

## **NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
will be held at **3:00 P.M., Tuesday, August 20, 2024**  
**1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room**

**Notice Regarding Public Participation:** For those who may not attend the meeting but wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, please submit any and all comments and written materials to the District via electronic mail at [general@syrwd.org](mailto:general@syrwd.org). All submittals should indicate “**August 20, 2024 Board Meeting**” in the subject line. Materials received by the District during and prior to the meeting will become part of the post-meeting Board packet materials available to the public and posted on the District’s website.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA**
4. **ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-Agenda matter within the District’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The District is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any public comment item.
6. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 16, 2024**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion without separate discussion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Trustee.  
CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report  
CA-2. Central Coast Water Authority Update
8. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
  - A. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**
    1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
      - a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses
      - b) Approval of Accounts Payable
  - B. **OPERATIONS UPDATE**
9. **REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
  - A. **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**
    1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update
10. **REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**
11. **CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS**

- 12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:** Any member of the Board of Trustees may request to place an item on the Agenda for the next regular meeting. Any member of the public may submit a written request to the General Manager of the District to place an item on a future meeting Agenda, provided that the General Manager and the Board of Trustees retain sole discretion to determine which items to include on meeting Agendas.
- 13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for **September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.**
- 14. CLOSED SESSION:**  
The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:
- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**  
[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 3 Cases]
1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project
  2. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests
  3. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. 21CV02432
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION**  
[Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - Potential Initiation of Litigation By the Agency - One Matter]
- 15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**  
[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]
- A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 14.A - 14.C**
- 16. ADJOURNMENT**

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This Agenda was posted at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez, California, and notice was delivered in accordance with Government Code Section 54950 et seq., specifically Section 54956. This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Board reserves the right to change the order in which items are heard. Copies of any staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business on the Agenda are on file with the District and available for public inspection during normal business hours at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez. Such written materials will also be made available on the District's website, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the regularly scheduled meeting. Questions concerning any of the Agenda items may be directed to the District's General Manager at (805) 688-6015. If a court challenge is brought against any of the Board's decisions related to the Agenda items above, the challenge may be limited to those issues raised by the challenger or someone else during the public meeting or in written correspondence to the District prior to or during the public meeting. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any individual needing special assistance to review Agenda materials or participate in this meeting may contact the District Secretary at (805) 688-6015. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will best enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
 IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
JULY 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present:           Mike Burchardi  
                                       Jeff Clay  
                                       Brad Joos  
                                       Mark Moniot  
                                       Nick Urton

Trustees Absent:           None

Others Present:           Paeter Garcia            Racel Cota            Karen King  
                                       Dan Drugan            Gary Kvistad           Jeff Dinkin  
                                       Lizeth Caro            Regina Goold           Jill Petersen  
                                       Debbie Curtis

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted roll call and reported that all Trustees were present.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

President Clay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA:**

Ms. Cota reported that the Agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the California Government Code commencing at Section 54953, as well as District Resolution No. 340.

**4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA:**

There were no additions or corrections.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Clay welcomed any members of the public and offered time for members of the public to speak and address the Board on matters not on the Agenda. There was no public comment. Mr. Garcia reported that no written comments were submitted to the District for the meeting.

**6. EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS:**

A. Mr. Garcia explained that the Employee Spotlight Agenda Item provides an opportunity for members of the District team to be introduced (and re-introduced) to the Board and the public. He welcomed Ms. Lizeth Caro, Ms. Jill Petersen, Ms. Regina Goold, and Ms. Debbie Curtis. Mr. Garcia provided an overview of their respective roles and responsibilities within the District, stating each employee’s title and years of service. Mr. Garcia complimented and expressed his appreciation to the Administrative team. The Board members provided comments and expressed their gratitude to the Administrative team.

1     **7. CLOSED SESSION:**

2     The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:09 p.m.

3  
4     **A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: TITLE - GENERAL MANAGER**

5     [Section 54957 of the Government Code]

6  
7     **B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR: Jeff Dinkin – Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth;**  
8     **Unrepresented Employee - General Manager [Section 54957.6 of the Government Code]**

9  
10    **8. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

11    [Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

12    The Board reconvened to open session at 3:33 p.m.

13  
14  
15    **A. Consideration and Approval of General Manager Cost of Living Adjustment Increase and**  
16    **Compensation Adjustment**

17  
18    Mr. Jeff Dinkin, District Employment Counsel, reported that the Board met in closed session  
19    and completed the performance evaluation of the General Manager. He discussed a  
20    compensation adjustment and cost of living adjustment for the General Manager. Mr. Dinkin,  
21    acting as the Board representative, reported that the following occurred:

22  
23    Consideration of General Manager Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase. The Board  
24    determined to approve a 3.9% COLA increase effective the first pay period beginning July 1,  
25    2024, which is the same COLA increase that all other District employees received pursuant to  
26    the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 that was approved by the Board in June 2024.

27  
28    Consideration of General Manager Compensation Adjustment. The Board determined to  
29    grant the General Manager a 5% compensation merit increase effective the first pay period  
30    beginning July 1, 2024.

31  
32    It was **MOVED** by Trustee Clay, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0  
33    voice vote to approve an 8.9% compensation adjustment consisting of a 3.9% cost-of-living  
34    adjustment and a 5.0% compensation merit adjustment for the General Manager's salary  
35    effective the pay period beginning July 1, 2024.

36  
37    **9. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2024**

38    The Regular Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024 were presented for consideration.

39  
40    President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of  
41    June 18, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

42  
43    It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice  
44    vote, to approve the June 18, 2024 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

45  
46    **10. CONSENT AGENDA:**

47    The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board packet.

48  
49    Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of June.  
50

1 It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice  
2 vote, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
3

4 **11. MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING**  
5 **SUBJECTS:**

6 **A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**  
7

8 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

9 a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses

10 Ms. Cota announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via  
11 email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the  
12 District’s website.  
13

14 Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of June and  
15 noted that the year-end numbers are preliminary numbers for the fiscal year 2023/2024  
16 as invoices from vendors and consultants will continue to be submitted for purchases  
17 and services incurred in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. She highlighted various  
18 line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month  
19 and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that  
20 provides a budget to actual snapshot from July through June. Ms. Cota stated that  
21 District revenues exceeded expenses by \$692,708.44 for the month of June and the year-  
22 to-date net income was \$2,880,079.46. Ms. Cota reported that the June monthly financial  
23 report represents the unaudited close of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024.  
24

25 b) Approval of Accounts Payable

26 Ms. Cota announced that the Warrant List was provided to the Board via email earlier  
27 in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the District’s  
28 website.  
29

30 The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25973 through 26031 in  
31 the amount of \$551,618.27.  
32

33 It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 5-0-0  
34 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for June 19, 2024 through July 16, 2024.  
35

36 2. District Workplace Violence Prevention Plan

37 Mr. Garcia informed the Board that California passed a new law requiring employers,  
38 including public agencies, to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention  
39 plan. He reported that staff has prepared the District’s Workplace Violence Prevention  
40 Plan for purposes of protecting employees and other personnel from aggressive and  
41 violent behavior at the workplace. Mr. Garcia provided a brief review of the required  
42 information and explained that staff and the Board will be provided with training and the  
43 plan will be available to the Board for review.  
44

45 **B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

46 The Board packet included a July 10, 2024 news article “Lake Fire Command Opening Second  
47 Base Camp as Resources Grow” and photos.

1 Mr. Garcia provided a report of the recent activities relating to the significant Lake Fire  
2 occurring in our surrounding areas. He reported that the fire began on July 5<sup>th</sup> and that, in  
3 coordination with Unified Fire Command officials, the District field crew placed six  
4 temporary meters on fire hydrants located along the District's boundaries to assist with the  
5 firefighting efforts. Mr. Garcia indicated that a contract for temporary water use had been  
6 signed with the US Forest Service. He discussed the location of the fire hydrants in the photos  
7 included in the Board packet.  
8

9 Mr. Garcia also referred to other photos in the Board packet relating to a valve cluster  
10 replacement project at the corner of Faraday Street and Manzana Street. He reviewed the  
11 planning, installation, and contract work that was undertaken to complete the valve  
12 replacement project. Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation to the field staff for their skill and  
13 hard work to complete this installation.  
14

15 **12. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**  
16

17 **A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

18 **1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update**

19 The Board packet included a Notice and Agenda for the June 27, 2024 Special Meeting of  
20 the EMA GSA; Proposed Exhibit "B" of the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of  
21 the Grant Agreement between the Department of Water Resources and SYRWCD; EMA  
22 Requests for Qualifications; and a news article titled "A Costly Fight Over Water."  
23

24 Mr. Garcia reviewed the topics discussed at the June 27, 2024 EMA GSA Special Meeting.  
25 He reported that the Joint Powers Agency Agreement for the EMA was finalized in May  
26 and that effective July 16, 2024 all parties of the JPA have approved and executed the  
27 Agreement. Mr. Garcia reported that staff from SGMA member agencies throughout the  
28 Basin met again to discuss the subgrant agreement which, among other things, establishes  
29 the allocation of DWR grant funds among the three GSAs and spells out respective  
30 responsibilities for how the grant is going to be administered. He reviewed the amount  
31 of grant funding and the proposed projects for each management area of the Basin (WMA,  
32 CMA, & EMA). Mr. Garcia reported that the EMA GSA Committee authorized staff from  
33 the EMA agencies to issue informal Request for Qualifications for an Executive Director,  
34 Legal Counsel, and Rate Consultant for the new JPA. He stated the next step in the process  
35 is for the JPA Board of Directors to take action to hire an Executive Director, Legal Counsel  
36 and Rate Consultant. Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation to all parties for their  
37 collaboration and cooperation to finalize the JPA Agreement for the EMA. He reported  
38 that the article titled "A Costly Fight over Water" was included for informational  
39 purposes only.  
40

41 **13. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS,**  
42 **ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS**  
43 **NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION:**  
44

45 Trustee Burchardi provided a summary of topics discussed at the Los Olivos Community Services  
46 District meeting held on July 10, 2024.  
47

48 Mr. Garcia stated that the Board packet included information regarding the "Old Santa Ynez Days"  
49 event that took place on June 22, 2024. Mr. Garcia reported that similar to last year the District  
50 hosted a booth and participated in the community event to provide information to the public

1 regarding water supply issues and District operations. He indicated that the booth was well  
2 received and he thanked Trustee Joos, Dan Drugan, Joe Come, and others for their continued  
3 support and participation in the Old Santa Ynez Days and Airport Day events which help enhance  
4 the District's profile within the community.  
5

6 The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance Monthly briefing for the month of July 2024  
7 and July 9, 2024 Hearing Testimony of Mauricio Guardado, General Manager of the United Water  
8 Conservation District, to the Federal Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife Fisheries.  
9

10 **14. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS**

11 The Correspondence List was received by the Board.  
12

13 **15. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**

14 There were no requests from the Board.  
15

16 **16. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

17 President Clay stated the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for August  
18 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.  
19

20 **17. CLOSED SESSION:**

21 The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:55 p.m.  
22

23 **A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**

24 [Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 3 Cases]  
25

- 26 1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources  
27 Control Board regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and  
28 11332 to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project  
29
- 30 2. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources  
31 Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of  
32 Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests  
33
- 34 3. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood  
35 Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court  
36 Case No. 21CV02432  
37

38 **B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

39 [Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of  
40 Litigation By the Agency – One Matter]  
41

42 **18. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

43 [Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]  
44

45 **A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 17.A – 17.B**

46 The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 6:08 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced  
47 that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 17.A.1, 17.A.2, 17.A.3,  
48 and 17.B. He reported that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session  
49 Agenda Items.

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**19. ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:09 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Clay, President

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen King, Board Administrative Assistant



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
August 20, 2024**

**Consent Agenda Report**

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. Total water production in **July 2024 (477 AF)** was 78 AF higher than total production in **June 2024 (399 AF)**, 33 AF lower than the most recent 3-year running average (2021-2023) for the month of **July (510 AF)**, and 70 AF lower than the most recent 10-year running average (2014-2023) for the month of **July (547 AF)**. Overall production in July 2024 was the lowest for the month of July over the last 10 years; the next lowest July production over the last ten years was 492 AF in 2023; the highest July production in the last ten years was 620 AF in 2014. This below-average production for July is mostly attributable to extraordinary rainfall early in the year, which resulted in lower domestic and agricultural demands as the season progressed. As previously reported, the District's overall demands and total production have been trending well below historic levels for domestic, rural residential, and agricultural water deliveries due to water conservation, changing water use patterns, and private well installations.

For the month of **July 2024**, **approximately 6 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells and **0 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from the CCWA, the District took approximately **471 AF** of SWP supplies for the month, all of which was allocated to the Exchange. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **2.74 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Lake Cachuma in May (ending July 31, 2024) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **752.06'** with the end of month storage of **190,394 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the lake of **0.0 inches** for the month. SWP deliveries to the reservoir for South Coast entities were **0 AF**. Reported reservoir evaporation in **July** was **1,925.4 AF**.

Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **August 12, 2024** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **97.4%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **188,055 AF** (Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Rainfall and Reservoir Summary). **As previously reported Cachuma spill conditions were in effect this year from February 1st to June 21st.** At a point when reservoir storage exceeds 100,000 AF, the Cachuma Member Units typically have received a full allocation. Conversely, a 20% pro-rata reduction from the full allocation is scheduled to occur in Water Years beginning at less than 100,000 AF, where incremental reductions may occur (and previously have occurred) at other lower storage levels. For the federal WY 2021-2022 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022), USBR issued a 70% allocation, equal to 18,000 AF. ID No.1's 10.31% share of that allocation was 1,855 AF. In the Fall of 2022 when reservoir conditions were low, the Cachuma Member Units initially requested an approximate 15% Cachuma Project allocation for federal WY 2022-2023. By letter dated September 30, 2022, USBR issued an initial 0% allocation for WY 2022-2023. **Based on extraordinary rain conditions that spilled the reservoir in early 2023, USBR approved a 100% Project allocation for WY 2023-2024. According to similar conditions this year, the Cachuma Member Units submitted a joint letter dated June 17, 2024 requesting a 100% Project allocation for WY 2024-2025. USBR approved the 100% allocation request by letter dated July 19, 2024.**

Water releases for the protection of fish and aquatic habitat are made from Cachuma reservoir to the lower Santa Ynez River pursuant to the 2000 Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the 2019 Water Rights Order (WR 2019-0148) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). These releases are made to Hilton Creek and to the stilling basin portion of the outlet works at the base of Bradbury Dam. The water releases required under the NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion to avoid jeopardy to steelhead and adverse impacts to its critical habitat are summarized as follows:

### NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion

- *When Reservoir Spills and the Spill Amount Exceeds 20,000 AF:*
  - 10 cfs at Hwy 154 Bridge during spill year(s) exceeding 20,000 AF
  - 1.5 cfs at Alisal Bridge when spill amount exceeds 20,000 AF and if steelhead are present at Alisal Reach
  - 1.5 cfs at Alisal Bridge in the year immediately following a spill that exceeded 20,000 AF and if steelhead are present at Alisal Reach
- *When Reservoir Does Not Spill or When Reservoir Spills Less Than 20,000 AF:*
  - 5 cfs at Hwy 154 when Reservoir does not spill and Reservoir storage is above 120,000 AF, or when Reservoir spill is less than 20,000 AF
  - 2.5 cfs at Hwy 154 in all years when Reservoir storage is below 120,000 AF but greater than 30,000 AF
  - 1.5 cfs at Alisal Bridge if the Reservoir spilled in the preceding year and the spill amount exceeded 20,000 AF and if steelhead are present at Alisal Reach
  - 30 AF per month to "refresh the stilling basin and long pool" when Reservoir storage is less than 30,000 AF

The water releases required under the SWRCB Water Rights Order 2019-0148 for the protection of fish and other public trust resources in the lower Santa Ynez River and to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water are summarized as follows:

#### SWRCB Order WR 2019-0148

- *During Below Normal, Dry, and Critical Dry water years (October 1 – September 30), releases shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion as set forth above.*
- *During Above Normal and Wet water years, the following minimum flow requirements must be maintained at Hwy 154 and Alisal Bridges:*
  - 48 cfs from February 15 to April 14 for spawning
  - 20 cfs from February 15 to June 1 for incubation and rearing
  - 25 cfs from June 2 to June 9 for emigration, with ramping to 10 cfs by June 30
  - 10 cfs from June 30 to October 1 for rearing and maintenance of resident fish
  - 5 cfs from October 1 to February 15 for resident fish
- *For purposes of SWRCB Order WR 2019-0148, water year classifications are as follows:*
  - Wet is when Cachuma Reservoir inflow is greater than 117,842 AF;
  - Above Normal is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 117,842 AF or greater than 33,707 AF;
  - Below Normal is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 33,707 AF or greater than 15,366 AF;
  - Dry is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 15,366 AF or greater than 4,550 AF
  - Critical Dry is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 4,550 AF

**Based on recent hydrology, inflows to Cachuma Reservoir this water year have exceeded 33,707 AF and therefore triggered higher fishery release requirements from Bradbury Dam (Table 2 flows under Order 20219-0148; highlighted above). Those requirements will remain in place for the remainder of this year.**

CA-2. State Water Project (SWP) and Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Updates.

As previously reported, based on last year's extraordinary rain events, DWR declared the 2023 SWP Table A allocation at 100 percent for the first time since 2006 (compared to a 5 percent allocation in 2022). This year (2024), despite above normal precipitation and snowpack, and above-average storage levels in Lake Oroville, DWR has taken a conservative approach and limited the final Table A allocation to 40 percent. DWR's rationale for its decision was outlined in its notice to SWP Contractors dated April 23, 2024, as follows:

*Although water year 2024 is currently classified as an Above Normal year, the ability to move water supply south through the system this spring continues to be impacted by the presence of threatened and endangered fish species near SWP pumping facilities in the south Delta. The presence of these fish species has triggered state and federal regulations that significantly reduce the pumping from the Delta into the California Aqueduct, which limits the SWP's ability to move and store water in San Luis Reservoir. This reduced pumping is expected to continue into late spring. The SWP is prepared to increase pumping as soon as the fishery conditions and state and federal operating permits allow.*

As reflected in the Agenda for the July , 2024 meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors, CCWA remains engaged in a variety of matters relating to the SWP, including but not limited to: SWP supplies and related SWP operations; the Temporary Warren Act Contract with USBR for the storage and conveyance of SWP supplies in the Cachuma Project; a proposed Resolution for the allocation of lost water to help maintain water quality in the South Coast extension; various infrastructure improvements; and DWR's statement of charges. CCWA and its member agencies also remain engaged in their pending litigation against the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to maintain CCWA sovereignty over important decisions pertaining to SWP supplies. The August meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors August has been cancelled, and a Special Meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2024.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Historical Archive and Report Database

Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 8/10/2024

July 2024

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE ACRE-FEET		COMPUTED* INFLOW AF.	CCWA INFLOW AF.	PRECIP ON				RELEASE - AF.			EVAPORATION		PRECIP INCHES	
		IN LAKE	CHANGE			RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH				
	753.52	194,927														
1	753.47	194,771	-156	53.7	0.0	0.0	59.5	14.2	60.0	0.0	76.0	0.360	0.00			
2	753.43	194,646	-125	73.0	0.0	0.0	59.5	14.2	61.0	0.0	63.3	0.300	0.00			
3	753.40	194,553	-93	105.8	0.0	0.0	62.4	14.2	61.0	0.0	61.2	0.290	0.00			
4	753.36	194,428	-125	81.8	0.0	0.0	60.9	14.2	60.0	0.0	71.7	0.340	0.00			
5	753.31	194,272	-156	63.2	0.0	0.0	63.9	14.2	61.0	0.0	80.1	0.380	0.00			
6	753.27	194,147	-125	78.5	0.0	0.0	60.9	14.2	61.0	0.0	67.4	0.320	0.00			
7	753.22	193,991	-156	43.9	0.0	0.0	62.5	14.2	60.0	0.0	63.2	0.300	0.00			
8	753.18	193,866	-125	40.7	0.0	0.0	42.1	14.2	61.0	0.0	48.4	0.230	0.00			
9	753.14	193,742	-124	56.4	0.0	0.0	51.5	14.2	60.0	0.0	54.7	0.260	0.00			
10	753.10	193,617	-125	64.9	0.0	0.0	51.6	14.2	61.0	0.0	63.1	0.300	0.00			
11	753.06	193,492	-125	55.6	0.0	0.0	51.8	14.2	60.0	0.0	54.6	0.260	0.00			
12	753.00	193,305	-187	20.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	14.2	61.0	0.0	79.8	0.380	0.00			
13	752.96	193,180	-125	48.7	0.0	0.0	53.3	14.2	60.0	0.0	46.2	0.220	0.00			
14	752.91	193,024	-156	-5.3	0.0	0.0	40.9	14.1	60.0	0.0	35.7	0.170	0.00			
15	752.88	192,930	-94	72.8	0.0	0.0	35.1	14.1	61.0	0.0	56.6	0.270	0.00			
16	752.83	192,774	-156	14.1	0.0	0.0	37.3	14.1	60.0	0.0	58.7	0.280	0.00			
17	752.79	192,650	-124	44.2	0.0	0.0	37.6	14.1	60.0	0.0	56.5	0.270	0.00			
18	752.73	192,462	-188	-4.1	0.0	0.0	52.3	14.1	61.0	0.0	56.5	0.270	0.00			
19	752.69	192,338	-124	70.8	0.0	0.0	53.8	14.1	60.0	0.0	66.9	0.320	0.00			
20	752.64	192,182	-156	31.0	0.0	0.0	48.1	14.1	60.0	0.0	64.8	0.310	0.00			
21	752.58	191,996	-186	2.9	0.0	0.0	52.1	14.1	60.0	0.0	62.7	0.300	0.00			
22	752.53	191,842	-154	21.6	0.0	0.0	49.3	14.1	60.0	0.0	52.2	0.250	0.00			
23	752.49	191,719	-123	56.2	12.0	0.0	56.6	14.1	60.0	0.0	60.5	0.290	0.00			
24	752.43	191,534	-185	2.0	12.3	0.0	60.1	14.1	50.0	0.0	75.1	0.360	0.00			
25	752.39	191,410	-124	76.6	12.3	0.0	59.6	14.1	60.0	0.0	79.2	0.380	0.00			
26	752.34	191,256	-154	39.2	12.3	0.0	58.2	14.1	54.0	0.0	79.2	0.380	0.00			
27	752.28	191,072	-184	6.1	11.1	0.0	62.3	14.1	54.0	0.0	70.8	0.340	0.00			
28	752.22	190,887	-185	-5.7	0.0	0.0	58.1	14.1	53.0	0.0	54.1	0.260	0.00			
29	752.16	190,702	-185	-11.4	0.0	0.0	58.7	14.1	53.0	0.0	47.8	0.230	0.00			
30	752.10	190,517	-185	2.0	0.0	0.0	60.7	14.1	54.0	0.0	58.2	0.280	0.00			
31	752.06	190,394	-123	65.0	0.0	0.0	60.7	14.1	53.0	0.0	60.2	0.290	0.00			
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>-4,533</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,673.4</b>	<b>438.4</b>	<b>1,820.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,925.4</b>	<b>9.190</b>	<b>0.00</b>			
<b>AVERAGE</b>		<b>192,700</b>														

Comments: \*Computed inflow is the sum of change in storage, releases and evaporation minus precip on the reservoir surface and ccwa inflow.  
 Indicated outlet release includes leakage from outlet valves and spillway gates.  
 Data based on a 24 hour period ending 0800.



# Santa Barbara County - Flood Control District

130 East Victoria Street, Santa Barbara CA 93101 - 805.568.3440 - www.countyofsb.org/pwd

## Rainfall and Reservoir Summary

Updated 8am: 8/12/2024

Water Year: 2024

Storm Number: NA

Notes: Daily rainfall amounts are recorded as of 8am for the previous 24 hours. Rainfall units are expressed in inches. All data on this page are from automated sensors, are preliminary, and subject to verification.

\*Each Water Year (WY) runs from Sept 1 through Aug 31 and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends

County Real-Time Rainfall and Reservoir Website link > <https://rain.cosbpw.net>

Rainfall	ID	24 hrs	Storm 0day(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*	AI
Buellton (Fire Stn)	233	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.80	131%	131%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	332	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.00	156%	156%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	208	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.25	153%	153%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	436	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.70	127%	126%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	421	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.51	124%	124%	
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	230	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.70	162%	162%	
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Cameros)	440	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.41	139%	138%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	439	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.53	167%	167%	
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	204	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.87	136%	136%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	212	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.47	167%	167%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	234	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.96	179%	179%	
Santa Maria (City Pub.Works)	380	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.51	124%	124%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	218	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.52	130%	130%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	256	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.43	103%	103%	

Countywide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : **143%**

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : **143%**

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall calculated assuming no more rain through Aug. 31, 2024 (End of WY2024).

**AI (Antecedent Index / Soil Wetness)**

- 6.0 and below = Wet (min. = 2.5)
- 6.1 - 9.0 = Moderate
- 9.1 and above = Dry (max. = 12.5)

### Reservoirs

Reservoir Elevations referenced to NGVD-29.

\*\*Cachuma is full and subject to spilling at elevation 750 ft. However, the lake is surcharged to 753 ft. for fish release water. (Cachuma water storage based on Dec 2021 capacity revision)

Click on Site for Real-Time Readings	Spillway	Current	Max.	Current	Current	Storage	Storage
	Elev. (ft)	Elev. (ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Capacity (%)	Change Mo.(ac-ft)	Change Year*(ac-ft)
<b><u>Gibraltar Reservoir</u></b>	1,400.00	1,397.22	4,693	4,087	87.1%	-218	905
<b><u>Cachuma Reservoir</u></b>	753.**	751.41	192,978	188,055	97.4%	-1,815	4,061
<b><u>Jameson Reservoir</u></b>	2,224.00	2,223.78	4,848	4,821	99.4%	-2	37
<b><u>Twitchell Reservoir</u></b>	651.50	535.49	194,971	1,304	0.7%	-3,920	-54,128

[Previous Rainfall and Reservoir Summaries](#)

# CIMIS Daily Report

Rendered in ENGLISH Units.

Monday, July 1, 2024 - Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Printed on Thursday, August 1, 2024

## Santa Ynez - Central Coast Valleys - Station 64

Date	ETo (In)	Prcplp (In)	Sol Rad (Ly/day)	Avg Vap Pres (mBars)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Rel Hum (%)	Min Rel Hum (%)	Avg Rel Hum (%)	Dew Point (°F)	Avg Wind Speed (mph)	Wind Run (miles)	Avg Soil Temp (°F)
7/1/2024	0.24	0.00	713	14.5	91.9	53.1	66.7	94	35	65	54.4	3.1	74.2	76.5
7/2/2024	0.26	0.00	733	15.5	93.6	50.7	70.7	97	33	60	56.4	2.6 Y	63.4 Y	76.8
7/3/2024	0.27	0.00	743	16.5	101.3 Y	53.6	75.6 Y	96	22	55 Y	58.0 Y	2.3 Y	56.3 Y	77.3
7/4/2024	0.27	0.00	738	15.8	95.2	55.1	73.0	95	30	57	56.9	2.8 Y	67.2 Y	78.0
7/5/2024	0.26	0.00	713	15.7	96.8	54.2	70.7	97	32	61	56.7	2.9	69.5	78.4
7/6/2024	0.26	0.00	706	16.6	93.7	50.8	71.8	95	40	63	58.3	2.7 Y	65.0 Y	78.6
7/7/2024	0.23	0.00	640	16.8	93.1	54.7	70.0	97	40	67	58.5	2.4 Y	57.4 Y	78.8
7/8/2024	0.24	0.00	670	15.6	97.5	53.1	69.3	98	26	64	56.5	2.7 Y	64.5 Y	78.8
7/9/2024	0.24	0.00	676	15.4	94.3	54.4	68.9	96	30	64	56.1	2.7 Y	65.7 Y	78.9
7/10/2024	0.25	0.00	690	15.8	99.2	54.1	69.9	96	31	63	56.9	2.6 Y	63.4 Y	79.0
7/11/2024	0.27	0.00	912 R	17.3	101.9 Y	59.9	- S	97	23	- Q	- Q	3.4	81.1	79.0
7/12/2024	0.21	0.00	603	16.5	91.9	56.3	71.1	89	37	63	58.0	2.7	64.7	79.6
7/13/2024	0.13	0.00	480	16.8	85.4	57.2	69.4	88	51	69	58.8	3.0	72.0	79.5
7/14/2024	0.23	0.00	653	15.8	90.8	55.3	67.9	98	37	68	56.9	2.8	67.8	79.0
7/15/2024	0.24	0.00	711	15.1	86.6	55.3	67.2	92	43	66	55.5	2.9	69.6	79.0
7/16/2024	0.24	0.00	718	14.5	85.9	51.2	65.8	95	40	67	54.6	2.8	67.2	79.1
7/17/2024	0.23	0.00	694	14.3	86.8	48.1	64.3	98	37	70	54.2	2.8	67.7	79.0
7/18/2024	0.25	0.00	714	15.7	91.9	54.6	68.5	97	39	66	56.7	2.9	69.7	78.9
7/19/2024	0.25	0.00	711	15.9	96.5	54.5	70.8	96	34	62	57.1	2.8	66.7	79.3
7/20/2024	0.24	0.00	695	15.4	87.2	53.4	66.9	97	42	68	56.1	3.1	74.5	79.7
7/21/2024	0.21	0.00	655	14.9	81.6	55.3	64.7	93	47	71	55.2	3.1	74.9	79.7
7/22/2024	0.25	0.00	678	15.3	97.5	54.1	71.4	95	28	58	56.0	2.8	66.4	79.6
7/23/2024	0.26	0.00	679	16.1	100.3 Y	58.6	77.8 Y	84	25	49 Y	57.4 Y	2.5	60.9	80.0
7/24/2024	0.26	0.00	676	15.4	100.5 Y	58.9	77.3 Y	88	20	48 Y	56.1 Y	2.7	65.6	80.7
7/25/2024	0.25	0.00	679	16.2	97.7	57.7	74.7 Y	92	30	55 Y	57.5 Y	2.9	68.9	81.2
7/26/2024	0.25	0.00	763 R	15.2	97.9	54.6	71.6	94	22	58	55.8	3.1 H	73.8 H	81.5
7/27/2024	0.21	0.00	661	13.9	79.5	51.0	62.7	94	45	71	53.3	2.9	70.2	81.4
7/28/2024	0.20	0.00	635	13.7	80.7	49.2	62.3	93	45	72	53.0	2.9	68.6	80.9
7/29/2024	0.22	0.00	667	14.1	86.2	53.7	64.4	94	33	68	53.6	3.0	70.9	80.3
7/30/2024	0.24	0.00	941 R	15.7	88.8	56.5	73.0	97	37	56	56.6	3.8	90.3	80.0
7/31/2024	0.21 A	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M	- M
Tols/Avgs	7.37	0.00	698	15.5	92.4	54.3	69.6	94	34	63	56.2	2.9	68.6	79.3

