



The voice of our community

**Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**May 6, 2025 – 4:00 PM**  
**In Person at Montecito Community Hall and Via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Albertson, Babbitt, Gottsdanker, Johnson, Macfadyen, Robertson

**Absent:** Gray, Overall, Pennino, Serrani, Slaff

**I. Call to Order** –Dorinne Lee Johnson, Chair, 4:03 p.m.

**II. Approval of April 1, 2025 Minutes:** Macfadyen/Lee Johnson  
Motion approved

**III. Public Comment for Items NOT on Agenda:** None

**IV. Conference Agenda:**

**i. Montecito Water District – Nick Turner**  
**Groundwater Update**

Joined by Nick Kunstek, Groundwater Specialist, and Laura Camp, Public Information Officer, a presentation was given on the groundwater basin. Established by State legislation in 2014, the Montecito Water Department (MWD), in 2016, recognized the importance of groundwater for a good water supply and began monitoring the groundwater. The groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) identified key risk factors: groundwater depletion, quality, and seawater intrusion. In May 2023, GSA adopted the GSP. The implementation was supported by data, focusing on ongoing projects and actions, filling data gaps, ongoing monitoring, and modeling. The plan is a living document, project highlights, 1) rebates up to \$3k per property, depending on improvements, Raingardens, designed to capture runoff and promote infiltration and conversion to permeable surface. 2) Well registry-registry forms provided by more than seven hundred well owners, about a fifty percent response rate with verified contact information, verified well status. 3) Seawater intrusion monitoring to determine the presence or lack of seawater intrusion within the Montecito Groundwater Basin (MGB).

Preexisting wells serve as a monitoring network for groundwater levels and quality. Laboratory analysis is conducted quarterly, and they are seeking new wells to monitor. Rainfall plays a role in infiltration, with an average of twenty inches. The current condition of the basin at the end of 2024 continues to recharge due to wet winters. The GSA is an interagency collaboration. Information was taken from the county and state to combine into a dataset to find well locations and status, and then created a registry. The way seawater becomes present is through ocean and rock pressure. Property owners have water rights.

**V. Old Business** None

**VI. New Business:** Next month's presentation will be from SBCAG

**VII. Adjourned** 5:00 p.m.