

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, December 17, 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. All submittals should indicate **“December 17, 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 NOVEMBER 19, 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. Board of Trustees Designations
 - a) Certified Appointments In Lieu of Election
 - b) Selection of Officers of the Board – President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary
 - c) Appointment of Representatives to Participating Agencies and Organizations – CCWA, EMA GSA, and ACWA
 - d) Appointment of Board Committees
 2. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
 - a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses
 - b) Approval of Accounts Payable
 3. Amendment to Rules & Regulations and Capital Facilities Charges
 - a) Resolution No. 848: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Approving the Automatic Annual Adjustments to the Capital Facilities Charges and Meter Installation Fees Contained in Appendix “C” and Appendix “D” of the District’s Rules and Regulations

4. District Land and Air Space
 - b) Resolution No. 849: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Concerning Inventory of District Land and Air Space
5. Madera Street Yard Fence Replacement
 - a) Consideration and Award of Bid

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update
2. Temporary Water Service - CalTrans Highway 154 Roundabout Project

9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

B. STATE WATER PROJECT - WATER SUPPLY ISSUES OVERVIEW

1. Presentation by Chandra Chilmakuri, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant General Manager - State Water Contractors

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 **January 21, 2025 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 - 2 Cases]

1. 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
2. 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.B

16. ADJOURNMENT

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
NOVEMBER 19, 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, November 19, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

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

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Racel Cota Karen King
 Dan Drugan Gary Kvistad John Britton

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted a 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. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024:

The Regular Meeting minutes from October 15, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the October 15, 2024 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda report was provided in the Board packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of October.

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

1 8. MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING
2 SUBJECTS:

3 A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
4

5 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

- 6 a) The draft audited Financial Statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023
7 were included in the Board packet.
8

9 Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. John Britton from Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP for the
10 presentation of the District's draft audited Financial Statements for the years ended
11 June 30, 2024 and 2023.
12

13 Mr. Britton reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of Financial Statements for fiscal
14 years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 that included the Independent Auditor's Report,
15 Required Communications, Significant Estimates in the Financial Statements,
16 Overview of Significant Changes from Prior Year, Standards Implemented During the
17 Year, and Future Standards to be Evaluated for Implementation. Mr. Britton presented
18 the District's Total Assets & Deferred Outflows, Total Liabilities & Deferred Inflows
19 and Total Net Position, Balance Sheet Comparison, and the Revenue and Expense
20 Comparison. He reported that the District's financials conform to required Generally
21 Accepted Accounting Principles and the State Controller's Minimum Audit
22 Requirements for California Special Districts. He explained that the District's audit
23 resulted in no disagreements with Management relating to the financials and
24 presented the Independent Auditor's Report with an Unmodified (Clean) Opinion as
25 the Financial Statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position
26 of the District and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows for the
27 years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.
28

29 The Board thanked Mr. Britton for his presentation. Mr. Garcia thanked the entire
30 team at Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf for their assistance and expertise with the audit.
31

32 Mr. Garcia recommended acceptance and approval of the Financial Statements for
33 fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 as presented and authorization for
34 Management to post and submit the final version of the Financial Statements to the
35 State Controller's Office and the County of Santa Barbara.
36

37 It was MOVED by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a
38 unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve and accept the Financial Statements for fiscal
39 years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 as presented by Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP and
40 authorize Management to execute the final documentation and distribute to the
41 appropriate governmental agencies.
42

43 b) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements - Revenues and Expenses

44 Ms. Cota announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via
45 email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the
46 District's website.
47

48 Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of October.
49 She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that
50 occurred during the month and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of
51 Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot for the first quarter
52 of the fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$725,334.51 and
53 the year-to-date October 2024 net income was \$2,169,977.81.

1 2. Approval of Accounts Payable

2 Ms. Cota announced that the Warrant List was provided to the Board via email earlier in
3 the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the District's website.
4

5 The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 26192 through 26257 in the
6 amount of \$662,162.52.
7

8 It was MOVED by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a
9 unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for October 15, 2024 through
10 November 19, 2024.
11

12 **B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

13 Mr. Dan Drugan provided a report on current operational activities. He reported that as of
14 the end of October the District's distribution system has transferred over from state water to
15 local groundwater and river supplies. He reported that staff have been working with PG&E
16 and Smith Electric to coordinate the replacement of the motor control center at the
17 Meadowlark booster pump station. Mr. Drugan reported that the field staff performed
18 routine testing of the manual transfer switches at several locations which allow certain wells
19 and pump stations to be operated by generators in the event of a power outage. He reported
20 that a request for bids was issued in late October for new fencing at the District Madera Street
21 vehicle yard, and that bid results will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.
22

23 9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:
24

25 **A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

26 1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

27 The Board packet included notice of the October 24, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of
28 Directors for the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency; a November 18, 2024
29 Department of Water Resources (DWR) article titled "The Road to Sustainability: SGMA
30 10-Year Anniversary Event"; and a Valley Ag Voice article titled "Recent Developments
31 Intensify California's Groundwater Management Landscape."
32

33 Trustee Joos provided an overview of topics discussed at the October 24, 2024 Special
34 Meeting of the EMA GSA, including the approval of an Agricultural Director and
35 Alternate Agricultural Director for the EMA GSA, approval of a contract services
36 agreement with GSI for the preparation of the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report, and
37 information regarding Executive Order N-3-24 and the County of Santa Barbara rescission
38 of Emergency Ordinance 51158 (Well Verifications).
39

40 Mr. Garcia briefly discussed DWR's SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event regarding the
41 Road to Sustainability and the topics discussed by the hosted panels. Mr. Garcia
42 mentioned that there will be a recorded webinar available, if the Board is interested. The
43 Board briefly discussed the Valley Ag Voice article regarding current activities such as the
44 Tule Subbasin being placed on probation by the State Water Resources Control Board.
45

46 **B. STATE WATER PROJECT**

47 1. Informational Update on SWP Operations and Deliveries

48 The Board packet included a November 5, 2024 DWR Letter to All State Water Project
49 Contractors; a November 4, 2024 DWR Announcement regarding "New Operating Permit
50 Issued for California's State Water Project to Preserve Water Supply while Protecting
51 Endangered Species"; an Association of California Water Agencies news article titled
52 "New Incidental Take Permit Issued for State Water Project"; excerpts from DWR's 2023

1 State Water Project Delivery Capability Report; and current news articles relating to state
2 water.

3
4 Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the Board packet materials relating to State Water
5 Project operations and deliveries.
6

7 **C. AMENDMENT TO RULES & REGULATIONS AND CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES**

- 8 1. Draft Resolution No. XXX: The Board packet included a draft Resolution of the Board of
9 Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1
10 Approving the Automatic Annual Adjustments to the Capital Facilities Charges and
11 Meter Installation Charges Contained in Appendix "C" and Appendix "D" of the
12 District's Rules and Regulations
13

14 Mr. Garcia explained that the draft Resolution is being provided for advance review by the
15 Board because adjustments to the District's Capital Facilities Charges and meter installation
16 charges are implemented through amendments to Appendix "C" and Appendix "D" of the
17 District's Rules and Regulations. He explained that the Board must be provided with at
18 least 20 days' advance written notice of any proposed amendments or changes to the Rules
19 and Regulations. Mr. Garcia explained the process by which the charges are prepared. He
20 stated that no action was required at this time and a final resolution would be presented for
21 consideration and action at the December 17, 2024 Board meeting. Mr. Garcia noted that
22 the automatic adjustments are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2025.
23

24 **10. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS,**
25 **ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS**
26 **NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION:**
27

28 Trustee Burchardi provided a summary of topics discussed at the Los Olivos Community Services
29 District meeting held on November 13, 2024.
30

31 President Clay reported on the October 24, 2024 Central Coast Water Authority Board of Directors
32 meeting and the presentation by Mr. Chandra Chilmakuri, Assistant General Manager of the State
33 Water Contractors.
34

35 The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing for the month of
36 November 2024.
37

38 **11. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS:**

39 The Correspondence List was received by the Board.
40

41 **12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**

42 There were no requests from the Board.
43

44 **13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

45 President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for
46 December 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
47

48 **14. CLOSED SESSION:**

49 The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:29 p.m.
50

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

52 [Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 2 Cases]
53

- 1 1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources
2 Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of
3 Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests
4
5 2. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood
6 Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court
7 Case No. 21CV02432
8

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

10 [Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of
11 Litigation By the Agency – One Matter]
12

13 **15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

14 [Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]
15

16 **A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 14.A – 14.B**

17
18 The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 4:51 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced
19 that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A through 14.B.
20 He reported that there was no reportable action regarding any of the closed session Agenda
21 items.
22

23 **16. ADJOURNMENT:**

24 Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and
25 carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:51 p.m.
26

27 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**
28

29
30
31
32 _____
33 Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board
34

35
36 **ATTEST:**

37 _____
38 Jeff Clay, President
39

40
41
42 **MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

43
44
45
46 _____
47 Karen King, Board Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
December 17, 2024

Agenda Item 7

Consent Agenda Report

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. Total water production in **November 2024 (228 AF)** was 104 AF lower than total production in **October 2024 (332 AF)**, 12 AF higher than the most recent 3-year running average (2021-2023) for the month of November (216 AF), and 40 AF lower than the most recent 10-year running average (2014-2023) for the month of **November (268 AF)**. Overall production in November 2024 was the third lowest for the month of November over the last 10 years; the lowest November production over the last ten years was 192 AF in 2022; the highest November production in the last ten years was 360 AF in 2019. 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 **November 2024, approximately 111 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells and **117 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from CCWA, the District did not request or take any SWP supplies for the month. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **1.76 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Lake Cachuma in November (ending November 30, 2024) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **746.67'** with the end of month storage of **174,290 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the lake of **0.5 inches** for the month. SWP deliveries to the reservoir for South Coast entities were **101 AF**. Reported reservoir evaporation in **November** was **536.9 AF**.

Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **December 9, 2024** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **89.8%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **173,208 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. 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.** ID No.1 currently holds approximately 4,086 AF of contractual Project supplies in the reservoir, including approximately 1,435 AF of carryover and 2,651 AF of current year allocation.

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 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 2019-0148; 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, in 2023 DWR declared a 100 percent SWP Table A allocation 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 took a conservative approach and limited the final Table A allocation to 40 percent. DWR's rationale for its allocation 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.

By notice to SWP Contractors dated December 2, 2024 (enclosed), DWR has issued an initial 2025 SWP Table A allocation of 5 percent (5%). As reported last month, despite major California reservoirs entering the new water year with slightly above-average storage levels, precipitation in key SWP watersheds is off to a below-average start for this time of year, where October and November were particularly dry. These hydrologic conditions were a determinative factor in DWR's initial 5 percent allocation.

As reflected in the Agendas for the October 10, 2024 Regular Meeting of the CCWA Operating Committee and October 24, 2024 Regular 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; water transfers by CCWA member agencies; CCWA water quality; infrastructure maintenance; and various financial matters. 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. CCWA did not schedule Board meetings for November or December, and its next Regular Meeting is currently set for January 23, 2025.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Historical Archive and Report Database

Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 12/10/2024

November 2024

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE ACRE-FEET		COMPUTED*	CCWA	PRECIP ON		RELEASE - AF.				EVAPORATION		PRECIP
		IN LAKE	CHANGE	INFLOW AF.	INFLOW AF.	RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH	INCHES	
	747.58	176,936												
1	747.53	176,791	-145	-30.1	0.0	0.0	59.7	13.4	26.0	0.0	15.8	0.090	0.00	
2	747.49	176,674	-117	2.6	0.0	2.4	61.7	13.5	24.0	0.0	22.8	0.130	0.01	
3	747.44	176,529	-145	-84.1	0.0	12.1	33.5	14.0	25.0	0.0	0.5	0.003	0.05	
4	747.43	176,500	-29	79.6	0.0	0.0	32.6	13.5	24.0	0.0	38.5	0.220	0.00	
5	747.39	176,384	-116	-9.2	0.0	0.0	46.7	13.4	24.0	0.0	22.7	0.130	0.00	
6	747.35	176,267	-117	-14.2	0.0	0.0	47.2	13.4	23.0	0.0	19.2	0.110	0.00	
7	747.31	176,151	-116	-12.1	0.0	0.0	47.2	13.5	24.0	0.0	19.2	0.110	0.00	
8	747.28	176,064	-87	28.6	0.0	0.0	48.4	13.5	24.0	0.0	29.7	0.170	0.00	
9	747.23	175,918	-146	-43.1	0.0	0.0	46.8	13.4	20.0	0.0	22.7	0.130	0.00	
10	747.20	175,831	-87	0.9	0.0	0.0	46.4	14.5	20.0	0.0	7.0	0.040	0.00	
11	747.16	175,715	-116	1.0	0.0	0.0	41.7	13.5	20.0	0.0	41.8	0.240	0.00	
12	747.13	175,628	-87	13.3	0.0	0.0	49.4	13.5	20.0	0.0	17.4	0.100	0.00	
13	747.08	175,453	-175	-80.1	0.0	0.0	40.5	13.5	20.0	0.0	20.9	0.120	0.00	
14	747.05	175,395	-58	55.7	0.0	0.0	51.0	13.5	30.0	0.0	19.2	0.110	0.00	
15	747.00	175,250	-145	-45.5	0.0	0.0	52.1	13.5	20.0	0.0	13.9	0.080	0.00	
16	746.98	175,192	-58	46.4	0.0	0.0	53.5	13.5	20.0	0.0	17.4	0.100	0.00	
17	746.95	175,104	-88	-11.6	22.9	0.0	50.9	13.5	21.0	0.0	13.9	0.080	0.00	
18	746.92	175,017	-87	-23.6	37.0	0.0	51.3	13.5	20.0	0.0	15.6	0.090	0.00	
19	746.88	174,901	-116	-28.5	23.4	0.0	51.6	13.5	18.0	0.0	27.8	0.160	0.00	
20	746.85	174,814	-87	-1.4	12.1	0.0	52.3	13.5	18.0	0.0	13.9	0.080	0.00	
21	746.81	174,697	-117	-25.3	5.6	0.0	51.9	13.8	16.0	0.0	15.6	0.090	0.00	
22	746.79	174,639	-58	36.1	0.0	0.0	52.5	13.4	16.0	0.0	12.2	0.070	0.00	
23	746.77	174,581	-58	15.6	0.0	21.7	50.3	13.4	16.0	0.0	15.6	0.090	0.09	
24	746.75	174,523	-58	47.6	0.0	12.1	53.5	13.5	16.0	0.0	34.7	0.200	0.05	
25	746.73	174,465	-58	4.6	0.0	14.5	30.3	13.5	16.0	0.0	17.3	0.100	0.06	
26	746.71	174,407	-58	-15.9	0.0	21.7	30.2	13.4	15.0	0.0	5.2	0.030	0.09	
27	746.70	174,377	-30	-3.7	0.0	33.7	30.5	13.5	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.14	
28	746.70	174,377	0	67.4	0.0	2.4	25.8	13.4	15.0	0.0	15.6	0.090	0.01	
29	746.68	174,319	-58	8.3	0.0	0.0	24.8	13.4	16.0	0.0	12.1	0.070	0.00	
30	746.67	174,290	-29	33.8	0.0	0.0	24.7	13.4	16.0	0.0	8.7	0.050	0.00	
TOTALS			-2,646	13.1	101.0	120.6	1,339.0	405.8	599.0	0.0	536.9	3.083	0.50	
AVERAGE		175,342												

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: 12/9/2024

Water Year: 2025

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	0.35	12%	2%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	332	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	14%	2%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	208	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	19%	3%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	436	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	45%	9%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	421	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	42%	8%	10.5
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	230	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	6%	1%	11.1
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Cameros)	440	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71	21%	4%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	439	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	26%	5%	10.9
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	204	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.02	38%	7%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	212	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	16%	3%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	234	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	16%	3%	
Santa Maria (City Pub. Works)	380	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65	66%	12%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	218	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	15%	3%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	256	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	36%	7%	

Countywide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : **27%**

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : **5%**

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall calculated assuming no more rain through Aug. 31, 2025 (End of WY2025).

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)
<u>Gibraltar Reservoir</u>	1,400.00	1,378.24	4,693	904	19.3%	-56	-2,331
<u>Cachuma Reservoir</u>	753.**	746.44	192,978	173,208	89.8%	-610	-11,517
<u>Jameson Reservoir</u>	2,224.00	2,220.70	4,848	4,447	91.7%	-31	-330
<u>Twitchell Reservoir</u>	651.50	NA	194,971	NA		NA	NA

CIMIS Daily Report

Rendered in ENGLISH Units.

Friday, November 1, 2024 - Sunday, December 1, 2024

Printed on Monday, December 2, 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)
11/1/2024	0.09	0.00	335	8.3	75.3	31.7	49.2	99	30	70	39.8	1.9	46.1	69.4
11/2/2024	0.07	0.05	268	11.1	68.3	36.3	51.7	95	63	85	47.3	2.3	54.2	68.9
11/3/2024	0.12	0.00	371	8.6	73.8	39.7	57.9	97	28	53	40.7	3.9	94.2	68.4
11/4/2024	0.11	0.00	368	7.5	79.1	32.1	51.5	95	21	58	37.2	2.0	46.9	68.1
11/5/2024	0.09	0.00	326	8.1	78.7	30.1	51.4	96	29	63	39.1	1.9	46.4	67.8
11/6/2024	0.10	0.00 H	347 H	6.6 H	78.2	33.4	53.7 H	89 H	21 H	47	33.9	2.0 H	47.5 H	67.4 H
11/7/2024	0.10	0.00	359	5.0	77.6	26.0	46.6	93	14	46	27.1	1.8	43.9	67.1
11/8/2024	0.10	0.00	0	4.9	61.9	31.4	38.7 Y	89	10	62 Y	26.8 Y	1.0 Y	24.4 Y	66.1
11/9/2024	0.10	0.00	351	5.0	80.1	26.0	46.8	87	17	46	27.3	1.8	44.2	66.0
11/10/2024	0.10	0.00	476 R	6.0	81.3	25.6	54.4	90	17	42	31.7	2.1	51.0	65.4
11/11/2024	0.07	0.00	289	9.2	72.9	27.6	49.6	93	43	76	42.3	2.7	64.0	65.2
11/12/2024	0.10	0.00	352	6.4	73.1	29.3	50.7	96	21	51	33.1	2.6	63.1	65.0
11/13/2024	0.09	0.00	0 R	6.5	40.3 R	31.9	35.6 Y	93	16	92 Y	33.5 Y	1.0	24.3	64.5
11/14/2024	0.09	0.00	0 R	11.1	54.6 Y	51.0	53.0	95	38	81	47.4	2.2	53.6	64.1
11/15/2024	0.07	0.00 H	272 H	8.6 H	61.7	32.3	48.6 H	96 H	44 H	74	40.5	3.2 H	77.2 H	64.3 H
11/16/2024	0.09	0.00	334	5.8	65.9	27.2	45.5	97	26	56	30.9	2.9	69.4	64.1
11/17/2024	0.09	0.00	325	5.3	70.7	21.2	44.5	91	19	54	28.7	2.4	57.6	63.4
11/18/2024	0.10	0.00	0 R	5.5	54.3 Y	42.3	49.8	91	30	45	29.4	2.7	65.6	62.8
11/19/2024	0.07	0.00	290	5.4	69.3	26.9	43.8	86	27	55	28.9	1.7	41.2	62.8
11/20/2024	0.09	0.00	329	5.0	71.9	22.4	43.4	92	19	52	27.2	2.4	56.6	62.4
11/21/2024	0.08	0.00	0 R	7.5	53.7 Y	30.0	39.0 Y	95	18	93 Y	37.0 Y	1.1	26.1	61.8
11/22/2024	0.08	0.00	312	8.4	74.9	26.2	47.5	97	29	75	40.0	2.0	47.6	61.8
11/23/2024	0.02	0.05	131	12.7	65.1	40.9	54.6	95	72	88	51.0	2.2	51.8	61.8
11/24/2024	0.06	0.00	250	10.9	66.4	41.4	53.1	96	50	79	46.7	2.0	47.8	62.3
11/25/2024	0.03	0.04	116	11.7	68.3	42.4	55.9	96	48	77	48.7	2.4	57.8	62.6
11/26/2024	0.01	0.12	87	15.8 Y	64.3	55.8 Y	59.1	98	76	92 Y	56.9 Y	2.0	47.8	62.8
11/27/2024	0.06	0.00	244	13.5	70.3	40.3	56.6	98	54	86	52.6	1.6	38.2	63.2
11/28/2024	0.06	0.00	251	9.2	73.5	36.4	49.9	100	34	75	42.4	1.6	37.9	63.3
11/29/2024	0.03	0.00	154	9.3	69.4	38.2	50.5	99	38	74	42.7	1.2	27.8	62.8
11/30/2024	0.05	0.00	202	8.5	73.9	37.2	53.4	97	26	61	40.3	1.3	30.2	62.3
Tots/Avgs	2.32	0.26	238	8.2	69.0	33.8	49.5	94	33	67	38.4	2.1	49.5	64.6

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)
12/1/2024	0.09	0.00	306	7.7	79.7	34.3	55.0	91	13	52	37.8	1.8	44.2	62.2
Tots/Avgs	0.09	0.00	306	7.7	79.7	34.3	55.0	91	13	52	37.8	1.8	44.2	62.2

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

December 4, 2024

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

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro	76
López.....	0
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	18
Santa Maria.....	164
Golden State Water Co.....	0
Vandenberg.....	82
Buellton	12
Solvang	0
Santa Ynez ID#1	0
Bradbury.....	101
TOTAL	453

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 445 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro	74
López	0
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	18
Santa Maria	160*
Golden State Water Co	0*
Vandenberg	80
Buellton	12
Solvang	0
Santa Ynez ID#1	0
Bradbury	101
TOTAL	445

*Golden State Water Company delivered 0 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 0 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 0 acre-feet of exchange water.

The exchange water is allocated as follows

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Exchange Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Goleta	0
Santa Barbara	0
Montecito	0
Carpinteria	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

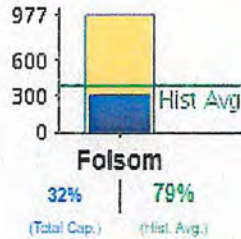
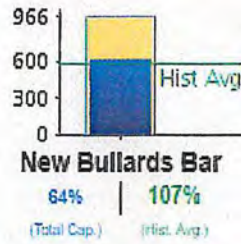
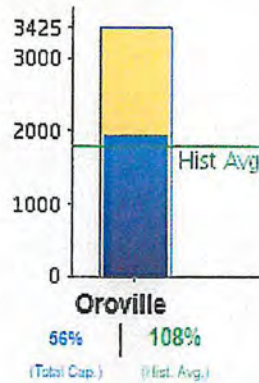
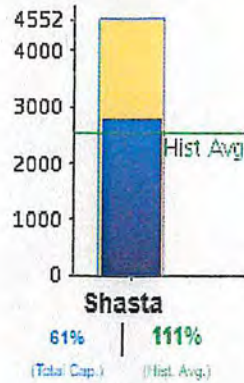
<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	100
Montecito	0
Morehart	1
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	101

cc: Daniel Brooks, 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
Jose Acosta, City of Solvang
Rose Hess, City of Buellton

CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:10-DEC-2024

Data as of Midnight: 10-Dec-2024

Change Date:

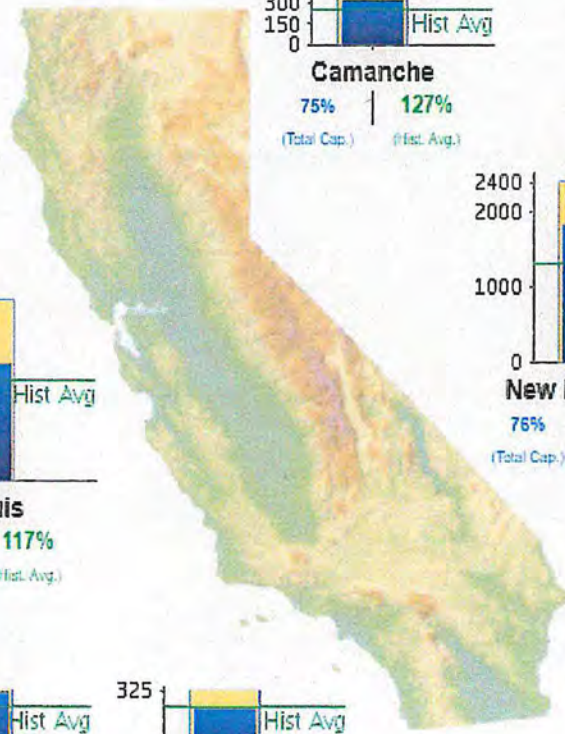
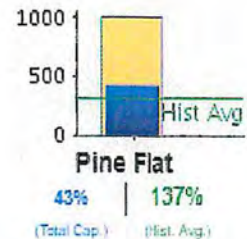
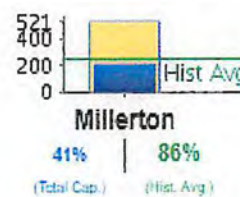
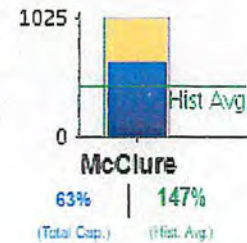
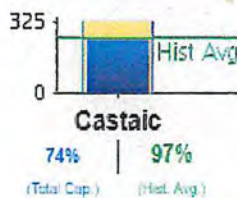
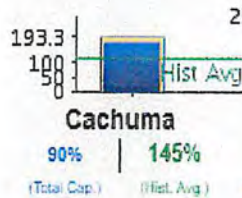
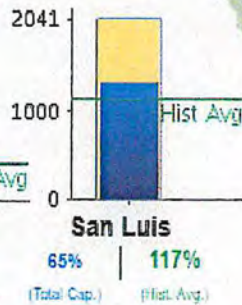
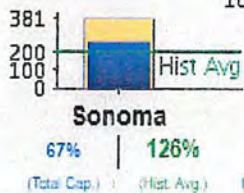
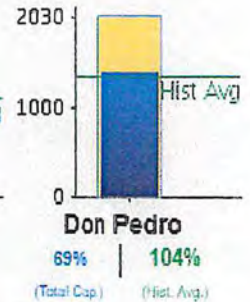
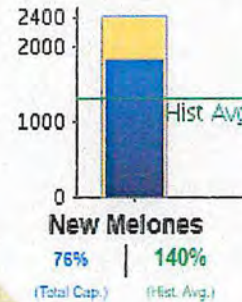
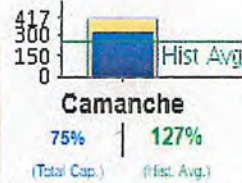
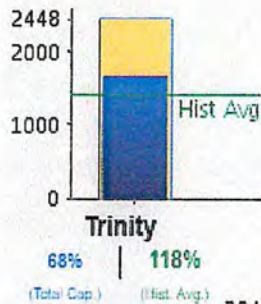


LEGEND

Blue Bar: Storage level for date
 Gold Bar: Total reservoir capacity
 Green Line: Historic level for date.