Flag Legend		
A - Historical Average	I - Ignore	R - Far out of normal range
C or N - Not Collected	M - Missing Data	S - Not in service
H - Hourly Missing or Flagged Data	Q - Related Sensor Missing	Y - Moderately out of range
Conversion Factors		
Ly/day/2.065=W/sq.m	inches * 25.4 = mm	(F-32) * 5/9 = c
mph * 0.447 = m/s	mBars * 0.1 = kPa	miles * 1.60934 = km



**CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Dessi Mladenova, Controller  
**FROM:** Lacey Adam, Senior Accountant  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Water Deliveries

August 6, 2024

According to the CCWA revenue meters at each turnout, the following deliveries were made during the month of July 2024:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro .....	168.96
López.....	67.59
Shandon.....	0.00
Guadalupe.....	44.30
Santa Maria.....	571.88
Golden State Water Co. ....	0.00
Vandenberg.....	314.33
Buellton .....	30.84
Solvang .....	94.01
Santa Ynez ID#1 .....	470.47
Bradbury.....	<u>59.97</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,822.35</b>

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 1,834 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro .....	170
López .....	68
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	45
Santa Maria .....	525*
Golden State Water Co .....	51*
Vandenberg .....	316
Buellton .....	31
Solvang .....	95
Santa Ynez ID#1 .....	473
Bradbury .....	<u>60</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,834</b>

\*Golden State Water Company delivered 51 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 51 acre-feet to the City of Santa Maria and a charge in the same amount to the Golden State Water Company.

Notes: Santa Ynez ID#1 water usage is divided into 0 acre-feet of Table A water and 473 acre-feet of exchange water.

The exchange water is allocated as follows

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Exchange Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Goleta	170
Santa Barbara	114
Montecito	114
Carpinteria	<u>75</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>473</b>

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	60
Montecito	0
Morehart	0
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>

cc: Tom Bunosky, GWD  
Mike Babb, Golden State WC  
Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara  
Janet Gingras, COMB  
Craig Kesler, San Luis Obispo County  
Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez RWCD ID#1  
Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria  
Todd Bodem, City of Guadalupe  
Robert MacDonald, Carpinteria Valley WD  
Mike Alvarado, La Cumbre Mutual WC  
Pernell Rush, Vandenberg SFB  
Nick Turner, Montecito WD  
Randy Murphy, City of Solvang  
Rose Hess, City of Buellton



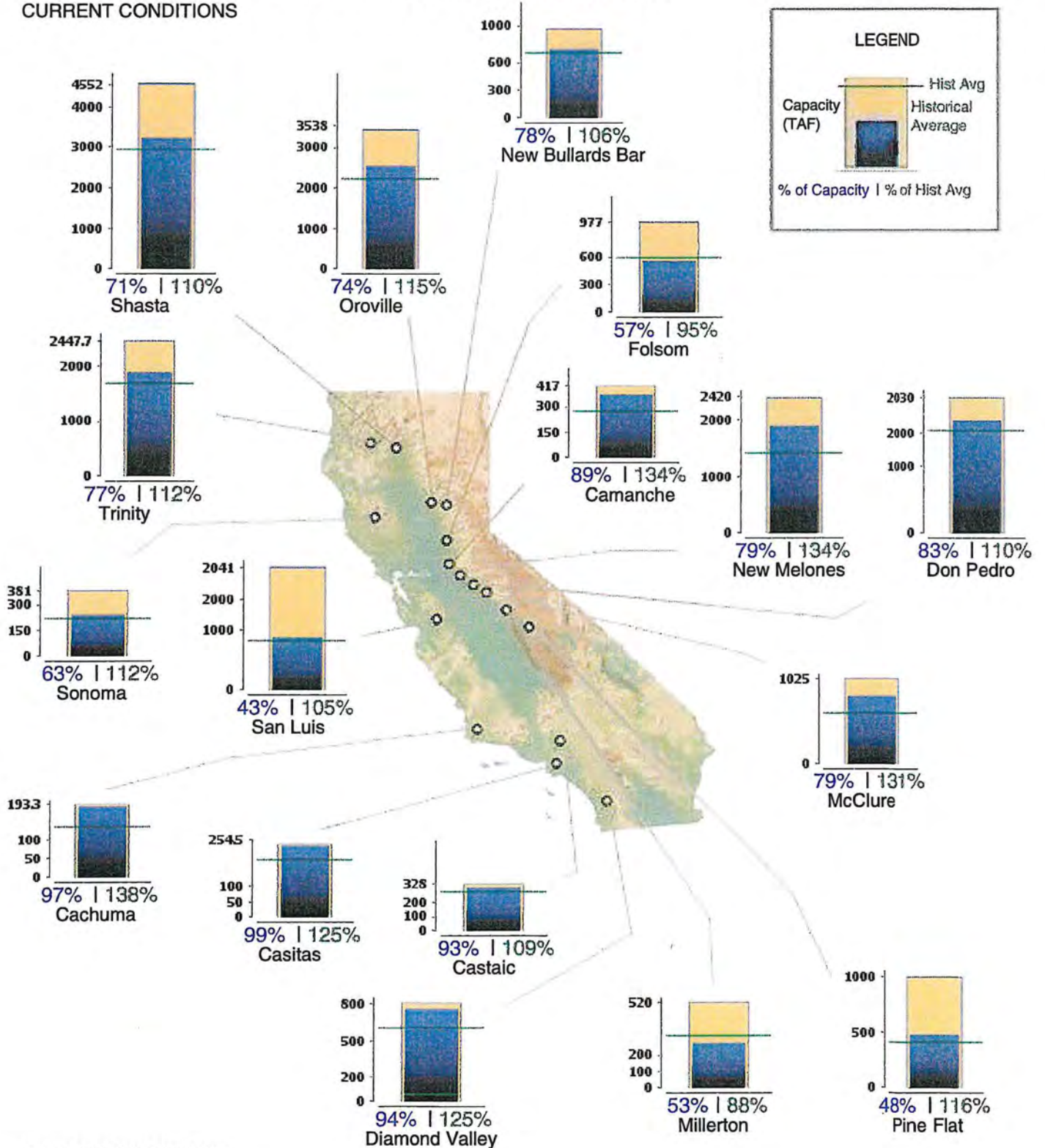
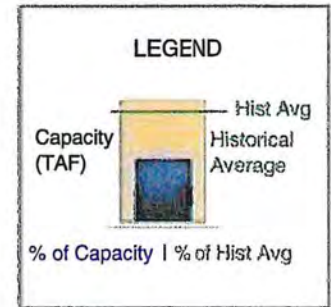


# CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

## CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

Midnight - August 14, 2024

### CURRENT CONDITIONS





IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
South-Central California Area Office  
1243 N Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-1813



SCC-440  
2.2.4.21

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Matthew Young  
Deputy Public Works Director  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency  
130 East Victoria Street, Suite 200  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
mcyoung@countyofsb.org

Subject: Cachuma Project Allocation Request for Water Year 2024-25 (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025) – Contract No. I75r-1802RB (Contract) – Your Letter Dated June 25, 2024 – Cachuma Project, California

Dear Mr. Young:

This is in response to your letter dated June 25, 2024, regarding the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's (Water Agency) "Cachuma Project Water Year 2024-25 Allocation Request," which also enclosed the Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) letter dated June 17, 2024.

The Member Units letter requests a full allocation of 25,714 acre-feet based on current reservoir level of storage.

Pursuant to Article 3(b) of the Contract, this letter serves as notice of the Water Year 2024-25 allocation for the Cachuma Project. Based on current reservoir levels and forecast data, the Project Water being made available to the Member Units out of the Available Supply in Cachuma Reservoir is 100% of the contract total, which equals 25,714 acre-feet.

If you have questions, please contact David E. Hyatt, Resources Management Division Chief at (559) 262-0334, via email at [dhyatt@usbr.gov](mailto:dhyatt@usbr.gov) or if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,  
*Michael P. Jackson*  
MICHAEL JACKSON  
Digitally signed by MICHAEL JACKSON  
Date: 2024.07.19 11:40:01 -07'00'

Michael P. Jackson, P.E.  
Area Manager

Enclosures – 2

Santa Barbara County Water Agency Request Letter Dated June 25, 2024  
Cachuma Project Member Units Letter dated June 17, 2024

cc's continued next page.

INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN

CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*, OREGON\*

\* PARTIAL

cc's continued from previous page.

cc: Ms. Janet Gingras  
Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board  
3301 Laurel Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
jgingras@cachuma-board.org

Mr. Robert McDonald  
Carpinteria Valley Water District  
1301 Santa Ynez Avenue  
Carpinteria, CA 93013  
bob@cvwd.net

Mr. David Matson  
Mr. Ryan Drake  
Goleta Water District  
4699 Hollister Avenue  
Goleta, CA 93110  
dmatson@goletawater.com  
rdrake@goletawater.com

Mr. Nicholas Turner  
Montecito Water District  
583 Ysidro Road  
Montecito, CA 93150  
nturner@montecitowater.com

Mr. Joshua Haggmark  
City of Santa Barbara  
630 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102  
jhaggmark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Mr. Paeter Garcia  
Santa Ynez River Water Conversation  
District Improvement District No. 1  
P.O. Box 157  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
pgarcia@syrwd.org

(all w/enclosures)

**County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department  
Water Resources Division**

Santa Barbara County Water Agency - Project Clean Water  
130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200, Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-3440  
<https://www.countyofsb.org/189/Water-Resources>



Chris Sneddon  
Director

Walter Rubalcava  
Deputy Director

June 25, 2024

Mr. Michael Jackson, P.E., Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
1243 "N" Street  
Fresno, CA 93721-1813

**RE: Cachuma Project Water Year 2024-25 Allocation Request**

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Cachuma Water Service Contract I75r-1802R, as amended by Amendatory Contract No. I75r-1802RA, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) is to submit a yearly allocation request on behalf of the Cachuma Member Units. Enclosed please find a letter from the Member Units dated June 17, 2024 requesting an allocation of 25,714 acre-feet for Water Year 2024-25.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 805-568-3546.

Sincerely,

**Matthew C. Young**  
Water Agency Manager

Enclosure: Notice on Behalf of All Cachuma Member Units Specifying Total Quantity of Available Supply Requested for Water Year 2024-25.

CC: Mr. Paeter Garcia, SYRWCD ID#1  
Mr. Dave Matson, Goleta Water District  
Mr. Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara  
Mr. Nicholas Turner, Montecito Water District  
Mr. Robert McDonald, Carpinteria Valley Water District  
Ms. Janet Gingras, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board  
Mr. David Hyatt, US Bureau of Reclamation  
Ms. Rain Emerson, US Bureau of Reclamation

AA/EEO Employer



**The Cachuma Project Member Units**

Goleta Water District

City of Santa Barbara

Montecito Water District

Carpinteria Valley Water District

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

June 17, 2024

Matthew Young  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency, Manager  
130 E. Victoria St., Suite 200  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Notice on Behalf of All Cachuma Member Units Specifying Total Quantity of Available Supply Requested for Water Year 2024-25**

Dear Mr. Young:

Pursuant to Section 3(a) of the April 14, 1996 Contract Between the United States and Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) Providing for Water Service from the Project, Contract No. 175r-1802R (as amended by Amendatory Contract No. 175r-1802RB ("Master Contract"), the Cachuma Project Member Units acting jointly hereby provide Notice to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency requesting allocation of all Available Supply from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) during Water Year 2024-25, commencing October 1, 2024.

Pursuant to section 1(a):

*'Available Supply' shall mean the maximum quantity of Project Water the Contracting Officer is authorized by Federal law, State law, and the Project Water Rights to make available to the Cachuma Member Units during each Water Year pursuant to this contract. The Available Supply in each Water Year does not include the quantity of water the Contracting Officer is required by Federal law, State law, Project Water Rights, and any agreements to which the Contracting Officer and all of the Cachuma Member Units are parties to release from Cachuma Reservoir other than to make Project Water available to the Cachuma Member Units pursuant to this contract.*

After two consecutive wet seasons in 2022-23 and 2023-24, Cachuma reservoir remains at capacity and has been spilling since February of 2024 into June 2024. As of June 17, 2024, there is 195,900 acre-feet

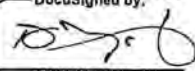
(AF) of water in Lake Cachuma, comprised of the 12,000 AF "minimum pool," water reserved to meet fish release requirements, ANA/BNA stored water for downstream releases, and the Cachuma Member Units' prior 2023-2024 water year allocation of 25,714 AF. Given the current maximum amount of water in storage at the Cachuma Project, the Cachuma Member Units respectfully request that USBR make a full 100% allocation 25,714 AF of unallocated water available in Water Year 2024-25, consistent with the terms of the Master Contract.

This request includes the attached delivery schedules for each respective agency over Water Year 2024-25 and estimate of projected water deliveries (Attachment 1) required by section 3(a) the Master Contract. All such water can and will be put to reasonable and beneficial irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial uses within the Member Units' respective service areas.

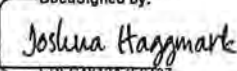
Sincerely,

[Signatures to follow on next page]

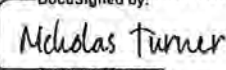
David Matson  
General Manager  
Goleta Water District

By:   
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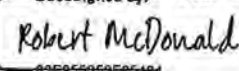
Joshua Haggmark  
Water Resources Manager  
City of Santa Barbara

By:   
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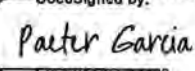
Nicholas Turner  
General Manager  
Montecito Water District

By:   
7169EC677618477...

Robert McDonald  
General Manager  
Carpinteria Valley Water District

By:   
63E95959F65424...

Paeter Garcia  
General Manager  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

By:   
EUC6047A6L77109...

