristics and considerations. In October 2024, following a competitive selection process, the MGA engaged SCI Consulting Group (SCI) to conduct a funding options assessment.

In December 2024, the MGA Board received an introductory presentation from SCI on the assessment process and considerations. The goals of the funding options assessment are to: 1) identify MGA funding needs; 2) identify community preferences and stakeholder perspective on funding; 3) identify an appropriate legal framework under SGMA for collecting funding; and 4) recommend long-term funding options available to MGA for

SGMA compliance. A recording of the presentation and discussion is available at: [Meeting 12-12-2024](#). The item begins at 57:38 of the recording.

A public workshop for private domestic users of groundwater was held on March 17, 2025 to get their input and perspectives on a potential fee on private domestic users for SGMA compliance-related costs. A recording of the public meeting is available at: [Meeting 3-17-2025](#).

At the March 2025 Board meeting, SCI provided an update on progress to date and a summary of public comments received at the workshop. The Board directed the staff and consultant to return in June with a more comprehensive overview of the funding assessment process prior to conducting any further outreach. A recording of the presentation and discussion is available at: [Meeting 3-20-2025](#). The item can be found at 1:24:55 of the recording.

At the June 2025 Board meeting, the RWMF and SCI provided additional background on the history of the current method, the expected funding needs of MGA over the next 5 years, and additional information of what is known about other private users of groundwater in the Basin. A recording of the presentation and discussion is available at: [Meeting 6-12-2025](#). The item can be found at 37:55 of the recording.

At the September 2025 Board meeting, the Board received information on how other GSAs are approaching funding for SGMA compliance. A recording of the presentation and discussion is available at: [Meeting 9-18-2025](#). The item can be found at 23:30 of the recording.

SCI is expected to complete a memorandum in March 2026 that will present a broad summary of potential options and considerations on funding strategies to meet the cost of complying with the state-mandated requirements of SGMA in the years ahead. The funding options assessment and memorandum are intended as a tool to inform the Board as it considers various strategies. Any potential Board action to continue evaluation, development, or implement a long-term funding approach would come at a future date once the Board has considered the memorandum and thoroughly considered its options.

## **Discussion**

The Board will receive an update on the funding options assessment. This will include:

- A description of some of the components that drive agency expenses and how some of those may vary relative to a given funding approach.

- A description of the relative changes to potential revenue percentage contributions depending on which user classes or equitable apportionment considerations are included in the various fee approaches.

**Recommended Board Action:**

1. By MOTION, provide direction to staff and consultant on key considerations as the funding options assessment memorandum development proceeds.

**Submitted by:**

**Rob Swartz**

Senior Planner

Regional Water Management Foundation

**On behalf of the MGA Executive Staff**

Melanie Mow Schumacher, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District

Ralph Bracamonte, District Manager, Central Water District

Heidi Luckenbach, Water Director, City of Santa Cruz

Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Manager, County of Santa Cruz

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 6.2

Title: Consider Appointments of Two Private Well Owner Directors and Resolution to Establish the Term Effective Date

Attachment(s):

1. Resolution No. 25-01

**Recommended Board Action:** 1) Consider the Committee Recommendations and Approve the Appointment of two Directors to serve on the Board as representatives of Private Well Owners; and, 2) Approve Board Resolution No. 25-01 Appointing Private Well Owner Directors to four-year terms effective January 1, 2026.

---

### Background

At its September 18, 2025, meeting the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA or Agency) approved the formation of a temporary Board committee (committee) to screen and nominate candidates for the appointments of two Directors to serve on the Board as representatives of Private Well Owners (PWO) in the Mid-County Groundwater Basin. The Agency's Bylaws (Article 2) set forth a procedure for the appointment of Directors representing PWOs. The committee was tasked with developing application materials, determining the screening criteria and timeline.

### Discussion

#### Committee Meetings

The committee convened in September, October, and November. At the first meeting on September 24 the committee discussed roles and responsibilities; criteria for evaluating candidates; the final version of the application form; outreach approaches and outlets to inform the public of the vacancies; and the solicitation timeline. The committee convened in October to review and prepare for the outreach information session for interested applicants. The committee convened in November to review and discuss the submitted applications; discuss the format, content, schedule of applicant interviews; determine the next steps in the process and review the timeline.

#### Solicitation

A notification of the opportunity to apply was issued on October 1, 2025. Application materials and information were posted on the MGA website. Outreach and notification occurred via multiple avenues. A press release was circulated to multiple local media

outlets, circulated on social media platforms, circulated via the MGA and Member Agency electronic newsletters, and letters were mailed to over 40 property owners of parcels presumed to have non-de minimis<sup>1</sup> groundwater use. The notification ran in the Santa Cruz Sentinel's Coastlines community event section on multiple occasions in October. The application deadline was October 29.

#### Application and Applicants

Six applications were received. Each application was reviewed by the committee and evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) are passionate about our community's future and sustainability of the Basin; 2) can effectively represent the interests of PWOs in the Basin; 3) commit to learning about the Basin, the MGA, and the GSP; 4) are willing to educate the community, Board members, and the MGA about the water interests they represent; 5) are open to learning about and working with people whose interests may conflict with their own interests; and, 6) are willing to make educated compromises that are sensitive to competing viewpoints

Applicant	Well Type
Keith Gudger	Shared private well for domestic use (up to 4 homes)
Jon Kennedy	Shared private well for domestic use (up to 4 homes)
Bruce Korb	Private well for domestic use (single family home)
Ken Periat	Private well for domestic use (single family home)
David Ponza	Private well for domestic use (single family home)
Becky Steinbruner	Small water system (15 – 199 connections) customer

#### Interviews

The committee determined that all applicants would be interviewed as part of the selection process. All applicants were interviewed on November 17, 2025. The committee convened to discuss the interviews and decide which candidates to nominate immediately following the final interview.

#### Applicants Recommended for Nomination

Based upon application and interview, each committee member identified their top two applicants. Committee members were unanimous in their selection and recommendation

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<sup>1</sup> De minimis pumping is defined by SGMA as 2 acre-feet per year (AFY) or less for domestic purposes



that Keith Gudger and Jon Kennedy be appointed by the Board to serve as PWO representatives.

Board Role on Appointments and Director Terms

As set forth in the JPA (Section 6.3.5), the representatives of PWOs shall be appointed by majority vote of the eight Member Agency Directors. If appointed, the term of appointment shall be four (4) years with an effective date of January 1, 2026, unless otherwise established by a majority vote of the Member Agency Directors. The terms will be established by a Resolution of the Board, as required by the Agency Bylaws Section 2.2.5.

Recommended Board Action(s):

1. By MOTION, Consider the Committee Recommendations and Approve the Appointment of two Directors to serve on the Board as representatives of Private Well Owners; and,
2. Approve Board Resolution No. 25-01 Appointing Private Well Owner Directors to four-year terms effective January 1, 2026.

**Submitted by:**

**Tim Carson**

Program Director

Regional Water Management Foundation

On behalf of the MGA Executive Staff

Melanie Mow Schumacher, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District

Ralph Bracamonte, District Manager, Central Water District

Heidi Luckenbach, Water Director, City of Santa Cruz

Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Manager, County of Santa Cru



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## RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER AGENCY TO ESTABLISH THE TERMS OF THE PRIVATE WELL OWNER DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency's ("MGA") Board of Directors includes three Directors and one Alternate Director who represent the interests of the private well owners in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.3 of the MGA's Joint Powers Agreement authorizes Member Agency Directors to appoint Private Well Owner (PWO) Directors, and the First Amended Bylaws (2021) set forth the procedures for nominating the PWO Directors and establishing their terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency hereby resolves, consistent with Article 2 of the First Amended Bylaws, to establish the terms of the PWO Directors as follows:

Private Well Owner Directors and/or Alternate director	Appointment Term	Term Effective Date
Jon Kennedy, Director	4 years	January 1, 2026
Keith Gudger, Director	4 years	January 1, 2026

Passed and adopted at a meeting of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency on December 11, 2025.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Kennedy  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Kerr  
Board Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency on December 14, 2023.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Mr. James Kerr

Title: Board Secretary

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 6.3

Title: Consider Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Cost Sharing Agreement

Attachment(s):

1. Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Cost Sharing Agreement.

**Recommended Board Action:** Approve the small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies cost sharing Agreement and authorize the Soquel Creek Water District General Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency.

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### Background

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA or Agency) has been a participant in the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Coalition (Coalition), a cooperative group formed to serve as a forum for sharing information and ideas to find cost efficiencies and funding sources to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Coalition also endeavors to educate elected representatives, state agencies and other stakeholders regarding SGMA implementation challenges unique to basins that extract less than 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year. The Coalition has been using an administrator and advocate to achieve its goals. To date, Sonoma Water Agency has funded those costs but is unable to exclusively fund the effort past December 31, 2025. To continue this important effort, participants in the Coalition have proposed to develop a cost sharing agreement (Agreement) to share common costs. Thirteen small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are expected to enter into the Agreement.

### Discussion

Participants are expected to execute the Agreement by December 29, 2025. Agency legal counsel has reviewed the Agreement and concurs with entering into the Agreement upon Board approval. Staff requests that the Board authorize the Soquel Creek Water District General Manager to enter into the Agreement.

The Agency contribution for the remainder of the current fiscal year is expected to be less than \$2,400 and funding for participation is in the current adopted fiscal year budget. Future annual Agency contributions are expected to be less than \$4,800 per year and will be subject to Board approval of an annual fiscal year budget.

Recommended Board Action:

1. By MOTION, Approve the small Groundwater Sustainability Agencies cost sharing Agreement and authorize the Soquel Creek Water District General Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the MGA.

**Submitted by:**

**Rob Swartz**

Senior Planner

Regional Water Management Foundation

On behalf of the MGA Executive Staff

Melanie Mow Shumacher, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District

Ralph Bracamonte, District Manager, Central Water District

Heidi Luckenbach, Water Director, City of Santa Cruz

Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Program Manager, County of Santa Cruz

## COST SHARING AGREEMENT

This Cost Sharing Agreement (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into by and between the undersigned Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“**GSAs**”), individually referred to as a “**Party**” and collectively referred to as the “**Parties**,” subject to the following understanding:

### RECITALS

1. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“**SGMA**”), codified at California Water Code section 10720 et seq., became effective on January 1, 2015.
2. SGMA requires GSAs for medium and high priority groundwater basins (as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (“**DWR**”) to achieve groundwater sustainability through the adoption and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“**GSPs**”) or approved alternative plans.
3. Many GSAs managing basins or sub-basins with an average annual groundwater extraction of less than 10,000 acre-feet per year (“**Small GSAs**”) face disproportionate administrative and compliance costs relative to their size and groundwater usage.
4. The Parties, through their respective staff members and representatives (“**Party Representatives**”), desire to cooperatively fund and manage shared interests and efforts that benefit Small GSAs under SGMA, while retaining their independent local authority. Therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and conditions herein set forth, the Parties agree as follows:

### AGREEMENT

#### 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the cost-sharing and administrative framework for the Party Representatives to coordinate advocacy efforts regarding SGMA implementation challenges unique to Small GSAs.

#### 2. COST SHARING.

- a) **Equal Shares.** Each Party shall contribute an equal share to the total cost of retaining (i) an Advocacy Administrator; and (b) an Advocate. Each Party shall contribute an equal portion of the total cost, with payments made in accordance with subsection 2(b) of this Agreement, below.
- b) **Annual Budget and Payment Thereof.** The Parties’ cost-sharing obligations shall be based on and limited by an annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, as follows:
  - i) On or before March 1 of each year, the Administrator shall prepare and distribute a draft budget for review by the Party Representatives

- ii) On or before April 1 of each year, the Administrator shall prepare and distribute a revised budget for final review and approval by at least three-fourths of the Parties on or before May 1.
  - iii) On or before July 1 of each year, the Administrator shall invoice each Party their respective share of the approved final budget. Payment shall be due within 60 days of receipt such invoice.
  - iv) For the last six months of Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Parties costs for advocacy and management will total \$30,000. The Administrator shall issue invoices for January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 on or before by January 1, 2026 and payments shall be due within 60 days of receipt of such invoice.
- c) **Deferment of Payment.** Any Party with a fiscal year other than July 1 to June 30 may defer payment to October 1, provided however that the Party provide written notice of such fact to the Administrator on or before July 1.
- d) **Nonpayment.** Failure to submit payment within 60 days after receipt of an invoice from the Administrator shall constitute a default of this Agreement and result in that Party's removal and termination of this Agreement with respect to the defaulting party. In addition, the remaining Parties hereby reserve the right to pursue recovery of any unpaid obligations from the delinquent Party.