Capacity (TAF) | Historical Avg Mark

% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.
 (Click res. 3 char. code for details)



[Click for printable version of current data.](#)

Report Generated: 11-Dec-2024 1:53 PM

The CSI link has been disabled to zoom in, for the lack of historical data.

NOTICE TO STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS**Date: December 2, 2024****Number: 24-06****Subject: State Water Project Initial 2025 Allocation of five (5) Percent****From:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Yarbrough", is written over a horizontal line.

**John Yarbrough
Deputy Director, State Water Project
Department of Water Resources**

Water year 2024 closed with above average water supplies in California. Although California reservoirs entered the new water year with average storage amounts, October and early November were largely dry. To make the initial 2025 allocation, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) used the November 1 forecast data, which did not include the wetter conditions that began on November 20, and which forecasted water supplies available if the dry pattern continued through the remainder of the water year. As a result, DWR is initially allocating five (5) percent of most State Water Project (SWP) contractors' requested Maximum Annual Table A Amounts for 2025, as shown in Attachment A – 2025 SWP Allocation. DWR may revise the SWP allocation if water supply conditions change.

To determine the available SWP water supplies, DWR considers factors including SWP contractors' anticipated carryover supplies into 2025, projected 2025 demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, SWP operational and regulatory requirements from the Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority.

To schedule SWP water deliveries under this allocation, DWR will develop the five-percent water delivery schedules by prorating the 10-percent schedules submitted by the contractors in October 2024 (as part of initial requests) or as revised with any subsequent updates. If a contractor foresees any changes to their water delivery schedule, please communicate such changes to DWR in a timely manner.

State of California

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA STATE WATER PROJECT

California Natural Resources Agency

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Molly White, Assistant Division Manager, Water Management, SWP Division of Operations and Maintenance, at Molly.White@water.ca.gov.

Attachment A: 2025 State Water Project Allocation - Initial

Attachment A
2025 STATE WATER PROJECT ALLOCATION
Initial
December 2, 2024

SWP Contractors	Maximum Annual Table A Amount (Acre-Feet)	Approved Table A Allocation (Acre-Feet)	Approved Allocation as a Percentage of Maximum Annual Table A Amount (3) = (2)/(1)
	(1)	(2)	
<u>FEATHER RIVER</u>			
County of Butte	27,500	3,000	~11%
Plumas County FC&WCD	2,700	135	5%
City of Yuba City	9,600	960	10%
Subtotal	39,800	4,095	
<u>NORTH BAY</u>			
Napa County FC&WCD	29,025	2,903	10%
Solano County WA	47,756	4,776	10%
Subtotal	76,781	7,679	
<u>SOUTH BAY</u>			
Alameda County FC&WCD, Zone 7	80,619	4,031	5%
Alameda County WD	42,000	2,100	5%
Santa Clara Valley WD	100,000	5,000	5%
Subtotal	222,619	11,131	
<u>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</u>			
Oak Flat WD	5,700	285	5%
County of Kings	9,305	466	5%
Dudley Ridge WD	41,350	2,068	5%
Empire West Side ID	3,617	181	5%
Kern County WA	982,730	49,137	5%
Tulare Lake Basin WSD	86,854	4,343	5%
Subtotal	1,129,556	56,480	
<u>CENTRAL COASTAL</u>			
San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD	25,000	1,250	5%
Santa Barbara County FC&WCD	45,486	2,275	5%
Subtotal	70,486	3,525	
<u>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</u>			
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	144,844	7,243	5%
Santa Clarita Valley WA	95,200	4,760	5%
Coachella Valley WD	138,350	6,918	5%
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WA	5,800	290	5%
Desert WA	55,750	2,788	5%
Littlerock Creek ID	2,300	115	5%
Metropolitan WDSC	1,911,500	95,575	5%
Mojave WA	89,800	4,490	5%
Palmdale WD	21,300	1,065	5%
San Bernardino Valley MWD	102,600	5,130	5%
San Gabriel Valley MWD	28,800	1,440	5%
San Geronio Pass WA	17,300	865	5%
Ventura County WPD	20,000	1,000	5%
Subtotal	2,633,544	131,679	
TOTAL	4,172,786	214,589	~5%

Paeter Garcia

From: Lisa F. Watkins <lfw@ccwa.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 3:47 PM
Cc: David R. Beard; Lacey S. Adam; Ray Stokes
Subject: State Water Project Initial 2025 Allocation of five (5) Percent (NTC 24-06)
Attachments: NTC_24-06_SWP_2025Alloc_Init_5%_20241202.pdf

Via bcc: CCWA Project Participants

Notice To State Water Project Contractors:

On behalf of John Yarbrough, Deputy Director of the State Water Project, attached is the Notice to State Water Project Contractors **No. 24-06 "State Water Project Initial 2025 Allocation of five (5) Percent."**

Thank you.



Department of Water Resources

The California State Water Project aims to be the most reliable, sustainable, and quality water provider for the people and environment of California, now and for future generations.



Lisa Watkins
Office Manager
Office: 805-697-5219
Email: LFW@ccwa.com
www.ccwa.com

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Central Coast Water Authority

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JOSEPH E. HOLLAND
County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
MICHAEL DALY
Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters



Agenda Item 8 A1a

Mailing Address:
PO Box 61510
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-1510

**COUNTY CLERK, RECORDER AND ASSESSOR
ELECTIONS DIVISION**

November 12, 2024

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1
Attr: Mary Robel
PO Box 157
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Dear District Secretary:

Pursuant to Elections Code §10515, at a regularly scheduled meeting held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors appointed in lieu of election the following qualified candidates to the district's board:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Division/Trustee Area</u> (if applicable)	<u>Term</u>	<u>Term Begin –Term End</u>
Mark Moniot	Division 1	4 Year Term	December 6, 2024 to December 1, 2028
Michael Burchardi	Division 4	4 Year Term	December 6, 2024 to December 1, 2028

Enclosed with this letter are the original Certificates of Appointment and Oaths of Office to be completed and returned to the County of Santa Barbara Elections Division. The oaths may be administered by the district's board secretary, a notary public, or by a deputy clerk at the County of Santa Barbara Elections Division Main Office (located at 4440A Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110). Please return the original oaths to the County of Santa Barbara Elections Division as soon as completed (return envelope enclosed) and retain copies for your district's records.

If you have any questions, please call (805) 696-8957 or email candidatefilling@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH E. HOLLAND
County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
Encl.

John Beck
Candidate and Voter Services Lead

**Board of Trustees Officers
Appointments of Representatives to Agencies/Organizations and District Ad Hoc
Committees**

Officers	Current
President of the Board	Jeff Clay
Vice President	Mike Burchardi
Treasurer	Racel Cota
Secretary	Racel Cota

Agencies/Organizations	Current
Central Coast Water Authority	
Director/Alternate	Jeff Clay and Nick Urton
Association of California Water Agencies/JPIA	
Director/Alternate	Jeff Clay and Paeter Garcia
Ad Hoc Committees	
	Primary and Alternate
Solvang	Jeff Clay and Brad Joos
Water Rates	Mike Burchardi and Brad Joos
COMB	Mike Burchardi and Brad Joos
SGMA – EMA	Brad Joos and Mike Burchardi
Cachuma Contract	Mike Burchardi and Nick Urton
Los Olivos CSD	Mike Burchardi and Jeff Clay

Effective 2024



Date: December 17, 2024

To: Board of Trustees

From: Paeter E. Garcia
General Manager

Subject: Amendment to the District Rules and Regulations – Resolution No. 848 for the Automatic Annual Adjustments to Capital Facilities and Meter Installation Charges Under Appendix “C” and Appendix “D” of the District’s Rules and Regulations

Agenda: Item 8.A.3

STAFF REPORT

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

As previewed during the Board of Trustees meeting on November 17, 2024 the District’s capital facilities charges relating to new water service connections and meter installations are a critical element of the District’s overall financing plan. The District, along with the vast majority of water agencies throughout California, requires new water users or those requesting new or expanded levels of service to pay the costs of facilities needed to serve them. The alternative to collecting capital facilities charges from new development and expanded water uses would be imposing higher charges and fees on current/pre-existing water users to pay for new development, which is not equitable. Revenues from capital facilities charges are available to and used by the District to pay for new facilities and the proportionate costs of improvements, expansions, and maintenance needed to serve and otherwise accommodate new and expanded water uses within the District’s system.

In accordance with state law, specifically Government Code section 66000 et seq., a reasonable relationship must exist between the amount of an agency’s capital facilities charges and the costs of the associated public facilities used to provide the service. On October 19, 1993, the Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 422 adopting and establishing the District’s installation and capital facilities charges, and establishing that on January 1st of each new year, the capital facilities charges shall be automatically adjusted by an incremental change based on the *Engineering News Record (ENR) Construction Cost Index* (20 cities average) using a base index number of 5167.

In addition to District Resolution No. 422, the automatic annual adjustments to the District’s capital facilities charges relating to water service connections and meters are established by Section 603 and Section 709 of the District’s Rules and Regulations, as follows:

Section 603. Installation and Capital Facilities Charges. Size, location, and type of meter and service connections shall be regulated by the District and installation and capital facilities connection charges shall be imposed on all applicants for water service not involving a main extension in accordance with the schedule attached to these Rules and Regulations as Appendix C. The minimum meter size permitted shall be based on the size of the lot to be served. ... All capital facilities charges to pay the costs of facilities required to provide and maintain water service within the District's service area and all service connection and meter installation charges shall be paid in advance, prior to installation of the service connection and meter. ... In cases where an applicant requests or there is otherwise a requirement for an increase in meter size, the District shall collect a capital facilities charge and meter installation charge equal to the difference between (a) the capital facilities charge and meter installation charge for the existing meter and (b) the capital facilities charge and meter installation charge for the new, larger meter. ... Each year on January 1, the capital facilities charges shall be automatically adjusted by an increment based on the change in the ENR Construction Cost Index (20 cities average) from the base of 5167.

Section 709. Meters. At the time of application for water service from a main extension to which service connections have been previously installed, the applicant shall pay to the District a fee to cover the capital facilities charge or connection charge and the cost of installation of one or more meters and control valves on the service connection. The fees specified in the attached schedule, which shall be attached to these Rules and Regulations as Appendix D, are for the minimum meter size permitted based on the size of the lot to be served. ... All capital facilities charges to pay the costs of facilities required to provide and maintain water service within the District's service area and all service connection and meter installation charges shall be paid in advance, prior to installation of the service connection and meter. ... In cases where an applicant requests or there is otherwise a requirement for an increase in meter size, the District shall collect a capital facilities charge and meter installation charge equal to the difference between (a) the capital facilities charge and meter installation charge for the existing meter and (b) the capital facilities charge and meter installation charge for the new, larger meter. ... Each year on January 1, the capital facilities charges shall be automatically adjusted by an increment based on the change in the ENR Construction Cost Index (20 cities average) from the base of 5167.

In accordance with District Resolution No. 422 and Sections 603 and 709 of the District's Rules and Regulations, District staff reviewed the ENR Construction Cost Index, which is 13,632 as of this meeting, and based thereon calculated automatic adjustments to Appendix "C" and Appendix "D" of the District's Rules and Regulations relating to capital facilities and meter installation charges, effective January 1, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to the foregoing, staff recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 848 as presented.

Capital Facilities and Meter Installation Charges Comparison Between Years 2024 and 2025

District Rules and Regulations
Appendix "C" and Appendix "D"

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>2024 Charges</u>	<u>2025 Charges</u>	<u>\$\$\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
5/8"	5,452.44	\$5,556.30	\$103.86	1.90%
3/4"	\$6,463.92	\$6,577.48	\$113.56	1.76%
1"	\$10,527.08	\$10,683.75	\$156.67	1.49%
1 1/2"	\$20,722.69	\$21,069.02	\$346.33	1.67%
2"	\$32,787.18	\$33,124.92	\$337.74	1.03%
3"	\$66,341.95	\$67,393.07	\$1,051.12	1.58%
4"	\$92,388.29	\$93,775.66	\$1,387.37	1.50%

RESOLUTION NO. 848

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
APPROVING THE AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES
AND METER INSTALLATION CHARGES CONTAINED IN APPENDIX "C" AND APPENDIX "D"
OF THE DISTRICT'S RULES AND REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 ("District"), is empowered to prescribe, revise, and collect charges and costs for services and facilities funded by the District; and

WHEREAS, a capital facilities charge is a critical component of the District's overall financing plan; and

WHEREAS, State law (Government Code § 66000 et seq.) requires that a reasonable relationship exist between the amount of a capital facilities charge and the costs of associated public facilities; and

WHEREAS, the District and the vast majority of water agencies throughout California require that new water users and those requesting new or expanded levels of service pay the costs of facilities needed to serve them; and

WHEREAS, the alternative to collecting charges and costs from new development and water users requesting new or expanded levels of service would be raising charges and costs paid by current water users, which is not equitable; and

WHEREAS, revenues from capital facilities charges are available to and used by the District to pay for new facilities and the proportionate costs of system improvements and expansions needed to serve and otherwise accommodate new and expanded water uses within the District's system; and

WHEREAS, capital facilities and meter installation charges are collected during the period when a new use or expanded level of use or service is requested from the District; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 1993, the District Board approved Resolution No. 422 adopting and establishing the capital facilities and meter installation charges and provided that each year on January 1, the capital facilities charges shall be automatically adjusted by an increment based on the change in the Engineering News Record (ENR) Construction Cost Index (20 cities average) from a base index of 5167; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 603 and Section 709 of the District's Rules and Regulations, the District's capital facilities and installation charges relating to water service connections and meters shall be automatically adjusted each year on January 1 by an increment based on the change in the ENR Construction Cost Index; and

WHEREAS, the ENR Construction Cost Index is 13,632 as of this date.

THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, as follows:

1. That APPENDIX "C" Installation and Capital Facilities Charges Pursuant to Article 6, Section 603 of the District's Rules and Regulations, as attached hereto and approved herein, be attached to the District's Rules and Regulations, effective on January 1, 2025; and,
2. That APPENDIX "D" Capital Facilities Charges and Meter Installation Charges for Services from Main Extensions Pursuant to Article 7, Section 709 of the District's Rules and Regulations, as attached hereto and approved herein, be attached to the District's Rules and Regulations, effective on January 1, 2025.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified and acting President and Secretary respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was adopted and passed by the Board of Trustees at a Regular Meeting of the District held on the 17th day of December 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

Jeff Clay, President

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

APPENDIX "C"

**INSTALLATION AND CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6, SECTION 603**

(Effective January 1, 2025)

<u>Lot Size</u>	<u>Minimum Meter Size</u>	<u>Maximum Flow Rate</u>	<u>Ratio to 5/8" meter (1993 ratios)</u>	<u>Capital Facilities Charge</u>	<u>Installation Charges</u>
10,000 sq. ft.	5/8"	25	1.0	\$ 4,933.50	The meter and service installation charges shall be determined and adjusted by the District from time to time
>10,000 sq. ft. to 1 acre	3/4"	35	1.2	\$ 5,920.20	
>1 to 3 acres	1"	55	2.0	\$ 9,867.00	
>3 to 10 acres	1½ "	125	4.0	\$ 19,734.00	
>10 acres	2"	160	6.4	\$ 31,574.40	
	3"	500	12.8	\$ 63,148.80	
	4"	1,250	18.0	\$ 88,803.00	
	6"	2,000	40.0	\$197,340.00	
	8"	4,000	64.0	\$315,744.00	

For parcels with multiple Domestic or Rural Residential meters, the meter sizes (e.g. 5/8-inch and 1-inch) may be added to result in a combined equivalent size that satisfies the minimum meter size requirements.

APPENDIX "D"

**CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES AND METER INSTALLATION CHARGES
FOR SERVICES FROM MAIN EXTENSIONS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7, SECTION 709**

(Effective January 1, 2025)

<u>Lot Size</u>	<u>Minimum Meter Size</u>	<u>Capital Facilities Charge</u>	<u>Meter Installation Charge</u>	<u>Total</u>
10,000 Sq. Ft.	5/8"	\$4,933.50	\$622.80	\$5,556.30
>10,000 to 1 acre	3/4"	\$5,920.20	\$657.28	\$6,577.48
>1 to 3 acres	1"	\$9,867.00	\$816.75	\$10,683.75
>3 to 10 acres	1-1/2"	\$19,734.00	\$1,335.02	\$21,069.02
> 10 acres	2"	\$31,574.40	\$1,550.52	\$33,124.92
	3"	\$63,148.80	\$4,244.27	\$67,393.07
	4"	\$88,803.00	\$4,972.66	\$93,775.66
	6"	\$197,340.00	\$7,525.26	\$204,865.26
	8"	\$315,744.00	\$11,613.30	\$327,357.30

APPENDIX "D"

**CAPITAL FACILITIES CHARGES AND METER INSTALLATION CHARGES
FOR SERVICES FROM MAIN EXTENSIONS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7, SECTION 709**

(Effective January 1, 2025)

<u>Lot Size</u>	<u>Minimum Meter Size</u>	<u>Capital Facilities Charge</u>	<u>Meter Installation Charge</u>	<u>Total</u>
10,000 Sq. Ft.	5/8"	\$4,933.50	\$622.80	\$5,556.30
>10,000 to 1 acre	3/4"	\$5,920.20	\$657.28	\$6,577.48
>1 to 3 acres	1"	\$9,867.00	\$816.75	\$10,683.75
>3 to 10 acres	1-1/2"	\$19,734.00	\$1,335.02	\$21,069.02
> 10 acres	2"	\$31,574.40	\$1,550.52	\$33,124.92
	3"	\$63,148.80	\$4,244.27	\$67,393.07
	4"	\$88,803.00	\$4,972.66	\$93,775.66
	6"	\$197,340.00	\$7,525.26	\$204,865.26
	8"	\$315,744.00	\$11,613.30	\$327,357.30

RESOLUTION NO. 849

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No.1
CONCERNING DISTRICT LAND AND AIR SPACE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 50569, the District has taken or caused to be taken an inventory of all its lands to determine what land, including air rights, if any, is in excess of its foreseeable needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, as follows:

1. In accordance with the Representative Inventory of District Lands and Air Space attached hereto, the District does not own or control any lands or air space that are in excess of the District's foreseeable needs.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified President and Secretary respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Trustees at a Regular meeting held on the 17th day of December 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

Jeff Clay, President

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1
Representative Inventory of District Lands and Air Space

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purchased/Easement</u>
Zone 1	Gallery Well (River)	Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 1	Meadowlark Booster Pump Station	Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 1	Wells 9, 10, 11, 20, 21, 23	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 1	Wells 8, 19, 22 (Chlorine Station)	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 1	Wells 12, 13, 14, 17, 18	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 1	Mesa Verde Pump Station	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 1	Zone 1 6.5 MG Reservoir	Solvang	Purchased
Zone 2	District Office/Maintenance Shop	3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 2	Office Well - Lot West of District Office	3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 2	District Yard	Madera Street E/of Faraday, Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 2	Zone 2 6.5 MG Reservoir	Ballard	Purchased
Zone 2	Alamo Pintado Booster Pump Station	Ballard	Purchased
Zone 2	Monitoring Well 4/Well 28	Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 2	Well 3	Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 2	Wells 1 and 2	Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 2	Well 27	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 2	Well 15	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 2	Refugio Booster Pump Station 2	Santa Ynez	Easement
Zone 2	Still Meadow Baseline Pressure Station	Santa Ynez	Purchased
Zone 3	Zone 3 - 0.5 MG Reservoir	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Zone 3 - 3.2 MG Reservoir	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Zone 3 - Reservoir Area	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Zone 3 - Reservoir Area	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Well 24	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Wells 5 and 5A	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Well 6	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Well 7	Los Olivos	Purchased
Zone 3	Well 25	Los Olivos	Easement
Zone 3	Refugio Booster Pump Station 3	Santa Ynez	Right of Way



To: Board of Trustees
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

From: Paeter Garcia, General Manager
Dan Drugan, Water Resources Manager

Date: December 17, 2024

Subject: Recommendation for Bid Award for Madera Yard Fencing Project

Agenda: Item 8.A.5

STAFF REPORT

As part of the District's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget process, District staff recommended, and the Board of Trustees approved, a capital improvement project to purchase and install iron fencing with a mechanically operated gate around the perimeter of the District's Madera Street equipment and storage yard (Madera Yard). The Madera Yard houses a variety of the District's critical assets, including but not limited to District fleet (service trucks, dump trucks, valve truck), large equipment (e.g., mini-excavator, skid steer and mechanical implements, vacuum truck), trailers, water service appurtenances, and various construction materials. Along with security cameras and related devices, the purchase and installation of iron fencing around the Madera Yard is intended to function as a physical barrier, deterring unauthorized individuals from accessing the premises, and mitigating losses due to vandalism and/or theft.

Following the Board's approval of the FY 2024/2025 budget, District staff developed a Request for Bids (RFB) for the Madera Yard fence project. The District released the RFB on October 29, 2024 and responses were required to be submitted to the District by November 15, 2024. The District received two responses to the RFB, which were opened on the response due date. One response was submitted by Harris Steel Fence Co., Inc. for a proposed cost of \$273,000. The other response was submitted by Woodward Fence Inc. for a proposed cost of \$80,290.

Proposals were evaluated by District staff, and staff determined that both responding firms qualified as responsible bidders and that their respective bids were responsive to

the RFB. Notably, the cost proposal of \$80,290 submitted by Woodward Fence Inc. falls comfortably within the budgeted amount of \$84,000 that the District Board approved for this project. Additionally, Woodward Fence Inc. is a locally based company that regularly performs work in the Santa Ynez Valley.

RECOMMENDATION

Award the District's Madera Yard Fence Project (Project) to Woodward Fence Inc. and authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Woodward Fence Inc. in the amount of \$80,290 to complete the Project.

Yard Fence Replacement Project - Bid Summary		
(Bid Date 11/15/24)		
	Harris Steel	Woodward
Description/Contractor	Fence Co., Inc.	Fence Inc.
Total Bid	\$273,000	\$80,290

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No.1

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER
BASIN EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin **Eastern Management Area** Groundwater Sustainability Agency scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024, has been cancelled.

Dated: November 15, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Heimel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Daniel Heimel
Executive Director

**REVISED NOTICE AND REVISED AGENDA OF JOINT SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:**

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
AND
SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
AND
SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.
at Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California

EMA GSA Director Brett Marymee will be attending the meeting via teleconference from the following location:
32001 Railroad Canyon Rd, Canyon Lake, California. Members of the public may join him at that location.

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-900-6833 or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>
"Join a Meeting" - Meeting ID: 819 2652 0437 Meeting Passcode: 650048

*** Please Note ***

The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption of unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued. Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

REVISED AGENDA OF JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Consider Appointment of Moderator to Facilitate Joint GSA Meeting
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committees relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committees' jurisdictions. The total time for all public comments shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committees at this meeting on any public comment item.)
5. Receive presentation of October 2024 Santa Ynez Basin Groundwater Monitoring from Santa Barbara County Water Agency
6. Receive update on Proposition 68 Grant and consider approval of the First Amended and Restated Subgrant Agreement
7. Review and consider approval of ~~Contract Services Agreement~~ of WMA GSA Task Order with Stetson Engineers to prepare Consolidated 2024 Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Annual Report; and Joint Cost Share and Reimbursement Agreement between the EMA, CMA and WMA
8. Receive verbal update on the Above Narrows Alluvium Action Plan

9. Review and Consider Approving Proposed Schedule of Quarterly Joint GSA Meetings for 2025
 - a. Friday, March 7, 2025
 - b. Friday, June 6, 2025
 - c. Friday, September 5, 2025
 - d. Friday, December 5, 2025
10. GSA Board Member Reports and Requests for future Joint GSA Agenda Items
11. EMA Only: Review and consider approval of Contract Services Agreement with Robert Stilts, CPA for EMA GSA Bookkeeping Services
 - a. Adjourn EMA GSA Board Meeting
12. CMA and WMA Only: Discuss and Consider Authorizing Plan Manager to Send Stream Gauge Commitment Letter to CalSIPs'
 - a. Adjourn CMA GSA Board Meeting
13. WMA Only: Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Joint Special Meeting of September 6, 2024
 - a. Adjourn WMA GSA Board Meeting
14. Adjourn Joint Special Meeting

[This agenda was posted 24 hours prior to the scheduled special meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

California reflects on SGMA 10 years later

Posted on December 5, 2024 by Christine Souza, California Farm Bureau

California water officials, local water agencies and farmers have spent the past decade preparing for the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, a historic regulatory framework developed to bring overdrafted aquifers into balance by 2040.