Cc: Michael Jackson, PE, Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office, United States Bureau of Reclamation

Enclosures:

Attachment 1— Cachuma Member Unit M&I and Agricultural Water Delivery

# Attachment 1— Cachuma Member Unit M&I and Agricultural Water Delivery WY 24-25



**ENTITLEMENT REQUEST BREAKDOWN - AG / M & I  
 2024-25 WATER YEAR: 1ST PERIOD REQUEST (10/01/24-3/31/25)  
 CACHUMA PROJECT, CONTRACT I75r-1802R**

<b>MEMBER UNIT</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>TOTAL AF Ordered</b>
Goleta Water District	M & I	2,594
	Irrigation	608
	Total	<u>3,202</u>
City of Santa Barbara	M & I	3,273
	Total	<u>3,273</u>
Montecito Water District	M & I	602
	Irrigation	108
	Total	<u>710</u>
Carpinteria Valley Water District	M & I	704
	Irrigation	704
	Total	<u>1,407</u>
SYRWCD-ID#1	M & I	273
	Irrigation	243
	Total	<u>516</u>
<b>U.S.B.R. TOTALS</b>		<b><u><u>9,108</u></u></b>

Breakdown is based on the percentages defined in the Renewal Master Contract, dated April 14, 1996.  
 Pursuant to Bureau of Reclamation letter to Santa Barbara County Water Agency dated August 10, 1981, it is required to use whole acre-feet, commencing Water Year 1982-83.

**ENTITLEMENT REQUEST BREAKDOWN - AG / M & I**  
**2024-25 WATER YEAR: 2nd PERIOD REQUEST (4/01/25-9/30/25)**  
**CACHUMA PROJECT, CONTRACT I75r-1802R**

MEMBER UNIT	Classification	TOTAL AF Ordered
Goleta Water District	M & I	4,050
	Irrigation	2,070
	Total	6,120
City of Santa Barbara	M & I	5,004
	Total	5,004
Montecito Water District	M & I	1,642
	Irrigation	299
	Total	1,941
Carpinteria Valley Water District	M & I	703
	Irrigation	703
	Total	1,406
SYRWCD-ID#1	M & I	662
	Irrigation	1,473
	Total	2,135
<b>U.S.B.R. TOTALS</b>		<b>16,606</b>

Breakdown is based on the percentages defined in the Renewal Master Contract, dated April 14, 1996.  
Pursuant to Bureau of Reclamation letter to Santa Barbara County Water Agency dated August 10, 1981, it is required to use whole acre-feet, commencing Water Year 1982-83.

**2024-25 WATER YEAR CACHUMA ENTITLEMENT OBLIGATION - WATER DELIVERY SCHEDULE**  
 (All figures are in Acre Feet)

Month	Carpinteria VWD	Goleta WD	Montecito WD	City of Santa Barbara	SYRWCD ID#1	TOTALS
October, 2024	235	895	312	619	300	2361
November	234	678	164	754	60	1890
December	234	408	56	506	56	1260
January, 2025	235	354	0	398	0	987
February	234	422	83	420	0	1159
March	235	445	95	576	100	1451
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>3202</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>3273</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>9108</b>
April	234	425	197	650	165	1671
May	235	675	297	768	200	2175
June	234	950	311	755	375	2625
July	235	1290	403	932	450	3310
August	234	1392	383	988	495	3492
September	234	1388	350	911	450	3333
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>1406</b>	<b>6120</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>5004</b>	<b>2135</b>	<b>16606</b>
<b>TOTAL Entitlement</b>	<b>2813</b>	<b>9322</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>8277</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>25714</b>
Entitlement Request	<u>2813</u>	<u>9322</u>	<u>2651</u>	<u>8277</u>	<u>2651</u>	<u>25714</u>
Entitlement %						<b>100.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2813</b>	<b>9322</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>8277</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>25714</b>



A Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, July 25, 2024
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
URL: https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1478391454
or by dialing (623)404-9000 and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 147-839-1454 #

Eric Friedman
Chairman
Jeff Clay
Vice Chairman
Ray A. Stokes
Executive Director

Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck
General Counsel

Member Agencies

City of Buellton
Carpinteria Valley
Water District
City of Guadalupe
City of Santa Barbara
City of Santa Maria
Goleta Water District
Montecito Water District
Santa Ynez River Water
Conservation District,
Improvement District #1

Associate Member

La Cumbre Mutual
Water Company

Public Comment on agenda items may occur via video call or telephonically, or by submission to the
Board Secretary via email at lfww@ccwa.com no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In your
email, please specify (1) the meeting date and agenda item (number and title) on which you are
providing a comment and (2) that you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting.
If you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting (as either general public
comment or on a specific agenda item), please limit your comments to no more than 250 words.

Every effort will be made to read comments into the record, but some comments may not be read due
to time limitations. Please also note that if you submit a written comment and do not specify that you
would like this comment read into the record during the meeting, your comment will be forwarded to
Board members for their consideration.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session
agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the
meeting will be available on the CCWA internet website, accessible at https://www.ccwa.com.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
II. CLOSED SESSION
A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Initiation
of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (4): 1 case
B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code section 54956.9(d) (1)
Name of case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County
Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al. (Case No. 21CV02432)
III. Return to Open Session
A. Report on Closed Session Actions (if any)
IV. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to
any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. Individual Speakers may be limited to
five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen minutes.)
V. Consent Calendar
\* A. Minutes of the June 27, 2024 Regular Meeting
\* B. Bills
\* C. Controller's Report
\* D. Operations Report
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Consent Calendar

Continued

Handwritten signature and number #51987\_1

**VI. Executive Director's Report**

- ★ A. Proposed Temporary Warren Act Contract No. 24-WC-20-XXXX with United States Bureau of Reclamation  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.
- \* B. Resolution No. 24-05 Approving a Policy for Allocation of Lost Water to Maintain CCWA Pipeline Health  
*Staff Recommendation:* Approve and adopt Resolution No. 24-05 Approving a Policy for Allocation of Lost Water to Maintain CCWA Pipeline Health; and Approve application of the approved Policy for Allocation of Lost Water to Maintain CCWA Pipeline Health to the May, 2024 loss of water
- \* C. Resolution No. 24-06 Approving the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant Surge Tank Pedestal Replacement Project and Authorizing the Executive Director to issue the Notice of Award to RCH Construction to Construct the Same  
*Staff Recommendation:* Authorize the Executive Director to reject the two lowest bids for the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant Surge Tank Pedestal Replacement Project; and Adopt Resolution No. 24-06 approving the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant Surge Tank Pedestal Replacement Project and Authorizing the Executive Director to issue the Notice of Award to RCH Construction in the Amount of \$381,387.14 to Construct the Same
- \* D. Resolution No. 24-07 Approving the Emergency Chlorine Gas Scrubber System Acid Wash Project and Authorizing the Executive Director to Issue a Contract to Integrity Municipal Systems, LLC in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$55,410 to Complete the Project  
*Staff Recommendation:* Adopt Resolution No. 24-07 Approving the Emergency Chlorine Gas Scrubber System Acid Wash Project; and Authorize the Executive Director to Issue a Contract with Integrity Municipal Systems, LLC in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$55,410
- \* E. Calendar Year 2025 DWR Statement of Charges  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.
- \* F. FY 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Investment Report  
*Staff Recommendation:* For discussion.
- G. State Water Contractors Update  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.
- \* H. Legislative Report  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.

**VII. Reports from Board Members for Information Only**

**VIII. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda**

**IX. Date of Next Regular Meeting: August 22, 2024**

**X. Adjournment**



**CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY**

**MEMORANDUM**

July 29, 2024

**TO:** CCWA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Ray Stokes  
Executive Director *[Signature]*

**SUBJECT:** Cancellation of August 22, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

---

This memo is notice that the CCWA Board meeting scheduled for August 22, 2024 has been canceled.

There is a Special Board meeting scheduled for September 13, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

The next regular meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors is scheduled for September 26, 2024.

Please call me if you have any questions.

RAS

cc: Operating Committee  
Stephanie Hastings, Brownstein Hyatt Farber and Schreck, LLP  
Notice of Meetings Distribution List

# Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

(<https://www.santaynezwater.org/>)

Agenda Item 9 A

[Contact Us \(/contact-us\)](/contact-us)

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## THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[EMA GSA COMMITTEE MEETINGS \(/EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-MEETINGS\)](/EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-MEETINGS)

AUG  
**29**  
2024

## EMA GSA Committee Tentative Special Meeting, 6:30 pm

Save the date for a possible Special Meeting of the EMA GSA Board.

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3669 SAGUNTO ST, SUITE 101 (MAIL: P.O. BOX 719), SANTA YNEZ CA 93460

TELEPHONE (805) 693-1156

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([HTTPS://WWW.SANTAYNEZWATER.ORG/USERS/SIGN\\_IN?DESTINATION-%2F2024-08-29-EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-TENTATIVE-SPECIAL-MEETING-6-30-PM](HTTPS://WWW.SANTAYNEZWATER.ORG/USERS/SIGN_IN?DESTINATION-%2F2024-08-29-EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-TENTATIVE-SPECIAL-MEETING-6-30-PM))



# CAL FIRE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 5

Todd Hopkins, Incident Commander

210 W. San Jacinto St.

Perris, CA 92570



## Command Staff

Todd Hopkins  
Incident Commander

Jim Hudson  
Deputy Incident  
Commander

David Pucci  
Liaison

Andrew Kibby  
Safety

Ken Haskett  
Information

## General Staff

Jeremiah Wittwer  
Operations

Jeff Loveless  
Operations

Dana McCarrol  
Plans

Tim Fitzgerald  
Logistics

Tiffany Tracy  
Finance

July, 2024

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District

PO Box 157

Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Paeter Garcia,

On behalf of CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 5, I want to take the opportunity to thank you for assisting us on the Lake Fire. Your leadership and generosity demonstrated the essential qualities of cooperative public service. The ability for all of us to come together, communicate, and coordinate was instrumental in the overall success and outcome of this emergency incident.

Please share and express our gratitude to everyone in your organization who played a role in this collaborative effort to serve the displaced residents and the impacted communities.

Respectfully,

Jim Hudson, *Incident Commander CAL FIRE, Team 5*



[https://www.tehachapinews.com/news/state-forecasts-lower-deliveries-of-imported-water-over-next-20-years/article\\_7745dd2a-534c-11ef-8b3c-c37a23c33f82.html](https://www.tehachapinews.com/news/state-forecasts-lower-deliveries-of-imported-water-over-next-20-years/article_7745dd2a-534c-11ef-8b3c-c37a23c33f82.html)

## State forecasts lower deliveries of imported water over next 20 years

By CLAUDIA ELLIOTT For Tehachapi News  
Aug 5, 2024



Brite Lake, on Nov. 14. Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District uses the lake, also known as J.C. Jacobsen Reservoir, to store imported water.

Claudia Elliott / For Tehachapi News

Ensuring sufficient water for the greater Tehachapi area requires balancing groundwater supplies and water imported from the State Water Project with demand.

That would be easier for the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District and local water users if the supply from the SWP was more stable.

A July 31 announcement from the California Department of Water Resources reports a reduction in the 20-year forecast supply for SWP deliveries, according to a news release from the water district Friday.

The report indicated a reduction in the 20-year forecast supply for SWP deliveries of 119,000 acre feet per year from the 2021 DCR forecast, the TCCWD said.

"This equates to a 20-year forecast for an average of 53% delivery of contracted amounts," the district said in the news release. "When climate change conditions are considered, the report forecasts an additional reduction.

"These reductions equate to long-term delivery estimates of between 46% (best case) and 41% (worst case), without adaptation or modernization of SWP facilities."

According to TCCWD General Manager Tom Neisler, the district relies on an average 50% allocation to meet the current needs of our customers.

"Forecast deliveries below this amount highlight the necessity for careful water management and conservation," he said.

"Our district has safeguarded the needs of our customers for almost 60 years and will continue to work to ensure that we have an adequate water supply to meet the needs of all of our customers," Neisler added. "The updated (forecast from the state) underscores the need for conservation by all users and major investment in infrastructure upgrades and regulatory reform."

Neisler noted that the "troubling forecast prioritizes the need to modernize, adapt and upgrade our statewide water infrastructure and regulatory structure. A critical component in this process is the Delta Conveyance Project." He said TCCWD supports and is a full participant in the project.

Around Dec. 1 of each year, the DWR announces allocations from the SWP. Depending on a number of factors, including drought, allocations are sometimes increased. The 2024 Table A allocation remains at 40% and this year the district has used previously stored water to help meet customer demand.

In its news release, the water district noted that while the state's July 31 report headlines attributed the reduction to climate change, "that is only one of the factors causing this massive reduction in water supply. The report details that existing and future regulations (including compliance with the

Endangered Species Act) impact deliveries also. Additionally, DWR operational practices and decisions impact deliveries. This is evidenced by the 40% SWP allocation in 2024, a year with near-normal precipitation on the heels of a very wet 2023. These hydrologic conditions would indicate a much higher allocation."

*Claudia Elliott is a freelance journalist. She can be reached by email: [claudia@claudiaelliott.net](mailto:claudia@claudiaelliott.net).*

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)

# Monthly Briefing

*A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News*

## Alliance Board Strategic Retreat "Incredibly Productive"

Just days following the assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump, with the Republican National Convention underway in the days leading up to President Biden's announcement to withdraw from the 2024 presidential election, Family Farm Alliance leaders spent time together in Northern Colorado, participating in the Alliance board of directors' strategic retreat.

The Alliance board of directors and several members of the contracting team and Advisory Committee made the trek out to Berthoud for two days of "incredibly productive meetings", according to Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

Three overarching actions came out of the July 17-18 meeting.



*Attendees had their game faces on during the July 17-18 board of directors strategic retreat, hosted by Northern Water in Berthoud (COLORADO). Photo courtesy of Mark Limbaugh.*

First, Paul Orme was appointed as the new president of the board. Director Mark Hansen was appointed to fill Mr. Orme's vacant seat at 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. Don Schwindt will remain in the First VP position.

On Day 2 of the retreat, Ea'mon O'Toole (WYOMING) was appointed to fill his father Pat's seat for Wyoming.

Before the retreat was adjourned, three committees and one task force were authorized. Chairs were

*Continued on Page 2*

### STORIES INSIDE.....

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## 2024 Board of Directors' Retreat (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

designated to recruit additional committee and task force members to address leadership succession issues, define Advisory Committee roles and assess how the Committee can best be utilized, and expand current fundraising efforts.

### Arizona's Paul Orme is the Alliance's Sixth President

The Family Farm Alliance board of directors in Berthoud unanimously approved Paul Orme, a rancher and attorney from Arizona, to serve as the organization's sixth president. Mr. Orme fills the seat of the late Patrick O'Toole, who passed away on February 25<sup>th</sup>, after serving for 19 years as board president.

"I view the Alliance as one of Pat's many legacies and as such it must endure and prosper as I know he would want," said President Orme. "No one individual can duplicate his impact on the Alliance and Western agriculture in general, but we must continue with the wonderful direction he has taken the Alliance over the past two decades."

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton reached out and commended Mr. Orme on his new appointment.

"Congratulations on your position as President of the Family Farm Alliance," she wrote in an email to Mr. Orme. "I look forward to working with you in this new role and continuing the important work for the agricultural committees that we serve."

The board of directors at the retreat also appointed Mark Hansen, a hay producer from Washington's Yakima Valley, to fill Mr. Orme's vacated seat as the new Second Vice-President.