### 3. RETENTION OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS.

- a) **The Administrator.** The Party Representatives may appoint by majority vote (with one Party Representative voting on behalf of its GSA), an Administrator as an independent contractor to act as the custodian of the funds and maintain accurate accounting records, in accordance with subsection 3(d) of this Agreement and in an amount not to exceed the amount set forth in the annual budget. The Administrator may be a Party, a private individual, or an entity. The initial Administrator of the Coalition shall be Ann DuBay.
- b) **The Advocate.** The Party Representatives may appoint by majority vote (with one Party Representative voting on behalf of its GSA) an Advocate as an independent contractor to represent the Parties' interests before the State Legislature, State agencies, and other stakeholders as determined by the Parties, in accordance with subsection 3(c) of this Agreement and in an amount not to exceed the amount set forth in the annual budget. The Advocate may be a private individual or an entity.
- c) **Contract for Services.** The Scope of Work for the Administrator and Advocate shall be approved by a majority of the Parties' General Managers or contracting officers (collectively, the "**Contracting Officers**"). The Contracting Officers are authorized to designate one or more Contracting Officers to execute an engagement letter or agreement for the services of the Administrator and Advocate.

- d) **Representation.** The Administrator and the Advocate will consider their client to be all of the parties funding and participating in this Agreement, and will take direction from a majority vote of the Party Representatives (with one Party Representative voting on behalf of its GSA).
- e) **Oversight.** The Party Representatives may meet in person or virtually as needed to review work product, costs, or other matters related to or associated with the Administrator and/or Advocate. These meetings may be held virtually or in person, as determined by the Party Representatives.

#### **4. ADMISSION, WITHDRAWAL, AND TERMINATION**

- a) **Admission.** Any Small GSA may become party to this Agreement upon written consent by majority vote of the Party Representatives (with one Party Representative voting on behalf of its GSA) and execution of an amendment to this Agreement by the additional party.
- b) **Withdrawal.** Any Party may withdraw from this Agreement upon 30 days' advance written notice to the Administrator. Upon receipt of such notice, the Administrator shall immediately provide notice to all other Parties of the anticipated withdraw. Withdrawal shall not affect, alleviate, or otherwise terminate any financial obligations of the withdrawing Party's incurred or otherwise existing prior to the date of notice of withdrawal nor shall withdraw entitle the withdrawing Party to a refund for any portion of any contributed portion of the budget.
- c) **Termination.** This Agreement shall remain in effect so long as at least five Parties remain party to this Agreement.

#### **5. INDEMNIFICATION.**

Each Party shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Parties, their officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims liabilities, and expenses ("**Claims**") arising out of or in connection with this Agreement except to the extent any such Claims arise out of that Party's negligent acts or omissions in connection with this Agreement.

#### **6. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES.**

Each Party is an independent public agency collaborating voluntarily on a common issue. Nothing in this Agreement shall create a joint venture, partnership, or agency relationship among the Parties.

#### **7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION; CHOICE OF LAW.**

Any dispute arising under this Agreement shall first be addressed through good-faith negotiations. If unresolved within 30 days, the dispute shall proceed to mediation, and if necessary, binding arbitration under California Code of Civil Procedure Part III, Title 9. Venue for all proceedings shall be Sacramento County, California. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

#### **8. AMENDMENTS.**

Except for admission of new Small GSAs a member to this Agreement, this Agreement may be amended upon written consent of all Parties.



**9. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM.**

This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect so long as at least five Parties remain party to this Agreement.

**10. EXTENSIONS OF TIME.**

Whenever the last day of any period described herein falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the period shall be automatically extended to 11:59 p.m. of the next business day, Pacific Time. The time in which any act provided under this Agreement is to be done shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last day, unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, and then it is also excluded.

**11. NOTICES.**

Any notice authorized or required to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be made in writing and sent via electronic mail to the email address provided beneath the Party’s signature, below, and shall be deemed to have been given when the e-mail is sent. Any notice sent to the Administrator shall be made in writing and sent via electronic mail to anndubay@sonic.net or any successor Administrator as appointed by the Party Representatives. Any Party or the Administrator may change their e-mail address for purpose of receiving notice by providing such information in accordance with the process set forth herein.

**12. COUNTERPARTS AND ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES.**

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, including by electronic or digital signature, each of which shall be deemed an original and together constitute one instrument.

**13. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.**

This Agreement, including the Recitals which are a material part of the Agreement and are incorporated herein, constitute the full and complete understanding among the Parties concerning the subject matter herein and supersede all prior and contemporaneous agreements or memoranda of understanding relating to said subject matter.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the dates set forth below.

**CARPINTERIA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTECITO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PETALUMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, MONTEREY SUBBASIN**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, LANGLEY AREA SUBBASIN**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SAN GORGONIO PASS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SANTA MARGARITA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN CENTRAL  
MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SISKIYOU GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPADRA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SONOMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**UKIAH VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 7.1

Title: Presentation on the use of Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Planning

Attachment(s):

1. Technical Memorandum: AEM Surveys in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Planning. Montgomery & Associates. December 8, 2025.
2. Slides: AEM - MGA 2017 and 2022 data comparison. Global Imaging Partners, March 20, 2025.

**Recommended Board Action:** No action required, Board to receive presentation.

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This memo, along with the presentation to the Board at the December 11, 2025 meeting, provide an overview of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency's (MGA) use of Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) geophysical survey data to assess distribution of saltwater and fresh water along the coastline of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin (Basin). AEM survey data and findings, along with groundwater quality and groundwater level data from the Basin's coastal groundwater monitoring wells and other geophysical surveys, inform assessing current and potential future seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers. Seawater intrusion is one of the five sustainability indicators used to evaluate the Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

### Background

#### 2017 AEM Survey

In May 2017, the MGA coordinated an offshore AEM survey to locate and characterize the saltwater/freshwater interface off the coastline of the Basin. Due to safety reasons and data quality considerations (magnetic interference), the helicopter based AEM surveys cannot be conducted over urban areas, populated areas, buildings, power lines, and heavily trafficked highways. The survey flightlines were almost entirely offshore except for two inland areas near Seascape and Manresa State Beach where the land was believed to be sufficiently free of sources of survey interference. The survey was performed by SkyTEM and Ramboll. The MGA's hydrologic consultant, HydroMetrics WRI (subsequently acquired by Montgomery and Associates), worked with Ramboll to analyze the results. The findings were presented to the MGA in March 2018 in a technical memorandum titled *Management Implications of SkyTEM Seawater Intrusion Results* that summarized the Ramboll (2018) analysis of the 2017 AEM survey.

#### 2022 AEM Survey

In November 2022, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted an AEM survey of the Monterey Bay area. This was part of DWR's multi-year effort to conduct statewide AEM surveys of groundwater basins to improve the understanding of regional groundwater systems by characterizing subsurface geology and aquifer properties. When DWR released its AEM results in October 2023, the processed data for this area were not comparable to the 2017 AEM data, because the statewide AEM surveys did not specifically interpret data for seawater intrusion other than to identify portions of a flown AEM line that appeared to be influenced by high salinity groundwater.

#### Comparison of 2017 and 2022 AEM Surveys - Work Related to Ongoing Seawater Intrusion Investigation

In March 2023, Montgomery and Associates (M&A) alerted the MGA Board that the Basin was experiencing undesirable results for seawater intrusion due to 2 monitoring wells (SC-A2RB and SC-A5B), both in the Seascapes vicinity of the Basin, having exceeded their chloride concentration targets for 2 consecutive water years. As part of the study to understand potential causes of the continued increase in chloride concentrations in those wells, MGA contracted Geophysical Imaging Partners (GIP) to process the coincident 2017 and 2022 using the same methodology. The principal researcher at GIP (formerly at Ramboll) had previously led the data processing and interpretation of the MGA's 2017 AEM and was familiar with both surveys. GIP compared the offshore flightlines along the Basin's coastline and the inland flightlines in the vicinity of Seascapes. In March 2025, GIP provided data and a summary of the comparison findings; the findings (presented on slides) are attached. GIP provided a brief summary of available alternatives for additional analysis of seawater intrusion in the Seascapes agricultural area from geophysical investigations that can be done from the air (AEM) or ground-based methods (TEM or ERT) for additional investigation of the occurrence of saline water.

Similar to as what done for the 2017 AEM survey, the MGA engaged M&A to review and consider GIP's processed AEM results with regard to implications for Basin management and with regard to ongoing implementation of the GSP. The Board will receive a presentation from M&A on some of the results of the comparison of the 2017 and 2022 AEM data and how AEM has been used in GSP development and subsequent implementation at the December 11 Board meeting. A technical memorandum from M&A is attached.

#### Groundwater Sustainability Plan on Future Use of AEM

The GSP (2019) stated that the "MGA anticipates repeating the AEM survey on a five-year interval (2022) to identify movement of the interface and assess seawater intrusion." GSP Section 5.2 (Schedule for Implementation) states "the timing of periodic events, such as offshore aerial electromagnetics (AEM) surveys of the freshwater-saline water interface, are best estimates and may shift as GSP implementation proceeds based upon the needs at the time."

The MGA deferred conducting its own AEM survey in 2022 because at that time DWR was in the process of conducting its statewide AEM surveys, including in the Monterey Bay region. DWR sought input from the MGA and Member Agency staff and consultant requested that offshore survey lines be included. Therefore, at that time, it seemed duplicative for the MGA to conduct its own AEM survey.

Per the initially estimated 5-year recurrence interval, the next AEM survey could occur in 2027. As stated in the GSP, the Board is to assess the timing of any future AEM survey based upon the needs at the time.

Recommended Board Action:

1. No action required, Board to receive presentation.

**Submitted by:**

**Tim Carson**

Program Director

Regional Water Management Foundation

**Rob Swartz**

Senior Planner

Regional Water Management Foundation



## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** December 8, 2025 **PROJECT #:** 9000.3105

**TO:** MGA Executive Staff

**CC:** Rob Swartz, P.G., C.Hg.

**FROM:** Cameron Tana, P.E., and Georgina King, P.G., C.Hg.

**PROJECT:** Technical Services for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation  
Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (Contract No. 2020-4 Amendment 5)

**SUBJECT:** Offshore Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Data Use for GSP Implementation

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### INTRODUCTION

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) manages the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin (Basin) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) (MGA, 2019). The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) designated the Basin as being in critical overdraft because of seawater intrusion. The periodic evaluation (Montgomery & Associates [M&A], 2025a) and annual reports (M&A, 2025b) for the GSP describe undesirable results occurring for seawater intrusion, so the Basin remains in critical overdraft.

Data that informed development of the GSP included an offshore Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) geophysical survey in May 2017 that mapped the approximate location of the saltwater/freshwater interface in groundwater aquifers offshore of the Basin (Ramboll, 2018). As described in the periodic evaluation of the GSP, DWR conducted Statewide AEM surveys that included a November 2022 survey of the Basin (DWR, 2023) that confirmed the general conclusion about offshore seawater intrusion from the 2017 survey.

This technical memorandum summarizes how offshore AEM data are used in the GSP and GSP implementation.



## **GSP SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR SEAWATER INTRUSION IS NOT ASSESSED WITH AEM DATA**

The GSP defines locally defined significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion in the Basin as “Seawater moving farther inland than has been observed from 2013 through 2017.” That is, sustainability for seawater intrusion is defined based on seawater observed within the Basin that is bounded by the coastline. AEM data that provide data for offshore conditions are not used by the MGA or required by SGMA to assess sustainability for seawater intrusion.

Sustainable management criteria (SMC) provide quantitative definitions of significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion. Consistent with DWR’s GSP regulations, the GSP defines a minimum threshold isocontour such that if chloride concentrations inland of the isocontour exceed 250 mg/L then undesirable results are occurring. Figure 1 from the Water Year 2024 Annual Report (M&A, 2025b) shows the minimum threshold (MT) isocontours located onshore.

For practical purposes of monitoring the isocontours, the GSP sets MTs and measurable objectives at selected onshore representative monitoring points (RMPs) used to define the isocontours. These include chloride concentration SMC. There are currently chloride concentrations exceeding MT at RMPs SC-A2RB and SC-A5B in the Seascap area so undesirable results for advancing seawater intrusion is occurring in that area (M&A, 2025b). The MGA is investigating the potential causes of these undesirable results. Part of that investigation is to evaluate AEM data in the Seascap area, as this was the only onshore coastal area at risk for seawater intrusion included in both 2017 and 2022 surveys. A report detailing the findings from that investigation is expected in the first quarter of 2026.