Under SGMA, local groundwater sustainability agencies must submit plans that show how the basins will achieve long-term sustainability by limiting overdraft, land subsidence and impacts to drinking water.

Last March, the California Department of Water Resources rejected groundwater sustainability plans for the following subbasins: Chowchilla, Delta-Mendota, Kaweah, Kern County, Tulare Lake and Tule. The action by the state triggered the state intervention process, allowing the state water board to step in to manage the basin if necessary. Basins are in different stages of the process, but in recent weeks, a meeting to consider whether to place the Kaweah subbasin under probation was canceled, while the Kern subbasin is set to appear before the board Feb. 20.

As SGMA implementation takes shape, state and local water officials, lawmakers, farmers and association leaders commemorated the 10th anniversary of SGMA last week at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento. The daylong event featured panel discussions on the past, present and future of the regulation. The keynote address was delivered by former Gov. Jerry Brown, who in 2014 signed three pieces of legislation known collectively as SGMA after the state experienced a multiyear drought that caused some drinking wells to go dry.

In reflecting on when SGMA was passed, Paul Gosselin, DWR deputy director for sustainable groundwater management, said, "There was a sense at that moment that something really, really big was happening.

"The way SGMA is constructed, and the leadership that we're seeing at the regional and local levels, is a paradigm shift in California," Gosselin said. "It's a recognition that the answers to a lot of our resource challenges are not found in Sacramento or Washington, D.C., but across California, where people actually understand the conditions best."

Brian Lockwood, general manager of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, said his agency's approach includes use of demand management, an agricultural conservation program, optimizing existing water supply facilities and working to build new facilities. Other goals, he said, include tackling seawater intrusion and doing more groundwater recharge.

Fresno County farmer Don Cameron, president of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture and member of the state's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, said it is important that the state be positioned to take advantage of rainfall during wet years for use in dry years.

"We need to be prepared to capture as much (water) as we can and move it onto land and store it for periods when we go through drought," said Cameron, known as a pioneer in on-farm recharge, or flooding agricultural lands with water to help restore the groundwater basin. "In the last 10 years, we had three years of flooding and seven years of drought, and we're seeing more of these extremes as we move forward, so we need to be prepared."

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Valley Voice

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He suggested improvements to the process to increase adoption of using flood flows to recharge groundwater.

"We need to have better monitoring on the rivers and streams that feed these watersheds, and we need to establish parameters that, when we do hit certain levels, we know that we can go ahead and take water," he said.

To improve the permitting process for groundwater recharge, Cameron suggested updates to make it more responsive and simple, and to lower costs.

Many agencies try to increase basin capacity by working on groundwater recharge projects, but Gosselin suggested they also start developing demand management programs to reduce groundwater pumping.

"Every agency should, if they haven't now, start scoping out what a demand management program would look like, even if they don't need to have one immediately in place," he said. "You are going to have land-use changes, changes in water supply, surface-water supply, reliability and other factors, including climate change."

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross said few realize that 60% of farms in the state are fewer than 100 acres, and the vast majority are fewer than 50 acres. She called California farms "vital to local resilient food systems."

"They all contribute to this really healthy, nutrient-dense food that we grow in California that cannot be grown in other states and few other regions in the world," Ross said.

Researchers studying impacts of SGMA say they anticipate the landmark law will result in the fallowing of 500,000 to 1 million acres of farmland.

Geoff Vanden Heuvel, director of regulatory and economic affairs for the Milk Producers Council, expressed concern about a "tremendous reduction" in market value for farmland. He added, "Most farmers have debt, and they rely on that equity in their land to get operating loans to be able to function.

"When you cut those land values by half or more, which is what's happening, suddenly even a farmer that was relatively in good shape with his loan to value ratio is upside down," he said. "That puts an enormous amount of pressure on that farmer to probably liquidate."

Vanden Heuvel reminded state water officials that they have a tremendous responsibility.

"Sometimes, you just have to hear the reality of what's happening out in the field," he said. "The reality is small farmers are in the most vulnerable position to be able to handle the regulation."

Alexandra Biering, California Farm Bureau senior policy advocate, spoke of accomplishments by farmers and local agencies to comply with SGMA and noted there is more work ahead.

"Ten years in, it is remarkable that more than 90% of the high- and medium-priority basins have approved groundwater sustainability plans that are now being implemented," Biering said. "Nonetheless, the land use transition under SGMA is already underway and will be painful for many growers."

She added, "California Farm Bureau will continue to advocate for policies and programs that can help minimize impacts to our agricultural economy and communities."

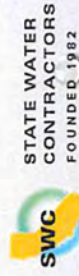
(Christine Souza is an assistant editor of Ag Alert. She may be contacted at csouza@cbf.com.)

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SWP OPERATIONS OVERVIEW



OUTLINE



CA hydrology



SWP system



Regulations



SWP Allocations



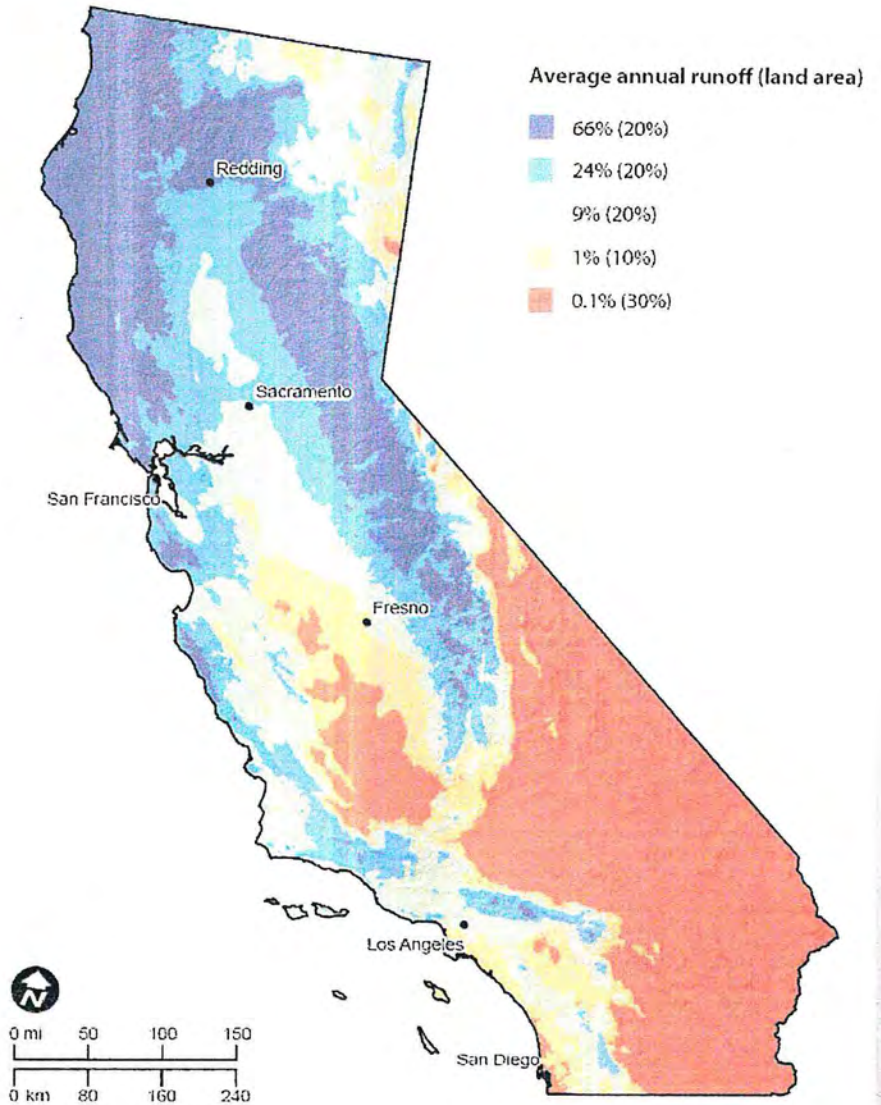
SWP Outlook

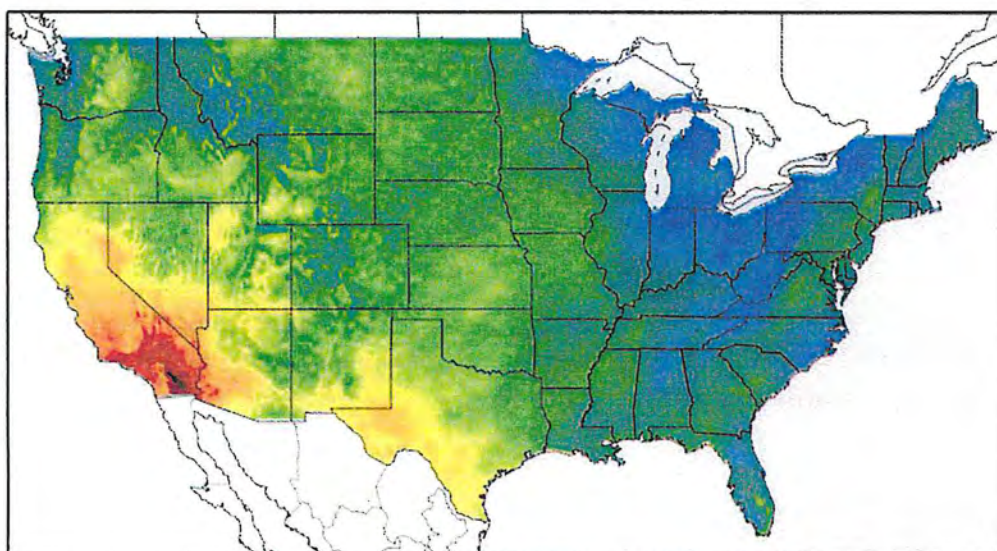
HYDROLOGY



STATE WATER
CONTRACTORS
FOUNDED 1982

MAJORITY OF RUNOFF IN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA





Standard deviation / Mean

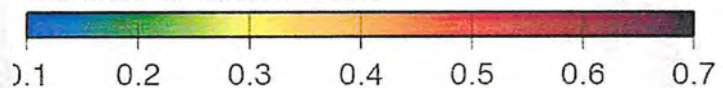


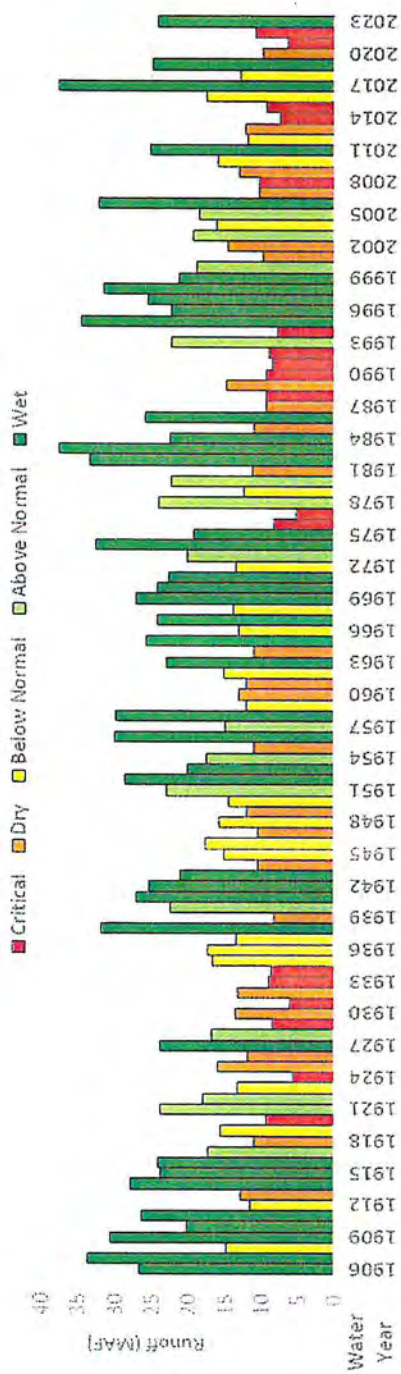
Figure 1 Coefficients of variation (standard deviation divided by mean) of water-year precipitation totals across the conterminous United States, 1945–2015

CALIFORNIA HAS HIGH
PRECIPITATION VARIABILITY
WHEN COMPARED WITH
REST OF CONTINENTAL U.S.

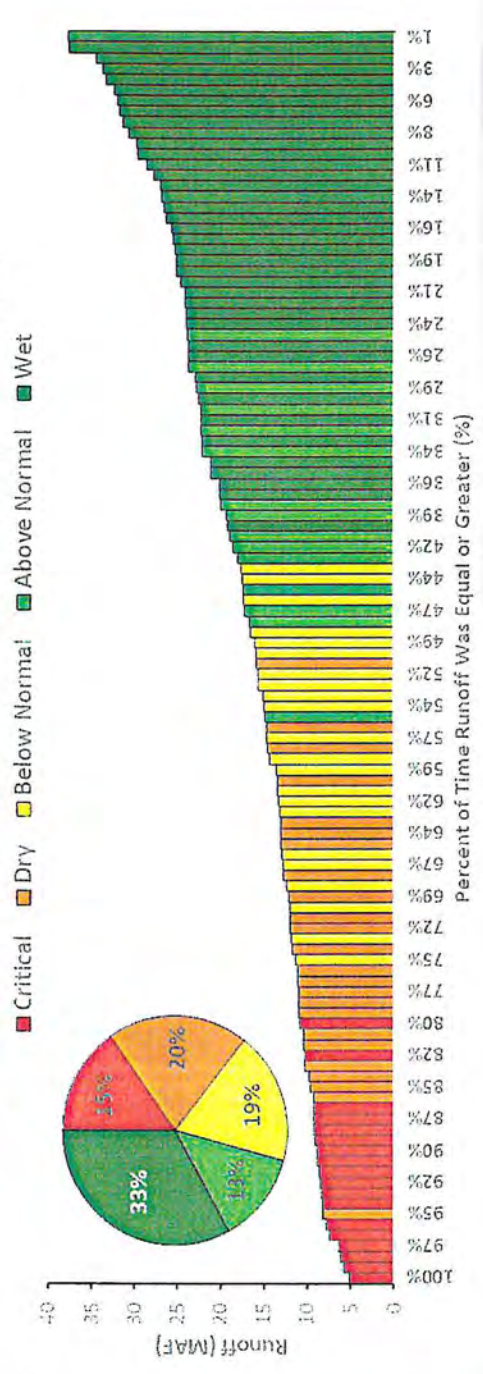
[https://escholarship.org/uc/item/
2r71j15r](https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2r71j15r)

UNCERTAIN AND VARIABLE INTERANNUAL HYDROLOGY

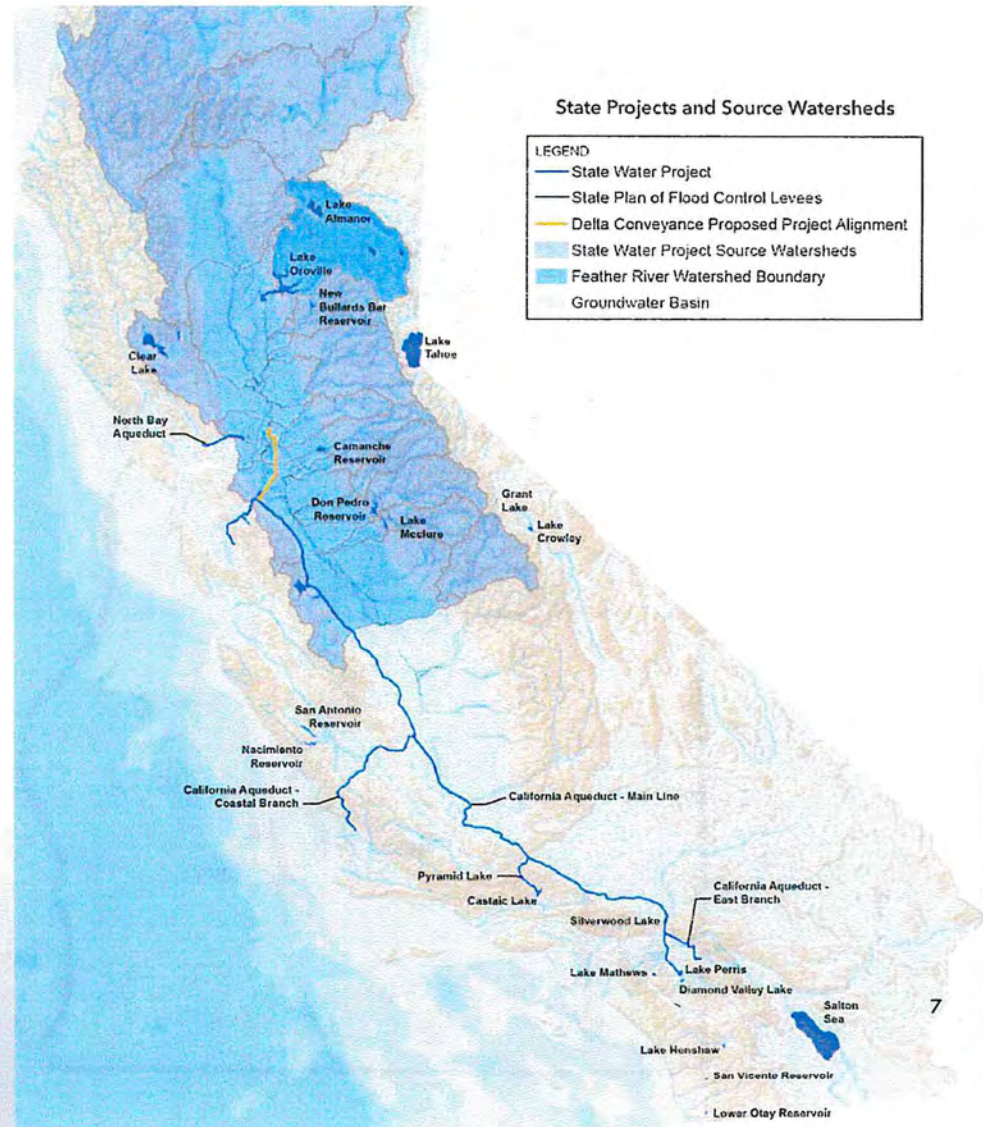
Sacramento Valley Water Year Classifications



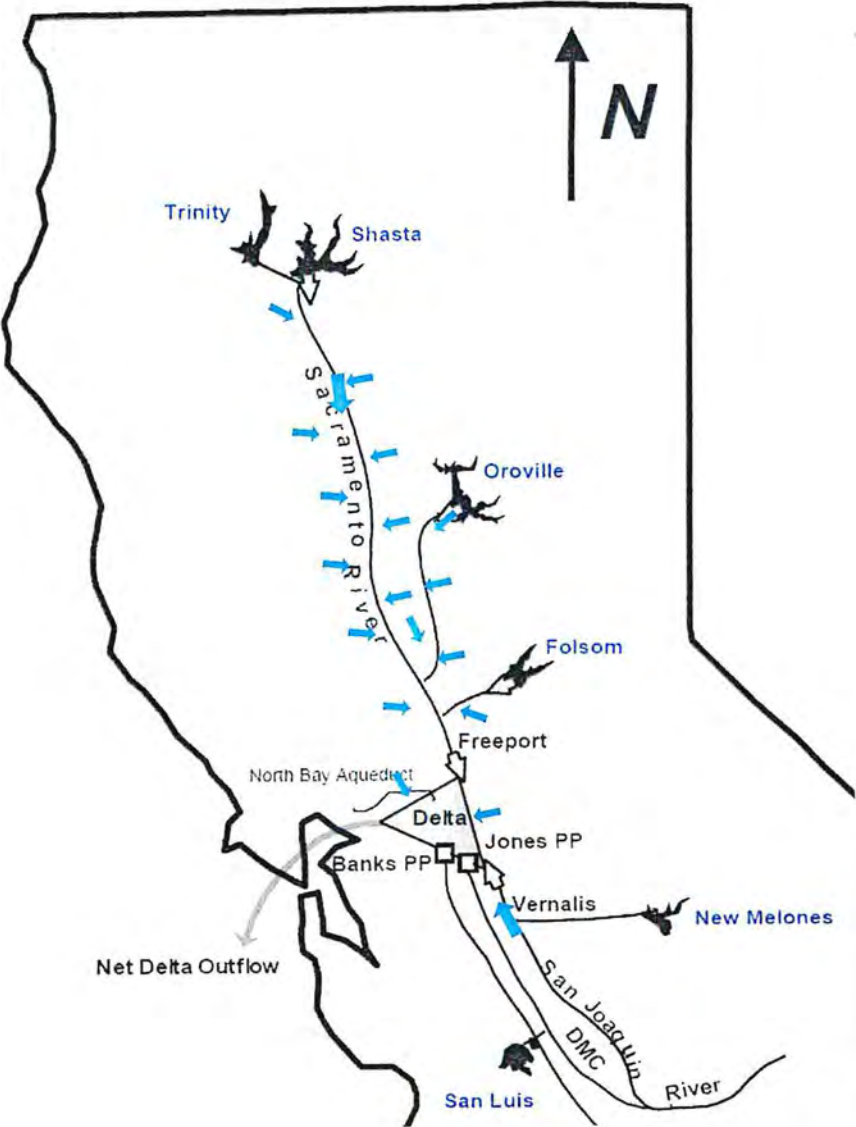
Sacramento Valley Water Year Exceedance (1906 - 2023)



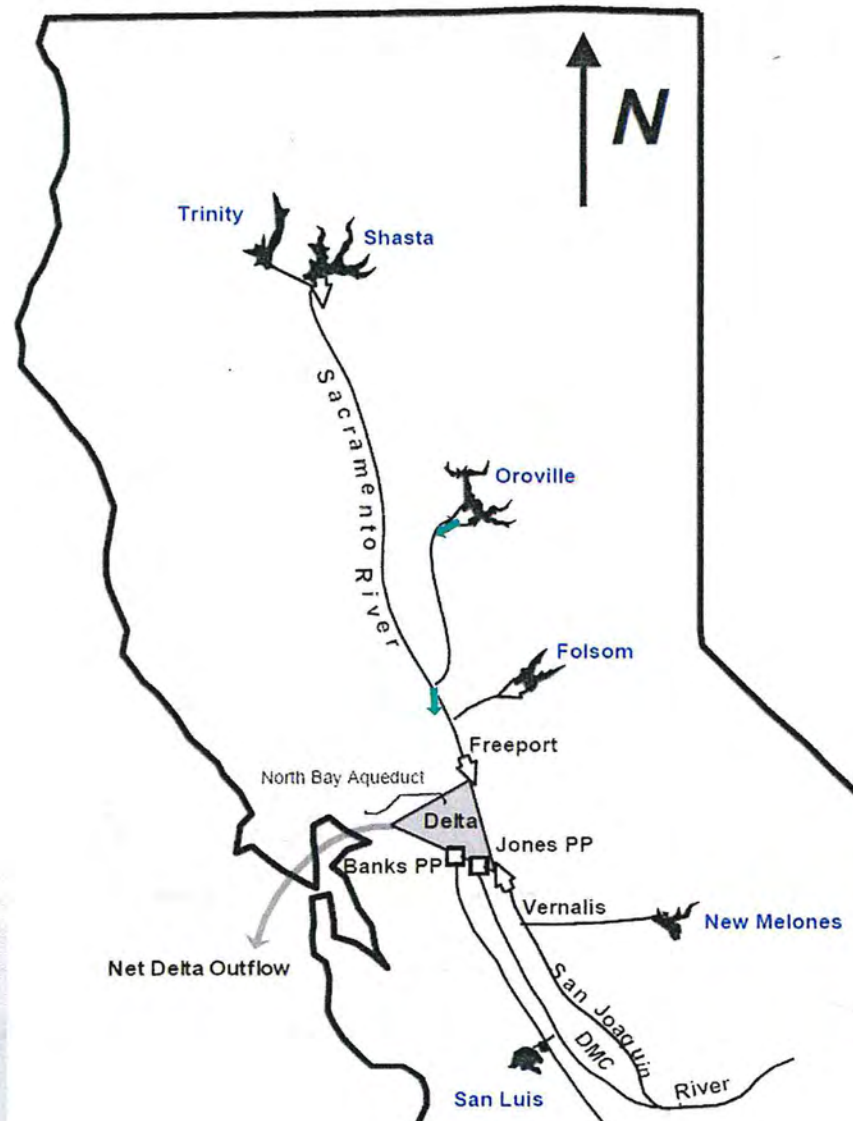
SWP Source Watersheds



Typical Source of SWP Exports in November to May



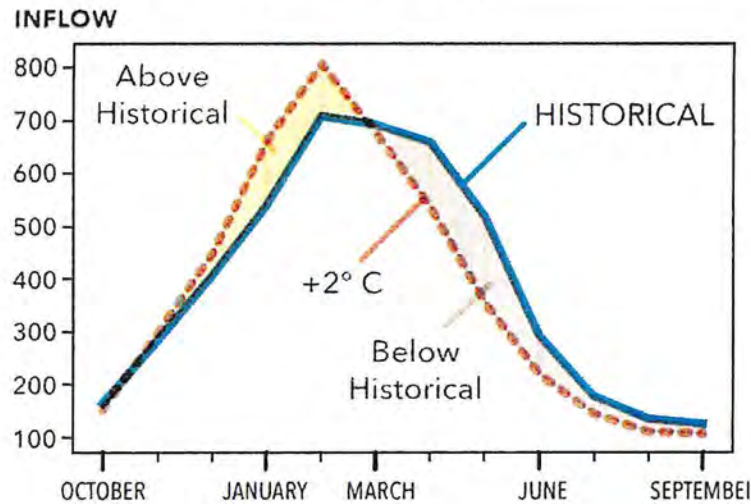
Typical Source of SWP Exports in June to October