"I want the Alliance to continue to be vibrant and successful moving forward," said Mr. Hansen.

First Vice-President Don Schwindt (COLORADO), who has guided the Alliance in the months since Mr. O'Toole's passing, will continue to serve as First Vice-President of the organization.

"We'll never find another Pat O'Toole," Mr. Schwindt said. "But, our new leadership team brings a strong group voice to the organization. Today starts our conversations on who will fill the long-term role as president. Those conversations will continue for the next 16 months, as we prepare for the October 2025 annual conference in Reno."

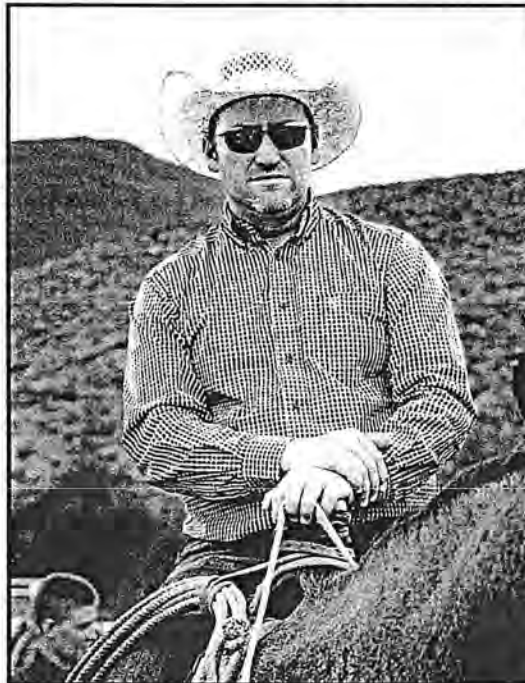
Mr. Orme has agreed to serve as president in a short-term role through October 2025, or until such time that the board can identify and select a qualified candidate to serve a longer term.

Mr. Orme is a 4th generation Arizona rancher and farmer whose great grandfather settled in the Salt River Valley near present-day Phoenix in 1873. His grandparents later purchased the family's current Yavapai County ranch in 1929. Mr. Orme's father and siblings were all raised on the ranch, as were he and his brother.

He attended law school at the University of Arizona and as a water lawyer, has represented mostly irrigation districts for over 40 years. He served on the Alliance's Advisory Committee for over two decades and was appointed to the board of directors in 2021.

He and his wife of 47 years, Shawn, continue as the primary owners and operators of the ranch, along with his nephew, a ranch manager and ranch hands. Paul and Shawn have three daughters and one grandchild.

"One of the things that most appealed to me about the direction the Alliance took under Pat O'Toole's leadership was the collaborative approach to solving conflicts among competing water users, working with moderate and constructive conservation/environmental groups, and a bi-partisan approach to governmental relations," he said. "This is the direction I would like to see the Alliance continue."



**Ea'mon O'Toole is the newest member of the Family Farm Alliance Board of Directors.**  
Photo courtesy of Sharon O'Toole.

### Ea'mon O'Toole Appointed to Alliance Board of Directors

Ea'mon O'Toole on July 18 was appointed by the Alliance Board to the director position for Wyoming.

"The Alliance's Board of Directors is delighted to announce that Ea'mon O'Toole has joined the board as its newest director representing the state of Wyoming," said Alliance President Paul Orme (ARIZONA).

Ea'mon is the son of the late Pat O'Toole and brings a lifetime of farm and ranch experience to the Board.

"I have been able to grow up with Family Farm Alliance. My dad, Pat, was involved since I was in high school," said the Alliance's newest board member. "There is no other group of people anywhere that get as much done with the fiscal responsibility and determination as the Family Farm Alliance."

Mr. O'Toole is co-owner and manager of Ladder Ranch, a working sheep, cattle and hay ranch headquartered along the Colorado-Wyoming border. Established in 1881, the ranch has been home to six generations, raising cattle, sheep, horses, dogs and children.

Ea'mon and his wife Megan are raising two sons on the ranch - McCoy (13) and Rhen (11) - and are committed to improving the quality of their beef herd, as well as providing

*Continued on Page 17*

# Major Heatwave Returns Drought and Wildfires to the West

## DC Policy Leaders and Lawmakers Pursue Fixes

Despite two years of “atmospheric rivers” that provided drought relief for much of the West, drought conditions are creeping back in some areas, driven by record high temperatures and low precipitation.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Report

Over the past month, a major heatwave brought warmer-than-normal temperatures to much of the West, with departures ranging between 3 to 12 degrees F above normal across much of the region, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Monsoonal moisture brought heavy precipitation and flash flooding to parts of the Southwest. Dry conditions resulted in degradations across much of the Pacific Northwest, and in parts of the central Plains, and other parts of the West.

The expansion of abnormal dryness occurred in parts of Nevada, which missed some of the beneficial rains resulting in the expansion of moderate drought in the area. Conditions remained dry in the interior parts of Washington, resulting in expansion of moderate drought and abnormal dryness.

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of southern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle in severe drought conditions. And, drought is back in California for the first time in nearly a year.

### Heat Wave Impacts California Farmers

Western farmers are working to reduce impacts of a heat wave that has increased their costs and jeopardized production. With prolonged triple-digit temperatures pummeling the state’s key agricultural regions, California farmers are irrigating fields more frequently.

California Farm Bureau’s *Ag Alert* reports that producers are deploying misters and fans to cool livestock and shortening daytime work for agricultural employees or working after sundown. Some dairy farmers say milk production can drop 15% to 20% during peak heat days.

Persistent, scorching temperatures can put crops such as table grapes at risk. At Mirabella Farms in Fresno County,

grower Philippe Markarian said he was working to prevent damage to the fruit. But he said he anticipates some crop loss.

“The vines will be under a significant amount of stress,” he told *Ag Alert*.

For farmers who irrigate their fields, this hot and dry summer further fuels concerns about future water supplies. Agricultural productivity and drought resiliency in California’s Westlands Water District remain artificially suppressed by the low Central Valley Project (CVP) water allocations announced earlier in the year when growers were planning cropping decisions.

Westlands’ general manager believes the underlying regulatory decisions that led to those unjustifiably low allocations must be remedied.

“We need a more collaborative and transparent approach to regulatory decisions that affect our water supply, and we urge the five agencies responsible for making these decisions to rely more effectively on sound data and information,” said Allison Febbo, General Manager, Westlands Water District. “Every drop of CVP water allocation given to Westlands Water District growers is food grown, jobs produced, and groundwater saved.”



*The Park Fire, viewed from over 100 miles to the northeast in Lassen County on July 26, one day after the fire ignited near Chico (CALIFORNIA). Photo courtesy of Dena Keppen.*

### Western Wildfire Season Off to an Early Start

Once again, Western wildfire disasters are flaring up across the West, underscoring the importance of improving on-the-ground management actions that can lead to improved forest health. More personnel had been deployed to address wildfires than in any of the past five years, according to National Interagency Fire Center data.

The wildfire season is off to an early and busy start in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in Oregon, which has several large fires burning in remote areas.

Because California experienced two consecutive wet winters, the National Interagency Fire Center had initially predicted modest fire activity in the state this summer and fall, NBC News reports. But the agency upgraded its seasonal forecast last month, saying the heat had rapidly cured grasses that grew high during the rainy weather.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Wildfires Flare Up Across the West (Cont'd from Page 3)

"We have a lot of very, very wet years and very, very dry years," Benjamin Hatchett, a fire meteorologist with the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere with Colorado State University recently told the *Associated Press*. "And so we get a lot of this variability that helps to accumulate and then dry out fuels."

Mr. Hatchett and some experts believe that decades of aggressive fire suppression combined with climate change have laid the groundwork for the massive Park wildfire in northern California and dozens of smaller ones across the western U.S.

Others – particularly those who live in Western rural timber communities - believe that poor forest management – particularly on federal lands - has resulted in larger and more severe wildfires that threaten our air, water, and climate.

"To address the growing threat of catastrophic wildfires, we must remove the regulatory barriers that hinder our ability to actively manage our forests," said Chris Barnard, president of the American Conservation Coalition Action.

In recent years, a priority initiative for the Family Farm Alliance has been to continue advocating for active forest management in federal Western watersheds and better quantifying watershed health improvements associated with these and other water conservation actions.

"We believe a responsible level of continuous fuels reduction includes a combination of robust mechanical thinning and prescribed fire," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "This can be employed to significantly reduce evapotranspiration, tree stress, disease and pest infestation, preserve healthy forest conditions, and protect species and habitats."

Now, firefighters are battling the state's largest wildfire of 2024 in the Northern Sacramento River Valley.

### The Park Fire

Northern California's Park Fire has surpassed 380,000 acres burned as evacuation orders affect foothill timber communities in four counties and Lassen Volcanic National Park. It is the largest wildfire in the state so far this year and the fifth-largest wildfire in California history. Thousands have been evacuated and 4,200 structures are threatened.

The Butte County District Attorney's Office has arrested a man suspected of starting the Park Fire by pushing his burning car down a ravine in Upper Bidwell Park.

On July 26, California Gov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in Butte and Tehama counties.

"We are using every available tool to protect lives and property as our fire and emergency response teams work around the clock to combat these challenging fires," Governor Newsom said in a statement, before securing federal disaster assistance for Tehama County.

### Action on Capitol Hill

In a year where extreme temperatures have already triggered widespread wildfires, Congress is taking action to pro-

mote more active management of the nation's federal forest lands.

The House Committee on Natural Resources recently passed the bipartisan *Fix Our Forests Act* (FOFA). Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and U.S. Rep. Scott Peters (D-CALIFORNIA) introduced FOFA to address the 117 million acres of federal forests that are overgrown and at a high risk for catastrophic wildfire.

"This bill is intended to support active and responsible management of federal lands with the best available technology and science, consistent with the Alliance position of forest management for the past decade," said Mr. Keppen.

FOFA intends to promote federal, state, tribal and local collaboration, improve community resilience to wildfire and incentivize new research. It also seeks to end frivolous and burdensome litigation that often delays critical forest management projects and encourages active management to protect powerlines and other critical infrastructure.

"America's forests are in desperate need of management, and it's time to take immediate action," said Chairman Westerman. "Onerous regulations and weaponization of environmental laws have turned our forests into ticking time bombs. Fortunately, the Fix Our Forests Act is a bipartisan solution that will apply the best possible science and empower America's land managers with the necessary tools to make our incredible forests healthier and more resilient for generations to come."

Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WASHINGTON), Doug LaMalfa (R-CALIFORNIA) and Tom Tiffany (R-WI) introduced another bill intended to nullify President Biden's Executive Order 14072 and prevent the U.S. Forest Service from finalizing the Old-Growth Amendment Plan's draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Biden Administration in June advanced a proposal from the Forest Service to amend all 128 forest land management plans to "better steward old-growth forests across the entire National Forest System". The plan would restrict logging within old-growth forests, with exceptions that include cutting trees to make forests less susceptible to wildfires.

"Forest management activities should be spearheaded at the regional level, not decided from some top-down plan that was crafted by a DC bureaucrat that has never set foot in the forest in question," said Rep. LaMalfa. "Regional voices should be prioritized, not ignored..... We must block the Biden Administration's irresponsible new plan that will tie the hands of those on the ground who are actively combatting this wildfire crisis."

### Biden Administration Action

The Biden-Harris administration recently announced it is taking additional steps to safeguard western communities in the face of increasingly dangerous and intense wildland fires by building advanced wildfire detection capabilities using satellite technology. The Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Forest Service have signed an agreement with the Nation-

*Continued on Page 17*

## Supreme Court Overturns *Chevron* Deference In *Loper* Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court has overturned the *Chevron* doctrine, a significant 1984 decision that required courts to defer to EPA and other agencies' "reasonable" interpretations of ambiguous statutory language. This move, celebrated by conservatives, argues that the *Chevron* doctrine granted the executive branch excessive power over judicial review.

The 6-3 decision in the cases of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* and *Relentless v. Raimondo*, authored by Chief Justice John Roberts and supported by the court's conservative bloc, mandates that courts independently interpret statutes without deferring to agency interpretations just because the language is ambiguous. This change emphasizes the courts' role in determining the "best" interpretation of statutes rather than relying on agencies' interpretations.

"This marks a shift from *Chevron's* more binding deference, potentially increasing legal challenges against agencies as they defend their regulatory actions," said Norm Semanko, General Counsel for the Family Farm Alliance. "Although previous rulings under *Chevron* remain binding, the new ruling signals a significant change in how courts will handle federal agency interpretations moving forward."

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), which had submitted a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, cheered the decision, arguing that *Chevron* had enabled administrative "overreach" to the detriment of farmers and ranchers.

"Long-term, this decision will impact almost every regulation that NCBA has worked on," said NCBA Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart.

Justice Elena Kagan, in her dissent joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson, criticized the majority's view, arguing that this shift would not yield more consistent judicial decisions and expressed concerns over the future judicial interpretation and respect towards agency expertise.

"A rule of judicial humility gives way to a rule of judicial hubris," said Justice Kagan, in her dissent. "As if it did not have enough on its plate, the majority turns itself into the country's administrative czar."

Attorneys have been busy assessing the case to determine if the repealed *Chevron* deference also extends to other types of deference that may be available to agencies.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan told a House Oversight Committee hearing on July 10 that officials are exploring what authorities are available to the agency and how they can continue to leverage its expertise for future rulemakings.

"This hits EPA extremely hard," said Administrator Regan. "We have world-class experts who, for decades, have been honing their skills to work on behalf of the American people and render judgment on policies and regulations that would be most protective of everyone in this country. And so,

we will gather ourselves and continue to leverage that expertise in every way we can..."

### SCOTUS Vacates Judgements in Nine Cases

Days after nullifying the *Chevron* deference, the Supreme Court vacated judgments in nine cases and instructed lower courts to reconsider their decisions. The cases include the appeal of a South Dakota farmer in a dispute with the USDA's

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) over whether a pond made by snow melting into a field qualifies as wetlands. If the farmer drains the pond, he loses federal agricultural benefits.

*Capital Press* recently reported that the Pacific Legal Foundation, which represents the landowner, argues NRCS' regulations conflict with the "Swampbuster" law. Congress passed the law in 1985 to encourage farmers to preserve wetlands. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals deferred to the agency's interpretation of Swampbuster.

### Congressional Response

The decision to overturn *Chevron* is expected to have a significant impact on the interpretation and implementation of a broad range of statutes, limiting agency discretion and precluding agency actions, rules and regulations not clearly authorized by the Congress.

House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James

Comer (R-Ky.) sent letters to EPA and key federal departments, requesting documentation for how the agencies intend to comply with rulemaking guidance as handed down in the recent Supreme Court decision.

"The expansive administrative state *Chevron* deference encouraged has undermined our system of government, overburdening our citizenry and threatening to overwhelm the founders' system of checks and balances," Chair Westerman wrote. "Thankfully, the Court in *Loper Bright* has now corrected its *Chevron* error, reaffirming that '[i]t is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.'"

Senate Republicans and Democrats have introduced opposing legislation in response to the Supreme Court's recent decision to overturn *Chevron* deference.