The GSP also uses groundwater elevation proxies as SMC for seawater intrusion. These groundwater elevation proxies are set at RMPs based on estimates of onshore groundwater levels needed to prevent seawater intrusion advancing inland. As of Water Year 2024, there were 7 onshore coastal RMPs with 5-year moving average groundwater elevations below MTs. Based on these undesirable results, the Basin remains in a state of critical overdraft (M&A, 2025b).

The GSP describes the Soquel Creek Water District’s Pure Water Soquel project and City of Santa Cruz’s Aquifer Storage and Recovery project as projects planned to achieve groundwater sustainability. The MGA and the implementing member agencies will track sustainability benefits for these projects against SMC and onshore conditions observed at RMPs prior to project operation.

In addition, AEM cannot be used to assess seawater intrusion for much of the Basin as it is not feasible to conduct AEM where substantial urban infrastructure exists. The infrastructure in most of the coastal area of the Basin would interfere with the electromagnetic signals from AEM. This is why onshore and coastal flight lines in the 2017 and 2022 surveys were limited to agricultural and less developed areas such as the Seascap area and inland of Manresa State Beach.



## 2017 OFFSHORE AEM DATA EMPHASIZED NEED FOR GSP TO PREVENT SEAWATER INTRUSION

Although offshore AEM data are not used to assess sustainability for the Basin—and therefore cannot be used to assess MGA’s progress toward achieving its sustainability goal—it has been useful for developing and implementing the GSP. Prior to the 2017 survey, a primary unknown about seawater intrusion for the Basin was the location of the offshore freshwater-saltwater interface in areas where seawater intrusion had not been observed onshore in the Basin. The 2017 survey showed that brackish and saline water occurred in pumped aquifer units in the offshore survey line closest to the coast.

HydroMetrics WRI presented this conclusion to the MGA in March 2018 in a technical memorandum titled *Management Implications of SkyTEM Seawater Intrusion Results* that summarized the Ramboll (2018) analysis of the 2017 AEM survey. This memo provided a conclusion that guided development of the GSP.

The main new information provided by the SkyTEM data is identification of salty water just offshore in pumped Purisima Formation aquifer units where high salt concentrations have not been measured onshore. Although the data do not show how fast the saltwater interface is moving, the close proximity of the interface emphasizes the need to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan that will recover groundwater levels to elevations and maintains those levels over the long-term that prevent seawater intrusion from coming onshore. The close proximity of the interface also provides a reason to set a goal to recover the groundwater levels sooner than the 2040 deadline to achieve sustainability required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Informed by this conclusion, the MGA developed the GSP that defined projects and management actions planned to reach sustainability with seawater intrusion as the primary undesirable result to be addressed. The GSP evaluated projects and management actions including Pure Water Soquel and City Aquifer Storage and Recovery for expected benefits to raise groundwater levels to groundwater elevation proxies for seawater intrusion SMC.

## **2022 OFFSHORE AEM DATA CONFIRMED 2017 AEM SURVEY CONCLUSION**

The GSP stated that the “MGA anticipates repeating the AEM survey on a five-year interval (2022) to identify movement of the interface and assess seawater intrusion.” DWR conducted its 2022 survey of the Basin to include offshore survey lines based on input from MGA staff and consultant. As a result, MGA did not conduct its own survey in 2022.

The 2025 periodic evaluation acknowledged that the 2022 AEM survey was not as robust as the 2017 survey in providing information regarding depth and extent of seawater intrusion. As shown on Figure 2, the 2022 survey had fewer offshore lines than in 2017. However, given the main conclusion of the 2017 survey of the proximity of the freshwater-saltwater interface, the number of offshore lines is less important than the extent and location of the offshore line closest to the coast. The 2022 survey did not extend as far west as the 2017 survey, so it did not cover the area offshore of the City of Santa Cruz’s wells. The western portion of the 2022 offshore line closest to the coast was also approximately 200 meters farther from the coast. The depth of investigation of the 2022 survey was also shallower than the 2017 survey. The 2022 depth of investigation was generally shallower than 100 meters while the 2017 depth of investigation was generally deeper than 100 meters.

Although the 2022 survey was more limited offshore than the 2017 survey, the flight lines were close enough to the coast and the depth of investigation deep enough for the periodic evaluation to confirm the conclusion from the 2017 survey that “seawater intrusion persists in the offshore aquifers.” Therefore, GSP prioritization of projects to prevent seawater intrusion informed by the 2017 survey continued to be supported by the 2022 survey. Additional confirmation of these offshore conditions is not required by SGMA as sustainability is defined based on onshore conditions at RMPs.

MGA has contracted with Geophysical Imaging Partners to perform a more detailed comparison of the 2017 survey and 2022 survey and a final summary of that comparison is expected to be available in the first quarter of 2026.



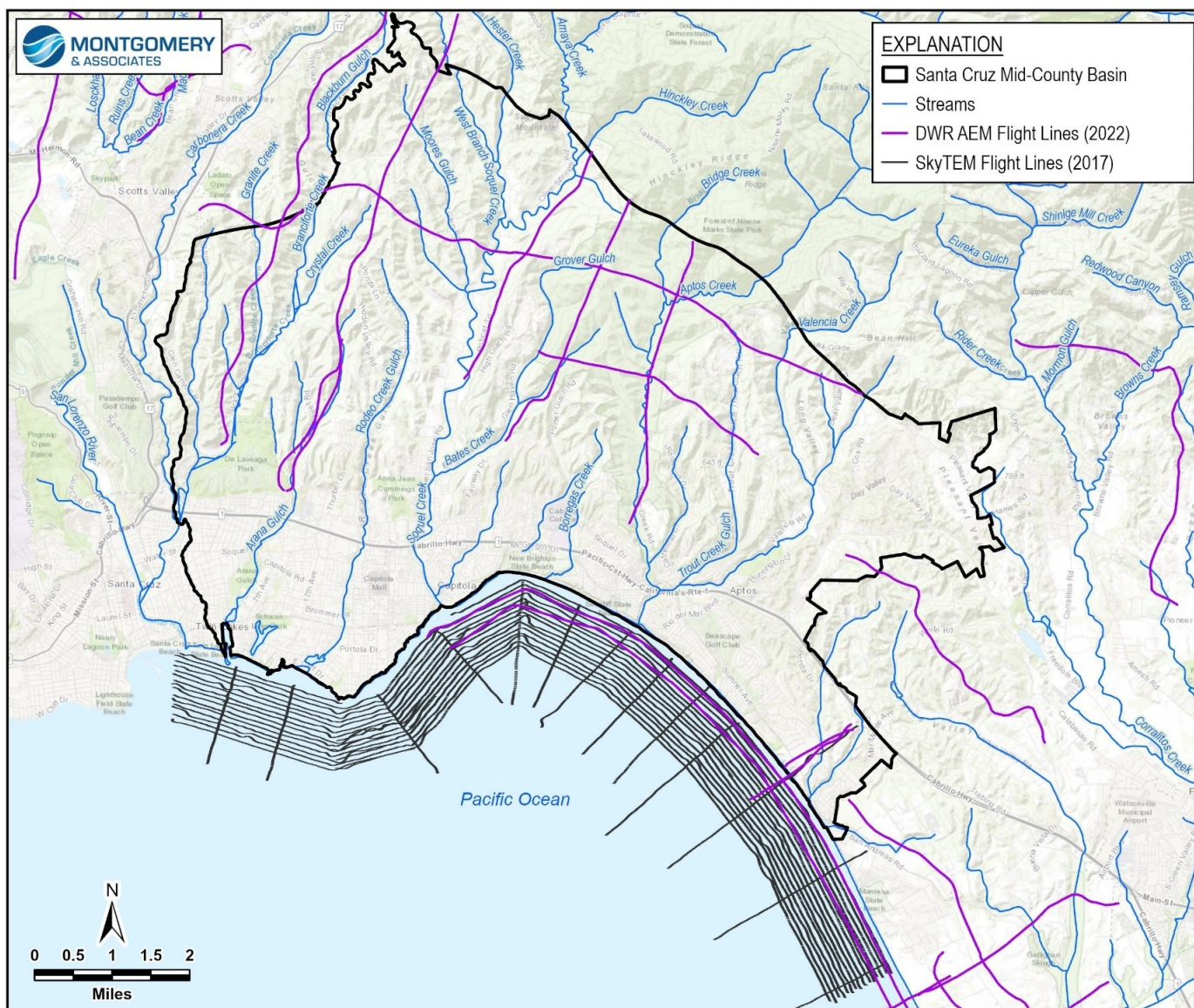


Figure 2. 2022 AEM Flight Lines Compared to 2017 AEM Flight Lines (M&A, 2025a)

## **CITY OF SANTA CRUZ INDUCTION LOGGING HAS BEEN AN ALTERNATIVE GEOPHYSICAL METHOD TO TRACK SEAWATER INTRUSION**

While the 2022 survey did not extend offshore of the City of Santa Cruz wells, the City of Santa Cruz Water Department has conducted regular geophysical surveys at its SP-5 well, its deepest monitoring well at Soquel Point. The SP-5 well is also a Basin GSP RMP due to its close proximity to the coast. Since 2020, the City has conducted 9 induction logs at SP-5. This has allowed the City to track potential seawater intrusion over time over the full depth of the well, including intervals that are not screened. For example, data from unscreened interval of 480-510 feet bgs show an increase in conductivity and potential seawater intrusion from 2020 to 2025 (Figure 3). Induction logs at established RMPs for seawater intrusion may be an effective alternative for geophysical monitoring of seawater intrusion that is more aligned with the definition of sustainability based on onshore seawater intrusion as identified in the approved GSP. Induction logs can be used in PVC cased and screened monitoring wells located in onshore areas with infrastructure that cannot be surveyed by AEM. Induction logs are also used in a similar manner in the Seaside and Carpinteria Basins.

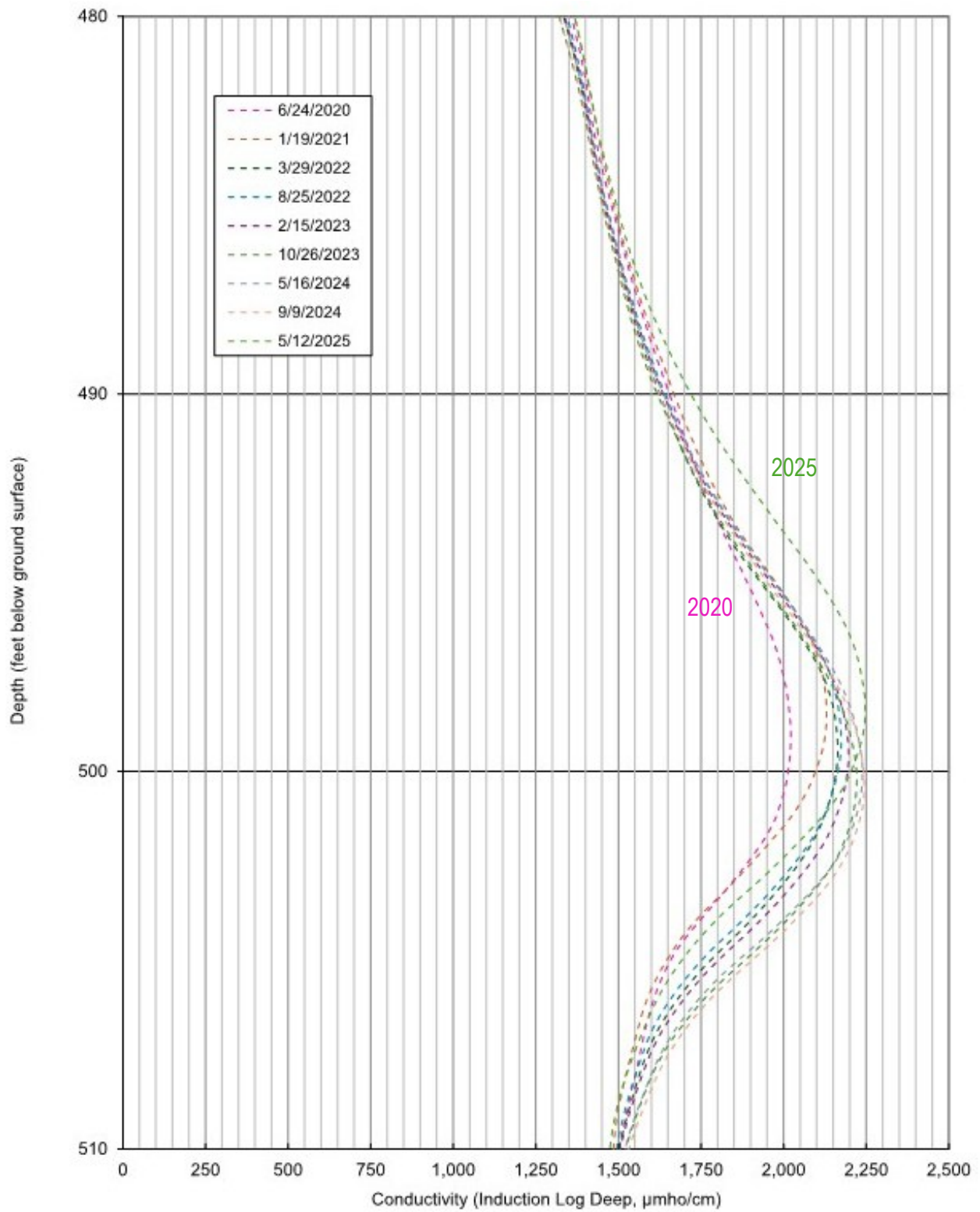


Figure 3. SP-5 Induction Log Conductivity Over Time for 480 – 510 feet bgs

## SUMMARY

In summary:

- Sustainability and benefits from projects planned to achieve sustainability are evaluated based on SMC established at onshore RMPs in the GSP.
- As offshore AEM data are not used to evaluate SMC, evaluating changes to offshore conditions with AEM data over time is not required by SGMA.
- The 2022 AEM survey conducted by DWR provided sufficient data to confirm the 2017 conclusion about the close proximity of the offshore saltwater interface.
- An alternative geophysical method that has been used to evaluate seawater intrusion onshore at all aquifer depths is induction logging at a PVC cased and screened monitoring well.