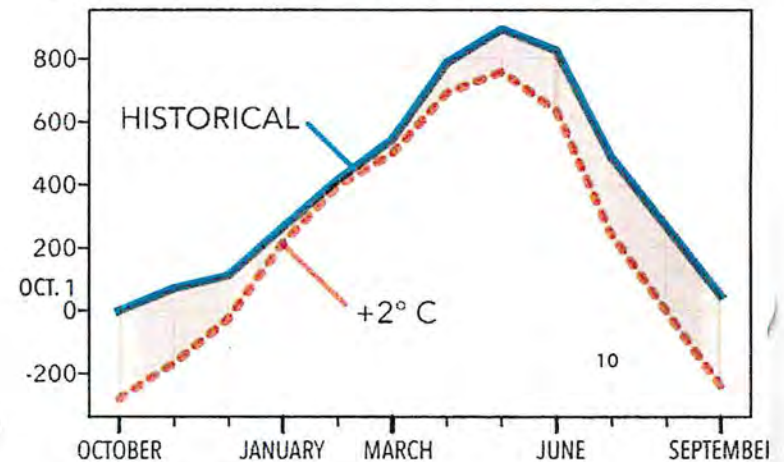
HISTORIC AND FUTURE RUNOFF PATTERNS

Climate Change Creates Challenges to Future Reservoir Operations

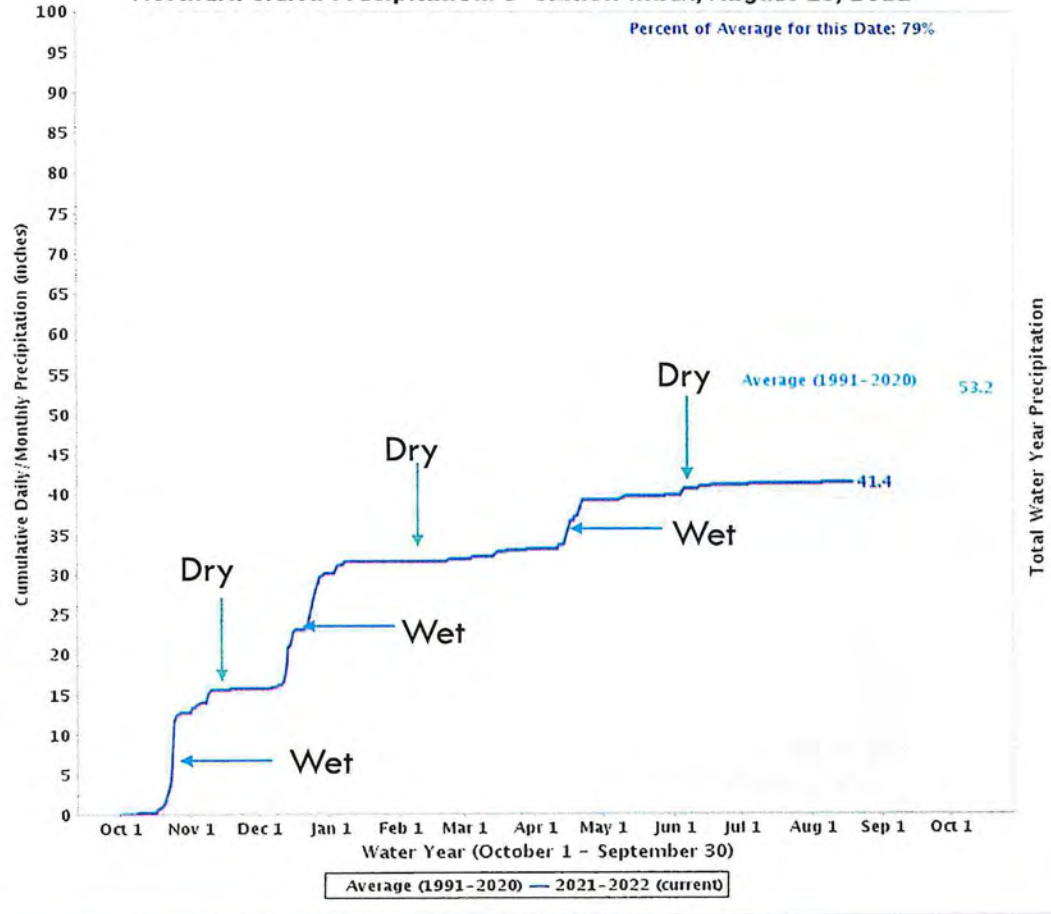
OROVILLE (Mixed rain-snow)



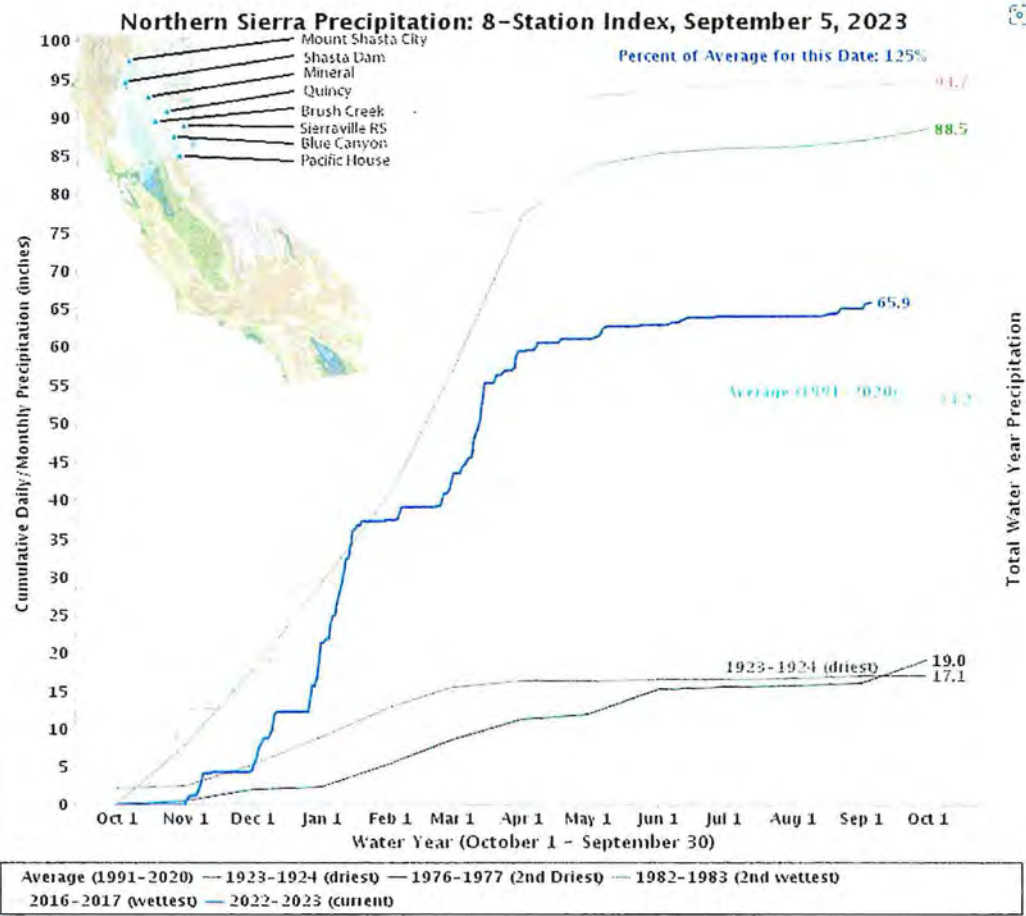
RELATIVE STORAGE (versus historical October 1)



Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, August 19, 2022



Stairstep pattern in WY 2022 exemplifies new extremes and variability associated with climate change



Stairstep pattern continued in WY 2023, even though completely different hydrology

SWP FACILITIES

State Water Project

34 storage facilities, reservoirs and lakes

20 pumping plants

4 pumping-generating plants

5 hydroelectric power plants

701 miles of open canals and pipelines

Construction began in the 1960s



Key SWP Facilities Built to Capture Water Under Historic Runoff Patterns



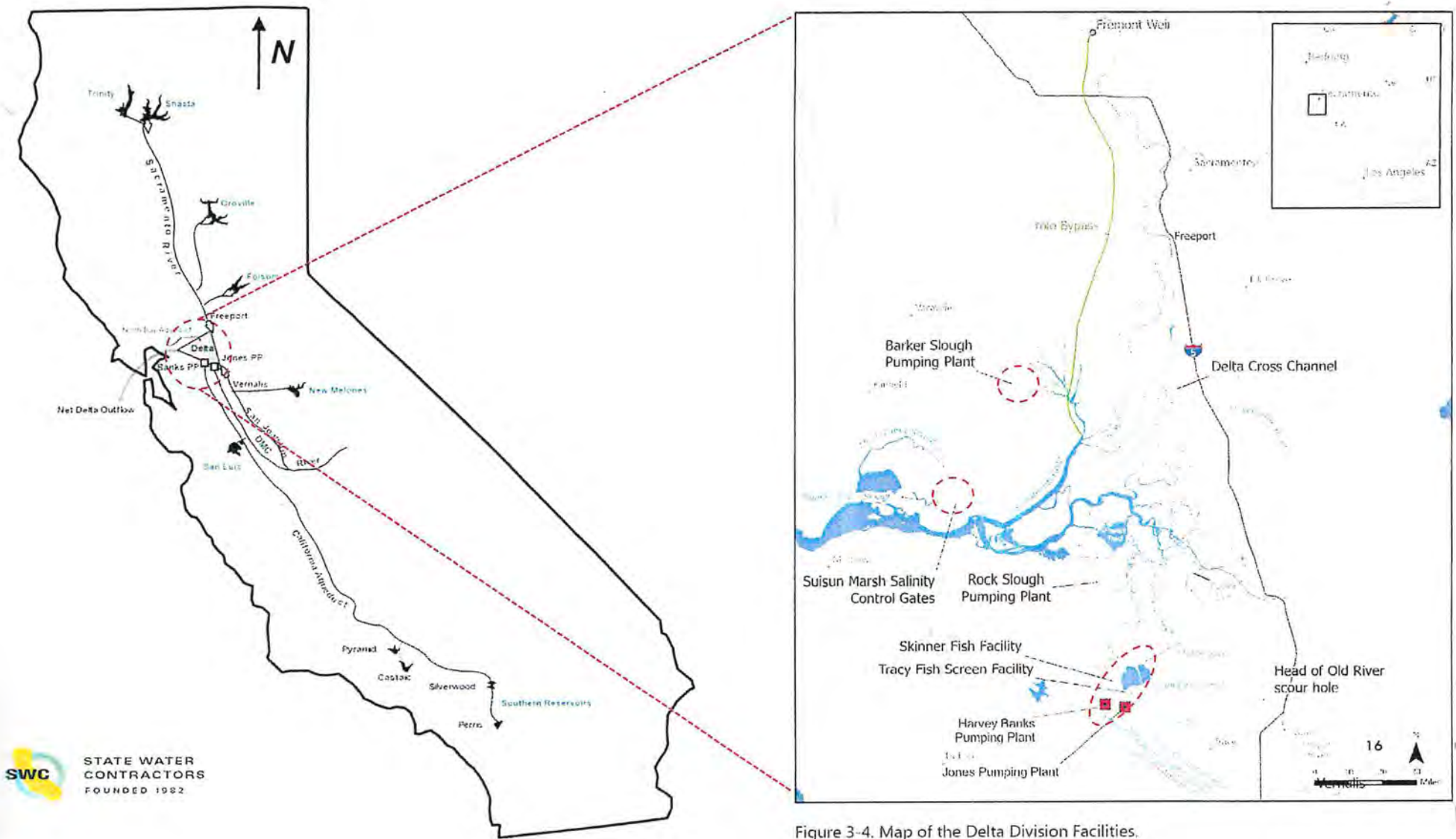
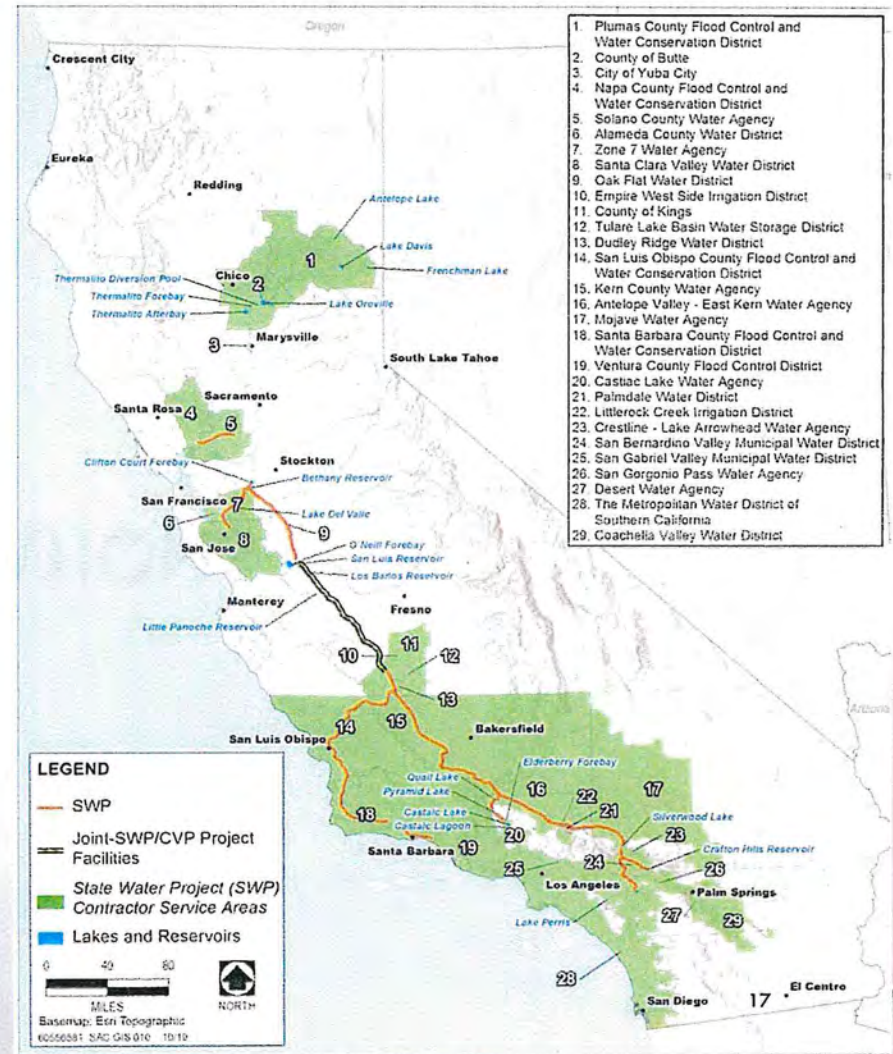


Figure 3-4. Map of the Delta Division Facilities.

SWP Service Areas



Source: California Department of Water Resources 2019

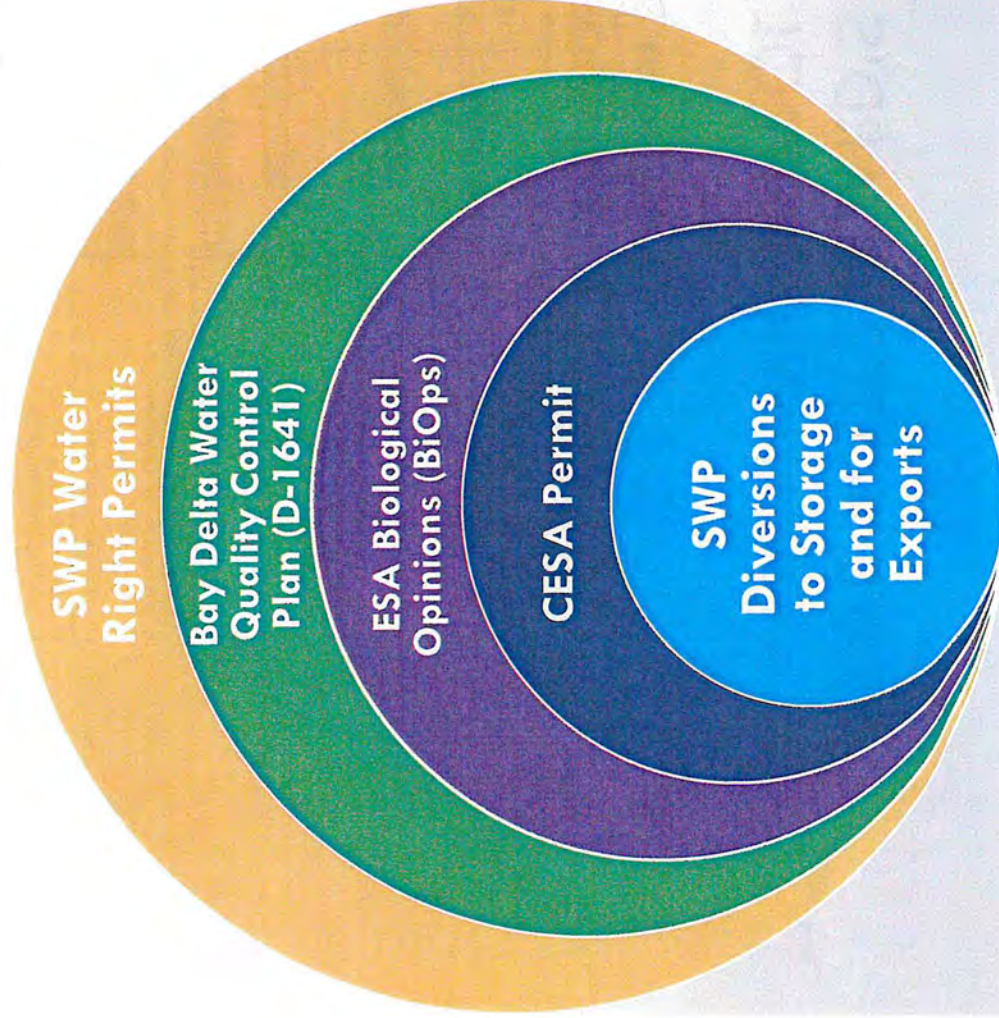
Figure 2-2. The 29 Water Purveyors Under Contract to Receive SWP Water Deliveries

SWP REGULATIONS

REGULATORY LIMITS FOR SWP AND CVP



STATE WATER
CONTRACTORS
FOUNDED 1982



STATE WATER BOARD'S BAY-DELTA WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (WQCP)

Bay-Delta Standards

Contained in D-1641

CRITERIA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FLOW/OPERATIONAL												
• Fish and Wildlife												
SWP/CVP Export Limits				1,500 cfs ⁽¹⁾								
Export/Inflow Ratio ⁽²⁾	65%		35% of Delta Inflow ⁽³⁾						65% of Delta Inflow			
Minimum Delta Outflow	1 cfs ⁽⁴⁾								3,000 - 6,000 cfs ⁽⁴⁾			
Habitat Protection Outflow			7,100 - 29,200 cfs ⁽⁵⁾									
Salinity Starting Condition ⁽⁶⁾	1‰											
River Flows:												
@ Rio Vista									3,000 - 4,500 cfs ⁽⁷⁾			
@ Vernalis - Base			710 - 1,420 cfs ⁽⁸⁾				1 cfs ⁽⁹⁾					
- Pulse					1 cfs ⁽⁹⁾					-20TAF		
Delta Cross Channel Gates	110		Closed			110					Conditions ⁽¹⁰⁾	
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS												
• Municipal and Industrial												
All Export Locations												
Contra Costa Canal												
• Agriculture												
Western/Interior Delta												
Southern Delta ⁽¹¹⁾												
• Fish and Wildlife												
San Joaquin River Salinity ⁽¹²⁾												
Suisun Marsh Salinity ⁽¹³⁾												

See Footnotes
Operations Compliance and Studies Section

Revised 9/29/00

Preliminary; Subject to Revision

STATUS OF FISH SPECIES RESULTED IN ADDITIONAL REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS

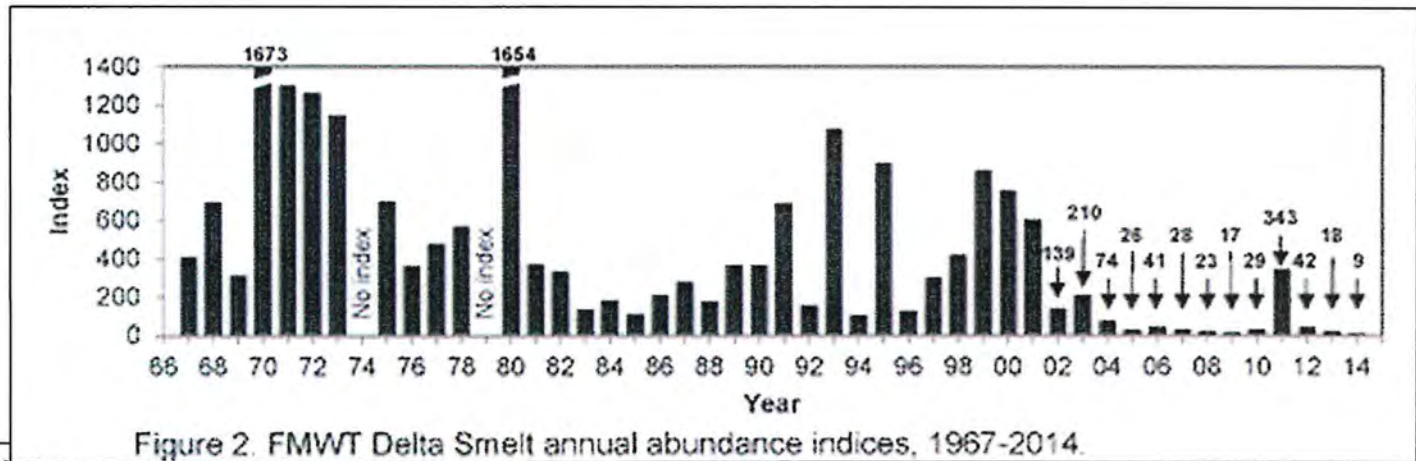
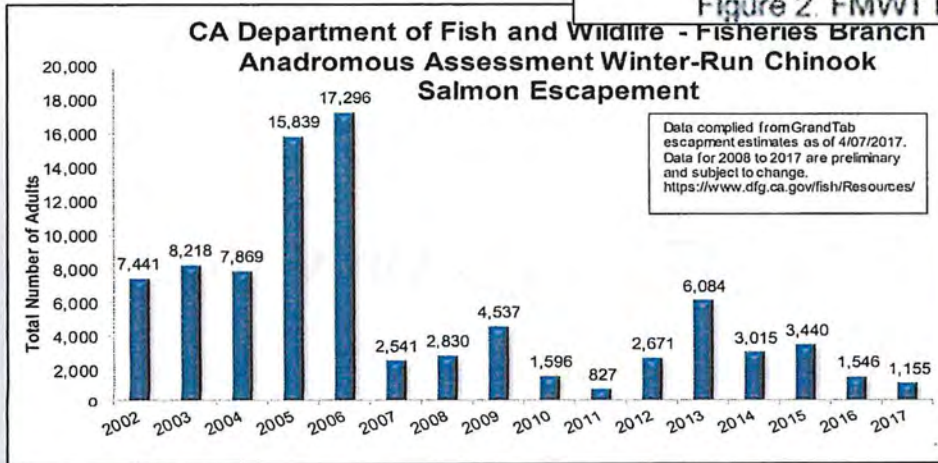
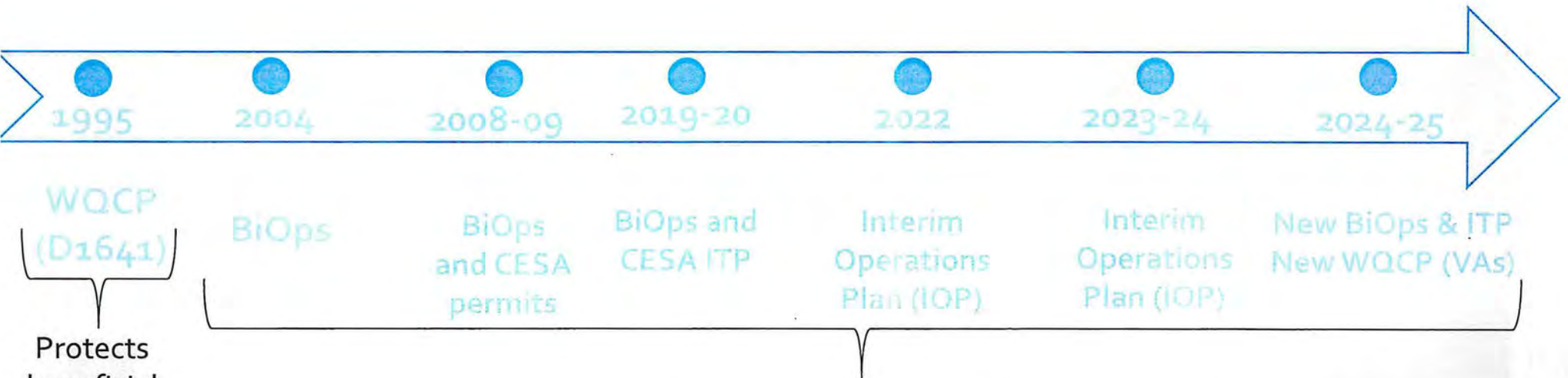


Figure 2. FMWT Delta Smelt annual abundance indices, 1967-2014.