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced a bill to impose more constraints on the Biden Administration's rulemaking, including requiring agency heads to testify before relevant committees on proposed rules and improving cost-benefit analyses and communication with Congress.



Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts authored the 6-3 decision in *Loper*. Photo Source: [supremecourt.gov](https://www.supremecourt.gov).

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## White House Views “Government-Wide Action” on Groundwater

The Family Farm Alliance last month transmitted a letter to the White House in response to the April 25, 2024 announcement of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology’s (PCAST’s) creation of the “Groundwater Working Group”.

“Our letter expressed concerns that tasking federal agencies to develop a national strategy on groundwater would inevitably result in yet another one-size-fits-all, top-down approach,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen “This would add a new layer of conflicting regulatory interference in existing state groundwater management and undermine water rights and the flexibility of local water users.”

PCAST earlier this year invited public input on “America’s Groundwater Challenges”; the comment period ended on July 8.

Other agricultural organizations shared similar concerns with the Working Group.

“Farm Bureau respectfully suggests that the Council may find greater value in a conversation that starts with specific outreach to states, and if it sees further discussion as necessary, then engage in a non-regulatory Request for Information or other process through the Federal Register,” wrote Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation. “Unfortunately, we have been made aware that many interested parties, including states, were unaware of this White House website-based request.”

The Alliance letter similarly expressed concern with the lack of meaningful public notice or engagement with affected local, state and agriculture stakeholders for this effort.

However, the day after the Alliance letter was transmitted to the White House, Mr. Keppen and several Alliance members received invitations from the Groundwater Working Group to participate in a one-day workshop to aid in the for-

mulation of a policy recommendation report that will “propel government-wide action” on groundwater concerns.

This event took place at Arizona State University in Tempe on July 22 and concentrated on three pivotal themes: governance and incentives, data gaps and opportunities, and community empowerment and engagement. The goal of the event was to convene relevant government agencies, key groundwater users, and community stakeholders to identify scientific and policy opportunities for enhancing groundwater management.

The workshop emphasized equitable and sustainable groundwater management practices and was intended to specifically provide an opportunity for PCAST Working Group members and stakeholders to discuss possible strategies and recommendations that PCAST could make to President Biden.

Samantha Barncastle, an attorney who represents New Mexico irrigators and a member of the Family Farm Alliance Advisory Committee, attended the meeting in Tempe, and believes the Working Group came out of the meeting with a few takeaway points.

“Clearly, there is distrust of the federal government getting involved in groundwater, particularly in the regulatory arena,” said Ms. Barncastle. “There is stakeholder support for government in a supportive fashion, such as providing on-the-ground resources. I believe the event organizers recognize that trust must be established with local stakeholders, who will oppose any sort of federal mandate.”

The Alliance and its members will continue to monitor the progress of this effort.

“The Working Group is apparently working on some sort of document that will reflect the findings of the Tempe workshop, although details relating to the timing of its release and what it will actually recommend are unclear at this time,” said Mr. Keppen.

## House NR WWF Holds Hearing on New Tribal Water Settlements

The House Committee on Natural Resources (NR) Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries (WWF) held a hearing last month on nine new western Native American tribal water right settlement agreements and updates to existing ones across Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Montana.

“Today’s hearing was an important chance for us to discuss Indian water rights settlements across the west and work towards peaceful negotiation rather than unnecessary litigation,” said Subcommittee Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-OREGON). “I’d like to thank the numerous witnesses for their insightful testimony today and my colleagues for their hard work on the legislation we discussed.”

Chairman Bentz emphasized the critical nature of tribal water issues amid the escalating water crisis in the American West. Bentz highlighted that as water becomes scarcer, the cost of settlements rises, making timely action essential, and urged the House to quickly approve the settlements to prevent the \$12 billion cost from escalating further.

One significant proposal is H.R. 8940, the *Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024*, involving a \$5 billion deal for the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe. This includes a pipeline directly connecting Lake Powell on the Colorado River to tribal reservations. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren underscored the urgent need to address the lack of running water for nearly one-third of Navajo households.

“Thousands of our people continue to haul water 30 miles round-trip to meet their daily water demands, and hauling water is very expensive,” President Nygren said, noting an average cost of \$600 per month. “Congress must act to end the water crisis on the Navajo Nation.”

Both the Biden Administration and Department of the Interior officials supported the settlement but raised concerns about funding the pipeline project, which is expected to cost significantly more than the \$1.7 billion authorized in the legislation.

*Continued on Page 8*

# House Subcommittee Hears Testimony on ESA

## “Moving of the Goal Posts” by NMFS Discussed

The House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries last month held a legislative hearing on four bills intended to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA), limit federal overreach in state water rights and reauthorize important programs for healthy wildlife and ecosystems.

Mauricio Guardado, the general manager of United Water Conservation District in Ventura County (CALIFORNIA) testified on a discussion draft bill introduced by Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) which would amend the ESA, a priority for Committee Republicans in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

“The ESA is a well-meaning bill,” said Chairman Westerman last July, when an ESA working group was established. “We don’t want to do away with ESA; we want to make it something that actually works for endangered species.”

Chairman Westerman’s Discussion Draft refocuses the ESA on recovery, empowering state and private led species conservation, increasing transparency, and ensuring accountability for regulatory agencies.

Stephen Guertin (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director for Program Management and Policy) and Ellen Richmond (Senior Attorney for Defenders of Wildlife) testified on the bill, along with Mr. Guardado, who shared United’s challenges dealing with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff on pressing local water issues.

United not only stores water at its Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru reservoir, it also directly recharges the groundwater aquifers via its Freeman Diversion in southern California. United’s service area is home to numerous endangered species and United works collaboratively with many federal agencies on complex permitting efforts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are “tough but fair” regarding their regulatory requirements, Mr. Guardado stated.

It’s a different story when it comes to NMFS, he testified.

“Time and again, NMFS has used the ESA as a weapon to punish water agencies for its own political agenda,” he stated. “NMFS has created such fear that water agencies are afraid to challenge these abuses, for fear of retribution from NMFS in their next permitting effort.”

Mr. Guardado’s written testimony further details the routine “moving of the goal posts” by NMFS in Ventura County and elsewhere.

The discussion draft legislation makes reforms to the ESA to clarify existing definitions and establish an environmental baseline to measure successful outcomes.

Mr. Guardado also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Family Farm Alliance, although he represented United at the hearing. His testimony notes that an Alliance subcommittee was established to provide detailed recommendations to USFWS and NMFS in July 2018 on proposed revisions to regulations that implement portions of the ESA.

“Many of the important sections of the ESA Reform draft legislation we are discussing today are similar to those recommendations,” he noted in his written testimony.

Although unlikely to pass in the current Senate, these bills highlight potential Republican legislative priorities if they gain more votes in

Congress.

Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed the *America’s Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization (ACE) Act* H.R. 8811 to renew various conservation laws and another bill, H.R. 7544, prohibiting federal requirements for water rights transfers as a condition for permits. *The Nutria Eradication and Control Act*, H.R. 8308 targeting the invasive nutria species, was also discussed.

“By strengthening transparency, species recovery efforts, and responding to recent Supreme Court rulings, these measures balance conservation approaches,” said Subcommittee Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-OREGON). “These reforms will protect our communities while safeguarding our natural environment.”



*Mauricio Guardado testifies before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife & Fisheries.*  
Photo Source: United Water

## Alliance Engages in Reclamation Rulemaking

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to seven categorical exclusions (CEs) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as well as changes to a directive and standard (D&S) that governs administration of financial assistance. Public webinars were hosted by Reclamation last month for both efforts, in response to a request made by the Family Farm Alliance in June.

D&S provide the level of detail necessary to ensure consistent application of policy across Reclamation.

“Alliance representatives met with the Commissioner’s office to discuss concerns we have with the CE package recently posted in the Federal Register and draft directive and standard (D&S) – ACM 01-01, which appears to merge DOI and Reclamation policies for financial assistance into one policy,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “Both of Reclamation’s proposals are important actions to our members -particularly those who utilize WaterSMART grants.”

*“In summary, the package will revise three existing CEs related to financial assistance, loans, and funding activities to incorporate other programs including the WaterSMART program; revise two existing CEs for water-related contracts and revise two existing CEs related to use authorizations.”*

### Proposed CE Expansion

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in 2016 directed all federal agencies to begin regular reviews of the use of CEs, with the intent of making the NEPA process easier. The latest effort initiated by the Biden Administration marks the third time in three administrations that this effort has been undertaken.

The latest proposed CEs pertain to water-related contracts, use authorizations, financial assistance, loans, and funding activities, such as WaterSMART grants. The revisions aim to streamline environmental reviews for infrastructure projects under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), aligning with NEPA regulations to enhance efficiency and clarity for Reclamation, project proponents, and the public.

“In summary, the package will revise three existing CEs related to financial assistance, loans, and funding activities to incorporate other programs including the WaterSMART program; revise two existing CEs for water-related contracts and revise two existing CEs related to use authorizations,” Recla-

mation Deputy Commissioner Roque Sanchez told Alliance leaders in June.

The Federal Register posted the proposed expansion in early June and set a 30-day comment period that expired on July 8. In response to an Alliance request, Reclamation an informational webinar on July 2, which attracted about 70 participants.

“While this was being billed initially as a CE for WaterSMART, practically we just want to make sure Reclamation will use the new CE expansively as possible,” said Mr. Keppen. “In our written comments, we basically expressed support for the proposed changes, suggest some more specific examples of projects / activities that should be covered under a CE, and memorialized this request.”

The Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition (WACC) also made a similar ask of Reclamation, as well as advancing support for employing the stream restoration CE.

### Draft D&S for Financial Assistance

Reclamation has proposed changes to the existing D&S ACM 01-01, which outlines requirements for award and administration of financial assistance agreements for programs like WaterSMART. The draft document includes new definitions, more citations to the Code of Federal Regulation, and descriptions of new positions at Reclamation.

“DOI has tightened up some of its internal financial requirements, so Reclamation is doing the same,” said Mr. Keppen.

In response to the Alliance’s request, Reclamation extended the public comment period on the draft D&S by 30 days (closing on August 9, 2024) and hosted a 30-minute webinar for customers and stakeholders on July 9.

“We’ll put together a brief comment letter, note that our members continue to have concerns about the challenges with overall WaterSMART implementation, and take them up on their offer to do a more interactive workshop later this year on implementation of WaterSMART, IRA funding, and the like,” said Mr. Keppen.

## Hearing on Tribal Water Settlements (Cont’d from Page 6)

### House Passes Other Resources Bills

The House of Representatives last month also recently approved a series of bills, including H.R. 5770, the *Water Data Improvement Act*, introduced by Rep. John Neguse (D-COLORADO), which reauthorizes the U.S. Geological

Survey’s groundwater monitoring network.

“These bills are commonsense and forward-thinking solutions Americans in various parts of the country desperately need,” said House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.).

## Initial Agreement Reached with Canada on Columbia River Treaty

The Biden White House announced last month a preliminary agreement with Canada to modernize the Columbia River Treaty, which governs hydropower operations and flood risk management on the 1,200-mile international waterway.

"For 60 years, the United States and Canada have managed these waterways together through the Columbia River Treaty. Now, our two countries have found common ground on how we will work together to care for them for the next 20 years," said President Biden. "In modernizing this treaty, we will elevate U.S. Tribes' and Canadian Indigenous Nations' voices. We'll rebalance energy coordination between the United States and Canada, allowing the United States to keep more clean hydropower energy at home while giving Canada more opportunities to import from and export to the U.S. market – critical to both countries achieving our clean energy goals."

The treaty, initially established in 1964, included a \$64 million payment to Canada for flood water storage and granted Canada half of the hydroelectric generation from new storage facilities. However, provisions governing Canadian water storage are set to expire in mid-September, necessitating a new agreement to avoid shifting to a "called upon" flood management strategy.

"This agreement-in-principle is the result of extensive engagement, notably with Indigenous and local communities, to ensure that all interests are heard, represented, and addressed," said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "The agreement-in-principle is a major milestone that will enable us to now update the Treaty, ensuring continued flood risk management and co-operation on hydropower for the Columbia River and incorporating important provisions not considered in the original agreement, such as ecosystem health and Indigenous cultural values."

The agreement must still be reviewed by Congress. Senators James Risch (R-IDAHO) and Maria Cantwell (D-WASHINGTON), who have been involved in the treaty negotiations, praised the preliminary agreement as a positive step forward.

"Today's announcement of a preliminary agreement between the United States and Canada looks promising, but as

always, I look forward to seeing all the details," Senator Risch said.

Senator Cantwell, chair of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, likewise called the announcement "a positive step forward."

"There is no way to truly estimate the tremendous economic, environmental, and recreational value of the Columbia River to our state and region," Senator Cantwell said.

The State Department Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs is hosting a virtual public information session on Columbia River Treaty negotiations on August 5.

### \$240M for Fish Hatcheries

In other Columbia River news, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a \$240 million investment to support fish hatcheries that produce Pacific salmon and steelhead.

These investments build on the Biden-Harris administration's agreement to restore salmon in the Columbia River Basin and follows the Interior Department's recently released report documenting the historic, ongoing and cumulative impacts of federal Columbia

River dams on Columbia River Basin Tribes.

"Since time immemorial, Tribes in the Pacific Northwest have relied on Pacific salmon, steelhead and other native fish species for sustenance and their cultural and spiritual ways of life," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "This funding will help us deliver historic investments from the President's Investing in America agenda that will empower Indigenous communities and safeguard resources they have stewarded since time immemorial."

As part of last month's announcement, an initial \$54 million is available to 27 Tribes in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska to address current hatchery facility maintenance and modernization necessities, and to support Tribal capacity needs.

The remaining funding will be made available competitively to help Tribes address the long-term viability and effectiveness of critical infrastructure for the propagation of Pacific salmon and steelhead.

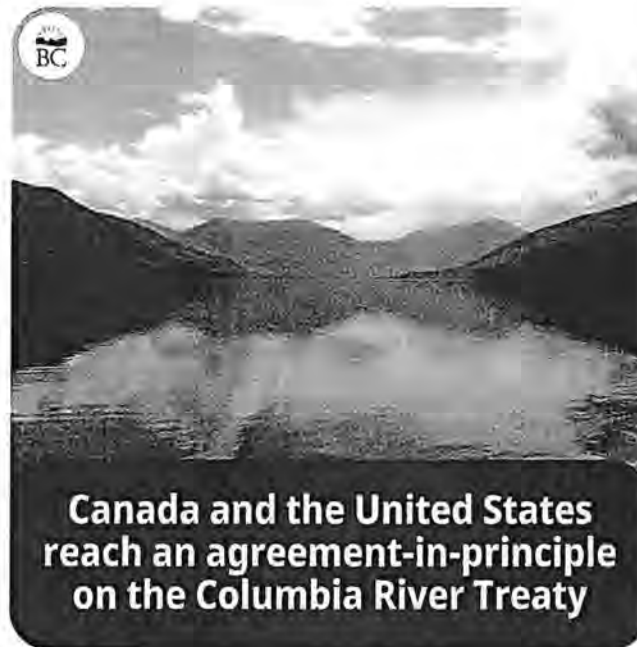


Photo Source: Province of British Columbia

## Massive Funding and Invasive Mussels in the Upper Colorado River Basin

Communities in the Upper Colorado River Basin States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming will have an opportunity to access \$450 million for ecosystem and habitat restoration projects, the Department of the Interior announced last month. Meanwhile, concerns are percolating regarding potential widespread ecological impacts associated with the recent discovery of the invasive zebra mussel near Grand Junction (COLORADO).

### \$450 M for Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration

The Department of the Interior last month announced funding for ecosystem and habitat restoration projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin that address impacts caused by drought. These funds will help increase community and landscape resiliency while restoring habitats and assisting in species recovery. These funds are made available through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for use in the Upper Basin.

"This phase of funding will deliver crucial environmental benefits, driving long-term conservation efforts and mitigating drought severity in each Upper Basin State," said Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. "Reclamation will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders to leverage this once-in-a-generation investment from the Biden-Harris administration to benefit ecosystem health and water resources."

In October 2022, the Department announced an investment from the IRA in long-term system efficiency improvements across the basin, including at least \$500 million in the Upper Basin States to result in additional water conservation, environmental benefits, and ecosystem and habitat restoration.

Reclamation is implementing the use of these funds in two phases. For the earlier phase, Reclamation invested nearly \$50 million to support the relaunch of a System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The SCPP was administered in water years 2023 and 2024 and will conserve a total of 104,000 acre-feet of water by the end of this September.

Last month's solicitation is for projects that provide environmental benefits, including ecosystem and habitat restoration.

"Normally we'll see somewhere in the ballpark of \$20 million to \$30 million annually for ecosystem restoration work through WaterSMART for the Upper Colorado River Basin," Alex Funk, director of water resources and senior counsel at Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership told *E&D News*. "Never have we seen \$450 million come online all in one (request for proposals)."

Applicants must be a public or Tribal entity or be partnered with such an entity to implement the project. More detailed information for applicants, including additional eligibility and evaluation criteria and how to apply can be found at the Upper Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program website. Applications for projects will be accepted through September 27, 2024. Selections are anticipated to be made by the end of 2024 or early in 2025.

### Zebra Mussel Larvae Found in Colorado River

Colorado state officials have detected zebra mussel veligers, the larval stage of the invasive species, in the Colorado River and a major canal near Grand Junction (COLORADO), raising concerns about potential widespread ecological and economic impacts.

The discovery follows the first confirmed infestation of adult zebra mussels in Highline Lake in 2022.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is increasing sampling efforts to confirm the extent of the infestation, which poses a significant threat to water infrastructure and native ecosystems.

Zebra mussels, known for their rapid reproduction and ability to clog water systems, can severely impact irrigation, drinking water, and native fish populations.

CPW and the Grand Valley Water Users Association are collaborating with Reclamation to monitor and address the issue, emphasizing public education on the species' catastrophic potential.

CPW also plans to drain Highline Lake to combat the infestation.

Although zebra mussels are an invasive species, wildlife officials say there is a silver lining to finding the veligers.

"The veliger, [in] that microscopic form, [is] a lot more susceptible to environmental conditions," Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Lt. Bruce Johnson told KSL Radio (UTAH). "It's more fragile. It has a harder time surviving in ... faster, more turbulent (and) more rapid waters."

### Alliance Engagement in the Colorado River Basin

The Colorado River is a vital water resource in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. It irrigates nearly 5.5 million acres of farmland and sustains life and livelihood for over 40 million people in major metropolitan areas including Albuquerque, Cheyenne, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Diego and Tucson.

The Colorado River provides water to two countries, seven western states, 30 Tribal Nations and 40 million residents.

Colorado River policy engagement has been a top priority for the Family Farm Alliance since 2015.

The Alliance has members in each of the 7 Colorado River Basin states, where individual perspectives clearly demonstrate the amazing diversity in views on Colorado River policy matters.

"Within the Basin, all of the various water users' perspectives are shaped by where they are in the system," said Don Schwindt, the Alliance's First Vice-President. "It depends on whether they are in the Upper or Lower Basin, within or outside of the natural hydrologic basin boundaries, in which state, and the priority of their use within their state."

Still, the Alliance board of directors in 2015 and again in 2022 adopted principles and recommendations intended to guide state and federal decision-makers as they negotiate a long-term operating agreement on the Colorado River.

# Farm Bill Remains Jammed

The 2024 farm bill continues to show no sign of busting through a partisan snarl-up.

In the Senate, Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) last month criticized House Republicans for a bill that is biased toward southern farmers who would benefit from price support in the bill targeting rice, peanuts and cotton.

House Agriculture Chair Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.) at a recent hearing said he is the one who is pursuing the bipartisan path.

The 2018 farm bill, already extended by a year, expires at the end of September.

The Senate ag committee said in a recent news release that the House version would mostly benefit growers of three crops grown mainly in the South through increased price support.

“The proposal doubles down on the regional disparities of the existing programs by pouring taxpayer resources into southern commodities while leaving northern crops with relative pennies,” the press statement read.

Chairman Thompson said at a hearing on the farm economy that he’s open to a negotiation with the Senate, but not until Senator Stabenow rolls out the bill text to go along with the framework she released earlier this year.

“I cannot reconcile nor negotiate a bipartisan 900-page bill with a partisan 90-page summary. For that to be viable, Chairwoman Stabenow needs to unveil her bill text,” Chairman Thompson said.

He and other key House Republicans are eager to push a new farm bill reauthorization across the finish line this year.

“Our hardworking farmers and rural America need and deserve a new farm bill, it’s time for House and Senate Democrats to rise above the partisan games and help move a bipartisan bill forward,” Chairman Thompson told *POLITICO*.

“At a time of massive uncertainty for our rural communities, we should not kick the farm bill any further down the road,” added Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA) in a recent opinion piece. “I urge all those involved to come to the table, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to get a farm bill signed into law before the Sept. 30 deadline.”

A coalition of more than 500 organizations is also calling for farm bill finalization by the end of the year.

In a letter sent to congressional leaders, the organizations state that “as committed stakeholders and beneficiaries of the farm bill, we cannot continue to wait for updated policies, provisions, initiatives and critical funding that support our collective interests.”

The signatories to the letter – including the American Farm Bureau Federation - noted that “passing a stopgap extension of this critical piece of legislation would put it at risk

of further delay.”

## Implications of Joe Biden’s Reelection Announcement

President Joe Biden’s historic decision to end his reelection campaign has drawn questions about whether Congress has the political willpower to pass a farm bill by the end of the year and where his successor’s agricultural stances differ (*Bloomberg Government*).

After Joe Biden’s bombshell announcement last month, a number of top Democrats — including President Biden — quickly endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to take over the top of the ticket. *POLITICO* reports that, though her native California ranks first in agricultural production, she hasn’t been too vocal on any federal ag policy.

President Biden has had little-to-no engagement in the farm bill process and he wouldn’t expect its priority level to change significantly under a Harris administration, Senate Agriculture ranking member John Boozman (R-Ark.) spokesperson Patrick Creamer told *Bloomberg Government* in a text message.

“She has wholeheartedly pushed the President’s agenda, which puts beltway priorities like climate over the needs of farmers,” Mr. Creamer said.

## Alliance Farm Bill Priorities

The Alliance for the past three farm bills has worked with its partners in the Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition (WACC) to advocate primarily on the conservation programs authorized in Title 2 of

the Farm Bill, like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566).

The Alliance and its agricultural partners have also advocated for removal of income limitations to participate in Title 2 programs and for provisions that encourage more active management of the West’s drying and dying forests (*see related story, Page 3*).

“We believe active forest management can increase water yield, improve water quality, provide for jobs, and reduce the cost and danger of firefighting, while increasing forest resiliency,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “This can be done, in part, by increasing the productivity of national forests and grasslands; employing grazing as an effective, affordable forest and grassland management tool; increasing access to national forest system lands; and expediting environmental reviews to support active management.”



House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn Thompson.

Photo Source: House Agriculture Committee

# Interior Appropriations Bill Passes House

## *Vote on Energy-Water Spending Bill Cancelled*

The House adjourned for August recess after passing H.R. 8998, the FY25 Interior Appropriations bill, but not before cancelling another planned vote on the FY 2025 Energy and Water Development spending bill.

H.R. 8998, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025 passed the House of Representatives by a bipartisan vote of 210-205.

“The FY 2025 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill will help reduce energy costs, protect American jobs, and ensure that we can continue to access our public lands to recreate, hunt, and develop our natural resources,” said House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Chairman Mike Simpson (R-IDAHO). “I am proud that this fiscally responsible bill reins in unnecessary spending and rejects the Biden administration’s misguided regulatory agenda.”

It proposes a \$38.5 billion funding package that aims to bolster wildland firefighting and energy production while making substantial cuts to several Biden administration priorities.

Overall, the bill reflects a shift towards enhancing energy production and firefighting capabilities, while reducing environmental protection efforts and slashing key administration initiatives.

The bill also increases funding for wildland fire programs and permanently addresses firefighter pay.

Many areas of the West are experiencing raging wildfires as this year’s fire season is shaping up to be a bad one (see *related story, Page 3*).

The Senate’s \$44.6 billion version of the FY 2025 Interior-Environment bill marked up last month on a 28-1 committee vote contrasts sharply with the House passed bill, maintaining or increasing funding for key environmental and conservation programs at EPA and the Department of the Interior.

This sets up a potential standoff with the House in a conference committee after the November elections.

### House Appropriations Committee Passes Agriculture-Rural Development Bill

House Appropriators last month passed a \$25.9 billion annual spending measure that would trim agriculture programs in fiscal 2025 while steering them away from addressing climate change. The Republican-written bill, passed on a partisan vote of 29 to 26, would cut agriculture and food safety funding by 1.35 percent, or \$355 million, although individual programs would see much bigger swings — many negative but some with increases.

Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) said the bill would roll back “ill-advised” priorities of the Biden administration.

“We are reminded today that agriculture is not merely a commodity—it is a way of life,” said Chair Cole. “Through production, innovation, and pure grit, American farmers and producers feed the world.”

The Agriculture subcommittee’s top Democrat, Sanford Bishop of Georgia, said the bill marks an improvement from deeper cuts proposed a year ago but still takes too much from key programs.

### GOP Cancels Vote on Energy-Water Spending Bill

House Republican leaders canceled a pre-August recess planned vote on the FY 2025 Energy and Water Development

spending bill (funding the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Energy) due to opposition from both Democrats and some Republicans.

“There’s no sense to put out a bill when you don’t have the votes, and right now we don’t,” Appropriations Chair Cole told *POLITICO’s E&E News* as House members departed the Capitol.

The decision came after hours of amendment debate and has disrupted the House’s appropriations process. The bill, H.R. 8997, included controversial provisions to cut federal climate and clean energy initiatives, drawing criticism from Democrats. The \$59.2 billion appropriations bill proposes significant cuts to the Biden Administration’s clean energy pro-



*House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Chairman Mike Simpson (R-IDAHO).*  
Photo Source: Office of Congressman Simpson

**Vote on Energy-Water Spending Bill Cancelled (Cont'd from Pg. 12)**

grams while increasing overall funding for key agencies. Notably, Reclamation would receive a funding boost to \$1.77 billion—\$329.5 million over the Biden Administration's request. The bill includes a GOP-backed provision to reinstate a Trump-era policy under the ESA) to pump more water to California's Central Valley farmers through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta's ecosystem. The Army Corps of Engineers also sees increased funding for projects addressing inland waterways, flood damage, and harbor maintenance. The bill would provide nearly \$10 billion to the Army Corps in FY 2025, an increase over President Biden's request of \$2.7 billion. The bill would also direct the Army Corps and EPA to provide additional guidance documents explaining the

regulatory scope of the CWA and specifically the latest definition of "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS). "These reckless appropriations proposals would make dangerous cuts to the EPA and renewable energy programs, further harm already disadvantaged populations and low-income communities, and fail to make strides towards tackling the deadly climate crisis unfolding before us," said Sierra Club Legislative Director Melinda Pierce. "The American people want bold action and deserve more from their representatives than what these bills have to offer."

*Continued on Page 14*

**Interior Secretary Haaland Visits Yakima Basin  
\$16 Million Announced for Local Drought Resilience**

Interior Department Secretary Deb Haaland last month paid a visit to the Yakima River Basin (WASHINGTON) celebrating the remarkable work being done by federal, state, Tribal and local partners through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, including through the Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The Biden-Harris administration is committed to making communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change," said Secretary Haaland. "These historic investments will support fish, farms and families who rely on this vital river, building resiliency and safeguarding future generations."

In her remarks, Secretary Haaland announced a \$16 million investment for drought resilience in the Yakima River Basin through the Inflation Reduction Act. The Biden-Harris administration has already invested \$40 million in the Yakima River Basin from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including \$7 million to raise the Cle Elum reservoir's capacity and further expand fish passage in the region.

The Yakima River Basin is home to over 400,000 people, a \$4.5 billion agriculture growing and processing industry and supports habitat for salmon and other fish relied on for Tribal subsistence.

Secretary Haaland joined Governor Jay Inslee and state, local, and Tribal leaders to celebrate the opening of almost 30

miles of critical habitat for salmon and steelhead populations above Cle Elum Dam and Reservoir. The recent completion of a juvenile fish facility through the Yakima Basin Integrated

Plan and last month's groundbreaking on the adult collection facility will provide significant benefits to the region by restoring the river, safeguarding subsistence and boosting local economies. This historic and transformational project – in what was once one of the most prolific sockeye salmon runs in the Basin – will open up habitat to spring Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, and steelhead and bull trout that have not been able to swim or spawn in these waters for almost 100 years.

The announced funding will provide \$6 million to the Yakama Nation for the Fan Shallow Aquifer Recharge project. It also includes \$5 million for the Washington State Department of Ecology, \$3.4 million for the Roza Irrigation District, and \$1.6 million for the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) to increase drought resilience.

Family Farm Alliance 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Mark Hansen, who serves as the vice chair of the KRD board, was in attendance at the Yakima event. He grows hay and grain and is a cattle rancher in an irrigation district that relies on the water from the Yakima River.

"This project allows farmers to stay in business while still honoring past commitments," he told the *Yakima Herald-Republic*.



*Secretary Haaland addresses an audience gathered at Cle Elum Fish Passage Facility Photo source: DOI*



## House Passes Bipartisan WRDA Bill

In a rare bipartisan effort, the U.S. House of Representatives passed their "Water Resources Development Act of 2024" (WRDA) to improve water infrastructure, curb flooding, and restore ecosystems. The bill, approved on a 359-13 vote, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for 12 new projects and 159 new studies.

"WRDA delivers critical water resource infrastructure improvements for communities across America — from ports to levees to navigation channels, and more. The bill also makes policy and programmatic reforms to streamline processes, reduce cumbersome red tape and get projects done faster," said Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-Mo.), the bill's primary sponsor.

"I'm particularly proud that this bill charts a new path forward for systemic flood control on the upper Mississippi River."

Key provisions of the bill include reducing delays in Corps projects, increasing transparency, and facilitating community collaboration for stormwater reuse and groundwater recharge. The bill also targets navigation challenges at ports, urban runoff, wastewater services expansion, dam safety, and Everglades restoration.

Despite some concerns about some provisions said to bypass the congressional spending process, the bill received broad support. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee had already passed its version of the water projects authorization package in May.

## Vote on Energy-Water Spending Bill Cancelled (Cont'd from Pg 13)

### The Messy State of Appropriations

The collapse of the House FY 2025 appropriations process late last month follows the cancellation of votes on other spending bills, indicating a broader struggle for support for the annual spending measures among House Republicans.

The House tabled all planned votes for the last week of July to recess one week early for the August recess due to current election year politics.

"House Republicans are unable and unwilling to govern. House Democrats are at the table ready to negotiate," said Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). "The quicker House Republicans realize their extremist agenda cannot become law, the quicker we can get down to the business of the American people."

The Senate Appropriations Committee is set to complete their work on all FY 2025 spending bills, aiming for a rare display of bipartisanship despite a divided Congress.

The Senate's approach contrasts with the House's more partisan efforts. Even though the Senate committee has advanced bills with sweeping bipartisan support they have yet to move any to the Senate floor for a final vote.

House Republicans, however, have passed several bills through the House, mostly along party lines.

The Senate's final bills avoid the steep cuts and partisan policy riders seen in the House versions of the spending bills, which will make conferencing bills between House and Senate approved versions much tougher.

"We expect Congress will need to approve a temporary continuing resolution sometime before the end of the current fiscal year on September 30 to keep the government open until after the November elections," said Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, the Family Farm Alliance's representative in Washington, D.C.

## Chevron Deference (Continued from Page 5)

"For decades, the executive branch has exploited *Chevron* deference to increase its power beyond what Congress intended, all while skirting congressional oversight," said Senator Cassidy. "Now, with *Chevron* deference overturned, Congress must work to rein in the executive branch and hold it accountable to the people and their elected representatives."

Conversely, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) in the House, have proposed the "*Stop Corporate Capture Act*," which would codify the previous *Chevron* deference standard, enhance agencies' rulemaking power under a "reasonable interpretation" of statutes, and increase public participation and technical integrity in rulemaking.

"Giant corporations are using far-right, unelected judges to hijack our government and undermine the will of Con-

gress," said Senator Warren. "The *Stop Corporate Capture Act* will bring transparency and efficiency to the federal rule-making process, and most importantly, will make sure corporate interest groups can't substitute their preferences for the judgment of Congress and the expert agencies."

Both bills reflect the potential for a broader, but partisan legislative response to the ruling, with significant implications for federal regulation under current laws.

"Congress has sidestepped our legal duties for far too long and [this] ruling puts us back in the driver's seat when it comes to rulemaking and regulatory authority," said Chairman Westerman. "We're no longer going to let federal agencies fill in the details when it comes to the policies we enact; instead, this will hopefully usher in a new era of congressional specificity and thoughtful legislative work."

## Hundreds Attend Celebration of Patrick O’Toole’s Life

Nearly 500 friends and family members from across the West (and beyond) made the trip to Ladder Ranch, near Savery (WYOMING) to celebrate the life of Pat O’Toole on Saturday, July 20. The service was conducted on the front lawn of the O’Toole home, and was officiated by the Reverend Warren Murphy, from nearby Savery.

The eulogy was a family affair, co-presented by Pat’s daughter Bridget, and granddaughters Siobhan and Maeve Lally. Granddaughter Maeve recited “It Is Not the Critic Who Counts”, the famous Theodore Roosevelt quote about striving valiantly and daring greatly.

“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better,” she read. “The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again....”



**Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen shares his memories of Pat O’Toole at a celebration of life held at Ladder Ranch (WYOMING) on July 20.**  
Photo courtesy of Clinton Pline.

Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen shared his memories of working with Pat O’Toole for over 19 years.

“We celebrate his friendship, his passion for farmers and ranchers, his love for the environment,” Mr. Keppen told those assembled at the ranch. “Pat was clearly one of the greatest conservation and agricultural leaders of our generation. His passion was the driver behind that.”

Governor Mark Gordon, U.S. Senators John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis, and Wyoming State Senator Larry Hicks.

“I was honored to present remarks in remembrance of Pat, but I was dwarfed by the political rock stars who also made comments,” said Mr. Keppen.

Other political dignitaries in attendance included Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams, and Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning.

“You read the list of speakers, but then you start to listen to the stories of why this eclectic group of people have gathered at this remote location to honor this man and it becomes clear this is more than a story, it is a saga,” said Nadine Bailey, the Alliance’s director from Northern California. “It is a life dedicated to promoting and creating a better understanding of what it means to be in agriculture.”

Pat’s wife, Sharon, had a collection of his ties for people to choose from and take home. David Palumbo took one back to DC with him, which he wore at a Congressional hearing just days after the memorial service (*photo below, David Palumbo seated at left*).



Many individuals with Alliance ties made the trip to Ladder Ranch, as well, including seven directors, several past board members, and many Advisory Committee members and contractors.

“To my right are board members of the Alliance. To my left are a group of people from a DC lobbying firm. Sprinkled through the crowd are old family friends and the family who loved him,” Ms. Bailey recounted.

At the request of the O’Toole family, the Alliance in March established the Patrick O’Toole Young Conservationist Scholarship in his memory. This account – which has grown to over \$16,000 – will provide funding for young farmers and ranchers to attend the Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference (*see inset box, Page 16*).

“With as much as we have lost with Pat’s passing, his legacy will continue,” said Nadine Bailey. “It will continue with his children, family and friends who know, even if the public doesn’t, how important the agriculture community is to their daily lives.”



Patrick Francis O'Toole: December 6, 1948 - February 25, 2024

### Support Pours in for Patrick O'Toole Young Conservationist Scholarship

<https://www.familyfarmalliance.org/otoole/>

Patrick "Pat" O'Toole, who served as president of the Family Farm Alliance for 19 years, died February 25, 2024 at age 75 of complications following a stroke at his Ladder Ranch home in Wyoming. Pat dedicated much of his life to advocating for irrigated agriculture and conservation. He was passionate about mentoring the next generation on nurturing healthy landscapes and producing sustainable food and fiber.

At the request of the O'Toole family, the Alliance last month established the Patrick O'Toole Young Conservationist Scholarship in his memory. This account will provide funding for young farmers and ranchers to attend the Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference.

"The response to the Patrick O'Toole Young Conservationist Scholarship has been outstanding and shows in a powerful way that Pat was a beloved friend and colleague to many," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

So far, over \$16,000 has been dedicated to this fund, thanks to these contributors, listed in the order that donations were received:

Kenneth Harrison (NY) Patricia Platt on behalf of the Nature Conservancy of Wyoming Benjamin Greenhouse on behalf of Potentia Renewables (Toronto, ON) Clair Natale (AZ) Matthew Tobler on behalf of Blue Mountain Environmental (CO) Jane Townsend (CA) Jennifer Beck (CO) Tina Dykstra (MD) Brian Werner (CO) Katy Fuentes (TX) David Haubein (MO) Lane Dickson (MD) Grant Colvin (CO) Sharon Megdal on behalf of the University of Arizona Shilpi Talwar (CO) Jennifer Lahman (CO) Jean Dickinson on behalf of Vermillion Ranch (WY) Jerry & Loretta Afdahl (TX) Robert & Pamela Davig (CO) Chris Treese (CO) Libby, Peter and Bella Wood (WY) William and Demi Cross (WY) Robert and Martha Hellyer (WY) Leslie James on behalf of the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (AZ) Monique Gilbert (VT) Laura Cosenzo on behalf of The Ferguson Group (Washington, DC) Mark & Cindy Limbaugh (ID) Christine Arbogast (CO) Melinda Kassen (CO) Paul Orme (AZ) Matthew Kireker (CO) Anne Simmons (VA) Tom Knutson (NE) Clinton Pline (ID) Julie Hansmire (CO) Mary Kelly (TX) Taylor Johnson on behalf of the Idaho Water Users Association Claudia Hadjigeorgiou (VA) Anne Castle (CO) Ingrid Burke (CT) Tanya Trujillo (Washington, DC) Jennifer Gimbel (CO) Mike and Laurie Framson (OR) Jacqueline Byam (WY) Michele Hogan (WY) Noreen Walsh (CO) Anne Longman (FL) Ronald Rayner (AZ) Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District #2 (KS) Don and Jodie Schwindt (CO)

Your donation to The Patrick O'Toole Young Conservationist Scholarship will help ensure that the legacy of Pat's work will continue for generations to come.

Thank you.

**Ea'mon O'Toole Replaces Father on Alliance Board (Cont'd from Page 2)**

future generations the opportunity to work the land.

"It's wonderful to report that the O'Toole family will continue to help lead the Family Farm Alliance," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "Ea'mon understands Western resources issues and is also a resourceful and active advocate for the U.S. beef industry."

Mr. O'Toole is the 2024 Chair of the Wyoming Beef Council and has represented young producers on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Young Producers Council. He was instrumental in establishing the Wyoming Stock Grower's Young Producer's Assembly and is a dedicated mentor for Future Cattle Producers of Wyoming.

Mr. O'Toole also chairs the Wyoming Stock Grower's Transportation, Labor and Marketing Committee and the Savery-Little Snake River Conservancy District, where he has been working with his community and state to build the West Fork of Battle Dam. He has previously served on the Carbon County Planning Commission and on the Board of Directors of the American Farmland Trust.

"I am very excited and honored to be a part of an incredible group of leaders and doers," said Mr. O'Toole. "It is my honor to help this board and work on Western water issues alongside many of the greatest citizens of the West."

**Leadership Succession Actions**

The Chairs of the new committees and task force established at the retreat are expected to coordinate with President Orme to propose additional members to each committee / task

force by September 2024 and define timelines and deliverables.

The committees and task force will help drive board of directors' succession decision-making on executive director transition between now and October 2025.

In the coming year, this will lead to more clearly defined expectations and terms of future board presidents, roles and succession for vice presidents and other officers, election of new vice president(s) and/or other officers, roles and expectations of board members including strategies for board recruitment.

"There was consensus that this process and the retreat planning team provided substantive input via the questionnaires and interviews that yielded goals, objectives and deliverables that can be used for other purposes," said Mr. Schwindt. "Overall, the group agreed that this was a very valuable undertaking that facilitated an extremely successful retreat."

Following the retreat, staff from Northern water hosted and conducted a tour of the Chimney Hollow storage project, currently under construction in the foothills west of Berthoud. When complete, this offstream storage dam will rise 350 feet above the bottom of the valley.

"Many thanks to Brad Wind, Kyle Whittaker, Jenna Farmer and the rest of the team at Northern Water, who set up meeting space and helped with logistics at their incredible complex in Berthoud," said Mr. Keppen.

"The tour to Chimney Hollow was amazing, too," he added.

**Administration's Wildland Fire Actions (Cont'd from Pg. 4)**

al Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to use the NOAA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite — R series (GOES-R) data to rapidly detect and report wildfire starts.

Supported by a \$20 million investment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)—\$10 million each from DOI and the Department of Agriculture— this new agreement will use advanced remote sensing capabilities to improve the speed and accuracy of wildfire detection.

"This partnership is one of the many ways we are investing in technology to improve firefighter and community safety," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. "Wildland firefighting will always require highly skilled individuals working on the ground, but with more real-time information we can reduce the risks to crews and pilots and improve our response time to the public."

The announcement supports recommendations by the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, which was established through the IIJA and charged with making recommendations to improve federal policies related to the mitigation, suppression, and management of wildland fires in the United States.

Elsewhere, the Department of Energy (DOE) is adopting seven categorical exclusions (CE) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the Forest Service for activities DOE says also apply to its actions, the latest in a series of such measures where agencies adopt others' CEs as allowed by 2023 congressional amendments to the law.

DOE's adoption of the CEs -- for actions including post-fire rehabilitation, wetlands restoration and others -- means such actions will now be exempted from NEPA review under the White House Council on Environmental Quality's recently finalized phase 2 NEPA implementing rule.

"In addition to fire prevention projects taking a long time, post-fire rehabilitation is almost even more frustrating because its so painfully obvious the work needs to get done," said Erin Huston, with the California Farm Bureau Federation, who closely monitors these matters.

DOE says it expects to use the CEs for actions that would enhance the safety and reliability of transmission operations including its Power Marketing Administration.

DOE worked with the Forest Service to identify the CEs that it could adopt, starting last September and continuing through June.

**CORRESPONDENCE LIST****AUGUST 2024**

1. July 12, 2024 – Notice received from the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District for the Santa Barbara County Drought Resilience Plan Meetings scheduled for July 15, 16 & 18, 2024
2. July 12, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the Regular Board Meeting on July 17, 2024
3. July 16, 2024 – Letter received from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors regarding 2024 Conflict of Interest Biennial Review Notice
4. July 17, 2024 – Public Records Act Request received from E. Tianero - Terracon
5. July 17, 2024 – Letter from District to Terracon regarding response to Public Records Act Request
6. July 18, 2024 – Letter from Santa Barbara County Elections Division regarding notice of School and Special District List of Offices to be Filled – Candidate filing period opened July 15, 2024 – August 9, 2024
7. July 18, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the Regular Board Meeting on July 22, 2024
8. July 19, 2024 – Revised Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 137-610-002
9. July 22, 2024 – Letter received from Santa Barbara County Fire Department regarding APN 141-330-053
10. July 23, 2024 – Superseding Water Service Requirements Letter sent for APN 141-350-003
11. July 24, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the Technical Subcommittee Meeting on July 30, 2024
12. July 24, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the Project Management Subcommittee on July 31, 2024
13. July 25, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the Community Interface Committee Meeting on August 7, 2024
14. July 25, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the Wastewater Committee Meeting on July 31, 2024
15. July 25, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the Finance Committee Meeting on July 31, 2024
16. July 25, 2024 – Notice of Cancellation for the August 22, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting received from the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Announcement of August 29, 2024 Special Meeting Board of Directors Meeting
17. July 26, 2024 – Water Service Requirements Letter sent for APN 141-060-054

18. July 26, 2024 – Can and Will Serve Letter sent for APN 137-610-002
19. July 26, 2024 – Can and Will Serve Letter sent for APN 141-350-003
20. July 30, 2024 – Notice of Cancellation for the August 22, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting received from the Central Coast Water Authority
21. August 1, 2024 – Water Service Requirements Letter sent for APN 135-250-045
22. August 6, 2024 – Letter received from Santa Barbara Office of the Auditor Controller regarding Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget
23. August 6, 2024 – Notice of “Collection Approaches Workshop” to be held on August 21, 2024 received from the Los Olivos Community Services District
24. August 6, 2024 – Can and Will Serve Letter sent for APN 141-060-054
25. August 6, 2024 – Can and Will Serve Letter sent for APN 135-250-045
26. August 6, 2024 – Letter sent to District customer regarding billing information for APN 143-400-007
27. August 7, 2024 – Letter received from Santa Barbara County Fire Department regarding Fire Department Requirements for APN 141-460-004
28. August 8, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the Regular Meeting on August 14, 2024
29. August 13, 2024 – Upcoming Meetings Notice received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting and the August 21, 2024 Wastewater Collection Workshop