## REFERENCES

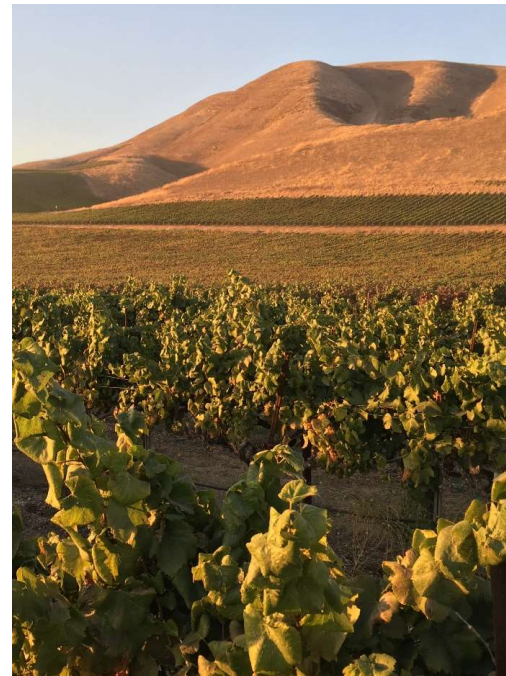
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2023. California Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys Monterey Bay Area Groundwater Subbasins. October 15. Accessed on July 19, 2024 at [https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/9494c429-49d0-4b6a-842f-256f8775151a/resource/eb132264-c259-49be-bfd4-aec0da253c49/download/main\\_report\\_wo10.pdf](https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/9494c429-49d0-4b6a-842f-256f8775151a/resource/eb132264-c259-49be-bfd4-aec0da253c49/download/main_report_wo10.pdf)
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- Montgomery & Associates (M&A). 2025b. Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Water Year 2024 Annual Report. Prepared for Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency. March. Prepared for Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency. February.
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- Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA). 2019. Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. November.





# AEM - MGA

2017 and 2022 data comparison  
Version: March 20, 2025



# Scope of Work

1. Compare the two AEM datasets flown in 2017 and in 2022
2. Check and update the processing of both datasets
3. Use the same inversion scheme for both datasets
4. Compare data at the repeated line running inland at Trestle Beach
5. Compare data along the coast at Seascape Beach
6. Additional data

# Key AEM System Parameters

## Configuration

Parameter	2017	2022
System	SkyTEM 304	SkyTEM 312
Transmitter Current (LM/HM)	9/116 A	7/113 A
Max. HM Transmitter Moment (NAI)	146,000 Am <sup>2</sup>	464,000 Am <sup>2</sup>
Repetition Frequency	?/15 Hz	210/30 Hz
Flight Speed	18-23 m/s	20-25 m/s
Flight Height	30-100m	30-90m
Other	Nothing	It would have been preferable if the DWR 2022 AEM lines were flown at the exact same locations as for the 2017 dataset.

# Data Processing Parameters

Used Aarhus Workbench\*)  
Version: 2024.2.0.0  
Workspace version: 89

Parameter	2017	2022
Manual Sensor altitude editing	Yes	Yes
Uniform noise standard deviation	3%	3%
Trapez Filter LM	Times 10 usec, 100 usec, 1 ms Width 1/1/1 sec	Times 10 usec, 100 usec, 1 ms Width 2/2/2 sec
Trapez Filter HM	Times 10 usec, 100 usec, 1 ms Width 1/1/1 sec	Times 100 usec, 1 ms, 10 ms Width 2/2/3 sec
Trapez sounding distance	1 sec	1 sec
System Response correction	No	Yes
Coordinate system	ESPG 3310 NAD83 California Albers	

\*) Aarhus Workbench with AEM module supporting LCI and SCI inversion  
<https://www.aarhusgeosoftware.dk/aarhus-workbench>

# Key Inversion Parameters

All inversion parameters have been selected to be as identical as possible given the two AEM systems

Parameter	2017	2022
Inversion method	LCI (smooth)	LCI (smooth)
Inversion method	SCI (used the LCI as start resistivity)	Not performed
Number of Layers	30	30
First / Last Layer Boundary	1/400m	1/400m
Vertical constraints	Medium (std 2.0)	Medium (std 2.0)
Lateral constraints	Tight (std 1.1) (Elevation)	Tight (std 1.1) (Elevation)
Gates Low Moment	16-347 usec	14.7-348 usec
Gates High Moment	94 usec – 20 ms	383 usec – 10 ms
Starting Resistivity Value for all Layers	Auto	Auto
Flight Altitude	A-priori std 0.10 (fixed)	A-priori std 0.10 (fixed)
Depth of Investigation	Standard	Standard



# Flown Lines Cross section locations

White dots: SkyTEM 2017  
Black dots: SkyTEM 2022  
Squares: Data used for inversion

Red line: Location of profiles  
Red circles: Boreholes

Line A:  
2017 Flight line number L201101  
2022 Flight line number L105683

Line B:  
2022 Flight line number L105684

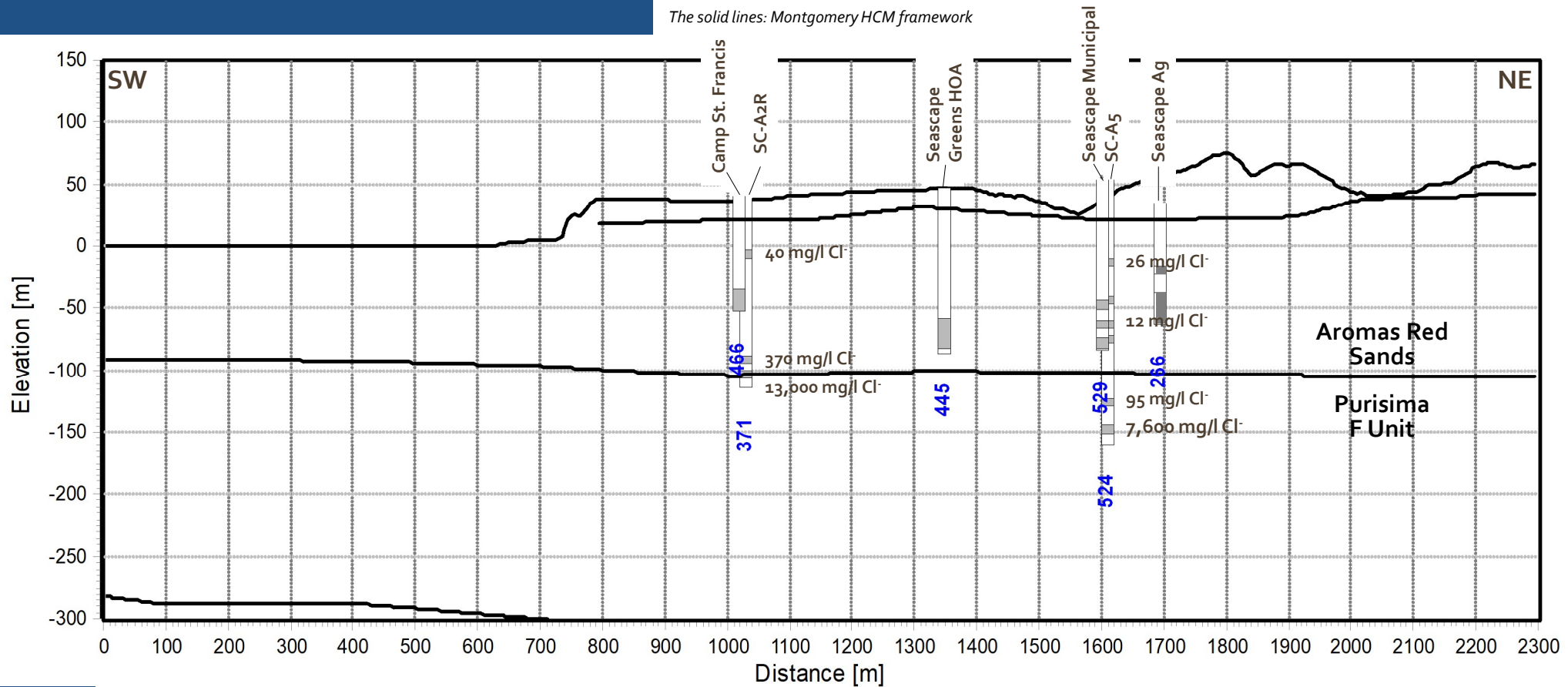




# Vertical Cross section A

The Chloride concentrations are from samples taken at the same times as the two surveys were carried out