CVP AND SWP PERMITS UPDATED PERIODICALLY



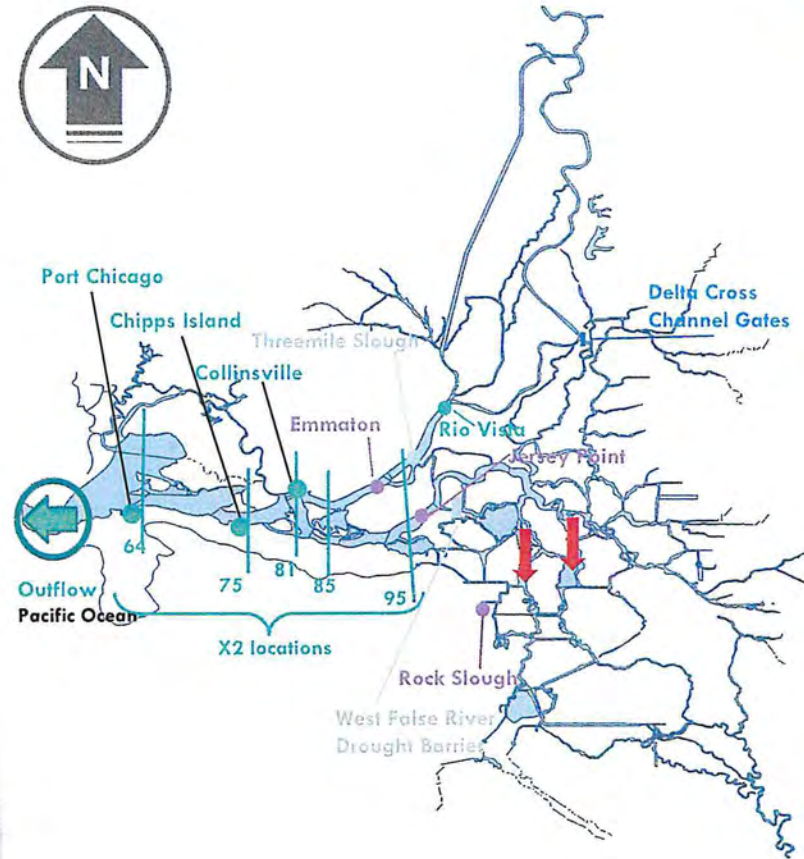
Protects beneficial uses in the Delta (flows, salinity, export limits)

Protect ESA listed species: Winter-run, Spring-run, Steelhead, Green Sturgeon, Delta Smelt and Longfin smelt*

Protect CESA listed species: Winter-run, Spring-run, Delta Smelt, Longfin smelt and White Sturgeon*
(Flows and Export limits)

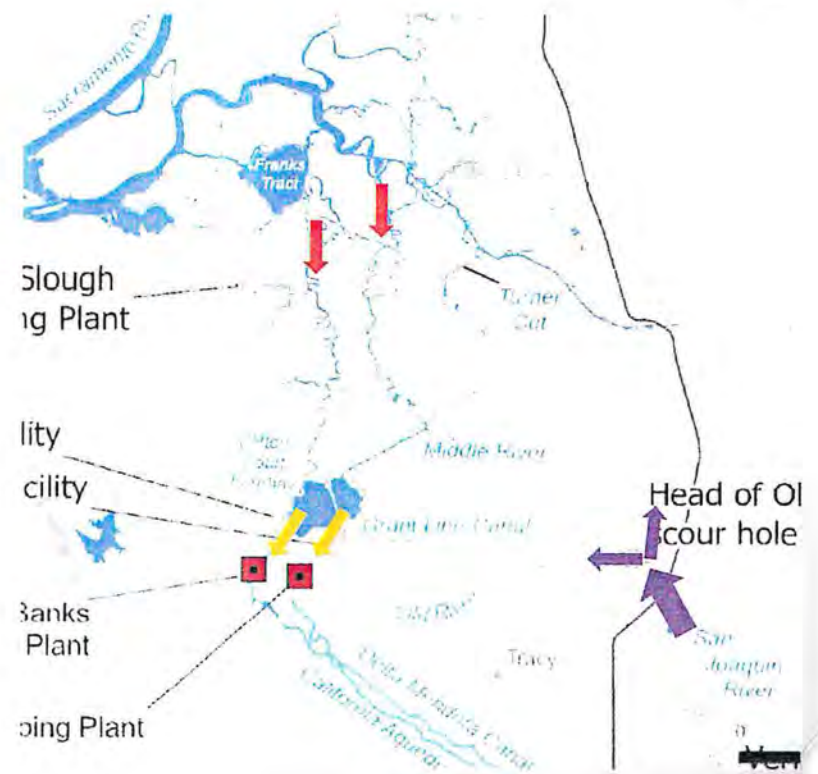
Bay – Delta Regulations

- State Water Board Bay-Delta Standards (Decision-1641)
 - Delta Flow and Outflow requirements
 - Salinity requirements
 - Export limits
- ESA Biological Opinions
 - Old and Middle River Flow Requirements
 - Export limits
 - Delta outflow requirements
- CESA Incidental Take Permit
 - Export limits
 - Delta outflow requirements



Old and Middle River Flow (OMR) Requirements

- OMR Requirements:
 - Limit net reverse flows in Old and Middle Rivers
 - Limit how much flow comes from the north and central Delta to south Delta
- Therefore, south Delta exports depend on the San Joaquin River flow
- For the same OMR Requirement, higher south Delta exports with higher San Joaquin River flow and vice-versa

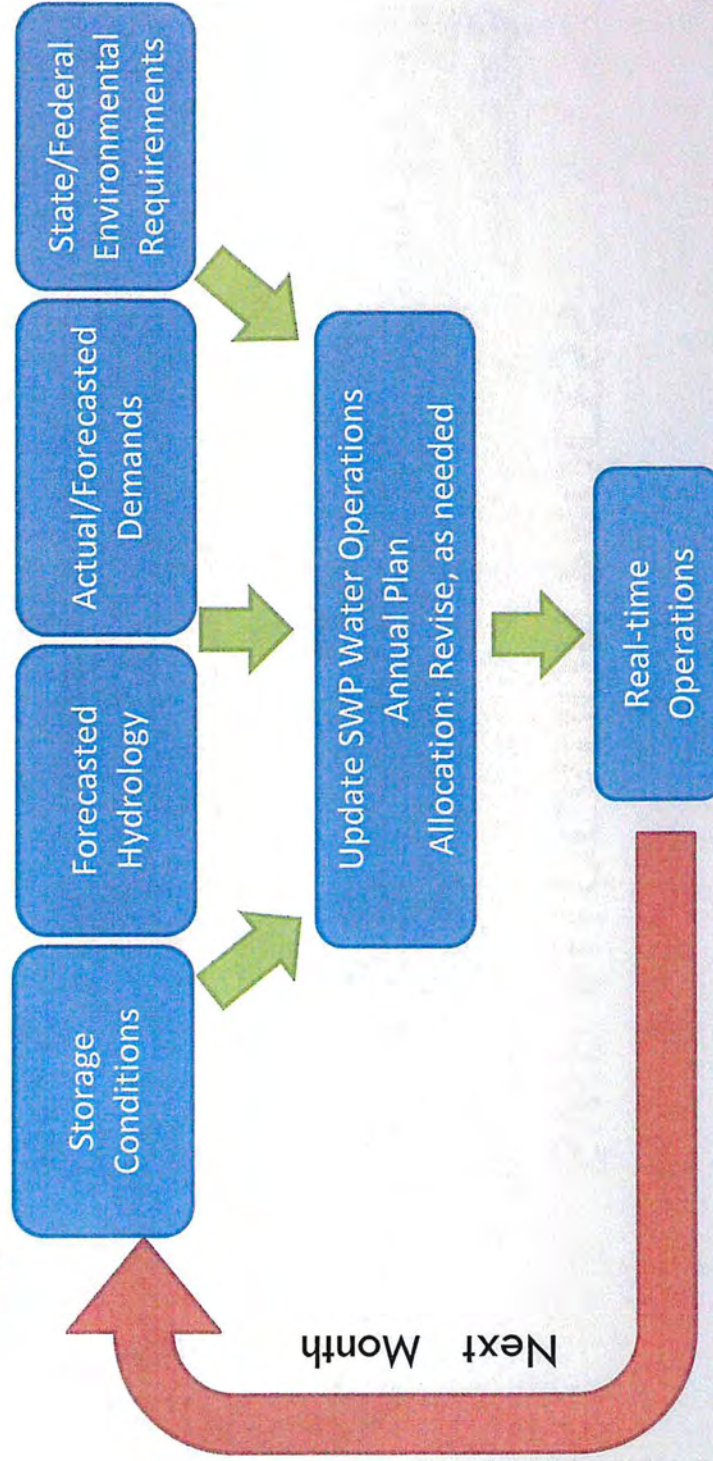


SWP ALLOCATIONS

SWP ANNUAL ALLOCATION PROCESS

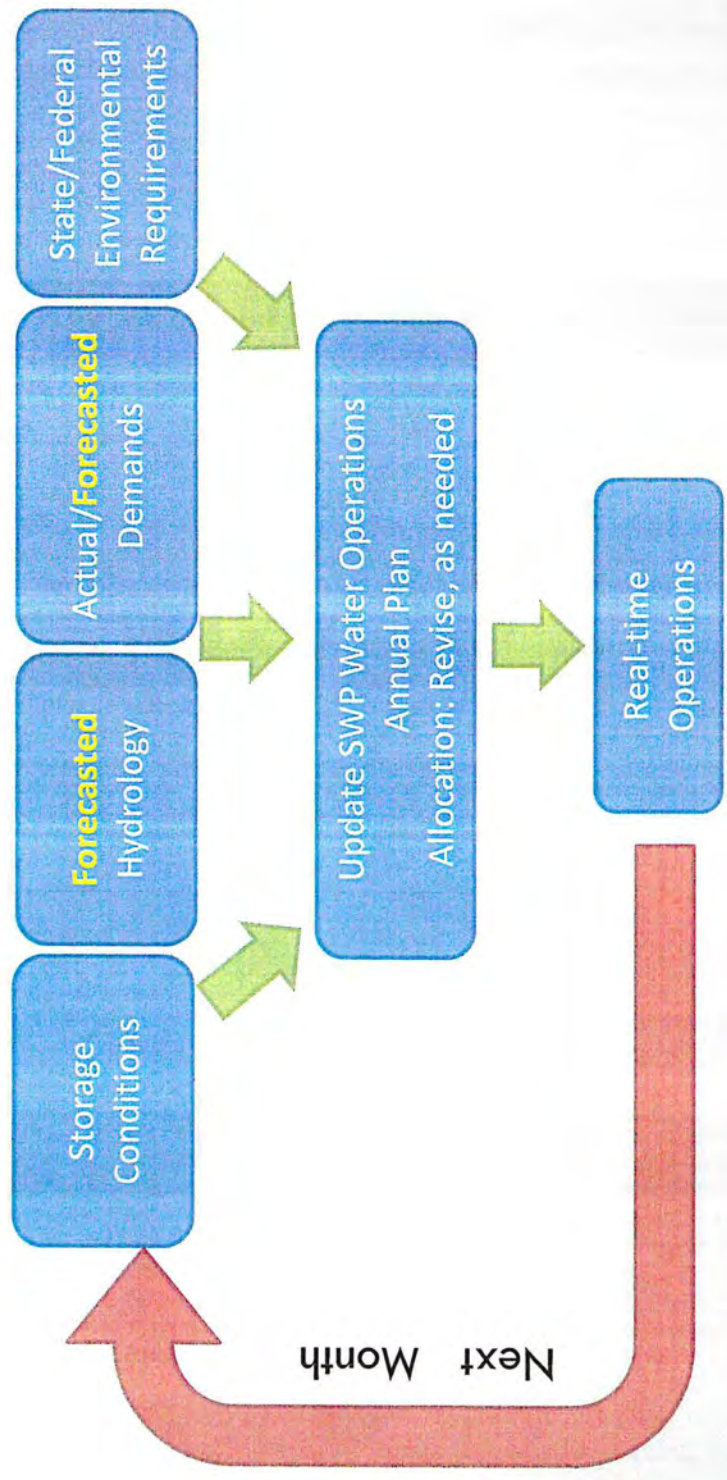


SWP ALLOCATION PROCESS





SWP ALLOCATION PROCESS

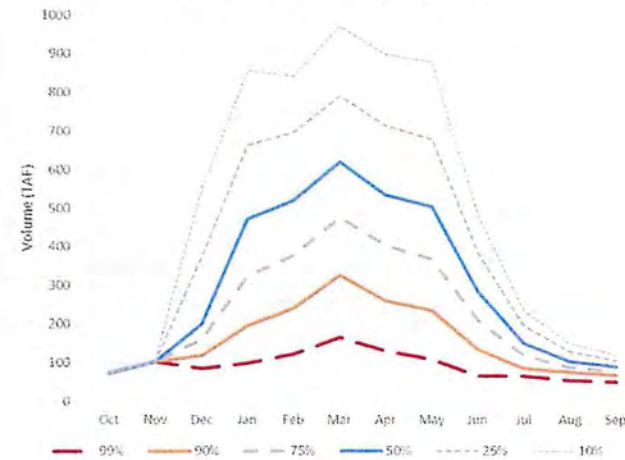


HYDROLOGY FORECAST

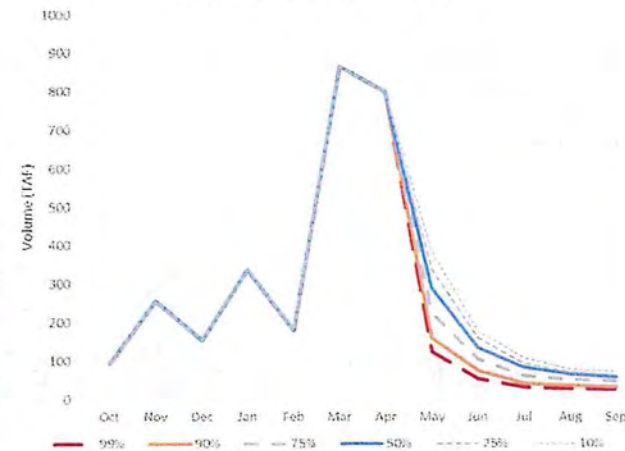
FORECAST AVAILABILITY

- NOV
 - HISTORICAL EXCEEDANCE
- DEC – JAN
 - DFM FORECAST (PRECIPITATION)
- FEB – MAY
 - DFM FORECAST (INCORPORATES SNOW)

Oroville UIF Forecast (December 2018)



Oroville UIF Forecast (May 2019)



REGULATIONS & OBLIGATIONS

- MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW
- FLOOD CONTROL
- DELTA REQUIREMENTS
 - STATE WATER BOARD BAY-DELTA STANDARDS (DECISION-1641)
 - ESA BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS
 - CESA INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT
- OTHER IN-BASIN USE
- COORDINATED OPERATIONS AGREEMENT



Bay-Delta Standards

Contained in D-1641

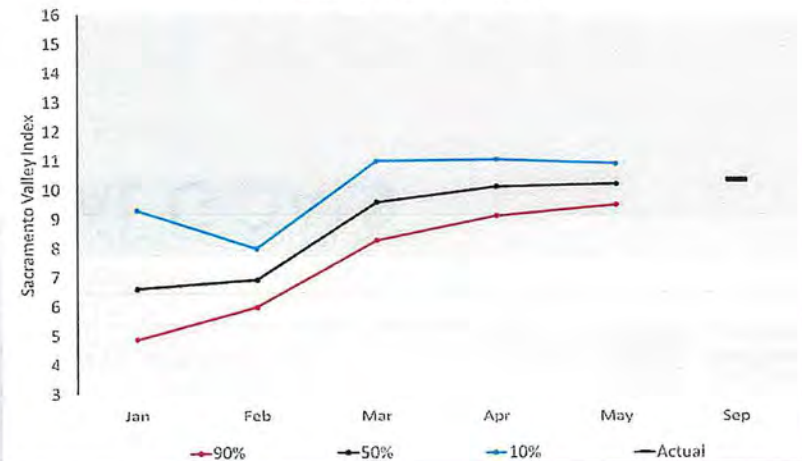
CRITERIA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FLOW/OPERATIONAL												
• Fish and Wildlife												
SWP/CVP Export Limits					15000 cfs							
Export/Inflow Ratio ⁽²⁾	0.50		35% of Delta Inflow						45% of Delta Inflow			
Minimum Delta Outflow	0 cfs								3,000 - 8,000 cfs ⁽³⁾			
Habitat Protection Outflow			7,100 - 29,200 cfs ⁽⁴⁾									
Salinity Starting Condition ⁽⁵⁾	0 ppt											
River Flows:												
@ Rio Vista										3,000 - 4,100 cfs ⁽⁶⁾		
@ Vernalls - Base			710 - 2,420 cfs ⁽⁷⁾			75 cfs						
- Pulse					100 cfs					2,500 cfs		
Delta Cross Channel Gates	Open		Closed		Open						Closed	
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS												
• Municipal and Industrial												
All Export Locations												
Contra Costa Canal												
• Agriculture												
Western Interior Delta												
Southern Delta ⁽⁸⁾												
• Fish and Wildlife												
San Joaquin River Salinity ⁽⁹⁾												
Suisun Marsh Salinity ⁽¹⁰⁾												

⁽¹⁾ See F-Subnotes Operations Compliance and Status Switch

Revised 6/2002

Preliminary. Subject to Revision

Sacramento Valley Index (2019)

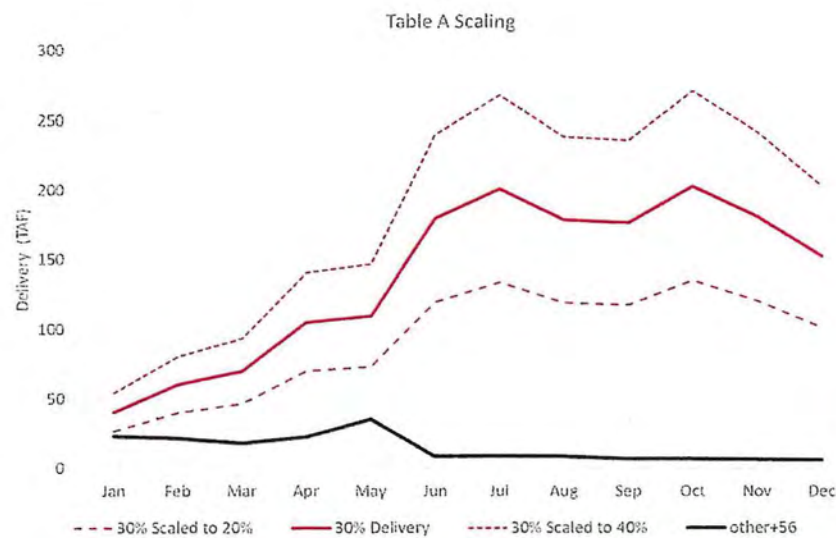


STORAGE OPERATIONAL GOALS

- CARRYOVER TARGETS
 - OROVILLE
 - 1.6 MAF END OF SEPTEMBER
 - SAN LUIS
 - STATE WATER CONTRACTORS CARRYOVER
 - SAN LUIS LOW POINT
- TERMINAL RESERVOIR SEASONAL OPERATIONS

DELIVERIES FORECASTS

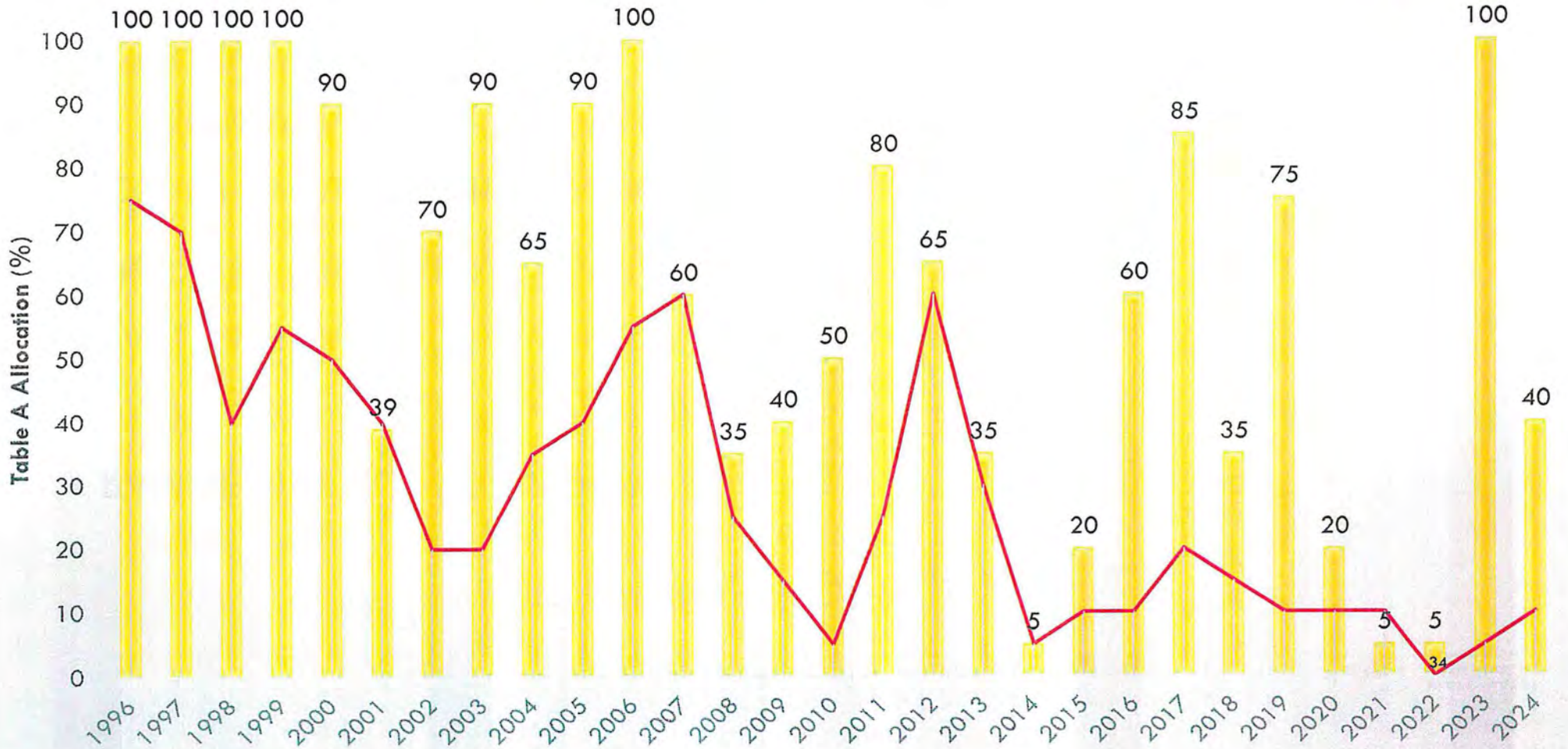
- RANGE OF DELIVERY REQUESTS
 - 0%, 10%, 30%, 50%, 60%, 100%
- TABLE A SCALED TO MAXIMIZE DELIVERY OF AVAILABLE SUPPLY
- OTHER DELIVERIES (NOT SCALED)
 - ARTICLE 56
 - BACKUP