The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework

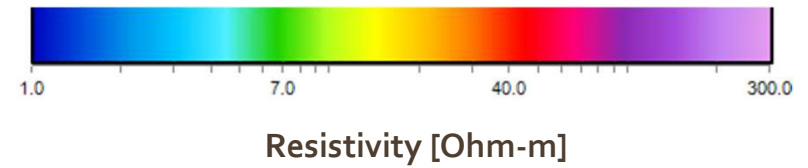


Blue number beneath the boreholes are the projection distances

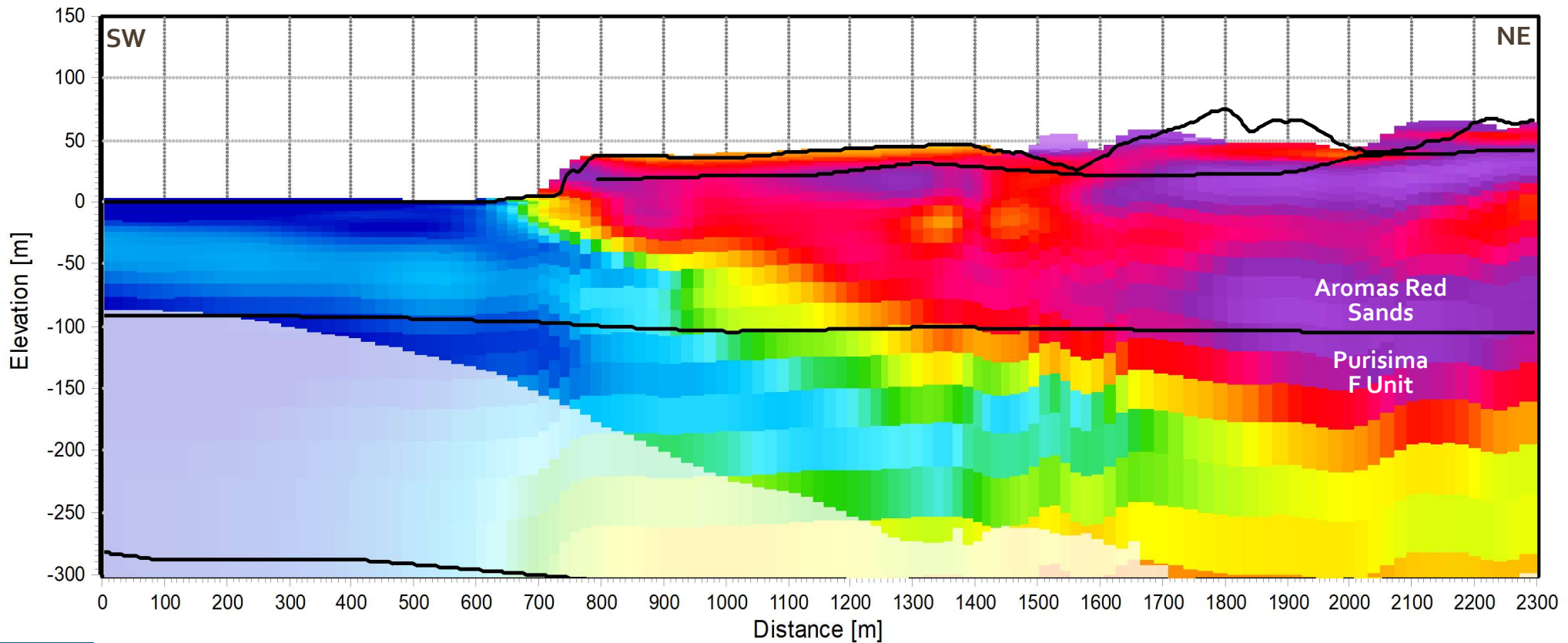
# Vertical Cross section A

## 2017 AEM Survey

Re-processed and inverted data



*The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework*





# Vertical Cross section A

## 2017 AEM Survey

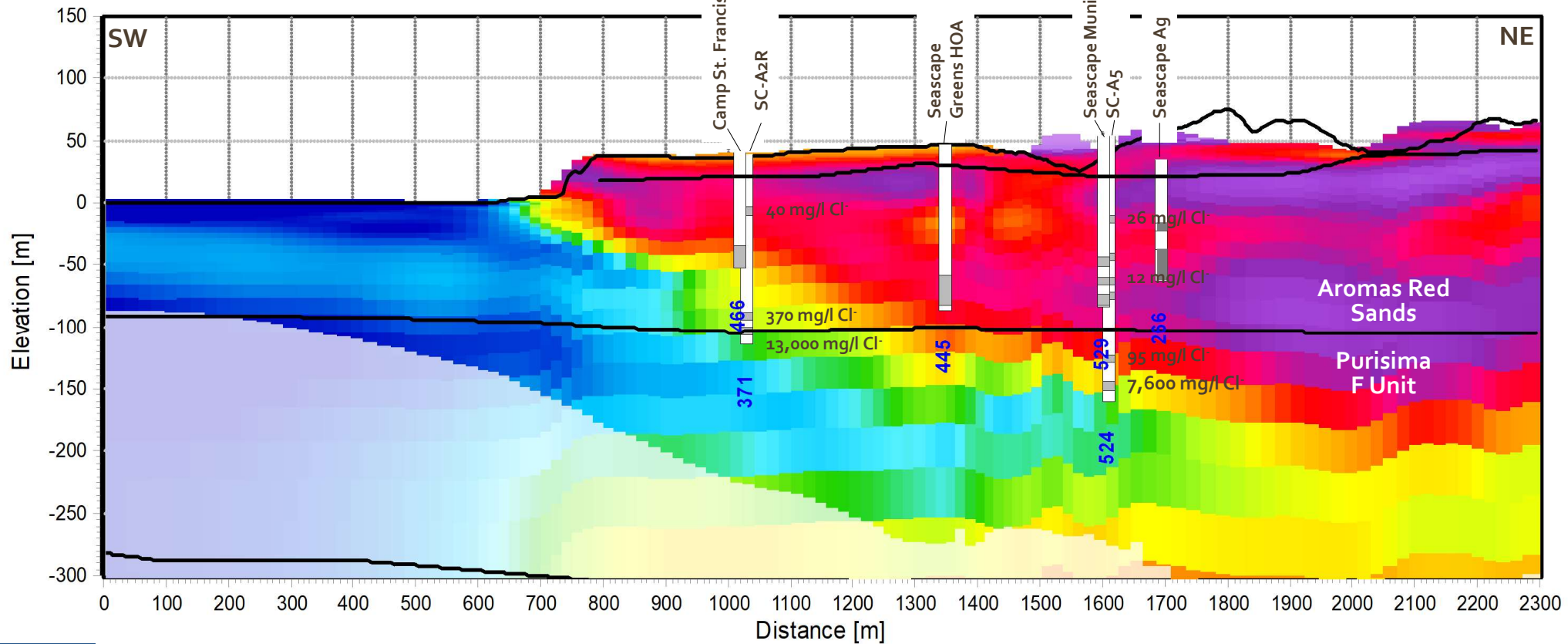
### Re-processed and inverted data



Resistivity [Ohm-m]

The Chloride concentrations are from samples taken at the same times as the two surveys were carried out

The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework

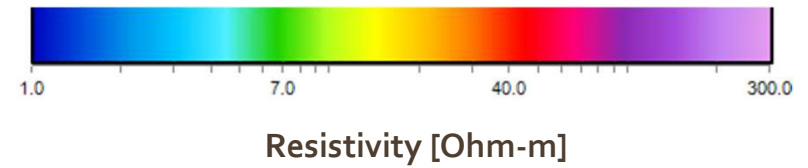


Blue number beneath the boreholes are the projection distances

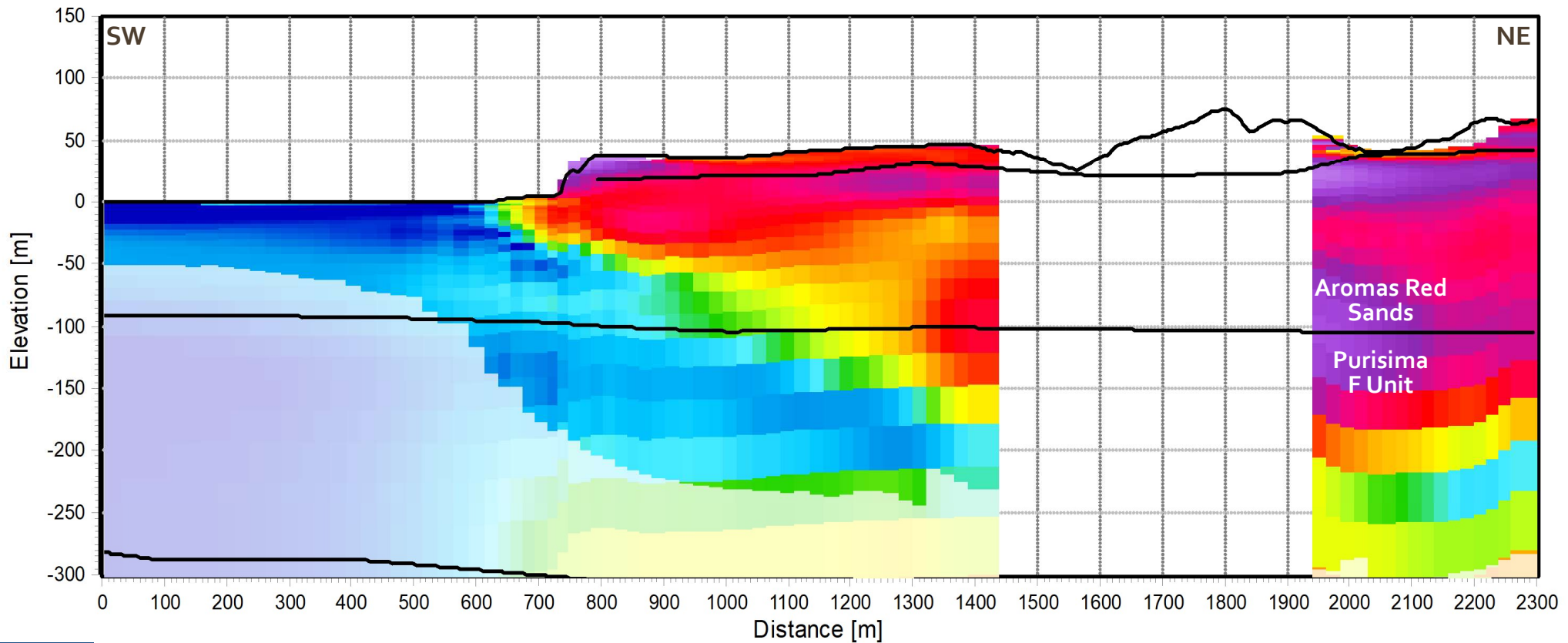
# Vertical Cross section A

## 2022 AEM Survey

Re-processed and inverted data



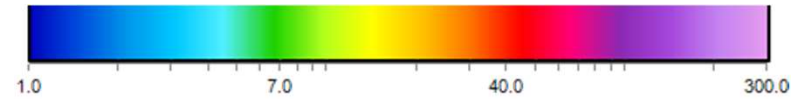
*The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework*



# Vertical Cross section A

## 2022 AEM Survey

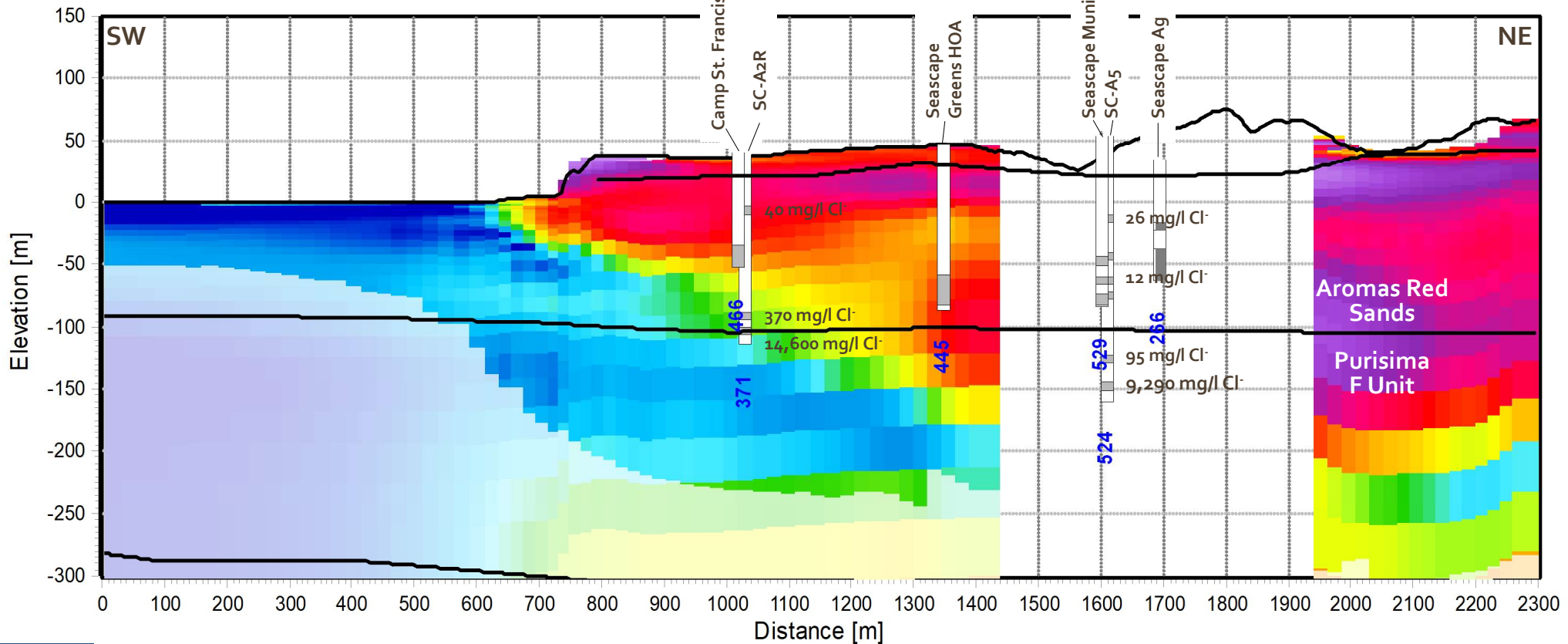
### Re-processed and inverted data



Resistivity [Ohm-m]

The Chloride concentrations are from samples taken at the same times as the two surveys were carried out