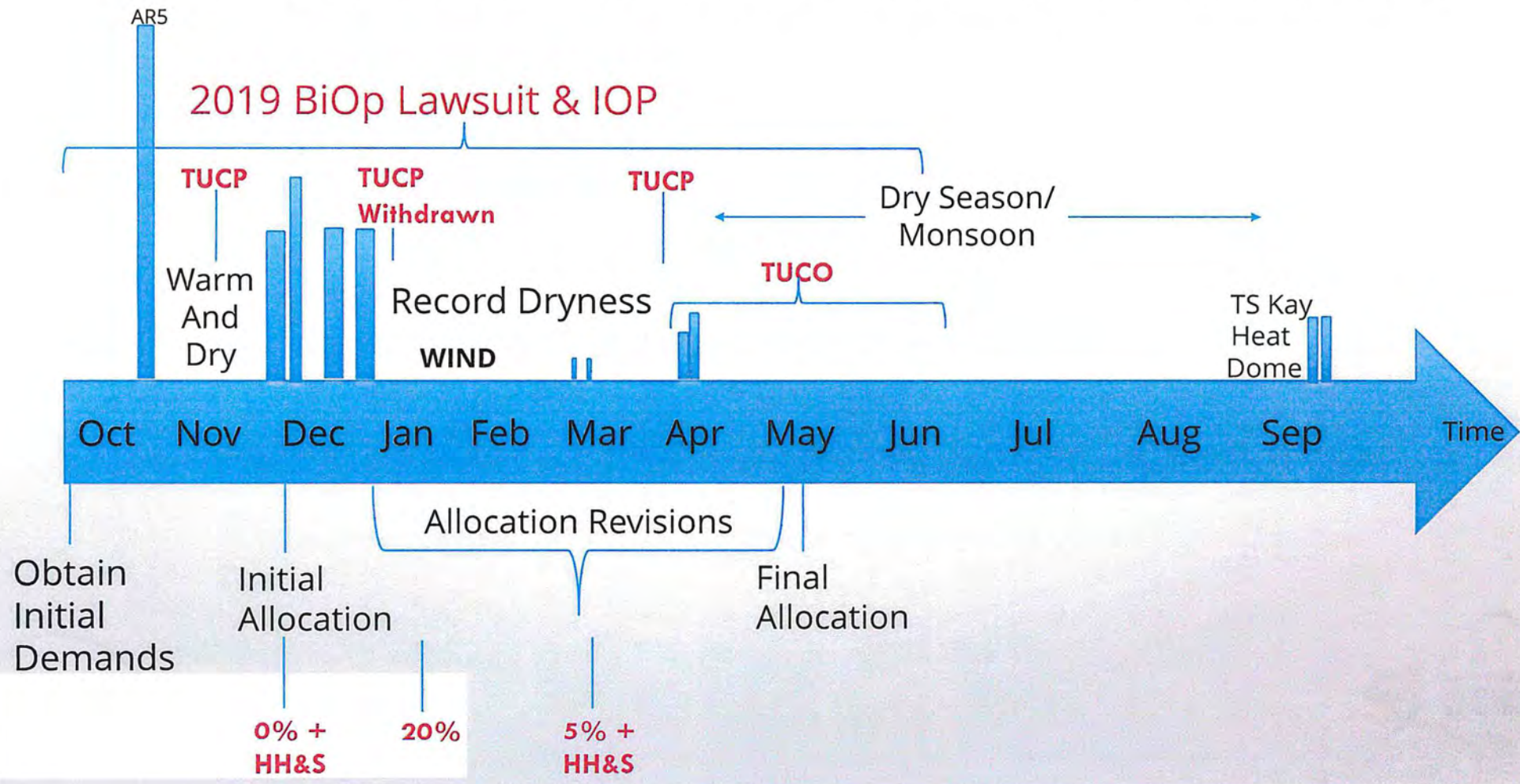
HISTORIC INITIAL AND FINAL SWP TABLE A ALLOCATIONS



Final Allocation Initial Allocation



COMPLEX WATER MANAGEMENT: WY 2022 EXAMPLE



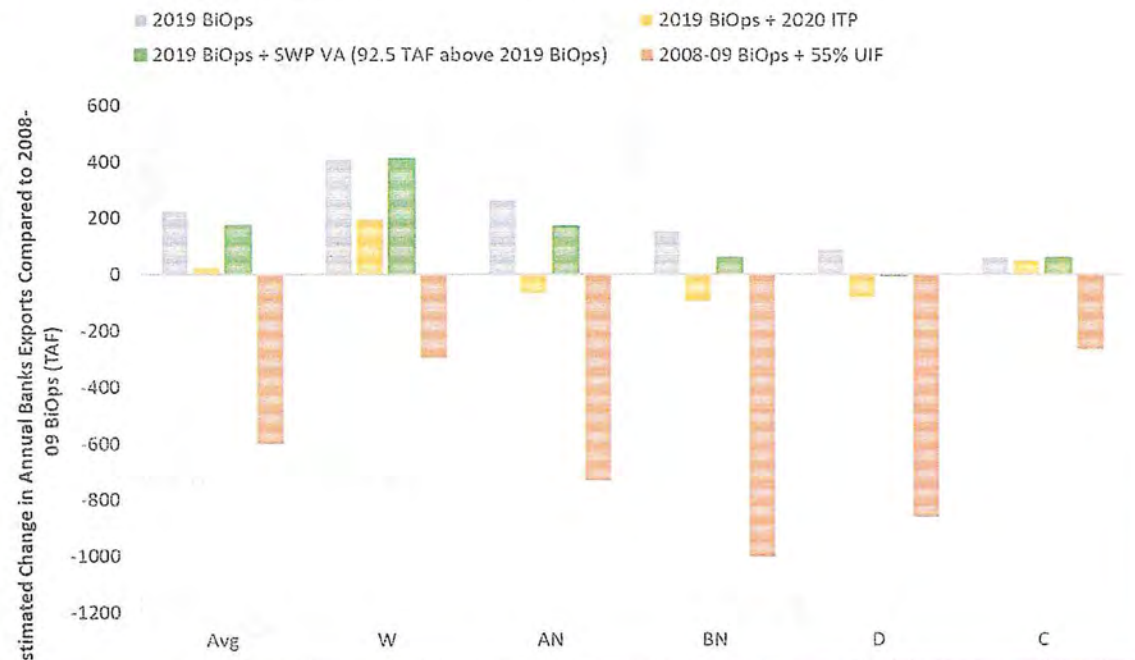
SWP OUTLOOK

VA flows will address ESA and CESA spring outflow requirements

Relationship of VA to BiOps, ITP and WQCP

- Estimated changes in Banks PP exports compared to 2008-09 BiOps
- VA modeling reflects initial water user VA proposal
- Compared to 2008-09 BiOps:
 - If ITP outflow elements are replaced by VA, 2019 BiOps improvements largely continue
 - 55% UIF likely results in significant reductions in SWP exports

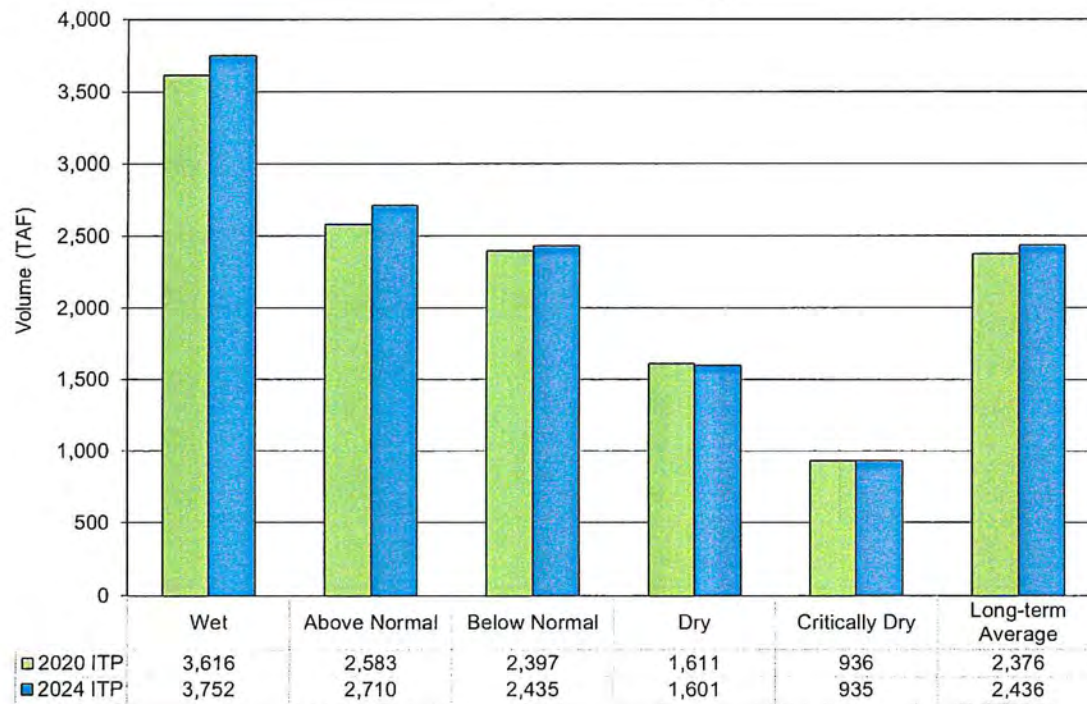
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF SWP EXPORT CHANGES



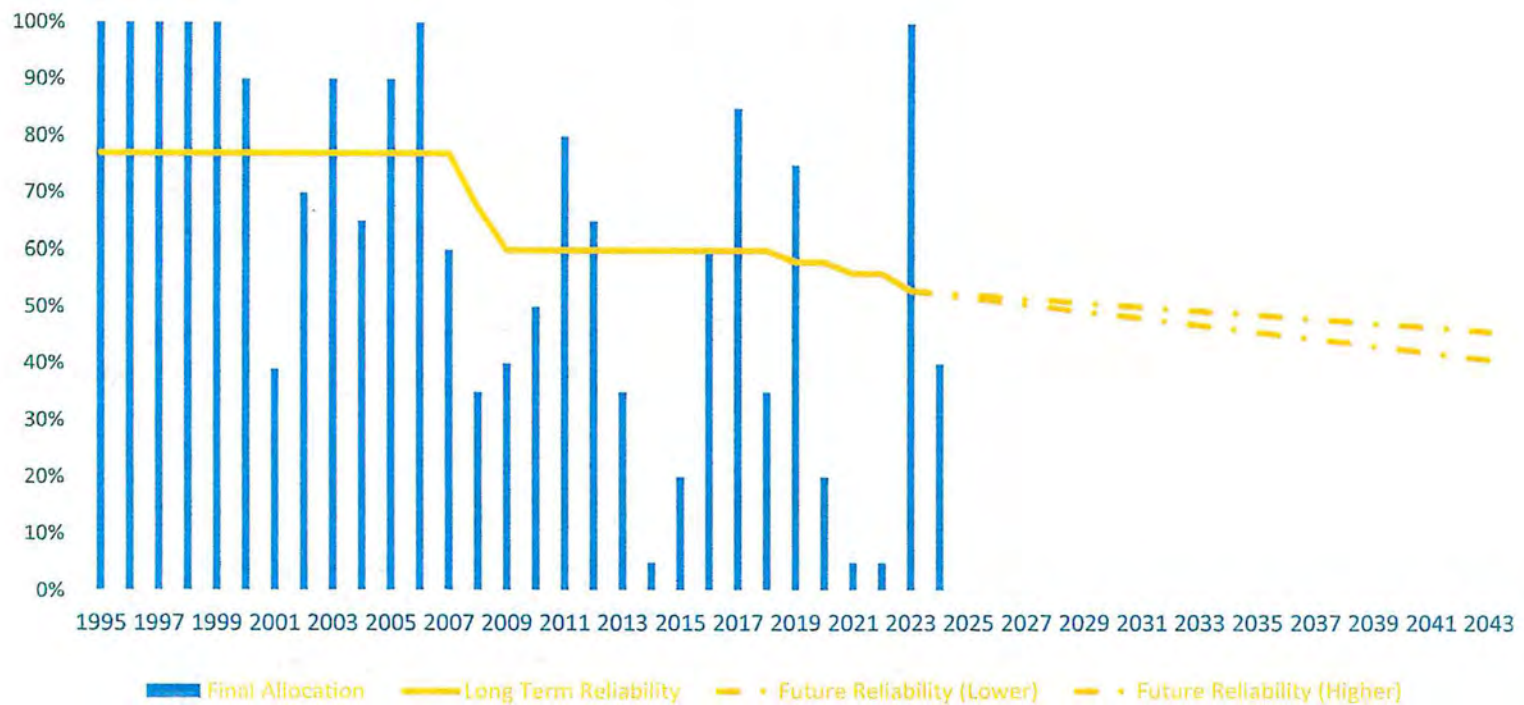
Source: 2019 BiOps from DWR's LTO EIR PP model. 2020 ITP results estimated using DWR's LTO EIR Alt2B model. VA results estimated using DWR's LTO EIR PP model. 55% UIF results based on Nov 2019 SWRCB models. Note that models do not include potential real time export restrictions.

RESULTANT WATER SUPPLY COMPARISON

Water-year Type Averages
 October-September Banks Export SWP



DECREASING TREND IN SWP ALLOCATIONS



WHAT IS THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT (DCP)?

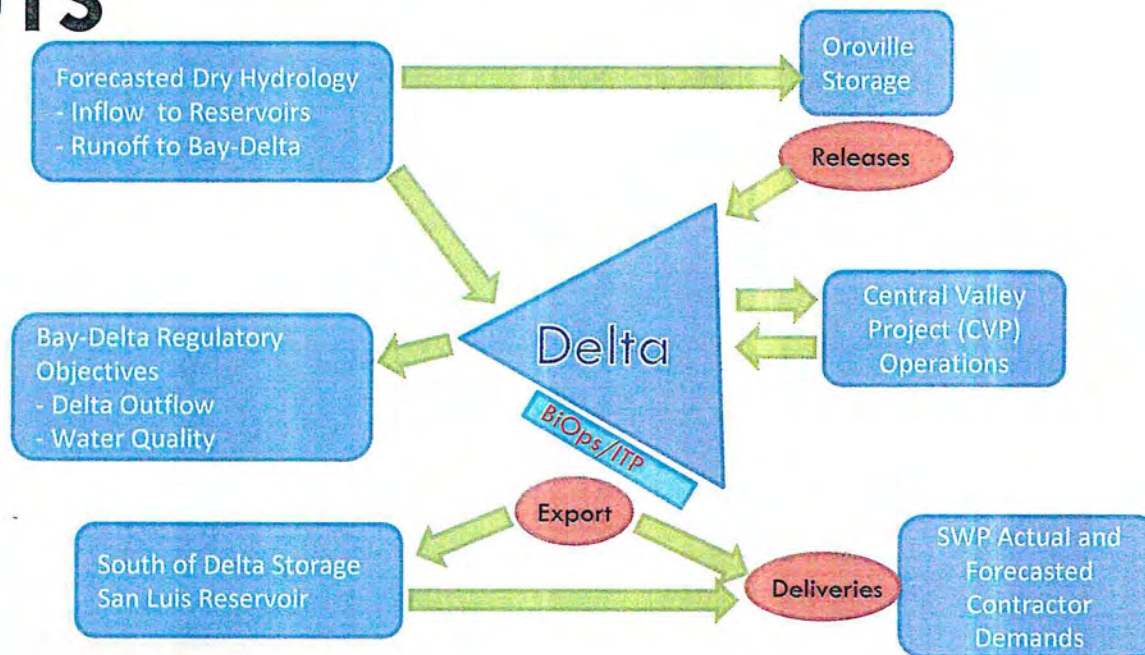
DWR ISSUED FEIR/NOD IN 12/2023 AND SELECTED BETHANY RESERVOIR ALIGNMENT

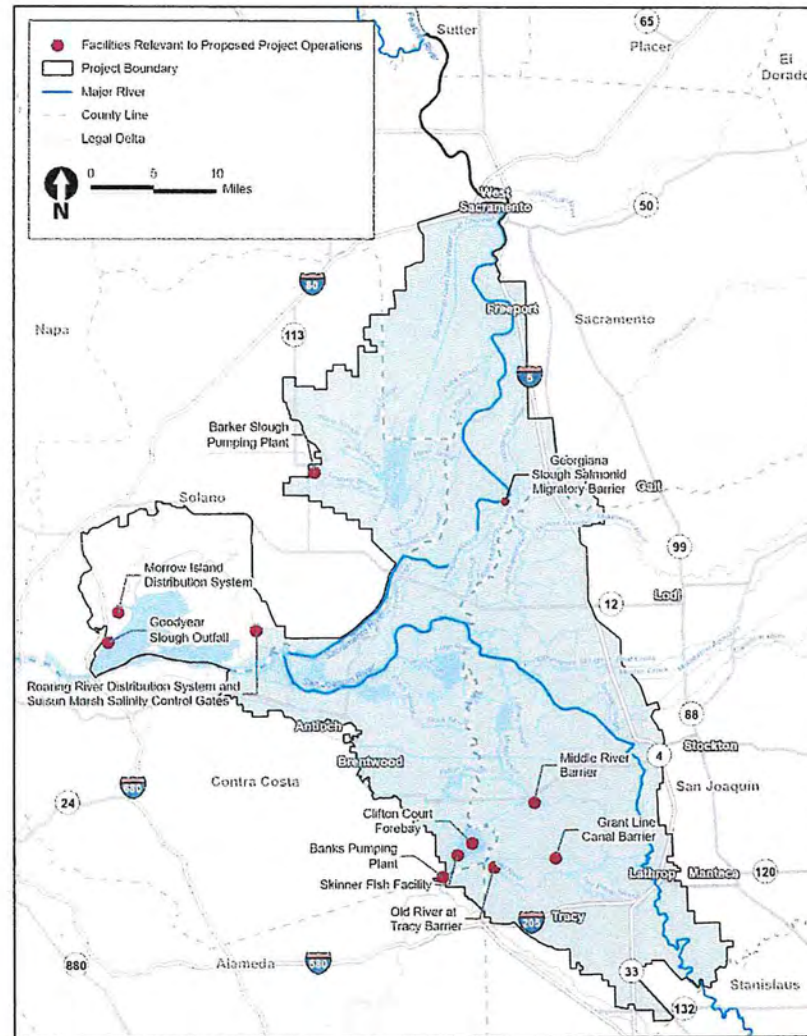
- TWO NEW DIVERSION INTAKES IN THE NORTH DELTA WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART FISH SCREENS
- TOTAL DIVERSION CAPACITY OF 6,000 CFS (3,000 CFS EACH)
- 45 MILES OF 36-FEET SINGLE TUNNEL, FROM NEW INTAKES TO CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT AT BETHANY RESERVOIR
- NEW PUMPING PLANT CONNECTING THE TUNNEL TO BETHANY RESERVOIR



QUESTIONS?

SWP WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION INPUTS





Source: Data compiled by ICF in 2022

Figure 2-1. Locations of Facilities Relevant to Proposed Project Operations in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay

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NOTEBOOK FEATURE: The longfin smelt joins the celebrated ranks of the federal ESA – but can it recover?

By Alastair Bland (https://mavensnotebook.com/author/alastair-bland/)

Science and Environment (https://mavensnotebook.com/category/news-and-features/articles/science/) December 10, 2020 11:16:57 AM PST 139

Photo: Karl Menard, UC Davis

By Alastair Bland

Federal wildlife officials formally listed the San Francisco Estuary longfin smelt as an endangered species in July. Whether the action is a first step toward recovery or just an administrative milestone on the path to extinction is too early to say, but one thing is already clear: The longfin smelt is ominously close to vanishing. Now, as its existential clock ticks, scientists are hustling to better understand the species' biology and environmental requirements and, with luck, safeguard its future.

The estuary's population of longfin smelt—*Spirinchus thaleichthys*, a species that can live in saltwater and ranges as far north as Alaska—has been declining for several decades, with an accelerated dip starting around the turn of this century. Once plentiful enough to be a target for commercial fishers, it now shows a feeble presence in annual sampling programs. The longfin smelt was listed by the state as a threatened species in 2009. The same year, the federal government rejected a petition for formal protection. Since then, the longfin smelt's slip toward oblivion has continued, becoming too dire to ignore last decade. Its new status on the federal Endangered Species List—which specifically applies to the San Francisco Bay-Delta population—ushers it to the apex of protective regulations.



It also opens the doors to new, and urgently needed, pathways of research as state and federal biologists tasked with protecting the fish try to learn more about it.

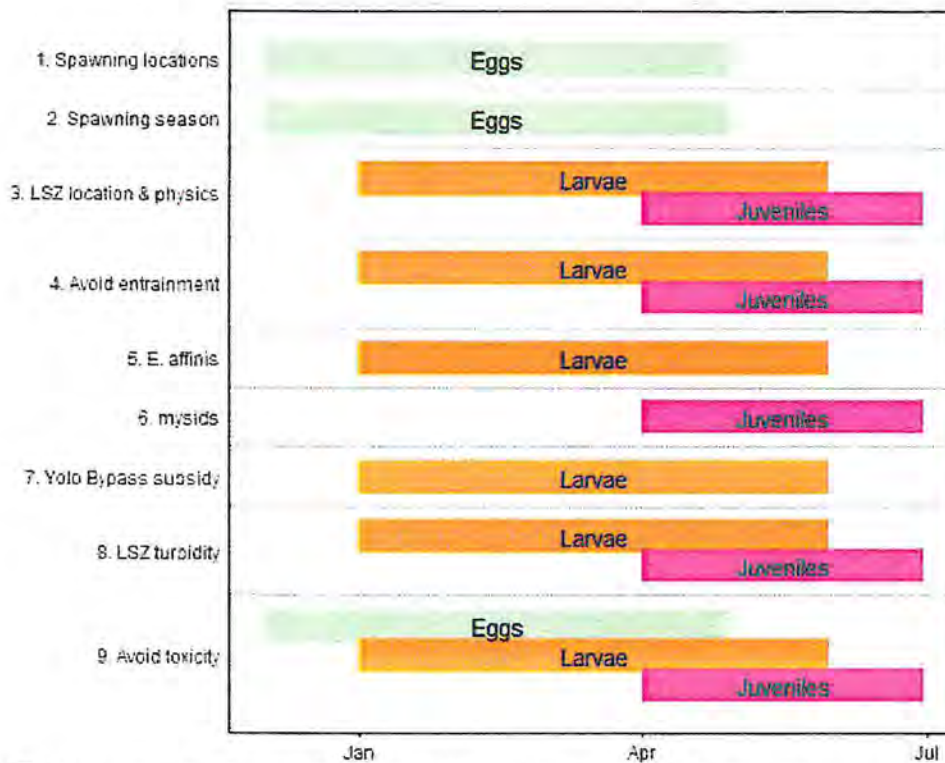
"As dreary as it is to say that a species needs listing, one of the benefits of doing so is it allocates a lot of funding and resources towards research," said Michael Eakin, a senior environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The longfin smelt, named for its remarkably long pectoral fins, lives two to three years and can attain a maximum length of about 15 centimeters. The fish spawn throughout the Bay and Delta, and—like Pacific salmon—they die after laying and fertilizing their eggs. Spawning season spans the winter and seems to peak in February.

<https://i0.wp.com/mavensnotebook.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/7-2-JamesErvin-DecCatch2024-12-01-60-Art2-scaled.jpg?ssl=1>

Different sizes of longfin smelt caught for scientific research purposes under strict endangered species monitoring protocols in the South Bay. Photo: James Ervin.

But there is a great deal that remains unknown about the species. For instance, researchers don't entirely understand the fish's relationship to freshwater flows. As with other species native to the Bay and Delta, longfin smelt numbers tend to spike following periods of relatively high Delta outflow—generally the result of wet winters—according to data collected by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.



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Potential freshwater flow mechanisms by which variation in Delta outflow year to year may contribute to recruitment of juvenile longfin smelt (Age-0). The life stage durations are approximate in that they start and end on the first and last day of particular months. Source: USFWS 2022. Species Status Assessment Bay-Delta Distinct Longfin Smelt.

This suggests that strategically managing flows may be the key to recovery. But more information is necessary, scientists say, to ensure that added flows—typically produced by curbing Delta water exports—are provided at the right time and place. Brian Schreier, environmental program manager with the California Department of Water Resources, explained that the relationship between abundance and flow amounts to a correlation, without a known causal explanation.

"Despite knowing about this relationship and the strength of this relationship for several decades, the exact mechanisms that support this observation are still unclear," he said.

He hopes to help identify and close data gaps in the longfin smelt's life cycle, and those of the invertebrates on which they feed, which also respond positively to flow increases.

"Understanding those mechanisms will help us be more targeted and efficient with future management actions that could be helpful to the species," Schreier said.

STRESSORS FOR A SMALL FISH

Reduced Delta outflow is just one factor related to the longfin smelt's decline. Also upsetting to the smelt and its ecosystem have been loss of wetland habitat, water pollution, and the appearance several decades ago of two Asian clams. These invasive filter feeders have had a silent but devastating impact, stripping the estuary's water column of so much phytoplankton (<https://mavensnotebook.com/glossary/phytoplankton/>) and other nutrition that creatures farther up the food chain have been left with less to eat.

Climate change is now emerging as another great threat. Droughts are growing more extreme, and temperatures are rising—trends threatening not just the longfin smelt but also its cousin and fellow endangered species the Delta smelt, both green and white sturgeon, Central Valley steelhead, and several distinct runs of Chinook salmon that migrate through the Bay and Delta.

"This is the southern extent of all of their ranges, the San Francisco Estuary, and [rising temperatures] will be something we have to deal with in managing all these species moving forward," Schreier said.

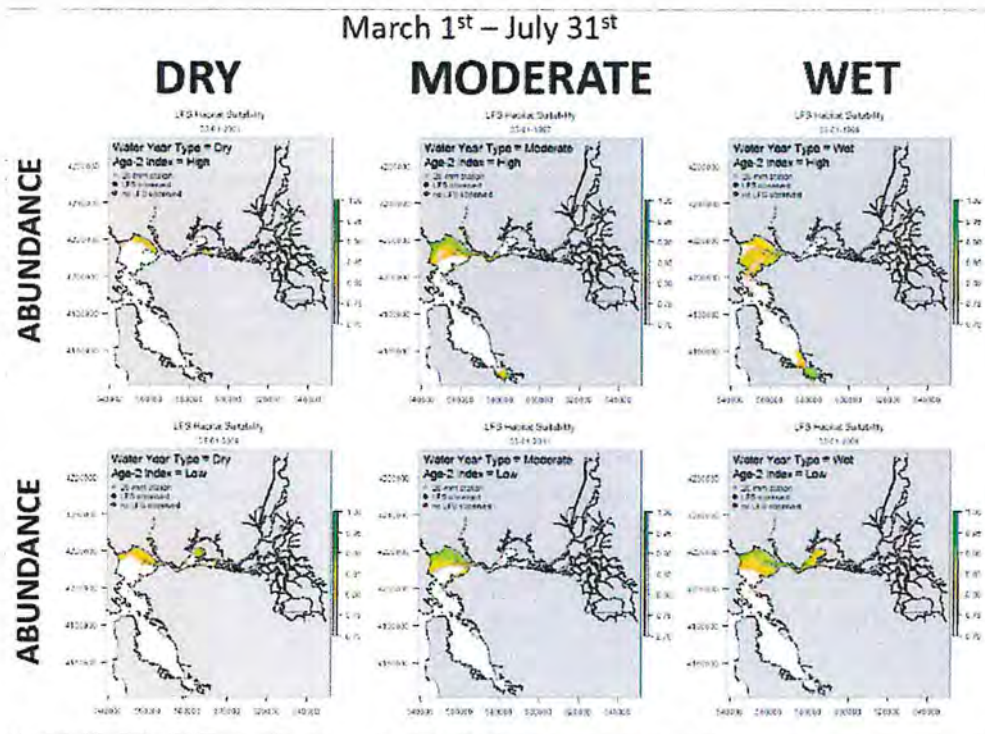
Eakin noted that the same environmental changes now testing the evolutionary fabric of native fish species are providing invasive competitor species, including black bass, silversides, and aquatic weeds, with an edge. Many are partial to slow-moving, warm water and are poised to thrive in the changing estuary.

"Not only do we get conditions that are not good for our native species, but we get conditions that are good for the nonnative species," he said.



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Mysid shrimp, a staple of the longfin fish diet: Photo: James Ervin.



<https://i0.wp.com/mavensnotebook.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/7-5A-habitatavailability.png?ssl=1>

Predicted juvenile longfin smelt habitat availability in the Estuary under various precipitation scenarios. Source: Phillis 2021, unpublished data

If warming trends squeeze the San Francisco Estuary off the range map for its native fishes, total extinction will likely claim the Delta smelt, which is endemic (<https://mavensnotebook.com/glossary/endemic/>) to the estuary and naturally lives nowhere else. For the longfin smelt, it's a different story. Such a shift would amount to extirpation – regional extinction – with the probability that they would persist farther north. Small populations with clear genetic links to the San Francisco Bay population occur in estuaries up the coast, and a larger independent population lives around the Columbia River mouth, Eakin explained. There are even at least two landlocked freshwater populations in the Pacific Northwest.

In fact, the species' adaptability in a dynamic environment has made it relatively difficult to study and understand compared to the Delta smelt, which only resides in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Eakin explained that several annual surveys are specifically designed to capture Delta smelt. Moreover, they sample the entire known range of the fish.

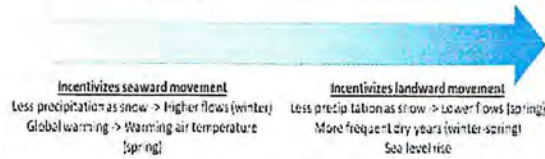
Longfin smelt are a little trickier to study.

"Only one of our monitoring programs was specifically designed and implemented for longfin, and up until 2022, that survey only sampled the upper estuary," he said.

Warming air temperature	Warmer Bay-Delta water temperature in the fall-winter Warmer Bay-Delta water temperature in the spring-early summer Less precipitation falling as snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Later Estuary re-entry (?) Compresses spawning season (-) Compressed estuary rearing (-) Higher winter flow (+) Lower spring flow (-) Fewer years of strong recruitment (-)
Changing precipitation patterns	More frequent dry years	
Sea level rise	Higher salinity per unit of freshwater input Changes to terrestrial-aquatic ecotones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landward encroachment of the LSZ (-) Unpredicted habitat changes (?)

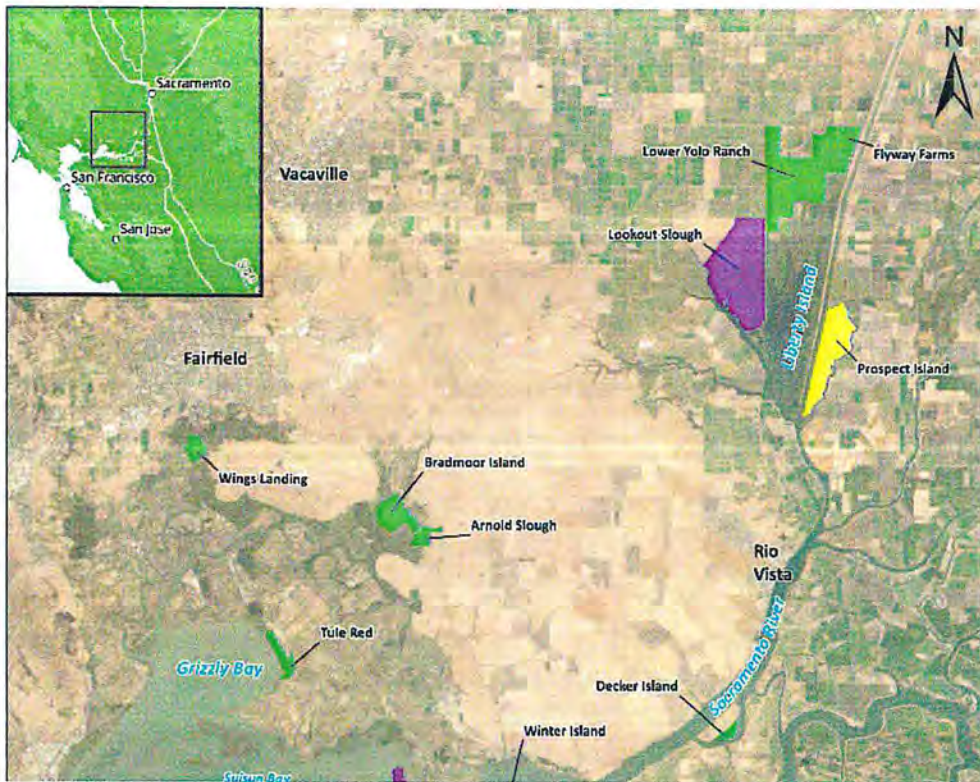
It turns out, in fact, that for many years scientists may have been overlooking a large area of suitable habitat in the south end of San Francisco Bay. It's here that, in 2017, researchers found hundreds of longfin smelt larvae in restored salt evaporation ponds, [confirming](https://www.ogfishlab.com/2017/05/20/little-fish-in-big-trouble-the-bay-deltas-longfin-smelt/) that the fish use the area for spawning. (Eakin noted that it is still not certain to scientists on what type of substrate longfin females deposit their eggs.)

The 2017 discovery raises questions of how wetland restoration efforts in the Bay and Delta might help the species in ways that researchers did not previously foresee. Schreier and Eakin said several projects, both underway and completed, in the Suisun Bay and Delta regions could offer benefits to the species. These include Tule Red on the eastern shore of Grizzly Bay, Chippis Island in Suisun Bay, and Winter Island near Pittsburg.



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Climate change drivers affecting the San Francisco Estuary, the linkages between these drivers and mechanisms affecting longfin smelt, and anticipated population consequences. Source: USFWS 2022. Species Status Assessment Bay-Delta Distinct Longfin Smelt.



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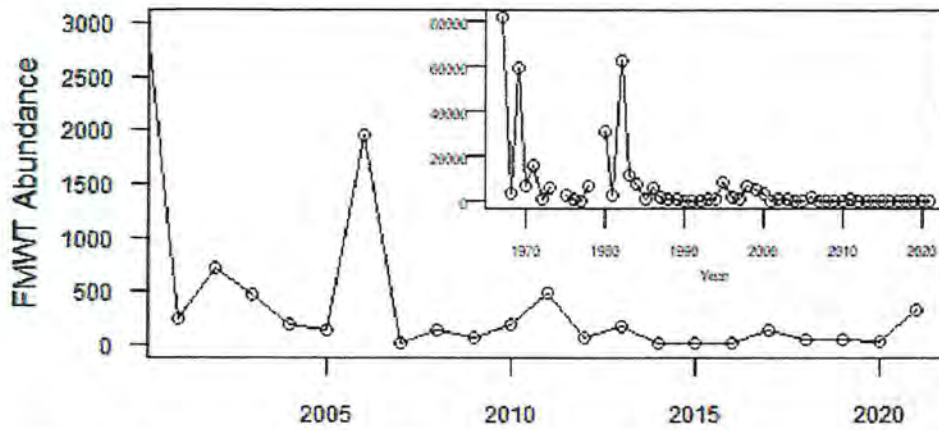
Restoration sites in the Delta that could benefit longfin smelt. Map: CDFW

ECOSYSTEM ON EDGE

The longfin smelt's plight in the San Francisco Estuary isn't exactly surprising to experts. To the contrary, it is consistent with other changes affecting the ecosystem.

"The longfin smelt is the next species in the queue of fishes at risk of extinction," said U.C. Davis biologist Peter Moyle, who has studied California's inland fishes for more than 50 years. "That so many species that require the Delta in one way or another are declining like this tells you that the whole ecosystem is in trouble."

Since about 2002, the longfin smelt has declined rapidly in tandem with a handful of other fishes—part of the phenomenon biologists began calling the "POD," for pelagic organism decline (<https://mavensnotebook.com/glossary/pelagic-organism-decline/>), shortly after it was first observed and described. That downward trend continued as an extraordinary drought began in 2012. During the five-year dry spell that followed, the numbers of longfin and Delta smelt captured in the annual Fall Midwater Trawl Survey each dropped to the single digits. While the longfin smelt index—which historically ranged in the thousands—has since bumped back into the low hundreds, Delta smelt have almost entirely disappeared; none have been captured since 2017.



<https://i0.wp.com/mavensnotebook.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/7-7-longfinovetime.png?ssl=1>

Longfin smelt abundance indices decline over time. Source: USFWS 2022. Species Status Assessment Bay-Delta Distinct Longfin Smelt.

That year, Moyle and colleague James Hobbs examined the longfin and Delta smelts' troubles in a review paper published in *San Francisco Estuary and* https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318613605_Is_Extinction_Inevitable_for_Delta_Smelt_and_Longfin_Smelt_An_Opinion_and_Recommendations_for_Recovery#:~:text=The%20Delta%20Smelt%20is%20a%20federally%20endangered%20pelagic%20fish%20that,Watershed (<https://mavensnotebook.com/glossary/watershed/>) Science. They questioned whether extinction is inevitable for the San Francisco Estuary's beleaguered smelts, and the answer, they concluded, is twofold: Extinction is potentially avoidable in the short-term, but survival and continued existence for each may eventually depend upon human support—assuming, that is, we care enough to intervene.

"We regard the fate of these species to be a test of society's will to pull threatened and endangered species back from the brink of extinction and further, to bring about recovery of native fishes," the scientists wrote.

With consideration of the collapsing ecosystem, Moyle and Hobbs advised that "[i]ncreasing freshwater outflow to the estuary should be the ultimate priority for promoting resilience in the Delta's native species."

Such concise recommendations on water management in the Delta are uncommon among state and federal officials. Steven Detwiler, a listing and recovery program supervisor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, acknowledged the clear connection between flows and abundance for longfin smelt, but said actions to more sustainably manage Delta water exports must be taken within a framework of established human uses.

"We are committed to working with all our partners in the Bay Delta ecosystem to create durable approaches to water management for the benefit of listed and native species, while respecting the needs of communities and agriculture who are also reliant on the delta," he said in a statement.

CAN BETTER TECH AND MORE SCIENCE HELP?

Efforts to breed longfin smelt in captivity have been underway for almost 15 years, though with poor results. The captive adult fish, scientists have reported, have been exceedingly picky about food, rejecting most dried feed products and preferring harder-to-get natural items, like the mysid shrimp they eat in the wild. (Even in the wild, Eakin noted, "they're incredibly food-specific.")

Worse, the fish simply don't live long in tanks.

"[M]ost adult broodstock die due to unknown reasons within a month after arrival ... in captivity," wrote the authors of the Longfin Smelt Science Plan 2020-2030, a collaboration between the departments of Water Resources and Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Contractors, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As captive breeding potentially offers a shield against extirpation, scientists continue to monitor the wild population. Hand-counting fish sifted from trawl nets is the traditional approach, but it is being augmented with new innovations. One, Schreier explained, is the micro-acoustic tag. Conventional acoustic tags are tiny enough to be inserted into juvenile salmon but too large for the slender, fragile bodies of smelt. Now, a new generation of super-small acoustic tags, about a fourth the size of their predecessors, is becoming available to researchers.

"That is going to open up a whole new world of seeing how these fish respond to different cues in their environment and different flow patterns," Schreier said.

The use of these tags could help researchers map out key habitat in high resolution. So might environmental DNA analysis. Catching fish in nets can be difficult, and as certain species grow scarcer, it can become less and less effective. This is where eDNA may come in. It is easy to collect, typically gathered up with small water samples and with minimal field effort. It reveals little or nothing about the health, size, or life status of the individual from which the DNA originated. It also can be difficult to interpret, since a DNA molecule



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CDFW midwater monitoring trawl in the Delta. Photo: Amy Quinton



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UC Davis and CDFW crew catch, count, measure and release, or prep longfin smelt for lab studies, on a 2024 monitoring cruise. Photo: James Ervin

collected in one place may have originated miles away—especially in an ecosystem governed by tides and currents like the San Francisco Estuary. But eDNA analysis can help rule out extinction, or confirm it, for a species for which trawl data has flatlined.

In fact, experts are already discussing how and when to declare a dwindling species extinct, with particular attention on the Delta smelt. The longfin smelt may one day become the focus of the same discourse. In their 2017 paper, Moyle and Hobbs addressed the administrative and clerical logistics of deciding when a species has officially slipped away. One challenge they foresaw involved potential inconsistencies between state and federal protections; one government agency could delist a species assumed to be extinct while another maintained regulatory protections, leading to confusing and conflicting rules on operating the Delta water pumps. The scientists also stressed the importance of continuing to sample smelt populations “to avoid premature extinction declarations.”



Science & Climate Stories, California
Longfin Smelt Don't Smell Like Cucumbers

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Recovery—not just delaying extinction or accurately announcing it—is ostensibly the goal of listing a species as threatened or endangered. However, it's a rare outcome. Of more than 1,300 species listed under the federal act, barely 3% have officially recovered. The Delta smelt has been listed for three decades, first as threatened and then as endangered, but its downside has continued. This trend, likely to play out for the [longfin smelt](https://www.fws.gov/node/4531791) (<https://www.fws.gov/node/4531791>) as well, signals an unrelenting ecological collapse.

It also implies a caveat to our own cultural values: While we typically lament the decline of a species and root for its recovery, sometimes—especially if the creature is cryptic enough and the road to recovery steep enough—we're okay with extinction.

This story was produced by Estuary News Group with support from the Delta Stewardship Council.

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#Delta (<https://mavensnotebook.com/tag/delta/>) #Endangered species (<https://mavensnotebook.com/tag/endangered-species/>)

#Fish and wildlife (<https://mavensnotebook.com/tag/fish-and-wildlife/>) #Longfin smelt (<https://mavensnotebook.com/tag/longfin-smelt/>)



Monthly Briefing

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

2024 Election: Trump 47 and GOP Control of Congress

Former President Donald Trump will return to the White House as the 47th President of the United States, and Republicans will control both chambers - albeit narrowly, in the House of Representatives - in the 119th Congress.

In addition to focusing on the recent victory and actions taken by the Trump transition team, this edition of the "Monthly Briefing" features articles previewing the 119th Congress and actions underway in the lame duck session of the 118th Congress.

The 2024 election has important ramifications for the country and rural communities in the American West.

"With a 6-3 conservative Supreme Court majority, Mr. Trump's initiatives will likely have substantial support," said Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, the Family Farm Alliance's representative in Washington, D.C.

Out of the Gate, Trump Announces Cabinet Picks

President-elect Trump named his campaign co-manager Susie Wiles chief of staff two days after his election win, marking his first major administrative pick. Ms. Wiles will be the first woman to hold the position.

"Susie is tough, smart, innovative, and is universally admired and respected," Mr. Trump said in a statement. "I have no doubt that she will make our country proud."

President-elect Donald Trump quickly followed up by announcing his intention to appoint former New York Congressman Lee Zeldin to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Zeldin, a supporter of Mr. Trump, is expected to advance Mr. Trump's goals of increasing U.S. energy production and reducing environmental regulations.

"We will restore US energy dominance, revitalize our auto industry to bring back American jobs, and make the US the global leader of AI," Mr. Zeldin said in a statement. "We will do so while protecting access to clean air and water."

President-elect Trump has chosen South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem (R) to be nominated as his Secretary of Homeland Security. Known for her loyalty to Trump, Noem will lead an agency responsible for border security, immigration, disaster response, and the U.S. Secret Service.

"She will be a great part of our mission to Make America Safe Again," President-elect Trump said.



Image courtesy of www.donaldjtrump.com

STORIES INSIDE.....

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Trump Cabinet Rapidly Takes Shape (*Cont'd from Page 1*)

Governor Noem's appointment aligns with Mr. Trump's commitment to intensify deportations, as he has also named immigration hard-liners Stephen Miller as his deputy Chief of Staff and Tom Homan as his border czar.

The Departments of Agriculture and Interior house the federal agencies that have the greatest role in the day-to-day operations of Western irrigators.

President-elect Trump has nominated Brooke Rollins as the next Secretary of Agriculture. Rollins, 52, graduated from Texas A&M University with an undergraduate degree in agricultural development before completing law school at the University of Texas.

"As our next Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke will spearhead the effort to protect American Farmers, who are truly the backbone of our Country," Mr. Trump said in a statement.

Ms. Rollins brings comparatively less agricultural policy experience than other names floated for the position, *Bloomberg Government News* recently reported. She also grew up on a farm, graduated from Texas A&M University with an agriculture development degree, and has been involved in student organizations promoting agriculture, Mr. Trump said in his announcement.

She served as domestic policy chief during Trump's first term, a portfolio that included agricultural policy. After leaving the White House, she became president and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, a group helping to lay the groundwork for a second Trump administration.

Some left-leaning conservation groups were critical of the pick.

"This appears to be another example of President-elect Trump doling out cabinet appointments for loyalty rather than expertise," Karen Perry Stillerman, with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in a statement. "Our nation's farmers, food workers, consumers and the public servants at the USDA deserve a secretary who knows and cares about the challenges they face."

However, American agricultural organization representatives were generally supportive of her nomination.

"America's cattle producers need a Secretary of Agriculture who will protect family farms and ranches, roll back crushing regulations, and stand up for rural values—and we look forward to working with Secretary-Designate Rollins to make it happen," said National Cattlemen's Beef Association Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane in a statement.

"We congratulate Brooke Rollins on her nomination to be Secretary of Agriculture," added American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "Effective leadership at USDA is more important than ever as farmers and ranchers face a struggling agricultural economy."

President-elect Donald Trump announced his plans to nominate North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, a one-time rival for the Republican presidential nomination, to run the Interior Department.

"We're going to do things with energy and with land — Interior — that is going to be incredible," Mr. Trump told an audience at Mar A Lago.

As Interior Secretary, Governor Burgum would be responsible for managing federal lands, including on and off-shore

development, leasing and management of oil and gas and minerals. He would also be responsible for Interior's Water and Science agencies, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Geological Survey.

Mr. Burgum was elected Governor of North Dakota in 2016 in a landslide and was easily reelected in 2020. He launched a bid for the Republican presidential nomination, but soon dropped out and endorsed President-Elect Trump.

"Governor Burgum knows what it takes to unleash American energy," said Senator John Barrasso (R-WYOMING), currently the Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "He recognizes how important our federal lands are for energy and mineral production, grazing, and recreation. As North Dakota's governor, he's shown he can balance environmental stewardship with record energy development."

However, Rep. Melanie Stanbury (D-NEW MEXICO), was critical of Mr. Burgum's nomination, pointing to his close ties to the oil and gas industry.

"I think he will be highly effective in dismantling the protections that we have to protect our lands and our people," she recently told *E&E News* by *POLITICO*.

The executive director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation had more encouraging remarks about Mr. Burgum's selection.

"I'll give Doug Burgum real credit as governor, really empowering the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to lead on the wildlife policies," John Bradley told *E&E News*. "He has all the tools that are necessary to do the job well. What we would hope is that he brings in those other experts from across the West."

Bureaucratic Overhaul Proposed with New DOGE

Soon after being reelected, President-elect Donald Trump announced the formation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), tasked with reducing federal bureaucracy, cutting costs, and limiting regulatory overreach. The initiative, led by two outside advisers - Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy - aims to dismantle what they describe as an "antidemocratic" system dominated by unelected officials and excessive regulations.

"Together, these two wonderful Americans will pave the way for my Administration to dismantle Government Bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure Federal Agencies - Essential to the 'Save America' Movement," Mr. Trump wrote in a prepared statement. "I look forward to Elon and Vivek making changes to the Federal Bureaucracy with an eye on efficiency and, at the same time, making life better for all Americans."

The DOGE is not an official "Department" but could be categorized as a federal advisory commission.

In an Op-Ed in the *Wall Street Journal*, Messrs. Musk and Ramaswamy said the DOGE will focus on three key reforms: rescinding unauthorized regulations, reducing administrative staffing, and identifying cost savings.

"Most government enforcement decisions and discretionary expenditures aren't made by the democratically elected

Continued on Page 3

Page 2

Musk, Ramaswamy to Head DOGE Effort (Cont'd from Pg 2)

president or even his political appointees but by millions of unelected, unappointed civil servants within government agencies who view themselves as immune from firing thanks to civil-service protections," the duo wrote in WSJ.

The initiative will target federal workforce reductions, arguing fewer employees will be needed as regulatory scopes shrink.

The DOGE will explore voluntary retirement incentives and severance payments to ease transitions for affected workers.

Additionally, it plans to address wasteful federal spending, including \$500 billion in unauthorized annual expenditures, and to reform procurement and auditing processes.

The department plans to leverage recent Supreme Court rulings, including *West Virginia v. EPA* (2022) and *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* (2024), to challenge federal regulations deemed to exceed Congressional authority.

The DOGE will recommend regulatory rollbacks to President Trump, who could pause enforcement and begin rescission processes via executive action.

Critics warn that the approach may provoke legal and political challenges.

"Tell me what you're going to do. You've got a dollar amount, but where the hell are you going to find it and from whom?" Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, asked *E&E News*. "There are a whole lot of people who want to deal with the appropriations process and don't know anything about the appropriations process."

However, DOGE leaders argue the reforms align with constitutional principles and recent Supreme Court decisions.

"With a decisive electoral mandate and a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court, DOGE has a historic opportunity for structural reductions in the federal government," Messrs. Musk and Ramaswamy wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* op-ed.

"We are prepared for the onslaught from entrenched interests in Washington. We expect to prevail."

They aim to sunset the DOGE by July 4, 2026, framing their efforts as a legacy aligned with their vision for a limited federal government.

Trump Transition Team

The Trump transition team delayed until November 26 signing MOUs required by presidential transition law to gain access to agency briefing materials and transition funding. Incoming chief of staff Susie Wiles announced the move, which clears the way for coordination with the federal agencies they will soon take over, according to *POLITICO*.

In the announcement, Ms. Wiles suggested the Trump transition will not sign a separate agreement with the General Services Administration, which would have allowed them to receive federal funding, cybersecurity support and government office space.

The transition instead, Wiles said, "will operate as a self-sufficient organization, adding that declining government funding will "save taxpayers' hard-earned money."

Family Farm Alliance Activities

This leadership is expected to set a new conservative tone, particularly impacting policies on energy, the environment, and federal regulatory oversight. The Alliance will closely monitor opportunities to improve the climate for Western irrigated agriculture.

"The Family Farm Alliance board of directors set this year's priorities at our annual meeting in Reno last February, where it was agreed that we would prepare a transition report wish list, similar to what we prepared for the Trump Administration and the Biden-Harris Administration in 2016 and 2020, respectively," said Alliance executive director Dan Keppen. "We're already working on our new 2024 roadmap document and have

shared some of our findings with the Trump transition team."

Many Alliance members are concerned about what the new Congress will do on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding.

"Budget reconciliation is the mechanism that will be used to go after a lot of the funding, particularly climate related programs," said Mr. Limbaugh. "Much of the BIL funding has already been obligated, but the IRA is more at risk."

"We'll need to work to protect the \$4 billion provided by the IRA for Western drought resiliency," added Mr. Keppen. "We should assume that everything is on the chopping block and let the Administration and our friends in Congress know what is important to us."



TRUMP VANCE

STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

I am pleased to announce that the Great Elon Musk, working in conjunction with American Patriot Vivek Ramaswamy, will lead the Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE"). Together, these two wonderful Americans will pave the way for my Administration to dismantle Government Bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure Federal Agencies - Essential to the "Save America" Movement. "This will send shockwaves through the system, and anyone involved in Government waste, which is a lot of people!" stated Mr. Musk.

It will become, potentially, "The Manhattan Project" of our time. Republican politicians have dreamed about the objectives of "DOGE" for a very long time. To drive this kind of drastic change, the Department of Government Efficiency will provide advice and guidance from outside of Government, and will partner with the White House and Office of Management & Budget to drive large scale structural reform, and create an entrepreneurial approach to Government never seen before.