The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework

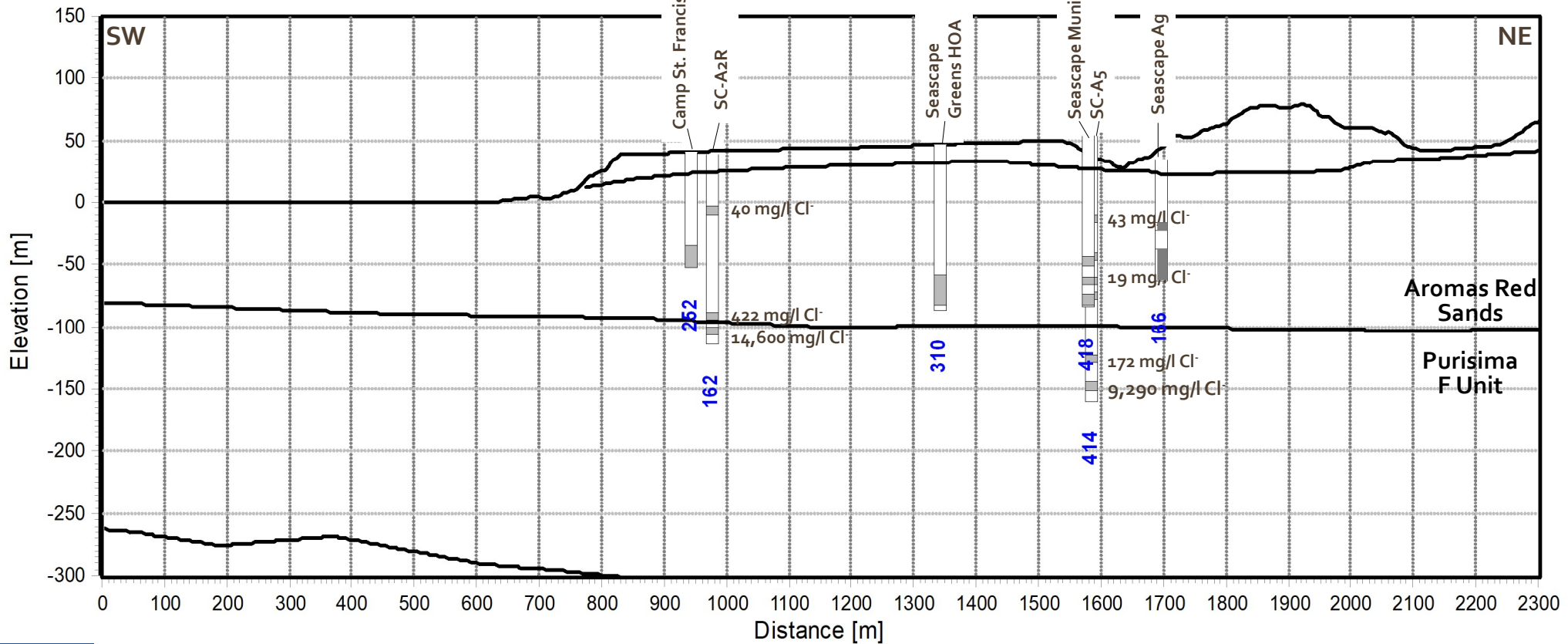


Blue number beneath the boreholes are the projection distances

# Vertical Cross section B

The Chloride concentrations are from samples taken at the same times as the two surveys were carried out

The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework



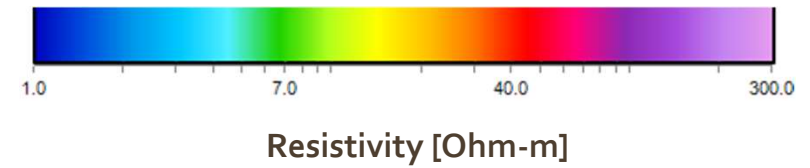
Blue number beneath the boreholes are the projection distances



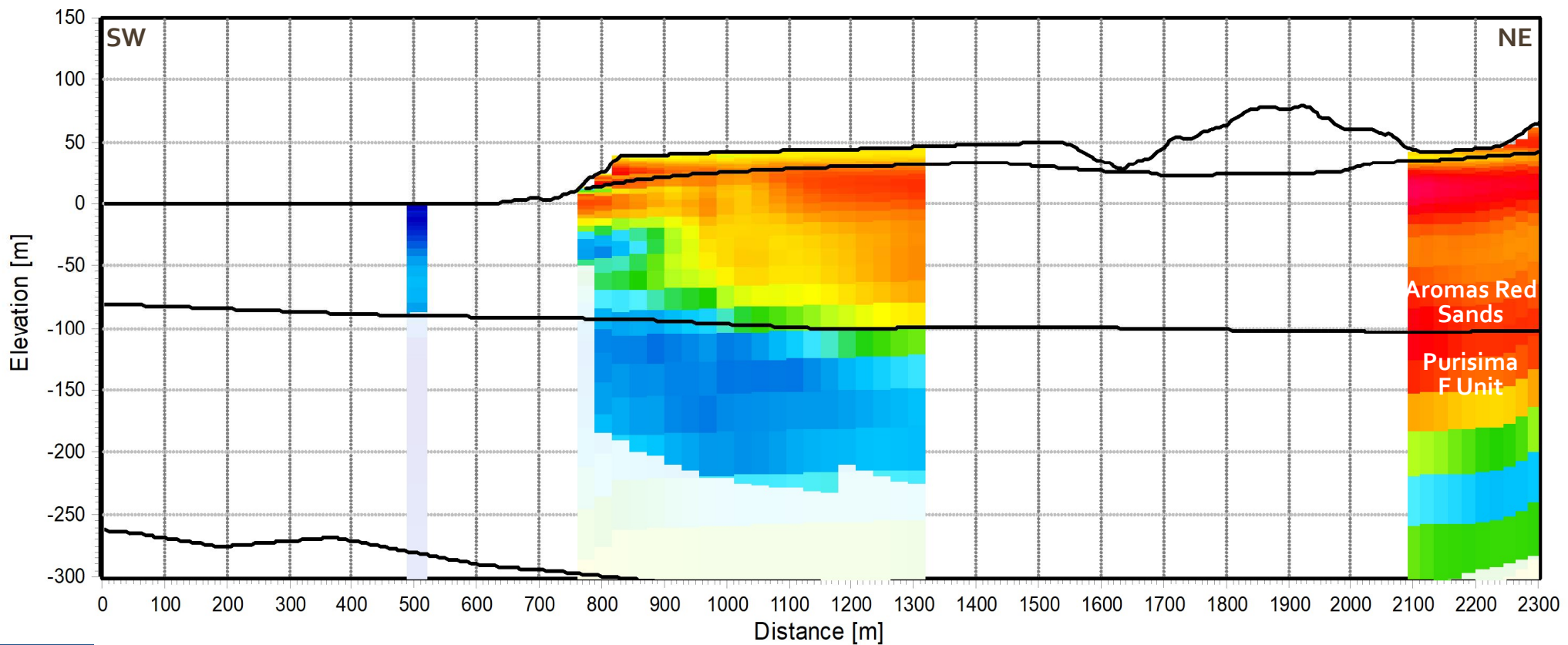
# Vertical Cross section B

## 2022 AEM Survey

Re-processed and inverted data



*The solid lines: Montgomery HCM framework*

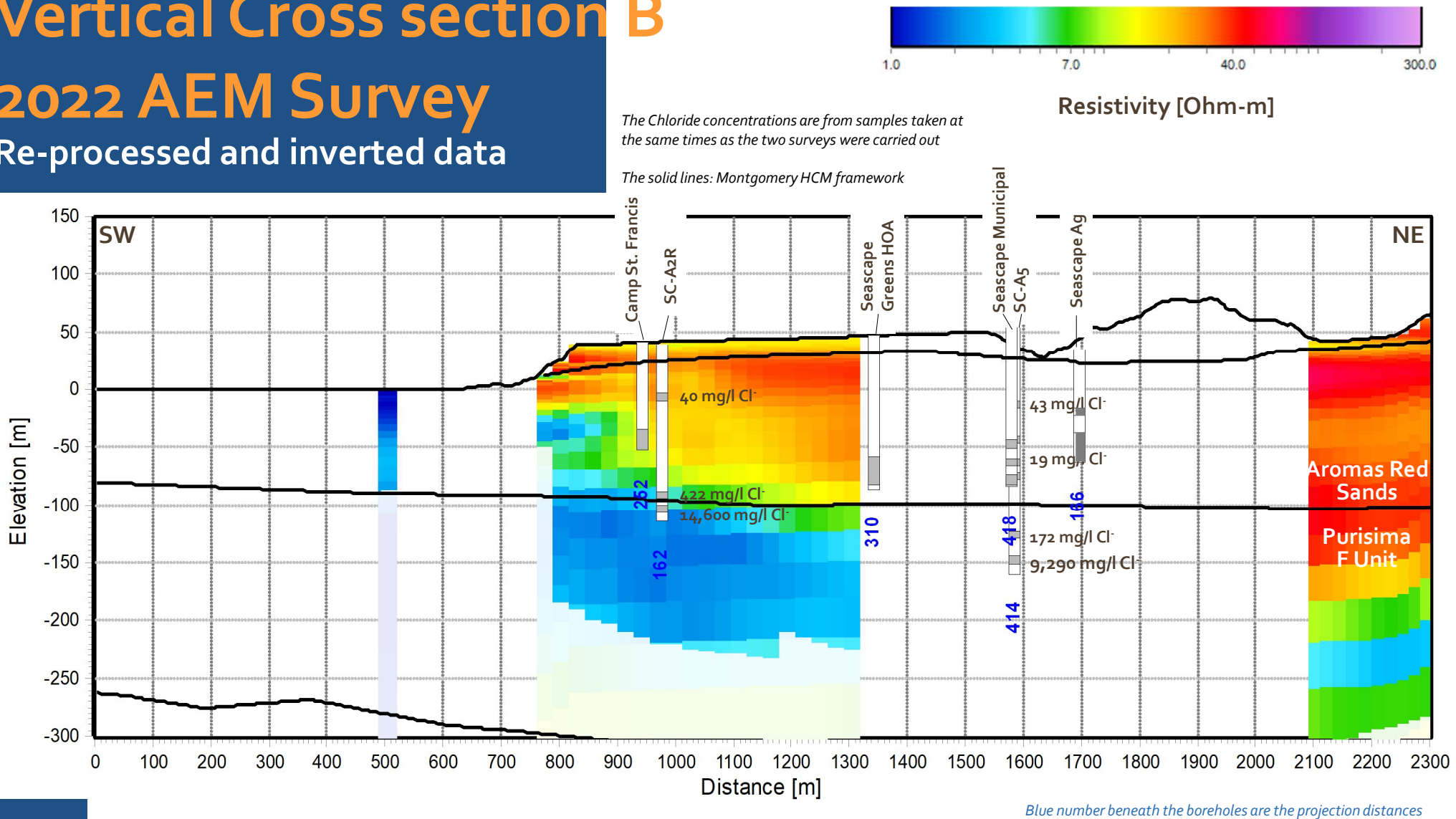


*Blue number beneath the boreholes are the projection distances*

# Vertical Cross section B

## 2022 AEM Survey

### Re-processed and inverted data



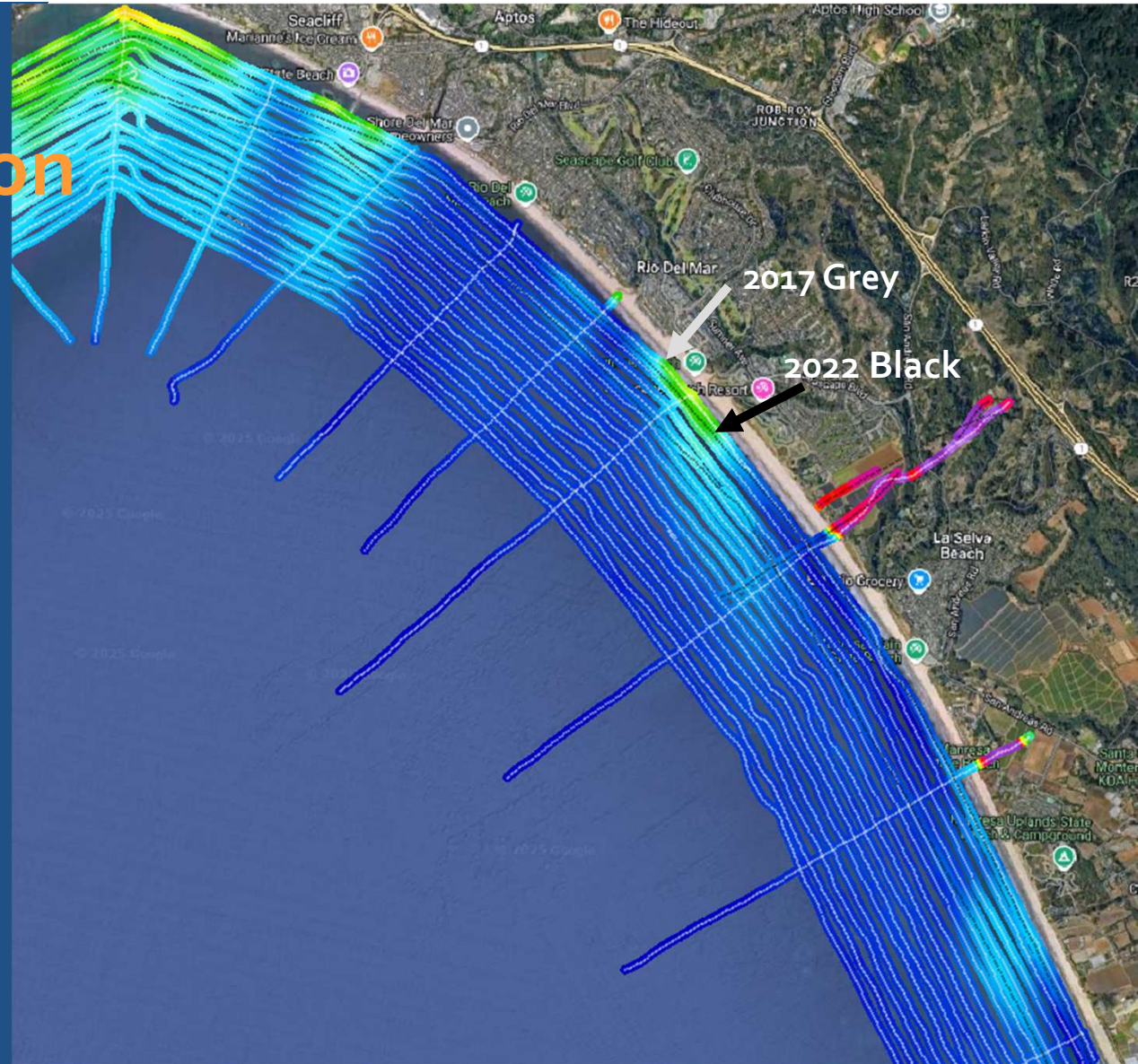
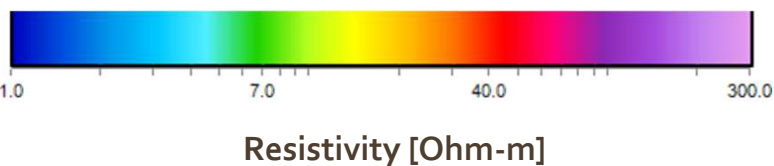
# Mean Resistivity Off-shore comparison

Elevation 20-30 mbsl.

2017: grey dots  
2022: black dots

The resistivity patterns seen in the  
2017 and the 2022 data compare  
very well

A series of mean resistivity maps  
and QC plots is provided as a PDF





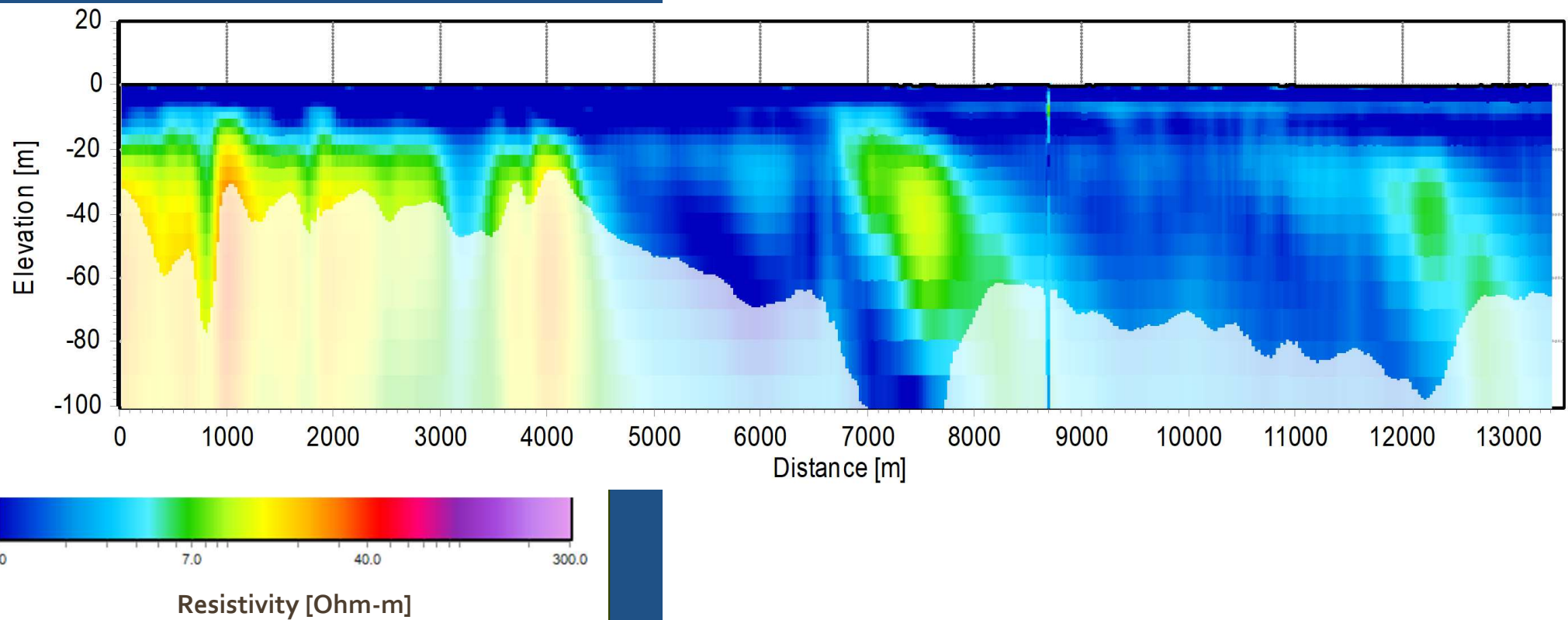
# DWR 2022 Shore lines





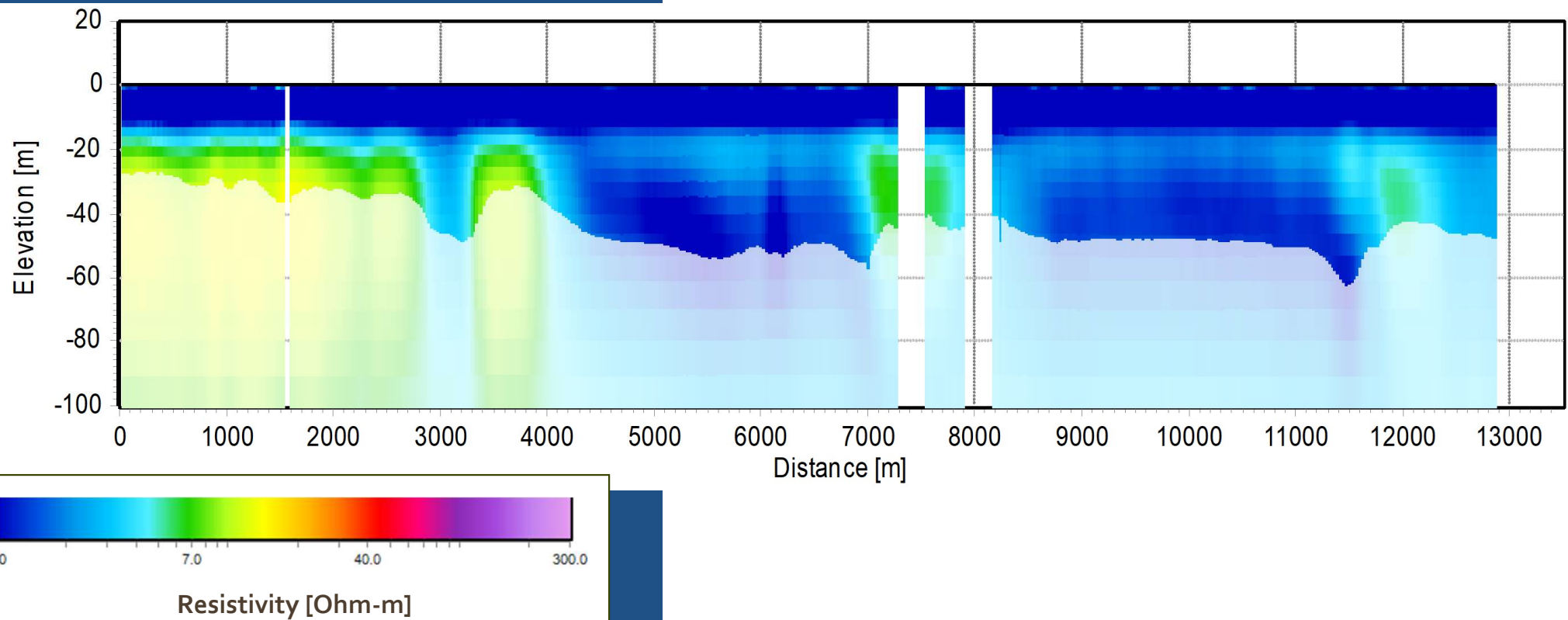
# DWR 2022

## Shore line C<sub>1</sub>



# DWR 2022

## Shore line C2



# Observations

## Comparison comments

Parameter	2017	2022
Color scale	Reversed compared to the visualizations used in 2017	
Data Gap inland line	No data removal Data from 1,400 to 1,600m looks slightly noisy	Data from 1,450 to 1,920m has been removed
Depth of Investigation	Deeper due to later time gates	Shallower
Terrain	Variations as the two profiles are not co-located.	
Limitations	The two lines from 2017 and 2022 are not flown on top of each other.	
Fresh water extend	The shallow fresh water seems to extend a little further off-shore for the 2022 data	
Off-shore comparison	A very high degree of repeatability Near the Summer Beach the fresh water might extend a little further into the sea compared to 2017	
Recommendations	To be discussed	

# Deliverables

## Data provided

Parameter	2017	2022
Aarhus Workbench databases including processed data and inverted data	✓	✓
Data exported as ascii xyz files including readme.txt file describing the format.	✓	✓
Geotiffs for the maps in the appendix.		✓
ESRI Shape file with location of data points and profile used for the vertical cross section		✓
Appendix with the following maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview map</li><li>• Data residual map describing the data fit</li><li>• Depth of investigation</li><li>• Mean resistivity maps as depth intervals from 0 m to 200 m.</li></ul>	
Report	As a powerpoint	

# Additional geophysical data

Provide a brief summary of available alternatives for additional analysis of seawater intrusion in the Seascape agricultural area.

## AEM

Additional geophysical investigations can be done from the air and as measurements carried out on the ground. Airborne measurements have the advantage that data can be collected both onshore and offshore and does not require permits to access private land.

### **Airborne EM survey**

1. We do not recommend alternative AEM systems to SkyTEM as they are not as focused on accuracy and repeatability, making it difficult to compare with existing data.
2. We have contacted SkyTEM. They do not have any upcoming survey plans in California at the moment. We can consider to pay for the mob/demob on our own (\$30k) plus a high rate for the flown lines.
3. **We recommend that**
  1. More off-shore and in-land lines be flown.
  2. All open areas are covered.
  3. The helicopter pilot be instructed to fly very accurately and at as stable height as possible.
  4. The measurements be extended to approx. 20 ms, which will increase the depth of investigation.
  5. Processing and inversion of the data be done using the same software as used for the 2017 and 2022 data.

# Additional geophysical data

Provide a brief summary of available alternatives for additional analysis of seawater intrusion in the Seascape agricultural area.

## Ground-based Measurements for Monitoring

Both ERT and TEM can be used for monitoring changes in the depth to the water table and changes in the depth to saline water.

### 1. The TEM method

1. Will provide more accurate depth estimates.
2. Only at a single or two points.
3. Not sensitive to variations near the terrain surface.
4. Require only limited space.

### 2. The ERT method

1. Can provide a 2D section
  2. The accuracy is less precise compared to TEM.
  3. Is sensitive to variations in humidity in the shallow layers and temperature changes. Methods exist to address this matter.
  4. Require a long layout to reach deep enough.
3. Daily measurements can be carried out for both methods and data can be uploaded.
  4. Most, if not all, instrumentation can be buried. In that way, activities on the ground or theft is less problematic.
  5. For both ERT and TEM irrigation pipes placed in the vicinity of the investigations instruments can cause bias signals in the data.

# Additional geophysical data

Provide a brief summary of available alternatives for additional analysis of seawater intrusion in the Seascape agricultural area.

## Ground-based Measurements

### Ground-based TEM soundings

1. It will be a cost efficient approach
2. Requires that two persons handcarrying the TEM system are allowed to access the areas
3. The data will provide a similar depth of investigation and resolution compared to the AEM surveys
4. TEM is especially powerful for mapping the depth to a conductive layer like salt water intrusion.
5. Ont the following slide the layout of a 4 day groundbased TEM survey is sketched.

### Ground-based ERT sections

1. ERT data are modelled as a true 2D dataset.
2. The ERT shall run perpendicular to the coast line to map the saltwater intrusion.
3. It will require long layouts to reach a satisfactory depth (e.g. 800m long layouts)
4. An advantage of applying ERT is that it can be done close to powerlines and other installations, though care shall be taken to avoid current traveling through fences and other metal objects.



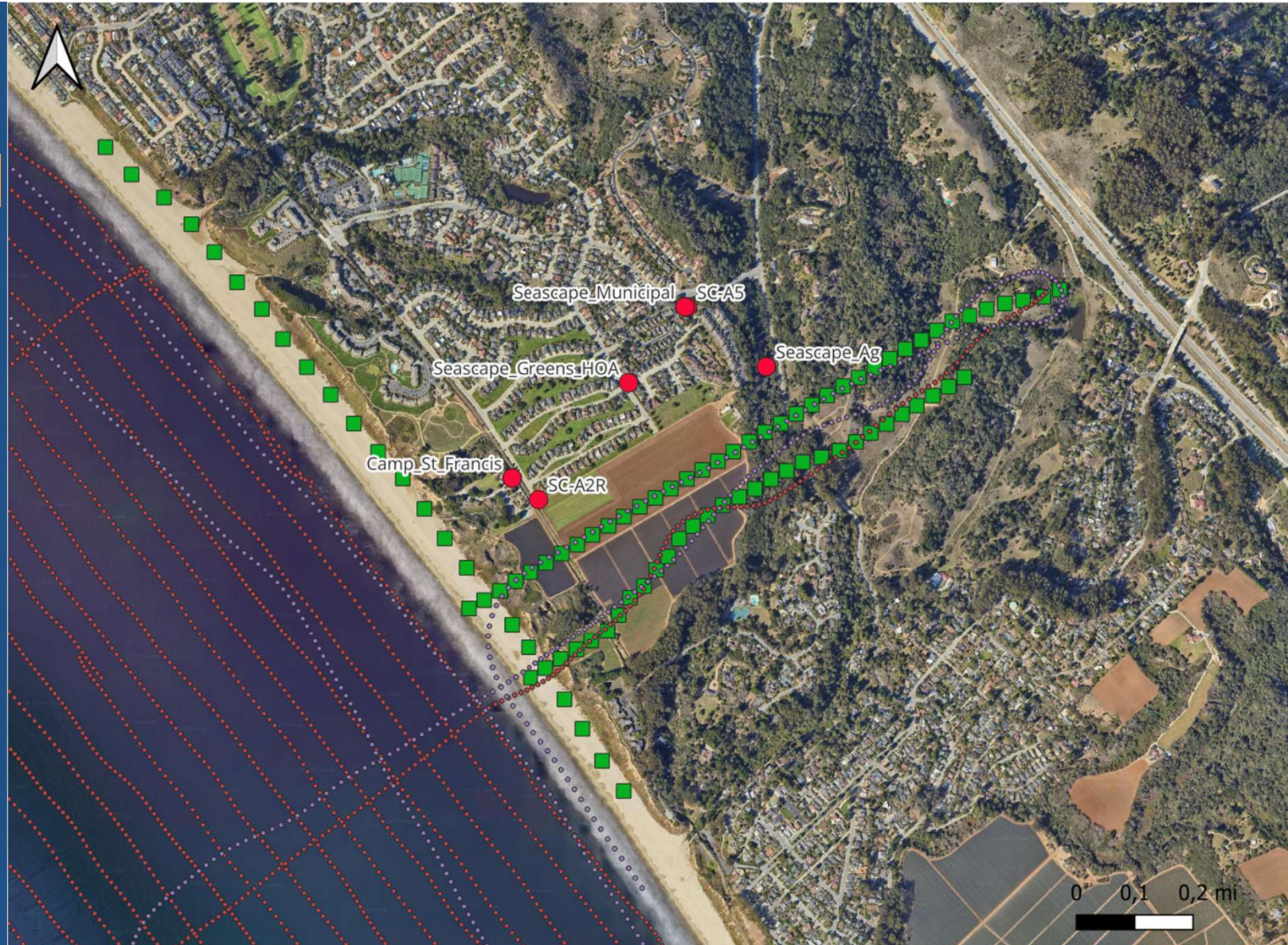
# Additional geophysical data

sTEM ground-based soundings spaced at approximately 50m

On the beach the sounding distance is 100m

A total of 90 soundings (green squares)

Daily production estimated to 20-25 soundings (4 field days)





December 11, 2025

## MEMO TO THE MGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item 7.2.1

Title: GSP Implementation Status Update

Attachment(s): None

**Recommended Board Action:** No action required, informational report only.

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The intent of this memorandum is to provide status updates on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities not covered elsewhere on the Board agenda.

Well Registration and Metering Program – Following Board adoption of the policy requiring well registration, metering, and reporting for non-de minimis groundwater users, Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF) staff has continued to work with well owners to implement the policy. Based on the latest information, 5 wells are subject to the policy. RWMF has received confirmation that meters are installed on all 5 subject wells and initial meter readings related to Water Year 2025 have been submitted.

Seawater Intrusion Investigation – RWMF and Montgomery & Associates staff are coordinating on the seawater intrusion investigation in the Seascape area. In early October, geophysical induction logging was performed in the SC-A2RA and SC-A8A monitoring wells to help characterize vertical differences in groundwater electrical conductivity as an indicator of potential seawater intrusion as part of the investigation. In late October, RWMF staff assisted Geophysical Imaging Partners (GIP) in collecting land-based geophysical data to characterize the presence of high salinity water in the subsurface in the vicinity of Seascape. The data is currently being processed by GIP. A summary of findings from the overall study is expected in early 2026.

Recommended Board Action:

1. No action required, informational report only.

**Submitted by:**

**Rob Swartz**

Senior Planner

Regional Water Management Foundation

## Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency

### Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Grant (Agreement #4600014636)

Update: December 2025

DWR is reviewing an amendment to the Grant Agreement. The amendment (#5) extends completion dates for selected tasks on Components 2, 4, and 5, adds an additional task for Component 4, and transfers the remaining balance in Component 4 (approximately \$92,000) to Component 2 for construction activity on the Beltz 12.

#### **1. Project: Cunnison Lane Groundwater Well**

Lead: Soquel Creek Water District

Grant Award: \$1,734,560

Status: Well construction completed;

Treatment Plant designs nearing completion.

Activities to Date: Cunnison Lane Groundwater Well construction completed in fall 2024. Design of the raw water pipeline connection between Cunnison Lane groundwater well and the treatment facility was completed in December 2024. Geotechnical and topographic surveys in support of water treatment plant (WTP) design were completed. WTP 100% design submittal is expected in early December. Grant funds for Component 1 have been fully expended.

#### **2. Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR), Beltz Wellfield**

Lead: City of Santa Cruz

Grant Award: \$1,650,000

Status: Underway.

Activities to Date: Activity includes completing designs to convert two existing groundwater production wells to ASR wells (Beltz Well 8 and 12) to enable the injection of excess surface water, treated to drinking water standards, into Basin aquifers.

Beltz 12: The City's consultant, Carollo Engineers Inc., completed designs. The City awarded the construction bid to South Valley Companies in February 2025 and construction began in July 2025. Construction includes site improvements needed for a functional ASR well including the installation of mechanical, piping, electrical, instrumentation, and control systems, water quality treatment infrastructure, and other improvements. Grant funds for the Beltz 12 construction are expected to be fully expended by December 31, 2025. Non-grant funded construction activity will continue until December 2026.

Beltz 8: Carollo completed the 100% designs and specifications. Grant funds for Beltz 8 design have been fully expended.

<p><b>3. Park Avenue Transmission Main Improvements</b></p> <p>Lead Agency: Soquel Creek Water District</p> <p>Grant Award: \$740,440</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>Grant funded activity was completed in 2024.</p>
<p><b>4. Technical Development of GSP Group 1 &amp; 2 Projects</b></p> <p>Leads: Soquel Creek WD &amp; City of Santa Cruz</p> <p>Grant Award: \$1,900,000</p> <p>Status: Underway</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	<p><b>Task 1: Develop Objectives and Project Components to Analyze</b> (Led by District). Brown and Caldwell (BC) serves as lead consultant working with District, City, and others on the development and evaluation of alternatives and costs. This task is complete.</p> <p><b>Task 2: Groundwater Modeling</b> (Led by City). Montgomery and Associates (M&amp;A) serves as lead consultant working with City, District, BC, and hydraulic modeling consultant Akel Engineering. Completed activities include substantial completion of modeling within selected project alternative tracks (Pure Water Soquel (PWS), Aquifer Storage &amp; Recovery (ASR), and transfers using machine-learning guided optimization. This process was used to narrow down thousands of scenarios under the project alternative tracks to four that represent different ways PWS, ASR, and transfers could be implemented. A technical memorandum (TM) summarizing this work has been completed and the four selected scenarios are further analyzed under Tasks 4-7. This task is complete.</p> <p><b>Task 3: Hydraulic Modeling</b> (Led by District). Akel Engineering serves as lead consultant working with District, City, and M&amp;A. Akel completed the hydraulic modeling component of the Study and prepared a TM summarizing this work. This task is complete.</p> <p><b>Task 4: Water Quality and Regional Compatibility/Optimization</b> (Led by District). BC serves as lead consultant on water quality component. This work included modeling selected projects for potential distribution system water quality impacts and to identify additional water quality studies or treatment needed for project implementation. BC completed this component</p>

<p><b>4. Technical Development of GSP Group 1 &amp; 2 Projects</b></p> <p>Leads: Soquel Creek WD &amp; City of Santa Cruz</p> <p>Grant Award: \$1,900,000</p> <p>Status: Underway</p>	<p>and summarized the results in a TM. This task is complete.</p> <p><b>Task 5: Economic and Financial Analysis/ Modeling</b> (Led by District). BC serves as lead consultant with subconsultants performing specialized evaluations of the selected projects for cost and economic impacts. This TM has been completed. This task is complete.</p> <p>Task 6: Needs Assessment (Led by District). BC serves as lead consultant with subconsultants performing specialized evaluations of the selected projects for social, environmental, regulatory, legal &amp; institutional needs. This TM has been completed. This task is complete.</p> <p>Task 7: Develop Final Report with Recommendations and Implementation Workplan (Led by District). The Draft and Final Regional Water Optimization Study Report with Recommendations and Implementation Workplan was reviewed by District, City, and the Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF) staff and submitted to DWR. This task is complete.</p> <p>Additional work: BC/Brent Haddad to evaluate and provide a memorandum on the Optimization Study strategy of using water transfers to support regional water reliability while preserving Basin sustainability.</p>
<p><b>5. Sustainable Groundwater Management Evaluation &amp; Planning</b></p> <p>Leads: MGA &amp; County of Santa Cruz</p> <p>Grant Award: \$1,575,000</p> <p>Status: Underway</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	<p>GSP Implementation activities underway: 2025 groundwater model improvements; streamflow and groundwater monitoring; non-de minimis groundwater usage metering program; coordination with SCI and the Member Agencies on assessing long-term funding options for SGMA compliance.</p> <p>The first GSP Periodic (5-Year) Evaluation was completed and submitted to DWR in January 2025. Water Year 2024 Annual Report was completed and submitted to DWR in March 2025. Global Imaging Partners (GIP) analyzed prior AEM data (2017 and 2022) and available alternatives for additional</p>

## **5. Sustainable Groundwater Management Evaluation & Planning**

Leads: MGA & County of Santa Cruz

Grant Award: \$1,575,000

Status: Underway

analysis of existing seawater intrusion in the Seascap area.

M&A continues an evaluation of the Basin monitoring network, ,SGMA GSP reporting, and seawater intrusion in the Seascap area including geophysical induction logging. GIP, with RWMF support, conducted a land-based geophysical data collection to characterize the presence of high salinity water in the subsurface in the vicinity of Seascap.

Trout Unlimited continues streamflow monitoring, data collection and reporting, associated shallow groundwater monitoring, data collection, and reporting.

SCI Consulting continues work on an assessment of long-term funding options for SGMA compliance.

RWMF staff continues GSP Implementation activities including: coordination with MGA member agency staff on GSP Projects and Management Actions; coordination with member agencies and consultants (M&A, SCI, Trout Unlimited, GIP, other) to support GSP implementation efforts; coordination of Basin monitoring of shallow wells and streamflow; support groundwater metering program and well registration; planning and coordination on seawater intrusion assessment and data evaluation; coordination with small GSAs on SGMA implementation and compliance costs; meeting coordination and facilitation with MGA Member Agency staff; support for monitoring data and Data Management System (WISKI) and online portal. Supported outreach activities including website content updates, a redesign of the MGA website, and e-blast newsletters.