I look forward to Elon and Vivek making changes to the Federal Bureaucracy with an eye on efficiency and, at the same time, making life better for all Americans. Importantly, we will drive out the massive waste and fraud which exists throughout our annual \$0.5 Trillion Dollars of Government Spending. They will work together to liberate our Economy, and make the U.S. Government accountable to "WE THE PEOPLE." Their work will conclude no later than July 4, 2026 - A smaller Government, with more efficiency and less bureaucracy, will be the perfect gift to America on the 250th Anniversary of The Declaration of Independence. I am confident they will succeed!

Statement from President-elect Donald Trump announcing that Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy will lead the DOGE.

Outlook for the 119th Congress—U.S. House

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) and other House Republicans expressed readiness to pursue President-elect Trump's agenda when the new Congress convenes on January 3. The GOP will hold at least 218 seats in the House starting January, while Democrats have 212 seats.

Speaker Johnson noted that Republicans are better prepared than in 2016 when they last controlled both the White House and Congress.

"We are prepared this time as we wind down the 118th Congress," he said. "We'll be ready to take the ball and run in the 119th Congress."

Given the narrow majority Republicans hold in the House, they may face challenges in passing more partisan measures without collaboration or bipartisan support, especially on issues impacting agricultural policy and regional water management in the West.

House Leadership Plans

In the House, Republicans plan to retain their current leadership structure with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and his team.

House Democrats have elected the following leaders for the 119th Congress:

- Minority Leader: Hakeem Jeffries (NY)
- Minority Whip: Katherine Clark (MA)
- Caucus Chair: Pete Aguilar (CA)
- Assistant Democratic Leader: Joe Neguse (CO)
- Caucus Vice Chair: Ted Lieu (CA)
- Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee: Debbie Dingell (MI)

Rep. Dingell won the only contested leadership election among House Democrats, defeating Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) by a wide margin to retain her role.

House Democrats reelected all other top leaders unopposed, reflecting confidence in their leadership despite losing the House majority.

Costa Takes on Scott for Ranking Member on Ag

Congressman Jim Costa (D-CALIFORNIA) late last month announced his candidacy for the position of Ranking Member on the House Agriculture Committee, challenging David Scott of Georgia to lead Democrats on the Committee in the next Congress.

"Congressman Costa's leadership within the U.S. agriculture space has been unmatched over his 18 years in Congress," said Ian LeMay, the incoming president of the California Table Grape Commission. "As a seasoned veteran of the committee, having helped pass three previous Farm Bills, he understands the diligence and compromise that is necessary to craft such an important piece of legislation."

Mr. Costa received key endorsements from the Family Farm Alliance and over 70 agricultural organizations when he made a similar, but unsuccessful bid to chair the committee in 2020.

"I'm running, really, to try to focus on getting a reauthorization of the farm bill, and to really provide strong advocacy for Democrats on behalf of rural America," Costa recently told *Agri-Pulse*. "Democrats continue to have challenges in rural America, and I think we need to address that."



Rep. Jim Costa (D-CALIFORNIA) with Family Farm Alliance farmer lobbyists in Washington, D.C., September 2024. Photo courtesy of Office of Rep. Costa

Huffman will Challenge Grijalva for top Resources Post

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) has announced his bid to challenge Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) for the position of ranking member on the House Natural Resources Committee, ending months of speculation.

"Now, with the shockwave of Trump's 'First 100 Days' agenda about to slam into our committees, effective committee work led by our Ranking Members will be critical to limiting the damage from Trump's Project 2025 agenda, advancing our affirmative agenda, bolstering members in tough districts, and drawing contrasts that enable Democrats to reclaim the House Majority in 2026 or sooner and make Hakeem Jeffries Speaker of the House," Rep. Huffman said in his announcement. "With that imperative as my guidepost, I humbly ask for your support to serve as Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee."

Rep. Huffman's challenge follows Raul Grijalva's return to Congress after a battle with lung cancer and comes amid private concerns about Mr. Grijalva's ability to fulfill the role due to his health.

In a letter to colleagues, Rep. Huffman emphasized the importance of effective committee leadership in countering Republican legislative agendas and advancing Democratic priorities. He pledged to push back against GOP extremism while fostering bipartisan cooperation.

Meanwhile, Rep. Grijalva has defended his leadership record and reiterated his commitment to environmental justice, climate action, and Indigenous rights. He said he had not dis-

Continued on Page 5

Page 4

Outlook for the 119th Congress—U.S. Senate *Republicans win back the majority*

On November 8, Republicans won back the Senate majority for the first time in four years by flipping four Democratic-held seats.

Notably, this was the first time since 1980 where Republicans regained control of the Senate in a presidential election year.

House Republican Leader Mitch McConnell called the election a “hell of a good day” for the GOP.

“People were just not happy with this administration and the Democratic nominee was a part of it,” he said.

On November 11, the final race was called in the upper chamber, solidifying the tally at 53-47.

Republicans flipped seats in Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia beating three incumbent Democrats running for re-election: Sens. Jon Tester (D-MONTANA), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Bob Casey (D-Pa.), while flipping the seat of retiring Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.V.).

There are 11 Senate freshmen entering the 119th Congress that will succeed either retiring or defeated Senators, including Westerners Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-ARIZONA), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CALIFORNIA), Navy Seal Tim Sheehy (R-MONTANA), and Rep. John Curtis (R-UTAH).

Sen. John Thune (R-SOUTH DAKOTA) won a secret ballot vote of 29-24 amongst Senate Republicans to replace Mitch McConnell to serve as Senate Majority Leader.

“We have a mandate from the American people,” Senator Thune told reporters after the vote. “I’m excited to get to work with this team right away. . . . I promise to be a leader who serves the entire Republican conference.”

Looking ahead to the early days of 2025 and the 119th Congress, it seems that Republicans will use their trifecta to work quickly on the renewal of the 2017 GOP tax law passed by Donald Trump during his first presidency.

To avoid the filibuster in the Senate, Republicans will utilize the process of budget reconciliation which allows for legislation to pass via simple majority in the Senate and does not require a cloture vote (60 vote-threshold) to advance.

“Both parties have used the process in recent years, including for the enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022,” said Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, the Alliance’s representative in Washington, D.C. “There will be challenges regarding how large the package is and what will serve as an offset.”

Rep. Huffman Seeks Top Spot at Resources (Cont’d from Pg. 4)

cussed the future of the leadership post with other committee Democrats.

“I mean, if there’s an issue, then it needs to be brought up by members of the Caucus,” he said.

The Democratic Steering and Policy Committee will recommend a candidate for caucus approval, with both candidates expected to engage in extensive outreach to secure support. Rep. Huffman proposed naming Rep. Grijalva “Ranking Member Emeritus” if successful, highlighting his respect for Rep. Grijalva’s legacy.

New Congressional Western Caucus Chair

The Congressional Western Caucus Executive Committee unanimously elected Executive Vice Chair Doug LaMalfa (R-CALIFORNIA) to serve as the Caucus’ Chairman for the 119th Congress. He will replace current Chairman Dan Newhouse (R-WASHINGTON), who has led the Caucus for the past four years.

“I want to offer my sincere congratulations to my good friend Doug LaMalfa on his election as Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus,” said Chairman Newhouse. “Doug is a true champion of the west, given his strong support for the multiple-use mandate for public lands, proactive management of our forests, American agriculture and domestic energy production.”

The Congressional Western Caucus within the House of Representatives composed of 62 members. Although it has historically been bipartisan, it is currently composed almost exclusively of Republicans (with the sole exception being Mary Peltola (D-Alaska)).

Doug LaMalfa is a fourth-generation rice farmer and business owner who has lived in Northern California all his life. He was elected to the California State Assembly and State Senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. In Congress, Rep. LaMalfa has been a strong advocate for limited, constitutionally grounded, government, fiscal restraint and lower taxes.

Congressman LaMalfa’s district in Northern California has been hit with numerous catastrophic fires that have killed over 100 people in recent years. He has sponsored legislation to help citizens recover and change forest policy to reduce wild-fire risks.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve as the new Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and to continue fighting for rural America,” said Chairman-Elect LaMalfa. “Chairman Newhouse has done an admirable job elevating the issues that matter most to the West, and I want to thank him for his strong leadership and dedication. He’s laid a solid foundation for the Caucus, and I’m ready to build on his accomplishments as we tackle the challenges ahead.”

Reclamation's Palumbo Earns 2024 Presidential Award

Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner David M. Palumbo has received the 2024 Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service.

Established by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, this prestigious honor is awarded to a select group of career civil servants to recognize those with a record of scientific, technical or professional achievement. Only one percent of the career Senior Executive Service, Senior-Level and Scientific and Professional corps are selected for the Distinguished Rank Award.

"David's relentless commitment to collaboration, service, and the public good has built trust fostered collaboration, and solidified Reclamation's role in solving complex water resource problems and serving as a vital partner in water resource management," stated Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton.

With more than two decades of federal service, Deputy Commissioner Palumbo oversees several thousand operations group employees and manages critical water and power infrastructure. Reclamation's operational portfolio includes 492 dams and 76 hydro-power facilities, which together serve approximately 40 million people and irrigate 10 million acres across 17 Western states.

Under his stewardship, Reclamation is implementing new programs and taking new actions to assure the ability of western water infrastructure to deliver benefits in the face of drought, invasive species, climate change and other stressors, particularly in the Colorado River Basin. Specifically, he led development of the Drought Contingency Plans in collabora-

tion with the seven Basin states, producing innovative solutions to mitigate the effects of prolonged drought.

"Receiving the Presidential Rank Award is a tremendous honor, but it truly reflects the hard work and dedication of Reclamation's employees and our partners across the West," remarked Deputy Commissioner Palumbo. "We are committed to ensuring that Reclamation continues to deliver water and power to the American West while effectively managing the complexities of prolonged drought, aridification, and water scarcity."

During this critical period for the Colorado River, Deputy Commissioner Palumbo has successfully fostered partnerships across federal, state, and tribal governments, facilitating essential agreements on water shortages and environmental conservation for fish and wildlife.

A notable achievement includes overseeing 86 Water Conservation Implementation Agreements on the Colorado River, which will generate more than 1.5 million acre-feet of system conservation water by 2026 and preserve the ability of that system to deliver benefits. His innovative approach has enabled Reclamation to achieve greater water conservation in Lake Mead over the past year than in the pre-

vious three decades, while cultivating lasting partnerships with other drought-affected regions.

Deputy Commissioner Palumbo regularly presents and leads discussions on the core values of public service, prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion. He actively fosters a proactive workforce and strengthens relationships with historically marginalized communities, ensuring their voices are integral to Reclamation's mission.



David Palumbo testifies at a Congressional hearing in July 2024, wearing a tie once owned by the late Pat O'Toole, who served as the Family Farm Alliance President for 19 years. Pat's wife, Sharon, had a collection of his ties for people to choose from and take home following a memorial service conducted in Wyoming a few days earlier. Mr. Palumbo attended the service and took one back to DC with him.

SAME GREAT PROGRAM...SAME GREAT LOCATION....NEW DATE!

2025 Annual Meeting and Conference

October 30-31, 2025 Reno, NV



Information on conference agenda, registration and hotel reservations, and sponsorship exhibitor opportunities will be available in mid-2025

House Subcommittee Considers Four Bills

The House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries last month held a legislative hearing on four bills focused on Western water infrastructure and the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design program. Subcommittee Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.) issued the following statement in response:

“These bills, if enacted, will protect our communities, strengthen local economies, protect the environment, and connect the next generation to the outdoors,” said Subcommittee Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-OREGON).

The three water bills all have companion bills introduced in the Senate that are supported by the Family Farm Alliance.

The *Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act* (H.R. 9515) introduced by Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-COLORADO), will eliminate burdensome interest payments by water users for nonfederal costs of the Arkansas Valley Conduit pipelines to promote the completion of the critical water infrastructure project.

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CALIFORNIA) introduced the *Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024* (H.R. 9515), which would allow the non-federal portion of the available funds for the program to be placed into an interest-bearing account.

Placing these funds into an interest-bearing account could provide approximately \$2 million annually in revenue, defraying costs that would otherwise be the burden of the lower Colorado River basin states.

“This will further support an important, well-conceived, long-term program that allows the Lower Basin states to achieve compliance with federal environmental laws and regulations in the management and use of Colorado River water,” said Alliance executive director Dan Keppen.

H.R. 9969, introduced by U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WYOMING), will allow the Western Area Power Administration to address the impacts of the recent record of decision (ROD) to allow flow experiments at Glen Canyon Dam on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund.

“The Alliance was disappointed with the ROD selected alternative to address small mouth bass that would rely solely on water releases that bypass power generators, significantly impacting power generation at Glen Canyon Dam,” said Mr. Keppen. “While we would have preferred that other non-flow alternatives be utilized to deal with the small mouth bass issue – an issue that was not created by water or power users – at a minimum it is critical that power customers and the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund be protected.”

NEPA Under Scrutiny in the Courtroom

The often slow and cumbersome federal regulatory process is a major obstacle to realization of projects and actions that could enhance Western water supplies. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation, in particular, can have a direct bearing on the success or failure of critical water supply enhancement projects.

The Biden White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) last May 1 issued the Final Rule implementing Phase 2 of significant revisions to NEPA regulations. CEQ described these changes as enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental reviews while striving for regulatory certainty.

The Final Rule also implements the significant changes that require agencies to identify an environmentally preferable alternative and undertake additional consideration of climate change and environmental justice in environmental analyses.

The Biden CEQ NEPA rule – lauded by litigious environmental groups like NRDC and the Center for Biological Diversity – replaces a previous rule prepared by the Trump Administration, one that was supported by many in agriculture and other regulated industries.

“The Family Farm Alliance strongly supported the Trump administration’s regulations for NEPA, which included many of our recommendations,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “Unfortunately, the Biden Administration CEQ quickly overturned those rules.”

The Biden NEPA rule has opened new pathways for the long-storied history of NEPA litigation and courts are once again being asked again to interpret the changes to improve regulatory certainty.

D.C. Circuit Finds CEQ Lacks Regulatory Power to Issue Binding NEPA Rules

A divided D.C. Circuit Court panel has ruled that CEQ lacks the legal authority to issue binding rules under NEPA, which challenges longstanding policy.

In *Marin Audubon Society v. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*, et al., Judges A. Raymond Randolph and Karen LeCraft Henderson held that NEPA does not provide the CEQ with statutory authority to enforce regulations across federal agencies, thus rendering its rules unenforceable.

“Petitioners should not be saddled with having to clear the bar of mandamus relief if the Agencies take too long,” the majority ruled. “The Agencies acted without authority; they should bear the burden of justifying a stay of the mandate.”

This decision – stemming from a case on the FAA’s environmental review for S.F. Bay Area park flights – could allow the incoming Trump Administration and GOP-controlled Congress to alter Biden-era NEPA regulations.

While the ruling specifically addresses the FAA plan, it sets a precedent that could impact other CEQ regulations unless overturned by a full appellate or Supreme Court review.

In a partial dissent, Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan argued that the majority overstepped by addressing CEQ’s authority, as neither party contested it. Srinivasan also criticized the decision to vacate the FAA plan, noting it could negatively impact environmental protections for the affected parks.

Continued on Page 8

Outlook for the Lame-Duck Congress

Congress returned to Washington on November 12 to begin the final legislative days of the outgoing 118th Congress – also referred to as a “lame duck session.” Congress is expected to adjourn by December 20th.

“There is an urgent need to address critical funding and policy measures by December 20, when Congress is scheduled to adjourn,” said Mr. Limbaugh.

When Congress returns from the Thanksgiving holiday week off, lawmakers will have three weeks to pass another stopgap Continuing Resolution (CR) with a current government funding deadline of Friday, December 20.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) seeks to pass a short-term CR into next year, providing President-elect Donald Trump with an opportunity to influence any future Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 spending agreement. This also reduces pressure on Speaker Johnson as he heads into the January 3 floor vote for Speaker in the upcoming 119th Congress.

“We have to clean out last year’s work so that we can move forward with reconciliation and the very aggressive first 100-day agenda that we have planned,” said Speaker Johnson.

The CR will likely include disaster relief funding, though it is unlikely to be as large as the nearly \$99 billion the Biden Administration requested last month.

Depending on the length of the funding extension, President-elect Trump may begin his second term facing a significant budget battle.

Democratic lawmakers, however, are now aiming for an FY 2025 spending agreement grounded in spending caps outlined by the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023, essentially extending the arrangement that took place earlier this year under Speaker Johnson with the enacted FY24 spending bills.

The current “lame duck” has been slow in progress for lawmakers as they will still need to take up the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the Water Re-

sources Development Act (WRDA), an extension of the expiring provisions in the Farm Bill, reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and other items set to expire next month if no action is taken.

Originally set to expire in 2023, the current Farm Bill was given a temporary extension until September 2024. However, significant disagreements between the House and Senate have stalled a new bill’s progress. With Congress unable to finalize the Farm Bill before year-end, the next session will address this bill under the incoming Republican majority.

A possible farm bill extension may include conservation funding from the Inflation Reduction Act if an agreement can be reached.

“The new Farm Bill could introduce significant reforms impacting crop insurance, agricultural subsidies, and water-use policies,” said Mr. Keppen. “The Alliance will be closely watching the bill’s development.”

Recent hurricanes in the Southeastern U.S. have stretched FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund, which is rapidly running low. Congress is likely to consider a substantial relief package to replenish FEMA funds.

And the bipartisan WRDA is being conferenced between the House and Senate versions and could potentially ride on the NDAA as it did two years ago. Finally, a land and water package of bills is said to be in the works and could benefit from must-pass legislation as a vehicle in the lame duck.

For Western states, which have faced ongoing drought, wildfires, and extreme weather, robust disaster relief funding could mean increased support for recovery efforts, improved water infrastructure resilience, and expanded relief for communities facing crop losses due to drought.

“The outcomes of these legislative items carry significant implications for Western agricultural water management,” said Mr. Keppen. “As these priorities move through Congress, we will continue to monitor developments that impact Western agricultural water.”

NEPA Scrutinized by Courts (Continued from Pg. 7)

Supreme Court Briefs Argue Against Limiting NEPA’s Reach

Democratic lawmakers, blue states, and former White House officials from past Administrations have filed amicus briefs urging the Supreme Court to allow Congress to handle changes to NEPA rather than limiting its scope in any future decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, et al v. Eagle County, CO, et al.*

This response comes as Utah’s Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition) challenges a court-mandated NEPA review for the Uinta Basin Railway, which would transport crude oil across state lines. The coalition argues that NEPA should not require agencies to assess distant impacts outside their regulatory authority.

“This project is vital for the economic growth and connectivity of the Uinta Basin region, and we are committed to seeing it through,” said Keith Heaton, director of the Coalition, in a press release.

Opponents insist that such analyses are necessary to consider broader environmental risks, such as oil spills and air quality.

“The proposal for the Uinta Basin Railway cut corners from the start but federal laws are now catching up with this climate and environmental catastrophe,” Wendy Park, a senior attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity told Colorado NPR. “That will prevent this disastrous railway from being built.”

The Supreme Court’s decision could redefine NEPA’s reach in environmental reviews.

House Republicans Accuse Biden EPA of Not Implementing WOTUS Ruling

House Republicans have criticized the Biden Administration for not fully complying with the Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA* that limits federal oversight of wetlands, arguing the Administration is over-regulating streams and wetlands and delaying permits for infrastructure projects.

In an October 31 letter to the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, 27 GOP lawmakers led by Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, highlighted concerns over regulatory overreach and transparency issues regarding federal waterway definitions under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

"In *Sackett*, the Supreme Court provided needed clarity on the definition of a WOTUS, reinforcing property owners' rights, protecting the separation of powers by limiting the authority that Congress explicitly delegated in statute, and adhering to the Congressional intent of the *CWA*," the Mem-

bers wrote. "*Sackett* rightly upheld the cooperative Federalism framework of the *CWA*, as well as the authority of states to regulate non-Federal waters within their borders as they see fit."

They argued that many wetlands are not jurisdictional under the CWA and should not require federal permits under the ruling.

While Republicans seek reduced oversight, some Democrats are working to restore protections for wetlands.

"After *Sackett*, Congress should be working to restore the protections of the Clean Water Act that worked for over fifty years," said Rep. Grace Napolitano in a House floor statement last March.

Any such legislative actions remain politically divisive and will face significant hurdles to their enactment.

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Want to show your support for alfalfa and Family Farm Alliance? We've got just the thing! Introducing our new "Make Alfalfa Great Again" hat – a fun way to celebrate this essential crop and support the work of the Alliance.



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Thank you for your continued support of the Family Farm Alliance.

Biden Administration Releases Proposals to Address Colorado River Shortages *Arizona, California Threaten Compact Call on Upper Basin States*

The Biden Administration last month unveiled five proposals to address the Colorado River's water shortages, seeking to break a stalemate among the seven states that rely on the river's resources.

The proposals, released by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), aim to manage the drought-stricken river and prepare for the expiration of key agreements governing its use in 2026.

"We have worked tirelessly over the past several years to bring Colorado River Basin stakeholders together for a transparent and inclusive post-2026 process that has fostered collaboration and compromise. Importantly, we have also put Tribal governments at the table for the first time in history," said Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton. "These alternatives represent a responsible range from which to build the best and most robust path forward for the Basin. I have confidence in our partners and the Reclamation team in continuing this work to meet the needs of the river for the future."

The plans, which include a "no-action" alternative and options for water cuts and conservation measures, draw on input from states, tribal nations, and conservation advocates.

One proposal, the "Basin Hybrid" plan, suggests cuts of up to 2.1 million acre-feet for Lower Basin states (Arizona, California, Nevada) under extreme conditions, alongside Upper Basin (Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah) conservation efforts.

Tension Between Upper and Lower Basins

However, significant disagreements among states remain unresolved. States, tribes and stakeholder interests have proposed different plans to Reclamation for how the basin should be managed.

Disputes persist over how to distribute water cuts, with California defending its senior water rights and Arizona expressing concerns over the exclusion of its proposed package from detailed analysis.

Arizona and California officials are turning to the threat of a "compact call" to ratchet up the pressure on the four Upper Basin states.

"While we continue to be open to exploring solutions beyond strict Compact compliance, as demonstrated by our proposed alternative, if the Upper Basin isn't interested in engaging in a compromise, then Compact compliance is required," JB Hamby, California's top negotiator, wrote in an email to *The Colorado Sun*.

Upper Basin states advocate for preserving unused water due to drought and limiting Lower Basin withdrawals.

In the Upper Colorado River Commission proposal offered in March - called the Upper Basin Alternative - mandatory cuts for Upper Basin water users are not included.

"The upper division states continue to stand behind the alternative that we submitted and know that it provides a reasonable alternative for sustainable operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead," said Colorado Commissioner Becky Mitchell.

Tribal Settlement Proposal

Reclamation's alternative proposals also consider tribal water rights, highlighting the need for infrastructure to utilize their allocated flows.

The Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe are urging Congress to adopt a \$5 billion water rights settlement before the end of the year, with hopes that lawmakers may once again seek to advance tribal water bills - S. 4633 and H.R. 8940 - during the lame-duck session.

States including Wyoming and Utah have expressed broad support for the settlement but urged Congress not to adopt it until assurances are provided to properly limit the lease of Upper Basin flows to the Lower Basin outside of tribal uses.

"There's a lot of political will on both sides of the aisle. We have bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate as well," Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch told *Greenwire*. "We're really excited about this, but it's a really challenging issue."

Urgent Need to Achieve Consensus

Biden Administration officials stressed urgency in achieving consensus ahead of the 2026 deadline.

"Those efforts helped stabilize the Colorado River for the short-term - but now, we owe it to future generations to find long-term solutions that ensure the river's continued stability" said White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi. "We continue to encourage all Basin partners to find a consensus agreement that meets the needs of all the river's users."

Some conservation groups criticized the lack of full transparency in the Administration's preliminary plans.

"Releasing bullet points on alternatives without the full analysis is like sharing a recipe that only lists a few of the ingredients," said Kyle Roerink, executive director of the Great Basin Water Network. "We can only make assumptions about what this all means in the grand scheme."

Reclamation will now analyze these alternatives to develop a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Once published, the draft EIS will include a public comment period, while states, federal agencies, and stakeholders work to reconcile conflicting visions for the river's future.

This puts Reclamation on a path to publish a final EIS, which would then be followed by a Record of Decision in 2026.

Even with the new Trump Administration coming into power, the draft EIS may stay on the same timeline due to the fast-approaching 2026 deadline for new guidelines to manage the river.

"Now is the time for the Basin states and Tribes to redouble their work toward a consensus alternative" for a long-term agreement, acting Deputy Interior Secretary Laura Daniel-Davis said in a recent call with reporters. "The alternatives we are announcing today show that path. I urge them to do so."



CORRESPONDENCE LIST
DECEMBER 2024

1. November 15, 2024 – Notice received from the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting for November 21, 2024 has been cancelled
2. November 15, 2024 - Letter from District to customer regarding billing requirements
3. November 18, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the December 4, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
4. November 20, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the November 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
5. November 20, 2024 – Letter from District to two customers regarding past due water service account
6. November 20, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 135-230-026
7. November 20, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 143-312-010
8. November 20, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 141-321-016
9. November 20, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 137-030-063
10. November 22, 2024 – Notice of Special Meeting received from Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the December 19, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
11. December 5, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the December 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
12. December 9, 2024 – Letter from District to seven customers regarding backflow testing requirement
13. December 11, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District for the December 11, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors