

## **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, November 19, 2024**  
**1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room**

**Notice Regarding Public Participation:** For those who may not attend the meeting but wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, please submit any and all comments and written materials to the District via electronic mail at [general@syrwd.org](mailto:general@syrwd.org). All submittals should indicate "**November 19, 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 OCTOBER 15, 2024**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion without separate discussion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Trustee.
  - CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report
  - CA-2. Central Coast Water Authority Update
8. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
  - A. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**
    1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
      - a) Draft June 30, 2024 & 2023 Audited Financial Statements - Presentation by Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP
      - b) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements - Revenues and Expenses
      - c) Approval of Accounts Payable
  - B. **OPERATIONS UPDATE**
9. **REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
  - A. **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**
    1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update
  - B. **STATE WATER PROJECT**
    1. Informational Update on SWP Operations and Deliveries

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

1. Draft Resolution No. XXX: 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

**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 **December 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.**

**14. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:

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

[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 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**

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

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
OCTOBER 15, 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, October 15, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

- Trustees Present:            Jeff Clay  
                                     Brad Joos  
                                     Mark Moniot  
                                     Nick Urton
- Trustees Absent:            Mike Burchardi
- Others Present:            Paeter Garcia            Racel Cota            Karen King  
                                     Dan Drugan            Gary Kvistad

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:  
President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted a roll call and reported that four Trustees were present, and that Trustee Burchardi was absent.
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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2024  
The Regular Meeting minutes from September 17, 2024 were presented for consideration.  
  
President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.  
  
It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to approve the September 17, 2024 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

1 7. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

2 The Consent Agenda report was provided in the Board packet.

3  
4 Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of September.

5  
6 It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote,  
7 with Trustee Burchardi absent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8  
9 8. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING**  
10 **SUBJECTS:**

11 **A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

12 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

13 a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements - Revenues and Expenses

14 Ms. Cota announced that the Financials Statements were provided to the Board via  
15 email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on  
16 the District's website.

17  
18 Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of  
19 September. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense  
20 transactions that occurred during the month and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date  
21 Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot for  
22 the first quarter of this fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that the revenue exceeded the  
23 expenses by \$605,804.01 and the year-to-date net income was \$1,500,281.13.

24  
25 b) Approval of Accounts Payable

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

29  
30 The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 26137 through 26191  
31 in the amount of \$465,952.28.

32  
33 It was **MOVED** by Trustee Clay, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0  
34 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to approve the Warrant List for September  
35 18, 2024 through October 15, 2024.

36  
37 **B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

38 Mr. Dan Drugan provided a report on current operational activities. He reported that in  
39 accordance with the revised Lead and Copper Rule, the District has completed inspections  
40 of all meter boxes, service lines, and customer lines within the District's direct retail service  
41 area (not including the City of Solvang), and that the inventory data was submitted to the  
42 Division of Drinking Water in early October. Mr. Drugan stated that the field staff is  
43 preparing for the October 28<sup>th</sup> shutdown of the CCWA delivery pipeline for annual  
44 maintenance, at which time the District will transition Zones 1 and 2 back to local  
45 groundwater and river supplies. Mr. Drugan provided the Board with several photos of  
46 the District's work to install a new 8-inch Neptune meter for one of our two  
47 interconnections to the City of Solvang. He explained that the installation of this meter now  
48 completes the District-wide Meter Replacement Program that commenced in FY 2019/2020.  
49 Mr. Garcia referred to a Clay-valve that exists at the Solvang meter location and indicated  
50 that he would be working with City representatives to dedicate the valve to the City of  
51 Solvang. Mr. Garcia noted that PG&E had announced the possibility of Public Safety Power

1 Shutoffs toward the end of the week due to high winds, and that District staff would be  
2 meeting to discuss an operational plan in case power is lost to any of the District's facilities.  
3

4 **9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**  
5

6 **A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

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

8 The Board packet included notice of the September 26, 2024 Special meeting of the Board  
9 of Directors for the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency; an October 7, 2024 State  
10 Water Resources Control Board Press Release regarding the Sustainable Groundwater  
11 Management Act (SGMA); excerpts from the October 2024 California Groundwater  
12 Conditions Semi-Annual Update; and a State Water Board Notice regarding New SGMA  
13 Reporting Requirements for Groundwater Extractions in the Tule Subbasin.  
14

15 Mr. Garcia provided an overview of several topics discussed at the September 26, 2024  
16 special meeting of the EMA JPA, including review and approval of contract services  
17 agreements for legal representation, rate consultant services, and executive director  
18 services. He noted that an update was provided on the nomination and appointment  
19 process for an Agricultural Director and Alternate Director on the JPA Board. Mr. Garcia  
20 discussed the cost contributions being provided by each member agency of the JPA and  
21 explained that the District was invoiced for \$50,000 which will be paid by the District,  
22 subject to reimbursement from the EMA GSA at a future date which is currently set for  
23 December 2026. Mr. Garcia stated that the next meeting of the EMA JPA is scheduled  
24 for October 24, 2024. He also referred to the Board packet materials which included a  
25 DWR Groundwater Conditions Update. Mr. Garcia stated that the State Water  
26 Resources Control Board has announced new SGMA reporting requirements for  
27 groundwater extractions in the Tule Subbasin, which the State Board has placed in  
28 probation.  
29

30 **B. HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL**

31 **1. Regulatory Update on Chromium 6 MCL**

32 The Board packet included the State Water Resources Control Board Hexavalent  
33 Chromium MCL Summary of Rulemaking; a Division of Drinking Water Notice  
34 regarding the New Hexavalent Chromium MCL Effective October 1, 2024; and a State  
35 Water Board Fact Sheet regarding Monitoring for Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking  
36 Water.  
37

38 Mr. Garcia stated that the new drinking water MCL of 10 parts per billion for Hexavalent  
39 Chromium is now official and effective as of October 1, 2024. He reported that staff as  
40 re-engaged with Hazen & Sawyer to re-evaluate design and treatment alternatives for  
41 the District. Mr. Garcia briefly discussed the compliance period, monitoring  
42 requirements, treatment options, and potential legal challenges to the new regulation.  
43 He stated that the District has a three-year compliance deadline of October 1, 2027.  
44

45 **10. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS,**  
46 **ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS**  
47 **NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION:**  
48

49 The Board packet included an October 8, 2024 Legal Alert from Best Best & Krieger entitled "The  
50 Shifting Landscape of Water Rate Setting." Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the Legal Alert.  
51

1 The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance (FFA) Monthly Briefing for the month of  
2 October 2024, and an October 2, 2024 Press Release regarding the pending retirement of FFA  
3 Executive Director Dan Keppen.  
4

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

6 The Correspondence List was received by the Board.  
7

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

9 There were no requests from the Board.  
10

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

12 President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for  
13 November 19, 2024.  
14

15 **14. CLOSED SESSION:**

16 The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:35 p.m.  
17

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

19 [Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 2 Cases]  
20

- 21 1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources  
22 Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of  
23 Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests  
24
- 25 2. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood  
26 Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court  
27 Case No. 21CV02432  
28

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

30 [Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of  
31 Litigation By the Agency – One Matter]  
32

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

34 [Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]  
35

36 **A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 14.A – 14.B**  
37

38 The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 4:59 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that  
39 the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A through 14.B. He  
40 reported that there was no reportable action regarding any of the closed session Agenda  
41 items.  
42

43 **16. ADJOURNMENT:**

44 Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and  
45 carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at  
46 approximately 5:00 p.m.  
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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

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

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

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

DRAFT

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,**  
**IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1**  
**November 19, 2024**

**Consent Agenda Report**

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. Total water production in **October 2024 (332 AF)** was 72 AF lower than total production in **September 2024 (404 AF)**, 4 AF lower than the most recent 3-year running average (2021-2023) for the month of **October (336 AF)**, and 44 AF lower than the most recent 10-year running average (2014-2023) for the month of **October (376 AF)**. Overall production in October 2024 was the second lowest for the month of October over the last 10 years; the next lowest October production over the last ten years was 304 AF in 2021; the highest October production in the last ten years was 478 AF in 2014. 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 **October 2024**, approximately **107 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells and **22 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from CCWA, the District took approximately **203 AF** of SWP supplies for the month, all of which was allocated to the District's balance of Table A carryover supplies in San Luis Reservoir. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **1.73 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Lake Cachuma in September (ending October 31, 2024) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **747.58'** with the end of month storage of **176,936 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the lake of **0.07 inches** for the month. SWP deliveries to the reservoir for South Coast entities were **0 AF**. Reported reservoir evaporation in **October** was **946.6 AF**.

Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **November 12, 2024** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **90.8%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **175,216 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 1,723 AF of current year allocation plus 2,651 AF of upcoming year allocation in the reservoir.

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 20219-0148; highlighted above). Those requirements will remain in place for the remainder of this year.**

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

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

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. As reflected in these Consent Report materials, CCWA is completing its work on the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant Surge Tank Pedestal Replacement Project and is scheduled to have CCWA deliveries available to those requesting service by November 18th.

CCWA and its member agencies also remain engaged in their pending litigation against the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to maintain CCWA sovereignty over important decisions pertaining to SWP supplies. The CCWA Board of Directors is not scheduled to meet in November or December, and the Board's next Regular Meeting is currently set for January 23, 2025.



— BUREAU OF —  
**RECLAMATION**

**October 2024**

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE ACRE-FEET		COMPUTED* INFLOW AF.	CCWA INFLOW AF.	PRECIP ON			RELEASE - AF.			EVAPORATION		PRECIP INCHES	
		IN LAKE	CHANGE			RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH			
	748.95	180,979													
1	748.91	180,859	-120	25.2	0.0	0.0	56.2	13.6	42.0	0.0	33.4	0.180	0.00		
2	748.87	180,740	-119	41.4	0.0	0.0	59.3	13.6	43.0	0.0	44.5	0.240	0.00		
3	748.82	180,591	-149	17.4	0.0	0.0	60.6	13.6	44.0	0.0	48.2	0.260	0.00		
4	748.77	180,442	-149	19.8	0.0	0.0	61.2	13.6	44.0	0.0	50.0	0.270	0.00		
5	748.73	180,323	-119	33.4	0.0	0.0	63.3	13.6	44.0	0.0	31.5	0.170	0.00		
6	748.67	180,144	-179	-12.4	0.0	0.0	60.9	13.6	44.0	0.0	48.1	0.260	0.00		
7	748.64	180,055	-89	44.6	0.0	0.0	36.3	13.6	43.0	0.0	40.7	0.220	0.00		
8	748.60	179,936	-119	8.0	0.0	0.0	45.4	13.6	44.0	0.0	24.0	0.130	0.00		
9	748.55	179,789	-147	-10.1	0.0	0.0	46.0	13.6	44.0	0.0	33.3	0.180	0.00		
10	748.51	179,671	-118	8.3	0.0	2.5	44.8	13.6	39.0	0.0	31.4	0.170	0.01		
11	748.46	179,524	-147	-23.6	0.0	2.5	45.8	13.6	37.0	0.0	29.5	0.160	0.01		
12	748.42	179,407	-117	6.9	0.0	4.9	45.9	13.5	38.0	0.0	31.4	0.170	0.02		
13	748.37	179,259	-148	-38.3	0.0	0.0	47.9	13.6	39.0	0.0	9.2	0.050	0.00		
14	748.32	179,112	-147	-18.5	0.0	0.0	35.4	13.6	39.0	0.0	40.5	0.220	0.00		
15	748.30	179,053	-59	50.3	0.0	0.0	38.5	13.5	37.0	0.0	20.3	0.110	0.00		
16	748.27	178,965	-88	15.9	0.0	4.9	37.0	13.5	38.0	0.0	20.3	0.110	0.02		
17	748.22	178,818	-147	-41.2	0.0	2.5	39.7	13.5	33.0	0.0	22.1	0.120	0.01		
18	748.18	178,700	-118	-0.8	0.0	0.0	41.2	13.6	33.0	0.0	29.4	0.160	0.00		
19	748.14	178,583	-117	3.9	0.0	0.0	47.8	13.5	32.0	0.0	27.6	0.150	0.00		
20	748.09	178,406	-177	-52.5	0.0	0.0	49.5	13.6	32.0	0.0	29.4	0.160	0.00		
21	748.05	178,318	-88	38.6	0.0	0.0	45.4	13.5	31.0	0.0	36.7	0.200	0.00		
22	748.00	178,171	-147	-20.4	0.0	0.0	48.1	13.5	32.0	0.0	33.0	0.180	0.00		
23	746.96	175,133	-3,038	-2,908.4	0.0	0.0	56.9	13.5	32.0	0.0	27.2	0.150	0.00		
24	747.91	177,906	2,773	2,909.2	0.0	0.0	58.7	13.5	31.0	0.0	33.0	0.180	0.00		
25	747.86	177,759	-147	-12.4	0.0	0.0	60.1	13.5	28.0	0.0	33.0	0.180	0.00		
26	747.82	177,641	-118	11.1	0.0	0.0	60.1	13.5	28.0	0.0	27.5	0.150	0.00		
27	747.78	177,523	-118	16.1	0.0	0.0	62.5	13.5	27.0	0.0	31.1	0.170	0.00		
28	747.73	177,376	-147	-39.2	0.0	0.0	61.8	13.5	27.0	0.0	5.5	0.030	0.00		
29	747.68	177,229	-147	-10.3	0.0	0.0	61.6	13.4	27.0	0.0	34.7	0.190	0.00		
30	747.64	177,111	-118	9.0	0.0	0.0	61.8	13.5	28.0	0.0	23.7	0.130	0.00		
31	747.58	176,936	-175	-58.1	0.0	0.0	62.1	13.4	25.0	0.0	16.4	0.090	0.00		
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>-4,043</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>1,601.8</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>1,105.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>946.6</b>	<b>5.140</b>	<b>0.07</b>		
<b>AVERAGE</b>		<b>178,822</b>													

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



# Santa Barbara County - Flood Control District

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

## Rainfall and Reservoir Summary

Updated 8am: 11/12/2024

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 Oday(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*	AI
Buellton (Fire Stn)	233	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	2%	0%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	332	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	5%	0%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	208	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.17	12%	1%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	436	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.29	35%	4%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	421	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.05	3%	0%	11.4
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	230	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	2%	0%	11.4
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Cameros)	440	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05	3%	0%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	439	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.27	24%	2%	11.3
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	204	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.21	19%	1%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	212	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.09	4%	0%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	234	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.17	12%	1%	
Santa Maria (City Pub. Works)	380	0.04	0.00	0.11	0.28	24%	2%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	218	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05	4%	0%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	256	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.19	15%	1%	

Countywide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : **12%**

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : **1%**

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><a href="#">Gibraltar Reservoir</a></u>	1,400.00	1,381.00	4,693	1,243	26.5%	-240	-1,992
<u><a href="#">Cachuma Reservoir</a></u>	753.**	747.13	192,978	175,216	90.8%	-1,204	-9,509
<u><a href="#">Jameson Reservoir</a></u>	2,224.00	2,221.42	4,848	4,534	93.5%	-34	-243
<u><a href="#">Twitchell Reservoir</a></u>	651.50	NA	194,971	NA		NA	NA

# CIMIS Daily Report

Rendered in ENGLISH Units.

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 - Thursday, October 31, 2024

Printed on Friday, November 1, 2024

## Santa Ynez - Central Coast Valleys - Station 64

Date	ETo (In)	Precip (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)
10/1/2024	0.18	0.00	490	12.8	100.9	46.7	69.3	95	19	52	51.2	2.1	49.5	76.8
10/2/2024	0.18	0.00	477	13.9	101.8	49.6	71.0	95	25	54	53.4	2.1	50.9	77.0
10/3/2024	0.18	0.00	481	14.5	106.6 Y	50.9	73.5 Y	95	17	51 Y	54.5 Y	2.2	52.5	77.3
10/4/2024	0.14	0.00	392	17.0	94.5	54.6	70.6	95	33	67	58.9	2.2	51.9	77.6
10/5/2024	0.17	0.00	469	15.4	103.9 Y	50.5	70.5 Y	98	21	60 Y	56.1 Y	2.0	48.8	77.6
10/6/2024	0.17	0.00	472	14.6	102.0 Y	49.2	70.7 Y	97	22	57 Y	54.6 Y	2.0	47.6	77.7
10/7/2024	0.17	0.00	472	13.8	100.0	47.5	69.0	96	20	57	53.2	2.1	51.1	77.7
10/8/2024	0.15	0.00	0	15.6	69.2	57.5	60.4	98	27	87	56.6	2.0	48.4	77.3
10/9/2024	0.14	0.00	422	15.6	87.1	54.4	64.3	98	39	76	56.5	2.5	59.3	77.4
10/10/2024	0.14	0.00	449	15.5	86.8	52.4	64.6	99	41	75	56.4	2.4	57.4	77.2
10/11/2024	0.13	0.00	410	14.5	85.2	47.1	61.9	99	44	77	54.5	2.3	54.8	77.0 Y
10/12/2024	0.11	0.01	396	14.4	77.6	50.3	59.5	99	47	83	54.3	2.5	60.3	76.6
10/13/2024	0.12	0.00	403	16.3	81.1	57.8	64.0	95	49	80	57.8	2.8	66.0	76.2
10/14/2024	0.10	0.01	358	16.4	75.2	57.3	61.9	99	61	87	57.9	2.6	63.1	76.1
10/15/2024	0.08	0.00	310	15.7	79.3	55.5	61.6	98	55	84	56.7	2.2	53.7	75.9
10/16/2024	0.11	0.00	361	15.8	79.3	55.6	62.4	98	50	82	56.8	2.7	65.6	75.6
10/17/2024	0.11	0.00	385	13.1	73.0	41.3	58.0	97	54	79	51.6	2.8	68.3	75.5
10/18/2024	0.13	0.00	436	7.2	80.9	34.3	54.0	98	16	51	36.2	2.2	52.7	74.8
10/19/2024	0.13	0.00	436	5.6	87.9	29.9	53.6	94	10	40	29.6	1.9	44.6	73.9
10/20/2024	0.14	0.00	425	6.2	87.2	35.2	56.7	82	14	39	32.2	2.0	46.8	73.1
10/21/2024	0.14	0.00	421	7.2	88.3	35.4	56.2	87	16	46	36.0	2.1	50.2	72.7
10/22/2024	0.13	0.00 H	418 H	9.2 H	89.7	33.9	56.7 H	95 H	19 H	58	42.3	2.0 H	48.9 H	72.3 H
10/23/2024	0.13	0.00	4	10.1	75.8	42.1	52.3	98	16	75	44.8	1.2 Y	28.7 Y	71.9
10/24/2024	0.13	0.00	414	9.1	91.2	38.3	59.3	96	20	53	42.2	2.0	47.6	72.0
10/25/2024	0.12 H	0.00 H	539 R	10.6 H	89.1	41.8	66.6 H	96 H	21 H	48	46.1	2.5 H	59.6 H	71.7 H
10/26/2024	0.11 R	0.00	0 R	10.6	51.6 Y	50.9	51.4	97	21	82	46.1	1.8	43.1	71.5
10/27/2024	0.03	0.00	173	13.6	73.0	52.3	63.9	95	38	67	52.8	2.2	54.0	71.4
10/28/2024	0.11	0.00	498 R	11.9	72.6	52.6	61.3	98	41	64	49.1	5.0	120.8	71.2
10/29/2024	0.11	0.00	390	10.1	70.7	38.3	53.4	96	40	72	44.8	3.0	71.5	71.2
10/30/2024	0.10	0.00	378	8.1	74.3	32.9	49.8	99	25	66	39.0	2.0	48.0	70.6
10/31/2024	0.10	0.00	379	9.7	74.2	34.9	49.8	99	43	79	43.7	2.3	55.5	69.9
Tots/Avgs	3.99	0.02	376	12.4	84.2	46.2	61.2	96	31	66	49.2	2.3	55.5	74.7

### 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

November 12, 2024

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

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro .....	143
López.....	51
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	40
Santa Maria.....	595
Golden State Water Co.....	0
Vandenberg.....	200
Buellton .....	28
Solvang .....	84
Santa Ynez ID#1 .....	203
Bradbury.....	0
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,344</b>

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 1,365 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro .....	145
López .....	52
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	40
Santa Maria.....	570*
Golden State Water Co.....	35*
Vandenberg .....	203
Buellton .....	28
Solvang .....	85
Santa Ynez ID#1 .....	207
Bradbury .....	0
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,365</b>

\*Golden State Water Company delivered 35 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 35 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 207 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	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

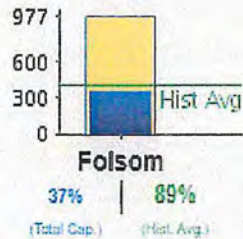
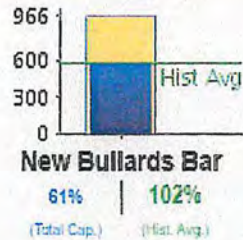
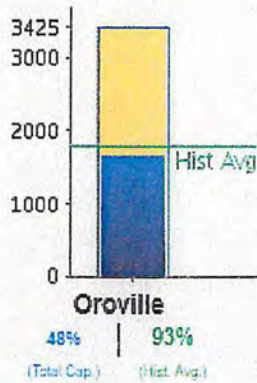
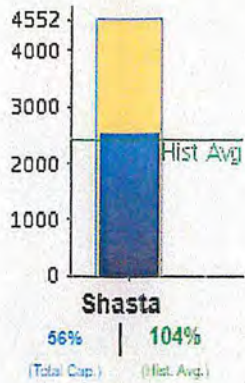
<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	0
Montecito	0
Morehart	0
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

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  
Randy Murphy, City of Solvang  
Rose Hess, City of Buellton

**CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:13-NOV-2024**

**Data as of Midnight: 13-Nov-2024**

Change Date:  13-Nov-2024

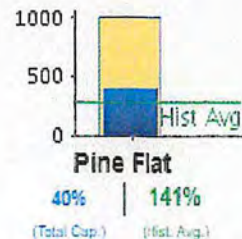
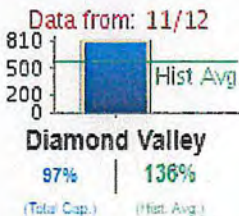
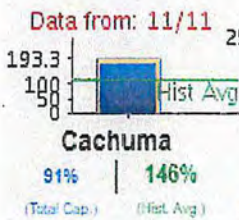
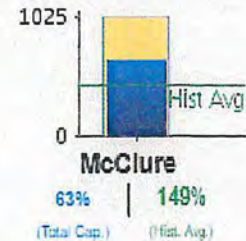
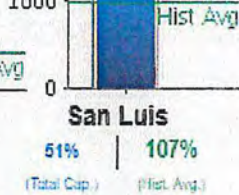
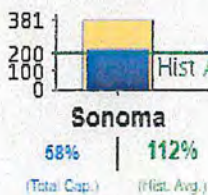
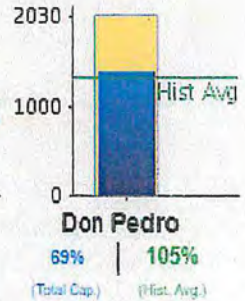
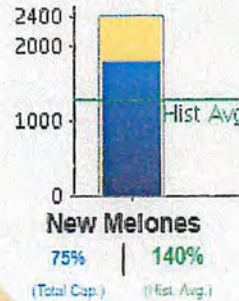
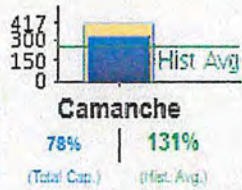
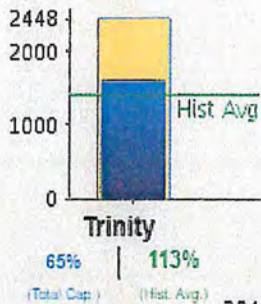


**LEGEND**

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: 14-Nov-2024 10:28 AM

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



## Paeter Garcia

---

**From:** David R. Beard <drb@ccwa.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 1:40 PM  
**To:** Adam Kanold (akanold@montecitowater.com); Alexandra Griffith; Anna Narduzzi, Space Force VAFB; Carlos Gonzalez, American Water MSG; Cindy Scheid, Morehart Land Co; Dakota Corey; Damaris Hanson; Daniel Covarrubias, American Water; Daniel Drugan; Danny Durbiano; David Matson, Goleta WD; fzenker@co.slo.ca.us; Gabriele Cook, City of Santa Barbara; Haggmark, Joshua N.; Howard Laguna - Morehart Land Co.; Jaime Vidales; Jason Heering, Space Force VAFB; Jeff Densmore, SWRCB Division of Drinking Water; Joe Come; John Sanchez, City of Buellton; Leo Rainwater, Golden State Water Co.; Lopez WTP Operators; Luke Deras, AM Water; Mario Villarreal, American Water; Mark Zimmer, Golden State Water Co.; 365-SHRD-MB - Mary Robel; Mary McMaster; Mike Alvarado, LaCumbre Mutual Water Company; Mike Mathews, City of Solvang; Mike Schwartz, CMC Water Treatment Plant; mike.babb@gswater.com; Natalie Correa, Golden State Water; Nick Johnson; Nick Turner, Montecito Water District; Norma Rosales (norma@cvwd.net); Olivas Rojas, Montecito Water District; Paeter Garcia; Pernell Rush (pernell.rush@us.af.mil); Peter Sevcik, Nipomo Community Services District; Randy Murphy, City of Solvang; Ray Stokes; Raymond Dienzo, Nipomo Community Services District; Rose Hess, City of Buellton; Ryan Drake (RDrake@goletawater.com); Sarah Knecht, City of Santa Barbara; Scott Buffaloe (CA Men's Colony); Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria ; Stephanie Hastings; Tifani Woolsey, American Water; Toby Moore, Golden State Water Co; Todd Bodem, City of Guadalupe; Todd Suter, City of Santa Maria; Wes Thomson, SLO County  
**Cc:** Lisa F. Watkins; Brandon L. Ladd; Todd A. York; Thomas Petersen  
**Subject:** RE: 2024 DWR Scheduled Coastal Branch Shutdown Notice

### CCWA Project Participants-

Due to a delay with the completion of CCWA's Santa Ynez Pumping Plant (SYPP) Surge Tank Pedestal Replacement Project, the resumption of water deliveries through the majority of CCWA turnouts is now scheduled to occur during the week of November 18. The SYPP surge tank is scheduled to be reinstalled on Friday, 11/15. Once the SYPP is operational, CCWA will refresh the water quality in lower reaches of its pipeline and resume normal operations.

Thanks to you all for your patience and flexibility with this schedule change.

David Beard  
Central Coast Water Authority

**From:** David R. Beard  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2024 2:57 PM  
**To:** Adam Kanold (akanold@montecitowater.com) <akanold@montecitowater.com>; Alexandra Griffith <agriffith@cityofsantamaria.org>; Anna Narduzzi, Space Force VAFB <anna.narduzzi@spaceforce.mil>; Carlos Gonzalez, American Water MSG <Carlos.Gonzalez@amwater.com>; Cindy Scheid, Morehart Land Co <cindy@mlc.sbcoxmail.com>; Dakota Corey <dcorey@santabarbaraca.gov>; Damaris Hanson <dhanson@morrobayca.gov>; Daniel Covarrubias, American Water <daniel.covarrubias@amwater.com>; Daniel Drugan <ddrugan@syrwd.org>; Danny Durbiano, SYRWCD#1 <ddurbiano@syrwd.org>; David Matson, Goleta WD <DMatson@goletawater.com>; fzenker@co.slo.ca.us; Gabriele Cook, City of Santa Barbara <GCook@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Haggmark, Joshua N. <JHaggmark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Howard Laguna - Morehart Land Co. <Howard.mlco@gmail.com>; Jaime Vidales <JVidales@ci.guadalupe.ca.us>; Jason Heering, Space Force VAFB <jason.heering.1@spaceforce.mil>; Jeff Densmore,

SWRCB Division of Drinking Water <Jeff.Densmore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Joe Come', SYID#1 <jcome@syrwd.org>; John Sanchez, City of Buellton <ajs@cityofbuellton.com>; Leo Rainwater, Golden State Water Co. <Leo.Rainwater@gswater.com>; Lopez WTP Operators <pw.lopezwtp@co.slo.ca.us>; Luke Deras, AM Water <luke.deras@amwater.com>; Mario Villarreal, American Water <mario.villarreal@amwater.com>; Mark Zimmer, Golden State Water Co. <MarkZimmer@gswater.com>; Mary Martone - SYRWCD <mmartone@syrwd.org>; Mary McMaster <mcmasterlawsb@gmail.com>; Mike Alvarado, LaCumbre Mutual Water Company <malvarado@lacumbrewater.com>; Mike Mathews, City of Solvang <mikem@cityofsolvang.com>; Mike Schwartz, CMC Water Treatment Plant <Michael.Schwartz@cdcr.ca.gov>; mike.babb@gswater.com; Natalie Correa, Golden State Water <Natalie.Correa@gswater.com>; Nick Johnson <NJohnson@co.slo.ca.us>; Nick Turner, Montecito Water District <nturner@montecitowater.com>; Norma Rosales (norma@cvwd.net) <norma@cvwd.net>; Olivas Rojas, Montecito Water District <orojas@montecitowater.com>; Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez RWCD ID#1 <pgarcia@syrwd.org>; Pernell Rush (pernell.rush@us.af.mil) <pernell.rush@us.af.mil>; Peter Sevcik, Nipomo Community Services District <psevcik@ncsd.ca.gov>; Randy Murphy, City of Solvang <randym@cityofsolvang.com>; Ray Stokes <RAS@ccwa.com>; Raymond Dienzo, Nipomo Community Services District <rdienzo@ncsd.ca.gov>; Rose Hess, City of Buellton <roseh@cityofbuellton.com>; Ryan Drake (RDrake@goletawater.com) <RDrake@goletawater.com>; Sarah Knecht, City of Santa Barbara <SKnecht@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>; Scott Buffaloe (CA Men's Colony) <scott.buffaloe@cdcr.ca.gov>; Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria <sspringer@cityofsantamaria.org>; Stephanie Hastings <shastings@bhfs.com>; Tifani Woolsey, American Water <tifani.woolsey@amwater.com>; Toby Moore, Golden State Water Co <TobyMoore@gswater.com>; Todd Bodem, City of Guadalupe <tbodem@ci.guadalupe.ca.us>; Todd Suter, City of Santa Maria <tsuter@cityofsantamaria.org>; Wes Thomson, SLO County <WThomson@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Lisa F. Watkins <lfw@ccwa.com>; Brandon L. Ladd <bl@ccwa.com>; Todd A. York <tay@ccwa.com>; Thomas Petersen <TTP@ccwa.com>  
**Subject:** 2024 DWR Scheduled Coastal Branch Shutdown Notice

CCWA Project Participants-

Please see attached memo regarding the 2024 Coastal Branch shutdown scheduled to begin on **Monday, October 28**. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thanks,

David Beard  
Deputy Director  
Central Coast Water Authority  
(805) 680-2116

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A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OPERATING COMMITTEE
of the
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, October 10, 2024
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 227 057 104 037

Passcode: pQxetz

or via telephone by dialing (323) 484-5095 and entering code 317 116 430#

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

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

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

Eric Friedman
Chairman

Jeff Clay
Vice Chairman

Ray A. Stokes
Executive Director

Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck
General Counsel

Member Agencies

City of Buellton

Carpinteria Valley
Water District

City of Guadalupe

City of Santa Barbara

City of Santa Maria

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

Santa Ynez River Water
Conservation District,
Improvement District #1

Associate Member

La Cumbre Mutual
Water Company

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Committee
relating to any matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. Individual
Speakers may be limited to five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen
minutes.)

III. Consent Calendar

- \* A. Minutes of the July 11, 2024 Operating Committee Meeting
Staff Recommendation: Approve Consent Calendar.

IV. Executive Director’s Report

- A. Operations Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
B. Water Supply Situation Report
i. Overview of Water Transfers
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
\* C. Draft Policy on Water Usage to Maintain Pipeline Health
Staff Recommendation: Request Board approval of a policy for
allocation of lost water to maintain CCWA pipeline health and approve
the application of the approved policy of allocation of lost water to
maintain CCWA Pipeline health to the May 2024 loss of water.
\* D. Request for Approval of Carryover of Project Funds from FY 23/24 to FY
24/25 - \$2,510,121.53
Staff Recommendation: Request Board approval of carryover of Project
Funds from FY 23/24 to FY 24/25 - \$2,510,121.53
E. CCWA Water Quality Overview
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

V. Reports from Committee Members for Information Only

VI. Date of Next Regular Meeting: January 9, 2025

VII. Adjournment

\* Indicates attachment of document to agenda packet

255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427
(805) 688-2292
Fax (805) 686-4700
www.ccwa.com

Handwritten signature and number #52225v1



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

will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, October 24, 2024  
 at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via  
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 267 842 541 007 Passcode: B69ffg  
 or by dialing (323) 484-5095 and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 641 462 636#

Eric Friedman  
 Chairman

Jeff Clay  
 Vice Chairman

Ray A. Stokes  
 Executive Director

Brownstein Hyatt  
 Farber Schreck  
 General Counsel

*Member Agencies*

City of Buellton

Carpinteria Valley  
 Water District

City of Guadalupe

City of Santa Barbara

City of Santa Maria

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

Santa Ynez River Water  
 Conservation District,  
 Improvement District #1

*Associate Member*

La Cumbre Mutual  
 Water Company

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

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

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

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**II. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. Individual Speakers may be limited to five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen minutes.)**

**III. Consent Calendar**

- \* A. Minutes of the July 25, 2024 Regular Meeting
- \* B. Minutes of the September 13, 2024 Special Meeting
- \* C. Bills
- \* D. Controller's Report
- \* E. Operations Report

*Staff Recommendation: Approve the Consent Calendar*

**IV. Executive Director's Report**

- A. State Water Project Water Supply Issues Overview  
*Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.*
- \* B. Consider Amendment of the Minutes of April 25, 2024 Board Meeting  
*Staff Recommendation: Approve Amendment to Minutes of April 25, 2024 CCWA Board of Directors Meeting as recommended.*
- C. CCWA Water Supply Situation  
*Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.*
- \* D. Request for Approval of Carryover of Project Funds from FY 23/24 to FY 24/25 - \$2,510,121.53  
*Staff Recommendation: Approve carryover of Project Funds from FY 23/24 to FY 24/25 in the total amount of \$2,510,121.53*
- \* E. CCWA FY 2024/25 First Quarter Investment Report  
*Staff Recommendation: For discussion.*

255 Industrial Way  
 Buellton, CA 93427  
 (805) 688-2292  
 Fax (805) 686-4700  
[www.ccwa.com](http://www.ccwa.com)

\* Indicates attachment of document to original agenda packet.

*Continued*

- IV. **Executive Director's Report** (continued)
  - \* F. CCWA Meeting Dates for 2025  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.
  - G. State Water Contractors Update  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.
  - \* H. Legislative Report  
*Staff Recommendation:* Informational item only.
  
- V. **CLOSED SESSION**
  - A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (4): 1 case
  - B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Government Code section 54956.9(d) (1)  
Name of case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al. (Case No. 21CV02432)
  
- VI. **Return to Open Session**
  - A. Report on Closed Session Actions (if any)
  
- VII. **Reports from Board Members for Information Only**
  
- VIII. **Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda**
  
- IX. **Date of Next Regular Meeting: January 23, 2025**
  
- X. **Adjournment**

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**BARTLETT, PRINGLE & WOLF, LLP**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

## SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (the District), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or



the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management Discussion and Analysis on pages 4 through 10, the California Public Employees' Retirement System - Schedule of Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability on page 39, California Public Employees' Retirement System - Schedule of Contributions on page 40, and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Plan – Schedule of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios on page 41 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Supplemental Schedule of Revenues and Expenses – Actual and Budget on page 42 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic

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financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Supplemental Schedule of Revenues and Expenses – Actual and Budget is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Santa Barbara, California  
November 19, 2024

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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This section presents management's analysis of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1's ("District") financial condition and activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This narrative overview and analysis should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

**Summary of Organization and Business**

The District was formed on July 7, 1959 under the Water Conservation District Law of 1931, Division 21, Section 74000 et seq. of the California Water Code (the "Act"), for the purpose of furnishing potable domestic (municipal and industrial) and irrigation water within its boundaries. The District has operated continuously since 1959.

Located in the central portion of Santa Barbara County, the District serves the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the City of Solvang on a limited basis. With a population of approximately 7,022 (excluding the City of Solvang), the District currently provides water directly to approximately 2,616 municipal and industrial customers (including domestic/residential, commercial, institutional, rural residential, on-demand, and fire service) and approximately 97 agricultural customers. The District encompasses an area of approximately 10,850 acres (including approximately 1,300 acres within Solvang).

The District obtains its water supplies from the Cachuma Project via exchange of State Water Project supplies, direct diversions from the Cachuma Project (as needed), direct deliveries from the State Water Project, production from the Santa Ynez Uplands Groundwater Basin, and diversions from the Santa Ynez River alluvium. The District's major activities include acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of works and facilities for the development and use of water resources and water rights including, without limitation, works and facilities to divert, store, pump, treat, deliver, and sell water for reasonable and beneficial uses by the District's customers.

During fiscal year 2023/2024, the District maintained an average of seventeen full-time employees and one limited service employee.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees (the Board), the members of which are elected by the registered voters of the District to staggered four-year terms. Day-to-day management of the District is currently carried out by the General Manager, Administrative & Financial Manager, and the Water Resource Manager.

**Overview of Financial Statements**

The District operates as an enterprise fund. The enterprise fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement basis. Under this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the District are included on the balance sheet. Enterprise fund operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

Enterprise funds utilize the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned, regardless of when received, and expenses are recognized at the time the related liabilities are incurred, regardless of when paid.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**Overview of Financial Statements (Continued)**

This discussion and analysis provides an introduction and a brief description of the District's financial statements, including the relationship of the statements to each other and the differences in the information they provide.

The District's basic financial statements include four components.

- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements

The balance sheet includes all the District's assets, deferred inflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred outflows of resources. The difference between total assets/deferred outflows of resources and total liabilities/deferred inflows of resources is reported as net position. Net position may be displayed in the following categories:

- Net investment in capital assets
- Restricted
- Unrestricted

The balance sheet provides the basis for computing rate of return, evaluating the capital structure of the District, and assessing the liquidity and financial flexibility of the District.

The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position presents information which shows how the District's net position changed during the year. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are recorded when the underlying transaction occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. This statement measures the success of the District's operations over the past year and determines whether the District has recovered its costs through user fees and other charges.

The statement of cash flows provides information regarding the District's cash receipts and cash disbursements during the year. This statement reports cash activity in four categories:

- Operating
- Noncapital financing
- Capital and related financing
- Investing

This statement differs from the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position because the statement accounts only for transactions that result in cash receipts or cash disbursements.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**Overview of Financial Statements (Continued)**

The notes to the financial statements provide a description of the accounting policies used to prepare the financial statements and present material disclosures required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) that are not otherwise present in the financial statements.

The District's budget is prepared on an accrual basis and includes the District's water system. Prior to June 1 of each year, District management submits to the Board of Trustees a proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The Board conducts public meetings to obtain comments from ratepayers. Subsequent to the public meetings, the Board approves the final budget prior to July 1.

**Financial Highlights**

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the District's net position increased by a total of \$4,659,937 (12.50%), resulting from total operating income of \$1,760,313 and total non-operating income of \$2,899,624.

Operating revenues increased by \$115,156 (1.06%) from the prior year, and operating expenses increased by \$108,097 (1.18%). Non-operating income increased by \$2,032,468 (218%) and non-operating expenses increased in the current year by \$51,674 (392%).

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

DRAFT

**Financial Highlights (Continued)**

**Balance Sheet**

The following table represents a summary of the District's Balance Sheet with corresponding analysis regarding significant variances:

	2024	2023	2022	2024-2023 Variance		2023-2022 Variance	
				Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
<b>Assets:</b>							
Current assets	\$ 35,306,931	\$ 31,640,301	\$ 28,743,258	\$ 3,666,630	11.59%	\$ 2,897,043	10.08%
Noncurrent assets:							
Restricted assets	119,972	119,968	345,050	4	0.00%	(225,082)	-65.23%
Capital assets, net	15,403,675	14,875,131	14,628,258	528,544	3.55%	246,873	1.69%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 50,830,578</b>	<b>\$ 46,635,400</b>	<b>\$ 43,716,566</b>	<b>\$ 4,195,178</b>	<b>9.00%</b>	<b>\$ 2,918,834</b>	<b>6.68%</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources:</b>							
Deferred outflows	\$ 1,905,546	\$ 2,062,148	\$ 1,421,434	\$ (156,602)	-7.59%	\$ 640,714	45.08%
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 1,905,546</b>	<b>\$ 2,062,148</b>	<b>\$ 1,421,434</b>	<b>\$ (156,602)</b>	<b>-7.59%</b>	<b>\$ 640,714</b>	<b>45.08%</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>							
Current liabilities	\$ 4,147,633	\$ 4,000,639	\$ 3,902,095	\$ 146,994	3.67%	\$ 98,544	2.53%
Long term liabilities	5,275,830	6,129,863	5,121,084	(854,033)	-13.93%	1,008,779	19.70%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 9,423,463</b>	<b>\$ 10,130,502</b>	<b>\$ 9,023,179</b>	<b>\$ (707,039)</b>	<b>-6.98%</b>	<b>\$ 1,107,323</b>	<b>12.27%</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>							
Deferred inflows	\$ 1,386,777	\$ 1,301,099	\$ 1,520,958	\$ 85,678	6.59%	\$ (219,859)	-14.46%
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 1,386,777</b>	<b>\$ 1,301,099</b>	<b>\$ 1,520,958</b>	<b>\$ 85,678</b>	<b>6.59%</b>	<b>\$ (219,859)</b>	<b>-14.46%</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>							
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 15,403,675	\$ 14,875,131	\$ 14,407,820	\$ 528,544	3.55%	\$ 467,311	3.24%
Restricted	119,972	119,968	345,050	4	0.00%	(225,082)	-65.23%
Unrestricted, reserved	19,676,775	16,681,709	14,657,393	2,995,066	17.95%	2,024,316	13.81%
Unrestricted, unreserved	6,725,462	5,589,139	5,183,600	1,136,323	20.33%	405,539	7.82%
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 41,925,884</b>	<b>\$ 37,265,947</b>	<b>\$ 34,593,863</b>	<b>\$ 4,659,937</b>	<b>12.50%</b>	<b>\$ 2,672,084</b>	<b>7.72%</b>

**Analysis of Balance Sheet**

Net position may serve as an indicator of a public governmental agency's financial status. In the case of the District, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$41,925,884 and \$37,265,947 as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

A significant portion of the District's total net position is its net investment in capital assets, in the amount of \$15,403,675 at June 30, 2024 and \$14,875,131 at June 30, 2023. This balance reflects the District's investment in capital assets (which includes land, buildings, infrastructure, and construction in progress) less any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The District uses these capital assets to provide water service to its customers; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. It should be noted that the funding sources needed to repay any debt must be provided from other financial sources because the capital assets cannot be used to liquidate liabilities.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**Analysis of Balance Sheet (Continued)**

Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation increased by \$528,544 as discussed further in the capital assets section of this analysis and Note 4 to the financial statements. This increase equates to the increase in total net position invested in capital assets of \$528,544 as noted in the table above.

Restricted net position represents assets which are required by external parties to be used for specific purposes, less any liabilities payable from those assets. The District's restricted net position was \$119,972 and \$119,968 at June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023, respectively. See Note 3 for details regarding the specific restrictions.

Unrestricted net position consists of assets and liabilities that do not meet the definition of net investment in capital assets, or restricted net position. The Board of Trustees has designated certain portions of its unrestricted net position for specific uses, which are classified in the balance sheet as unrestricted, reserved. Note 7 provides detailed information regarding the nature of these reserves.

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**

The following table shows a summary of the District's Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position with corresponding analysis regarding significant variances:

	2024	2023	2022	2024-2023 Variance		2023-2022 Variance	
				Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Operating revenues	\$ 10,997,735	\$ 10,882,579	\$ 12,553,827	\$ 115,156	1.06%	\$ (1,671,248)	-13.31%
Operating expenses	9,237,422	9,129,325	10,089,665	108,097	1.18%	(960,340)	-9.52%
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>1,760,313</b>	<b>1,753,254</b>	<b>2,464,162</b>	<b>7,059</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>(710,908)</b>	<b>-28.85%</b>
Non-operating income	2,964,475	932,007	970,112	2,032,468	218.07%	(38,105)	-3.93%
Non-operating expense	64,851	13,177	33,662	51,674	392.15%	(20,485)	-60.85%
<b>Total Non-operating Income</b>	<b>2,899,624</b>	<b>918,830</b>	<b>936,450</b>	<b>1,980,794</b>	<b>215.58%</b>	<b>(17,620)</b>	<b>-1.88%</b>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>4,659,937</b>	<b>2,672,084</b>	<b>3,400,612</b>	<b>1,987,853</b>	<b>74.39%</b>	<b>(728,528)</b>	<b>-21.42%</b>
Net Position at beginning of year	37,265,947	34,593,863	31,193,251	2,672,084	7.72%	3,400,612	10.90%
<b>Net Position at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 41,925,884</b>	<b>\$ 37,265,947</b>	<b>\$ 34,593,863</b>	<b>\$ 4,659,937</b>	<b>12.50%</b>	<b>\$ 2,672,084</b>	<b>7.72%</b>

**Analysis of Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**

As described in the table above, the District reported a total increase in net position of \$4,659,937 for the year ended June 30, 2024, as compared to an increase in net position of \$2,672,084 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Operating revenues increased by \$115,156 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, driven by increased water sales of \$46,718, and an increase in state water contract revenue of \$77,860 received from the City of Solvang, which is fully offset by corresponding state water contract expense in the operating expenses section. Water rates remained unchanged in the current fiscal year.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

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**Analysis of Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position (Continued)**

Operating expenses increased by \$108,097 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 due to multiple offsetting factors. There was an increase in special programs and study fees of \$299,444, and a increase in state water contract expense paid on behalf of the City of Solvang of \$77,860, which corresponds to the increase in state water contract revenues as noted above. Administrative and general expenses also decreased by \$374,494 and depreciation expense increased by \$100,009.

Non-operating revenues increased by \$2,032,468 from the prior year primarily due to the increase in unrealized gains and interest income of \$1,417,354 and \$635,078, respectively. These increases are due to the LAIF interest rate increase and due to a decrease in the factor used to adjust year end balances to fair market value. This increase was offset by decreases in capital facilities fees of \$19,794 and special assessment revenue of \$170.

Non-operating expenses were minor and decreased in total by \$51,674 from the prior year. This increase was primarily due to an increase in the loss on disposal assets of \$52,081.

**Capital Assets**

The following table represents a summary of the District's Capital Assets with corresponding analysis regarding significant variances:

	2024	2023	2022	2024-2023 Variance		2023-2022 Variance	
				Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Land and water rights	\$ 503,317	\$ 503,317	\$ 503,317	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Utility plant	10,286,229	10,655,511	9,772,263	(369,282)	-3.47%	883,248	9.04%
Wells and major repairs	19,848,410	19,320,078	19,410,209	528,332	2.73%	(90,131)	-0.46%
Office building	287,508	274,610	247,842	12,898	4.70%	26,768	10.80%
Transportation equipment	876,654	808,669	761,382	67,985	8.41%	47,287	6.21%
Office equipment	131,538	118,032	91,074	13,506	11.44%	26,958	29.60%
Other equipment	830,357	732,614	709,527	97,743	13.34%	23,087	3.25%
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>\$ 32,764,013</b>	<b>\$ 32,412,831</b>	<b>\$ 31,495,614</b>	<b>\$ 351,182</b>	<b>1.08%</b>	<b>\$ 917,217</b>	<b>2.91%</b>
Less accumulated depreciation	(18,518,375)	(17,830,556)	(17,036,302)	(687,819)	3.86%	(794,254)	4.66%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 14,245,638</b>	<b>\$ 14,582,275</b>	<b>\$ 14,459,312</b>	<b>\$ (336,637)</b>	<b>-2.31%</b>	<b>\$ 122,963</b>	<b>0.85%</b>
Construction in progress	1,158,037	292,856	168,946	865,181	295.43%	123,910	73.34%
<b>Net Capital Assets</b>	<b>\$ 15,403,675</b>	<b>\$ 14,875,131</b>	<b>\$ 14,628,258</b>	<b>\$ 528,544</b>	<b>3.55%</b>	<b>\$ 246,873</b>	<b>1.69%</b>



SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
 IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**Capital Assets Analysis (Continued)**

The District's net capital assets as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 including construction in progress were \$15,403,675 and \$14,875,131, respectively. Capital asset additions including construction in progress during fiscal year 2023/2024 totaled \$1,613,053 which related primarily to the numerous electrical panel upgrade projects, the meter replacement project, and various other improvement projects, tools, and equipment purchases. This increase was offset by depreciation expenses of \$1,019,657 and disposals with a net book value of \$64,852. The resulting overall increase in net capital assets was \$528,544, as noted in the table above. See Note 4 for additions and disposals by asset category.

**Long Term Debt**

The following table represents a summary of the District's Revenue Bond Outstanding Debt:

	2024	2023	2022	2024-2023 Variance		2023-2022 Variance	
				Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Revenue Bonds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220,000	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (220,000)	-100.00%
Premium (Discount) on Bonds	-	-	438	-	0.00%	(438)	-100.00%
<b>Total Outstanding Bonds</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 220,438</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ (220,438)</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>

**Long Term Debt Analysis**

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the District paid the remaining balance in full related to the issuance of the Series 2004A Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) Bonds which were used to refinance the 1993 Cachuma Project Authority Revenue (CPA) Bonds. The CPA Bonds had been issued to refinance the State of California Department of Water Resources Contract #E58028, the 1988 General Obligation Bond, and to finance the construction of the Zone 3 water storage reservoir. No additional long-term debt has been acquired in 2023/2024. Additional information on the District's long-term debt is described in Note 5.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
BALANCE SHEET  
June 30, 2024 and 2023

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**ASSETS**

	2024	2023
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 28,626,535	\$ 25,518,025
Accounts receivable	1,011,693	895,188
Interest receivable	190,933	127,983
Inventories	127,473	181,194
Prepaid expenses	2,706,186	2,811,769
CCWA deposits	2,644,111	2,106,142
Total current assets	35,306,931	31,640,301
<b>Restricted Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	119,972	119,968
Total restricted assets	119,972	119,968
<b>Capital Assets:</b>		
Capital assets	32,764,013	32,412,831
Less: accumulated depreciation	(18,518,375)	(17,830,556)
Construction in progress	1,158,037	292,856
Net capital assets	15,403,675	14,875,131
Total assets	50,830,578	46,635,400

**DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Deferred outflows related to pensions	1,240,759	1,275,829
Deferred outflows related to OPEB	664,787	786,319
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,905,546	2,062,148
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 52,736,124	\$ 48,697,548

*See accompanying notes*

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
BALANCE SHEET  
June 30, 2024 and 2023

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**LIABILITIES**

	2024	2023
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 214,993	\$ 223,157
Accrued expenses	193,701	211,813
Advances payable	3,738,939	3,565,669
Total current liabilities	4,147,633	4,000,639
Long-term Liabilities:		
Net pension liability	2,835,297	2,611,721
Net OPEB liability	2,440,533	3,518,142
Total long-term liabilities	5,275,830	6,129,863
Total liabilities	9,423,463	10,130,502

**DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Deferred inflows related to pensions	118,566	185,782
Deferred inflows related to OPEB	1,268,211	1,115,317
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,386,777	1,301,099

**NET POSITION**

Net Position:		
Net investment in capital assets	15,403,675	14,875,131
Restricted	119,972	119,968
Unrestricted, reserved	19,676,775	16,681,709
Unrestricted, unreserved	6,725,462	5,589,139
Total net position	41,925,884	37,265,947
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position	\$ 52,736,124	\$ 48,697,548

*See accompanying notes*

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023**

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	2024	2023
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>		
Water sales	\$ 8,646,910	\$ 8,600,192
State water contract revenue	2,219,528	2,141,668
Miscellaneous billings and fees	131,297	140,719
Total operating revenues	10,997,735	10,882,579
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>		
Source of supply	1,528,975	1,581,661
State water contract expense	2,219,528	2,141,668
Pumping expense	693,533	646,488
Water treatment	81,788	92,454
Transmission and distribution	1,163,285	1,076,006
Administrative and general	1,995,789	2,357,485
Special programs and study fees	513,785	214,341
Unanticipated and special legal fees	21,082	99,574
Depreciation expense	1,019,657	919,648
Total operating expenses	9,237,422	9,129,325
<b>Operating income</b>	1,760,313	1,753,254
<b>Other Income:</b>		
Capital facilities fees	65,295	85,089
Interest income	1,218,222	583,144
Unrealized gain (loss)	780,650	(636,704)
Special assessment	900,308	900,478
Total other income	2,964,475	932,007
<b>Other Expenses:</b>		
Interest expense	-	407
Loss on disposal of assets	64,851	12,770
Total other expenses	64,851	13,177
<b>Change in net position</b>	4,659,937	2,672,084
<b>Net Position - beginning of year</b>	37,265,947	34,593,863
<b>Net Position - end of year</b>	\$ 41,925,884	\$ 37,265,947

*See accompanying notes*

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023**

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	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Cash received from customers for services	\$ 10,881,230	\$ 11,089,666
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(6,016,470)	(5,086,443)
Cash payments for payroll taxes and employee benefits	(1,050,397)	(943,856)
Cash payments to employees for services	(1,994,322)	(1,685,170)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,820,041	3,374,197
<b>Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities:</b>		
Capital facilities fees	65,295	85,089
Special assessments	900,308	900,478
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	965,603	985,567
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:</b>		
Principal repayments of long-term debt	-	(220,000)
Interest payments	-	(5,085)
Capital assets purchased	(1,613,052)	(1,179,291)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	(1,613,052)	(1,404,376)
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>		
Interest income received	1,155,272	485,159
Fair value adjustment on cash equivalents	780,650	(636,704)
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	1,935,922	(151,545)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	3,108,514	2,803,843
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	25,637,993	22,834,150
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 28,746,507	\$ 25,637,993

Cash and cash equivalents are reported in the balance sheet as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 28,626,535	\$ 25,518,025
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	119,972	119,968
	\$ 28,746,507	\$ 25,637,993

*See accompanying notes*

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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**A) Reporting Entity**

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (the District) was organized on July 7, 1959 under the Water Conservation Law of 1931, part of the California Water Code. The District has operated continuously since 1959 and is located in the central portion of Santa Barbara County and includes the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard and the City of Solvang. The District accounts for construction, maintenance and operations of facilities which are for the purpose of producing and furnishing potable domestic and irrigation water within its boundaries.

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Parent District) was organized in 1939. It is a separate and distinct district from the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. The Parent District has a separate purpose for existence, a separate board of directors, and separate accounting records. Its assets and liabilities, as well as its activities, are therefore not included in these financial statements.

**B) Accounting Basis**

The District reports its activities as an enterprise fund, which is used to account for operations where the intent of the District is that the costs of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. Revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis, as such, revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned and expenses are recognized in the period incurred. An enterprise fund is accounted for on the "flow of economic resources" measurement focus. This means that all assets and liabilities, whether current or long term, are included on the balance sheet.

The District distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and the producing and delivering of goods in connection with the District's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the District are charges to customers for water sales. Operating expenses of the District include the cost of sales and services, as well as administrative expenses. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses. The District is responsible for funding all of its expenses, regardless of the operation or non-operating classification.

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

**C) Budgetary Procedures**

The District prepares an annual budget which includes estimates of its principal sources of revenue to be received during the fiscal year, as well as estimated expenditures and reserves needed for operation of District facilities.

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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

D) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the District considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity period, at purchase, of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

E) Basis for Recording Accounts Receivable

The District grants credit to its customers, substantially all of whom are residents and businesses within the unincorporated areas of the County in the District's service area boundaries, in the towns of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, and Ballard. The City of Solvang is a customer of the District. Accounts receivable are considered to be fully collectible.

F) Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased by the District are recorded at cost. Contributed assets (water line extensions, water wells and modifications constructed by the District and reimbursed by the customer or developer) are recorded at estimated fair market value on the date donated. Capital assets, excluding land, are depreciated using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives, which range from 5 to 99 years.

G) Inventories

The District's inventories are recorded at the lower of cost on the first-in, first-out basis, or market.

H) Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses consist primarily of prepayments made to the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) as described in Note 13. Annually, a controlled quantity of water is purchased by the District and, if not used in the current year, is stored in the Lake Cachuma facility for use the following year. In addition, an amount of unused water carried over from prior years, if available, is also stored in the facility. This stored water at Lake Cachuma is subject to loss through evaporation, natural disasters, dam ruptures, and dam spillage due to excess rainfall. The losses are not covered by insurance. The District has its own facilities (various reservoirs) for storing delivered Lake Cachuma water and State Water Project water.

I) Compensated Absences

The District's personnel policies provide for accumulation of vacation and sick leave. Liabilities for vacation and sick leave are recorded when benefits are earned. Cash payment of unused vacation and sick leave is available to those qualified employees when retired. Individuals terminating employment prior to retirement receive cash payment of any unused accrued vacation. Accrued compensated absences are included in accrued expenses on the balance sheet.

J) Advances Payable

Advances payable represents the prepayment by the City of Solvang to the District for its share of the Central Coast Water Authority costs for the coming fiscal year and its proportionate share of rate coverage reserve funds.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

K) Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense as described in Note 9, information about the fiduciary net position of the District's plan (OPEB Plan) and additions to/deductions from the OPEB Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when currently due and payable in accordance with benefit terms.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the reported results must pertain to liability and asset information within certain defined timeframes. For this report, the following timeframes are used:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2023
Measurement Date	June 30, 2023
Measurement Period	July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

L) Pension Plan

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability and deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense as described in Note 8, information about the fiduciary net position of the District's California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) plans (Plans) and additions to/deductions from the Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by CalPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

The following timeframes are used for pension reporting:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2022
Measurement Date	June 30, 2023
Measurement Period	July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

M) Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets/deferred inflows and liabilities/deferred outflows and is classified into three components as follows:

Net investment in capital assets – This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net investment in capital assets excludes unspent debt proceeds.

Restricted – This component of net position consists of constraints placed on net asset use through external constraints imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.



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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

M) Net Position (Continued)

Unrestricted – This component of net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets.” Unrestricted, reserved net position represents unrestricted assets which are segregated by the Board of Trustees for specific future uses.

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both unrestricted and restricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to apply restricted assets first, then unrestricted resources.

N) Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses.

Significant estimates used in preparing these financial statements include useful lives of capitalized assets, the net pension liability, and the liability for other postemployment benefits. It is at least reasonably possible that the significant estimates used will change within the next year.

O) Future Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements listed below will be implemented in future financial statements. These statements will be evaluated by the District to determine if they will have a material impact to the financial statements once effective.

Statement No. 101 " <i>Compensated Absences</i> "	The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2023. (FY 24/25)
Statement No. 102 " <i>Certain Risk Disclosures</i> "	The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024. (FY24/25)
Statement No. 103 " <i>Financial Reporting Model Improvements</i> "	The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025. (FY26/27)

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 2 – Cash and Investments**

Cash and investments are comprised of the following at June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
Cash in banks and on hand	\$ 11,886,592	\$ 10,180,290
Local Agency Investment Fund	16,859,915	15,457,703
Total cash and investments	\$ 28,746,507	\$ 25,637,993

Investments Authorized by the District's Investment Policy

The District's investment policy authorizes the District to invest only in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), and FDIC insured accounts. This policy does not apply to funds held by the bond trustee that are governed by the provisions of debt agreements of the District, rather than the general provisions of the District's investment policy.

Investment in Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

LAIF is regulated by the California Government Code under the oversight of the Treasurer of the State of California. The fair value of the District's investment in this pool is reported in the accompanying financial statements at amounts based on the District's pro-rata share of the fair value provided by LAIF for the entire LAIF portfolio. The balance available for withdrawal is based on the accounting records maintained by LAIF, which are recorded on the amortized cost basis. LAIF invests some of its portfolio in derivatives. Detailed information on derivative investments held by this pool is not readily available. Investments in LAIF are not rated by a national rating agency.

Interest Rate Risk

The District did not have any investments with fair values that are considered to be highly sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Custodial Credit Risk

Deposits are exposed to custodial credit risk if they are uninsured and uncollateralized. Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

All cash deposits are entirely insured or collateralized. The California Government Code requires California banks and savings and loans associations to secure the District's deposits by pledging government securities, which equal at least 110% of the District's deposits. California law also permits financial institutions to secure the District's deposits by the pledging of first trust deed mortgage notes in excess of 150% of the District's deposits. The District may waive collateral requirements for deposits that are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 2 – Cash and Investments (Continued)**

Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The District’s investment in the Local Agency Investment Fund is not rated.

**Note 3 – Restricted Cash and Investments**

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Band) made an original deposit with the District of \$4,400 to be used as security against septic system repairs on the Indian Reservation to be paid by the Band. The balance at fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 includes the original deposit and the interest earned on the cash balance.

Restricted main extension fees represent amounts received from customers which must be used for the construction of mains. Restricted development fees are charges paid by water service applicants which must be used for new, expanded or modified water service, to secure new water sources, recapture existing water resources, and develop necessary water supply recovery measures due to the drought and additional State Regulation impacts.

The District’s restricted cash and investments as of June 30 are as follows:

	2024	2023
Santa Ynez Indian Reservation	\$ 10,760	\$ 10,756
Main extension fees	20,550	20,550
Development fees	88,662	88,662
Total restricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 119,972	\$ 119,968

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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,**  
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**Note 4 – Capital Assets**

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2024.

	Balance June 30, 2023	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Balance June 30, 2024
Utility plant	\$ 10,655,511	\$ -	\$ (369,282)	\$ -	\$ 10,286,229
Wells and major repairs	19,320,078	156,006	(22,921)	395,247	19,848,410
Office building	274,610	12,898	-	-	287,508
Transportation equipment	808,669	67,985	-	-	876,654
Office equipment	118,032	13,506	-	-	131,538
Other equipment	732,614	102,230	(4,487)	-	830,357
Total depreciable assets	31,909,514	352,625	(396,690)	395,247	32,260,696
Land and land rights	503,317	-	-	-	503,317
Total capital assets	32,412,831	352,625	(396,690)	395,247	32,764,013
Accumulated depreciation	(17,830,556)	(1,019,657)	331,838	-	(18,518,375)
Construction in progress	292,856	1,260,428	-	(395,247)	1,158,037
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 14,875,131</u>	<u>\$ 593,396</u>	<u>\$ (64,852)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,403,675</u>

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2023.

	Balance June 30, 2022	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Balance June 30, 2023
Utility plant	\$ 9,772,263	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 883,248	\$ 10,655,511
Wells and major repairs	19,410,209	-	(124,986)	34,855	19,320,078
Office building	247,842	26,768	-	-	274,610
Transportation equipment	761,382	47,287	-	-	808,669
Office equipment	91,074	40,136	(13,178)	-	118,032
Other equipment	709,527	23,087	-	-	732,614
Total depreciable assets	30,992,297	137,278	(138,164)	918,103	31,909,514
Land and land rights	503,317	-	-	-	503,317
Total capital assets	31,495,614	137,278	(138,164)	918,103	32,412,831
Accumulated depreciation	(17,036,302)	(919,648)	125,394	-	(17,830,556)
Construction in progress	168,946	1,042,013	-	(918,103)	292,856
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 14,628,258</u>	<u>\$ 259,643</u>	<u>\$ (12,770)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 14,875,131</u>

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 5 – Revenue Bonds Payable**

Cachuma Project Authority Revenue Bonds

In October 1993, some of the Cachuma Project Authority (CPA) participants, in conjunction with the CPA, issued \$9,950,000 of Cachuma Project Authority Revenue Bonds. The District's share of the bond proceeds, \$6,185,000, was used to refinance the State of California Department of Water Resources contract #E58028 and the 1988 General Obligation Bonds. \$3,500,000 was also set aside to finance construction of a water reservoir. The loan was due over a period of 30 years in semi-annual payments due January 1 and July 1, beginning July 1, 1994. The interest rate on the bonds varied from 2.75% to 5.25%.

On August 19, 2004 the outstanding 1993 CPA Bonds were refinanced with the Series 2004A Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) Bonds, of which the District's portion was \$3,960,000. The loan was to be repaid through fiscal year 2022/2023 at an interest rate ranging from 3.0% to 4.65%. The refinancing resulted in an economic gain of \$189,626. Interest was payable semi-annually on February 1 and August 1 of each year, commencing on February 1, 2005. Principal payments were payable annually on August 1 of each year, commencing on August 1, 2006.

All water system revenues and ad valorem assessment taxes of the District were irrevocably pledged to the payment of the revenue bonds. The District's obligations pursuant to the Joint Participation Agreements No.1 and No.2, as amended for the COMB Revenue Refunding Bonds (Member Agency Projects) Series 2004A required the District to fix, prescribe, and collect rates and charges which were at least sufficient to yield Net Revenues (as defined in the District's bond documents) equal to one hundred twenty five percent (125%) of the District's annual debt service. The bonds were repaid in full during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

The following is a summary of activity related to the COMB bonds for the year ending June 30, 2023:

	Balance June 30, 2022	Additions/ Issuances	Deductions/ Repayments	Balance June 30, 2023
COMB revenue bonds	\$ 220,000	\$ -	\$ (220,000)	\$ -
Premium on bonds	438	-	(438)	-
	\$ 220,438	\$ -	\$ (220,438)	\$ -

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 6 – Supplemental Schedule of the Statement of Cash Flows**

The following is a reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2024	2023
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Operating income	\$ 1,760,311	\$ 1,753,254
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	1,019,657	919,648
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	(116,505)	207,087
Inventories	53,721	(26,335)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(432,383)	49,115
Deferred outflows of resources - pension	35,069	(778,351)
Deferred outflows of resources - OPEB	121,532	137,637
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	(8,164)	(49,339)
Accrued expenses	(18,112)	18,770
Net pension liability	223,576	1,544,534
Net OPEB obligation	(1,077,609)	(535,755)
Advances payable	173,270	353,791
Deferred inflows of resources - pension	(67,216)	(849,663)
Deferred inflows of resources - OPEB	152,894	629,804
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,820,041	\$ 3,374,197

**Note 7 – Reserves**

The District has reserved a portion of its assets for future construction projects and projected repair and replacement costs. The following is a schedule of the reserves as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

	2024	2023
Repair and replacement	\$ 7,390,060	\$ 6,054,018
Debt reserve	614,223	291,241
Plant expansion	8,672,492	7,336,450
SWP fund reserve	3,000,000	3,000,000
Total reserves	\$ 19,676,775	\$ 16,681,709

**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

**Plan Description** – All qualified employees are eligible to participate in the District’s Miscellaneous Employee Pension Plan, a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS). Benefit provisions under the Plans are established by State statute and local government resolution. CalPERS issues publicly available reports that include a full description of the pension plans regarding benefit provisions, assumptions and membership information that can be found on the CalPERS website. Eligible employees hired after January 1, 2013 that are considered new members as defined by the Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) participate in the PEPRA Miscellaneous Plan.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

**Benefits Provided** – CalPERS provides service retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments and death benefits to plan members, who must be public employees and beneficiaries. Benefits are based on years of credited service, as discussed above. Members with five years of total service are eligible to retire at age 50 or 52 if in the PEPRM Miscellaneous Plan with statutorily reduced benefits. An optional benefit regarding sick leave was adopted. Any unused sick leave accumulated at the time of retirement will be converted to credited service at a rate of 0.004 years of service for each day of sick leave. All members are eligible for non-duty disability benefits after 10 years of service. The system also provides for the Optional Settlement 2W Death Benefit, as well as the 1959 Survivor Benefit. The cost of living adjustments for all plans are applied as specified by the Public Employees’ Retirement Law.

**Contributions** – Section 20814(c) of the California Public Employees’ Retirement Law requires that the employer contribution rates for all public employers be determined on an annual basis by the actuary and shall be effective on the July 1 following notice of a change in the rate. Funding contributions for both Plans are determined annually on an actuarial basis as of June 30 by CalPERS. The actuarially determined rate is the estimated amount necessary to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. The District is required to contribute the difference between the actuarially determined rate and the contribution rate of employees.

For employees hired prior to January 1, 2013 and for all classic members as defined by PEPRM, the District pays the employee’s contribution in addition to the employer’s contribution. These contributions made on behalf of employees are included in operating expenses on the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, but are not included in pension expense as disclosed below. For employees hired after January 1, 2013 who are considered new members as defined by PEPRM, the District does not pay any portion of the employee’s required contribution.

The Plan’s provisions and benefits in effect at June 30, 2024 and 2023, are summarized as follows:

	<b>Miscellaneous Plan</b>	
	Prior to January 1, 2013	On or after January 1, 2013
Hire date		
Benefit formula	2% @ 55	2% @ 62
Benefit vesting schedule	5 years of service	5 years of service
Benefit payments	monthly for life	monthly for life
Retirement age	50 - Minimum	52 - Minimum
Monthly benefits, as a % of eligible compensation	1.4% to 2.4%	1.0% to 2.5%
Required employee contribution		
2024	7.00%	7.25%
2023	7.00%	7.25%
Required employer contribution		
2024	12.63%	8.00%
2023	11.06%	7.76%

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

CalPERS collects employer contributions for the Plan as a percentage of payroll for the normal cost portion as noted in the rates above, and as a dollar amount for contributions toward the unfunded liability. The District’s required contribution for the unfunded liability was \$171,003 and \$182,775 for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

***Pension Liabilities, Pension Expenses and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions***

As of June 30, 2024 the District reported a liability of \$2,835,297 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability for the Plan used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022 rolled forward to June 30, 2023 using standard update procedures. The District’s proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of their long-term share of contributions to the pension plans relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined

The District’s proportionate share of the net pension liability as of June 30, 2023 and 2022 (measurement dates) was as follows:

Measurement date June 30, 2023		Measurement date June 30, 2022	
Proportion – June 30, 2023	0.05582%	Proportion – June 30, 2022	0.05620%
Proportion – June 30, 2024	0.05670%	Proportion – June 30, 2023	0.05582%
Increase (Decrease)	0.00088%	Increase (Decrease)	-0.00038%

For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the District recognized pension expense of \$551,272 and \$244,089, respectively. At June 30, 2024 and 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	June 30, 2024		June 30, 2023	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Pension contributions subsequent to measurement date	\$ 359,842	\$ -	\$ 327,569	\$ -
Differences between expected and actual experience	144,841	(22,469)	52,448	(35,128)
Changes in assumptions	171,180	-	267,625	-
Changes in employer’s proportion	105,836	-	149,789	-
Difference between employer’s contributions and employer’s proportionate share of contributions	-	(96,097)	-	(150,654)
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	459,060	-	478,398	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,240,759</b>	<b>\$ (118,566)</b>	<b>\$ 1,275,829</b>	<b>\$ (185,782)</b>



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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

Employer contributions of \$359,842 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions made subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30		
2025	\$	239,149
2026		162,160
2027		347,872
2028		13,170
	\$	762,351

Unfunded liabilities are amortized in accordance with CalPERS amortization policy, which was modified effective for the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation. The new policy applies prospectively only; amortization bases established prior to the June 30, 2019 valuation will continue to be amortized according to the prior policy. For more details, please refer to the June 30, 2020 Actuarial Valuation for CalPERS Miscellaneous Risk Pool which can be found on the CalPERS website.

**Actuarial Assumptions** – The total pension liabilities in the June 30, 2022 and 2021 actuarial valuations (June 30, 2023 and 2022 measurement dates) were determined using the following actuarial assumptions:

	Miscellaneous Plan
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry-Age Normal Cost Method in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 68
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Discount Rate	
Measurement Date - 2023	6.90%
Measurement Date - 2022	6.90%
Inflation	
Measurement Date - 2023	2.30%
Measurement Date - 2022	2.30%
Salary Increases	Varies by entry age and service
Investment Rate of Return (1)	
Measurement Date - 2023	6.90%
Measurement Date - 2022	6.90%
Mortality	Derived using CalPERS' Membership Data for all Funds
Post Retirement Benefit Increase	Contract COLA up to 2.3% until Purchasing Power Protection Allowance Floor on Purchasing Power applies

(1) Net of pension plan investment expenses, including inflation

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

The mortality table used was developed based on CalPERS-specific data. The rates for measurement date June 30, 2023 incorporate Generational Mortality to capture ongoing mortality improvement using 80% of Scale MP 2020 published by the Society of Actuaries. For more details, please refer to the 2021 experience study report that can be found on the CalPERS website.

**Discount Rate** – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.90% for the measurement periods ending June 30, 2023 and 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made a statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the Plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Long-term Expected Rate of Return** – In determining the long-term expected rate of return, CalPERS took into account long-term market return expectations as well as the expected pension fund cash flows. Projected returns for all asset classes are estimated and, combined with risk estimates, are used to project compound (geometric) returns over the long term. The discount rate used to discount liabilities was informed by the long-term projected portfolio return.

The expected real rates of return by asset class are as follows:

Asset Class	Measurement Date June 30, 2023		Asset Class	Measurement Date June 30, 2022	
	Net Strategic Allocation	Real Return Years 1 - 10(a)		Net Strategic Allocation	Real Return Years 1 - 10(a)
Global equity - cap-weighted	30.00%	4.54%	Global equity - cap-weighted	30.00%	4.45%
Global equity non-cap-weighted	12.00%	3.84%	Global equity non-cap-weighted	12.00%	3.84%
Private Equity	13.00%	7.28%	Private Equity	13.00%	7.28%
Treasury	5.00%	0.27%	Treasury	5.00%	0.27%
Mortgage-backed Securities	5.00%	0.50%	Mortgage-backed Securities	5.00%	0.50%
Investment Grade Corporates	10.00%	1.56%	Investment Grade Corporates	10.00%	1.56%
High Yield	5.00%	2.27%	High Yield	5.00%	2.27%
Emerging Market Debt	5.00%	2.48%	Emerging Market Debt	5.00%	2.48%
Private Debt	5.00%	3.57%	Private Debt	5.00%	3.57%
Real Estates	15.00%	3.21%	Real Estates	15.00%	3.21%
Leverage	-5.00%	-0.59%	Leverage	-5.00%	-0.59%

(a) An expected inflation of 2.30% used for this period.  
Figures are based on the 2021-22 Asset Liability Management study.

(a) An expected inflation of 2.30% used for this period.  
Figures are based on the 2021-22 Asset Liability Management study.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Continued)**

*Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate* – The following presents The District’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.90%, as well as what the District’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	Fiscal Year	
	2024	2023
1% Decrease	5.90%	5.90%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 4,373,567	\$ 4,093,900
Current Discount Rate	6.90%	6.90%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,835,297	\$ 2,611,721
1% Increase	7.90%	7.90%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,569,169	\$ 1,392,255

*Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position* – Detailed information about the Plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued CalPERS financial reports.

**Note 9 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

The District’s plan is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan which provides retiree medical and prescription drug coverage to eligible retirees and their dependents. Employees who attain age 55 and 10 years of service and retire from active employment are eligible to receive pro-rated benefits from the Plan. Medical coverage is offered under a fully-insured PPO plan option and a fully-insured HMO plan option, through the Association of California Water Agencies Health Plan, consistent with the coverage provided under the CalPERS Health Program.

Employees Covered

At the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, the following current and former employees were covered by the benefit terms under the OPEB plan.

Participating active employees	16
Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	9
Total	25

Funding Policy

The District funds the plan on a pay-as-you-go basis. The District contributes up to the amount of the monthly premium for ACWA Advantage coverage for employee and family, plus administrative fees and Contingency Reserve Fund assessments. The specific contribution percentage is based on District years of credited service.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 9 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)**

Net OPEB Liability

The District's net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation dated June 30, 2023, based on the following actuarial methods and assumptions:

	OPEB Plan
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry-Age Normal, Level Percent of Pay
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Discount Rate	
Measurement Date - 2023	3.65%
Measurement Date - 2022	3.54%
Payroll Growth (1)	
Measurement Date - 2023	2.75%
Measurement Date - 2022	2.75%
Mortality	2021 CalPERS Retiree Mortality for Miscellaneous and Schools Employees
Turnover	2021 CalPERS Turnover for Miscellaneous Employees
Retirement	2021 CalPERS 2.0% <sup>@55</sup> Rates for Miscellaneous Employees; 2021 CalPERS 2.0% <sup>@62</sup> Rates for Miscellaneous Employees
Healthcare Trend Rate	
Measurement Date - 2023	4.00%
Measurement Date - 2022	4.00%

(1) Benefits are not dependent upon salary. Rate is used in applying the level percentage of projected payroll amortization method.

Assumption Changes

The discount rate was increased from 3.54% to 3.65% for the measurement period ending June 30, 2023. The discount rate was increased from 2.16% to 3.54% for the measurement period ending June 30, 2022.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 3.65% for the measurement period ending June 30, 2023, based on the Bond Buyer 20 Bond Index. The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 3.54 % for the measurement period ending June 30, 2022, based on the S&P municipal Bond 20-Year High Grade Rate Index.

Change in Benefit Terms

The most expensive post-65 medical plan is no longer offered by ACWA. This change decreases the average cost of providing medical coverage to post-65 retirees and therefore decreases the measured employer liability.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 9 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)**

Changes in the Net OPEB Liability

The changes in the net OPEB liability are as follows:

	Total OPEB Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) (a) - (b)
Balance at June 30, 2023 <i>(Measurement Date June 30, 2022)</i>	\$ 3,518,142	\$ -	\$ 3,518,142
Changes Recognized for the Measurement Period:			
Service cost	203,330	-	203,330
Interest on Total OPEB Liability	126,267	-	126,267
Contributions - Employer	-	81,537	(81,537)
Benefit Payments	(81,537)	(81,537)	-
Expected versus actual experience	(363,767)	-	(363,767)
Assumption changes	(23,656)	-	(23,656)
Benefit Terms changes	(938,246)	-	(938,246)
Net Changes	<u>(1,077,609)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,077,609)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2024 <i>(Measurement Date June 30, 2023)</i>	<u>\$ 2,440,533</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,440,533</u>

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the District if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate, for fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	Fiscal Year	
	2024	2023
1% Decrease	2.65%	2.54%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 2,806,132	\$ 4,088,760
Current Discount Rate	3.65%	3.54%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 2,440,533	\$ 3,518,142
1% Increase	4.65%	4.54%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 2,142,393	\$ 3,108,247

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**Note 9 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)**

The following presents the net OPEB liability of the District if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate, for fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023:

	Fiscal Year	
	2024	2023
Trend 1% Lower	3.00%	3.00%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 2,082,599	\$ 2,960,780
Health Care Cost Trend	4.00%	4.00%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 2,440,533	\$ 3,518,142
Trend 1% Higher	5.00%	5.00%
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 2,895,317	\$ 4,189,922

**Recognition of Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

Gains and losses related to changes in total OPEB liability and fiduciary net position are recognized in OPEB expense systematically over time. Amounts are first recognized in OPEB expense for the year the gain or loss occurs. The remaining amounts are categorized as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB and are to be recognized in future OPEB expense.

The recognition period differs depending on the source of the gain or loss. The difference between projected OPEB plan investment earnings and actual earnings is amortized over a five year period. The remaining gains and losses are amortized over the expected average remaining service life, which was 6.9 years at measurement date June 30, 2023.

**OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the District recognized OPEB expense (benefit) of (\$719,273) and \$313,223, respectively. At June 30, 2024 and 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources.

	June 30, 2024		June 30, 2023	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
OPEB contributions subsequent to measurement date	\$ 83,910	\$ -	\$ 81,537	\$ -
Differences between expected and actual experience	13,432	(418,442)	15,680	(132,632)
Changes in assumptions	567,445	(849,769)	689,102	(982,685)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 664,787</b>	<b>\$ (1,268,211)</b>	<b>\$ 786,319</b>	<b>\$ (1,115,317)</b>

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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**Note 9 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)**

Employer contributions of \$83,910 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions made subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized as OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30		
2025	\$	(110,624)
2026		(110,624)
2027		(110,624)
2028		(109,301)
2029		(129,984)
Thereafter		(116,177)
	\$	<u>(687,334)</u>

**Note 10 – Deferred Compensation Plan**

The District offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan permits participating employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The District does not contribute to this plan and all contributions are made voluntarily by the employee. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency. All assets of the plan were placed in trust for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries. The requirements of the IRC Section prescribes that the District no longer owns the amounts deferred by employees, including the related income on those amounts. Accordingly, the assets and the liability for the compensation deferred by plan participants, including earnings on plan assets, are not included in the District's financial statements.

**Note 11 – Cachuma Project Authority/Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board**

The original master contract for the Cachuma Project was entered into by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency on September 12, 1949. Prior to expiration of the original contract, the District and other Cachuma Project Member Units formed the Cachuma Project Authority (CPA) in 1993 to represent their interests in negotiating the Cachuma Project Renewal Master Contract, the Cachuma Project Member Unit Contracts, and related environmental review processes. The Cachuma Project Renewal Master Contract (Contract No. I75r-1802R) was renewed on April 14, 1996 for a term to expire on September 30, 2020. On September 28, 2020, an Amendment to the Renewal Master Contract was entered to extend its term through September 30, 2023 (Contract No. I75r-1802RA). On September 29, 2023, a Second Amendment to the Renewal Master Contract was entered to extend its term through September 30, 2026 (Contract No. I75r-1802RB).

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 11 – Cachuma Project Authority/Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (Continued)**

Effective September 30, 1996, the CPA merged into the Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB), which continues to be responsible for operation and maintenance of the “Transferred Project Works” and certain administrative responsibilities and reporting to USBR on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Units. All assets and liabilities of the CPA were transferred to COMB.

On May 26, 2016, at a Special Meeting of the District’s Board of Trustees, the Board unanimously voted to formally separate from COMB and withdraw from the “1996 Amended and Restated Agreement for the Establishment of a Board of Control to Operate and Maintain the Cachuma Project – Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board.” Effective August 23, 2018, the District and the remaining agencies of COMB signed the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Joint Powers Authority Separation Agreement (Separation Agreement) finalizing the withdrawal and severance of the District from COMB effective as of May 27, 2016. The Separation Agreement sets forth certain continuing obligations of the District, some of which conclude upon the expiration of the Renewal Master Contract or other triggering events. Effective July 30, 2020 the District and COMB entered into the First Amendment to the Separation Agreement to streamline implementation of the Separation Agreement. Except as expressly required by the Separation Agreement and the First Amendment to the Separation Agreement, the District shall have no obligation or responsibility for any liabilities, financial obligations, or other activities of COMB.

**Note 12 – Risk Management**

The District participates in the Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA), a public entity risk pool of California water agencies, for general and auto liability, public officials’ liability, property damage, and fidelity insurance. ACWA/JPIA provides insurance through the pool up to a certain level, beyond which group-purchased commercial excess insurance is obtained.

The District pays an annual premium to ACWA/JPIA that includes its pro-rata share of excess insurance premiums, charges for the pooled risk, claims adjusting and legal costs, and administrative and other costs to operate the ACWA/JPIA. ACWA/JPIA may be terminated at any time by written consent of three-fourths of voting members at which time the members may be required to pay their share of any additional amount of premium in accordance with the loss allocation formulas for final disposition of all claims and losses covered by the joint powers agreement. To obtain complete financial information contact ACWA/JPIA at P.O. Box 619082 Roseville, CA 95661.

At June 30, 2024 the District participates in the ACWA/JPIA pooled programs for liability, and property programs as follows:

Coverage	Deductible	Coverage Limit
General, Auto and Public Officials liability	None	\$5,000,000 - \$55,000,000
Cyber liability	None	\$5,000,000
Property	\$500 - \$100,000	\$2,500,000 - \$500,000,000
Crime	\$1,000	\$1,000,000
Workers' Compensation	None	Statutory



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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Note 13 – Joint Ventures**

Central Coast Water Authority

In 1991, the District's electorate approved participation in the State Water Project (SWP). As a result, the District joined in the formation of the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) in September 1991. The purpose of the CCWA is to provide for the financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of certain local (non-state owned) facilities required to deliver water from the SWP to certain water purveyors and users in Santa Barbara County. In September 1997, the project began delivering state water to the District.

The District has entered into a Water Supply Agreement with the City of Solvang for 75% of the District's 2,000 acre-foot State Water Project entitlement. The agreement calls for the City to reimburse the District for its allocated share (72.75%) of all costs associated with the SWP. The difference between the 75% allocation of water and the 72.75% allocated share of costs is due to the fact that costs attributed only to the District increased its revenue bond allocation percentage, causing its overall cost percentage to be 72.75%.

Each project participant, including the District has entered into a Water Supply Agreement to provide for the development, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the CCWA Project. The purpose of the Water Supply Agreement is to assist in carrying out the purposes of CCWA with respect to the CCWA Project by:

- 1) requiring CCWA to sell, and the project participants to buy, a specified amount of water from CCWA ("take or pay"); and
- 2) assigning the Santa Barbara project participant's entitlement rights in the State Water project to CCWA.

Although the District does have an ongoing financial interest pursuant to the Water Supply Agreement between the District and CCWA, the District does not have an equity interest as defined by GASB.

The District and each project participant is required to pay to CCWA an amount equal to its share of the total cost of "fixed project costs" and certain other costs in the proportion established in the Water Supply Agreement. This includes the project participant's share of payments to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) under the State Water Supply Contract (including capital, operation, maintenance, power and replacement costs of the DWR facilities) debt service on CCWA bonds and all CCWA operating and administrative costs.

Each project participant is required to make payments under its Water Supply Agreement solely from the revenues of its water system. Each project participant has agreed in its Water Supply Agreement to fix, prescribe and collect rates and charges for its water system which will be at least sufficient to yield each fiscal year net revenues equal to 125% of the sum of (1) the payments required pursuant to the Water Supply Agreement, and (2) debt service on any existing participant obligation for which revenues are also pledged.

CCWA is composed of eight members, all of which are public agencies. CCWA was organized and exists under a joint exercise of power agreement among the various participating public agencies. The Board of Directors is made up of one representative from each participating entity. Votes on the Board are approximately apportioned between the entities based upon each entity's allocation of State water entitlement. The District's weighted voting allocation based upon number of acre-feet of water is 7.64%. Operating and capital expenses are allocated among the members based upon various formulas recognizing the benefits of the various project components to each member.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**Note 13 – Joint Ventures (Continued)**

Central Coast Water Authority (Continued)

In August 2006, CCWA issued the Series 2006A Refunding Revenue Bonds for \$123,190,000 with an average interest rate of 4.24% to refund \$142,985,000 of outstanding 1996 Revenue Bonds with an average interest rate of 5.47%. The 1996 Revenue Bonds were issued to advance refund the 1992 Revenue Bonds. The 1992 Revenue Bonds were issued by the Authority for the benefit of its participants to finance a portion of the costs of developing a pipeline and water treatment plant, to reimburse certain project participants for costs incurred in connection with the State Water Project, and to finance certain other liabilities.

On June 18, 2016 the Authority issued Series 2016A refunding revenue bonds for \$45,470,000, which refunded the outstanding \$59,645,000 Series 2006A revenue bonds on October 1, 2016. The 2016A refunding revenue bonds were issued to realize the benefits of lower interest rates, which were issued at a true interest cost of 1.355% compared to the 4.24% true interest costs of the 2006A bonds. The bond refunding transaction was completed at the close of escrow on July 21, 2016 and the bonds were repaid in full on October 21, 2023.

Based on the Water Supply Agreement with the City of Solvang described above, below are the projected required costs of the State Water Project for the District and City of Solvang. Because the District is the "Project Participant" in CCWA, it is obligated to make all fixed and variable charge payments to CCWA and then is reimbursed by the City of Solvang for the City's share of the annual funding in accordance with the Agreement.

District's Share:

	<u>Fixed Costs</u>	<u>Variable Costs</u>	<u>Other Credits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 1,170,886	\$ 237,206	\$ (158,533)	\$ 1,249,559
2026	1,148,109	260,046	-	1,408,155
2027	1,168,199	350,159	-	1,518,358
2028	1,218,583	367,667	-	1,586,250
2029 - 2035	10,168,886	-	-	10,168,886
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,874,663</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,078</b>	<b>\$ (158,533)</b>	<b>\$ 15,931,208</b>

City of Solvang's Share:

	<u>Fixed Costs</u>	<u>Variable Costs</u>	<u>Other Credits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 2,167,033	\$ 175,195	\$ -	\$ 2,342,228
2026	2,061,439	225,836	-	2,287,275
2027	2,058,150	286,604	-	2,344,754
2028	2,136,257	300,934	-	2,437,191
2029 - 2035	18,363,369	-	-	18,363,369
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,786,248</b>	<b>\$ 988,569</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 27,774,817</b>

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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Note 13 – Joint Ventures (Continued)**

Central Coast Water Authority (Continued)

The above fixed and variable costs include both DWR and CCWA charges. Variable costs are dependent on actual water deliveries taken or to be taken. The “fixed costs,” “variable costs,” numbers were obtained from CCWA’s five-year projected cost schedules.

Additional information and complete financial statements for the CCWA are available for public inspection at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, CA, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Pursuant to a 2017 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the District, the City of Solvang (Solvang), the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) formed the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) to oversee implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) within the EMA portion of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. Effective July 16, 2024, the District, Solvang, SYRWCD, and SBCWA entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA Agreement) to form a new Joint Powers Authority to serve as the EMA GSA. Under the JPA Agreement, the EMA GSA is now governed by a five-member Board of Directors comprised of one Director and one Alternate Director from each of the four Member Agencies, and one Director and one Alternate Director specifically representing the agricultural interests of the EMA, which Agricultural Director and Alternate are appointed by the Member Agency Directors. For all actions and decisions of the EMA GSA, each Director casts one vote. In accordance with SGMA, the EMA GSA prepared and adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the EMA in January 2023, and the California Department of Water Resources approved the EMA GSP in January 2024.

The JPA Agreement specifies that certain actions and decisions of the EMA GSA must be passed by a super majority four-fifths vote, whereas other actions and decisions not requiring a super majority approval can be adopted by simple majority. During fiscal year 2023/2024, the District paid \$12,439 as its cost share contribution toward expenses of the EMA GSA. Pursuant to the JPA Agreement, the District, Solvang, SYRWCD, and SBCWA are each required to contribute an additional \$50,000 toward ongoing expenses of the EMA GSA. All fiscal year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 cost share contributions made by the District to the EMA GSA are required to be reimbursed to the District by December 2026 unless that date is extended by the District and the other contributing Member Agencies. Financial statements for the EMA GSA can be obtained by contacting its Executive Director, Confluence Engineering Solutions, at (805) 459-8498.

**Note 14 – Commitments**

Water Entitlement Exchange

In 1993, the District entered into the Santa Ynez River/State Water Exchange Agreement with the South Coast Cachuma Member Units (Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, and the City of Santa Barbara), the La Cumbre Mutual Water Company, and the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) to exchange the District’s share of Cachuma Project water entitlement for an equal amount of the South Coast agencies’ State Water Project entitlement.

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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Note 14 – Commitments (Continued)**

Bradbury Dam

On July 1, 2002, COMB and USBR entered into the Contract for Repayment of Funds Expended for Federally Performed Safety of Dams Act Modification Program (SOD Contract) for seismic modifications to Bradbury Dam. Under the SOD Contract, COMB reimburses the United States on behalf of the Cachuma Member Units for a portion of Safety of Dams Act funds the United States expended to preserve the structural integrity of Bradbury Dam and related Cachuma Project facilities. The SOD Contract calls for a repayment of the cost over a 50-year period.

COMB assesses the District annually for amounts equal to the District's share of the obligation due to the United States. The District has a commitment equal to 10.31% of total contract repayment. Currently, the District's annual payment is \$26,976.

**Note 15 – Contingent Liabilities**

SWRCB Hearings

The District, along with other local water agencies and several state and federal regulatory entities, are signatories to a 2001 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation in Research and Fish Maintenance – Santa Ynez River concerning fishery resources in the Lower Santa Ynez River below Bradbury Dam. These agencies are also involved in ongoing analyses ordered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in connection with the Cachuma Project permits held by USBR on behalf of the Cachuma Member Units. In September 2019, the SWRCB issued a final Water Rights Order for operation of the Cachuma Project to ensure protection of public trust resources and downstream water rights below Bradbury Dam (WRO 2019-0148). Pursuant to WRO 2019-0148, USBR is required to prepare and undertake various reports and studies regarding potential impacts to fishery resources in the Lower Santa Ynez River. Complying with these requirements will result in higher Cachuma Project water costs to the District in the form of higher water rates from USBR and/or voluntary expenses incurred annually by the District and other agencies in providing support to USBR in its compliance activities.

In addition to the SWRCB proceedings, the District is involved with various local, state, and federal agencies as part of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 7 reconsultation process for operation and maintenance of the Cachuma Project for the protection of Southern California steelhead in the Lower Santa Ynez River. For purposes of the ESA, the Cachuma Project is currently governed by the 2000 Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Pursuant to the ongoing Section 7 reconsultation process, NMFS may be expected to issue a new Biological Opinion in 2025, which will impact the manner in which USBR is required to operate the Cachuma Project. The new Biological Opinion will impose specific water release requirements from Bradbury Dam, which may result in additional impacts to Cachuma Project water supplies, including the amount of water the District receives under its contractual entitlement. The new Biological Opinion will also impose certain monitoring, reporting, study, and other requirements on USBR. Complying with these requirements will result in higher Cachuma Project water costs to the District in the form of higher water rates from USBR and/or voluntary expenses incurred annually by the District and other agencies in providing support to USBR in its compliance activities.

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**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Note 15 – Contingent Liabilities (Continued)**

**New Legislation - Hexavalent Chromium-6**

In July of 2014, the State of California enacted a new standard for Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6) which required all water systems to comply with a lowered maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) of Cr6 in drinking water. Public water systems were required to achieve compliance with this new standard at the earliest feasible date prior to January 1, 2020.

In order to comply with the new State standard and meet current and future water demands, the District conducted pilot studies to determine the best available water treatment technology for its water system; prepared preliminary engineering design for blending facilities, performed feasibility and cost analysis for each option, and developed a District-specific Cr6 remediation program. The primary solution involved investing in a new centralized water treatment facility with the capability of treating Cr6 produced from the District's groundwater supply. The costs associated with new treatment and blending facilities varied, and were estimated at that time to be as much as \$12.5 million. On May 5, 2017, a California Superior Court ruled that, in establishing the Cr6 standard, the State failed to adequately assess the economic feasibility of complying with the new 10 ppb MCL, and the MCL was invalidated.

On June 16, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) issued a notice of public hearing for a new proposed Cr6 MCL of 10 ppb, and the State Board issued a final Cr6 MCL of 10 ppb in April of 2024. The effective date of the revised Cr6 MCL is October 1, 2024 and the District has three years to comply with the new standard. Accordingly, the District has resumed work to evaluate the best available water treatment technology for its system, prepare preliminary engineering designs, and estimate the capital and annual operation and maintenance costs of a Cr6 treatment facility.

**Note 16 – Legal Contingencies**

In the ordinary course of conducting business, various legal proceedings may be pending, however, in the opinion of the District's management, the ultimate disposition of these matters will have no significant impact on the financial position of the District.

**Note 17 – Subsequent Events**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through November 19, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

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## **Required Supplementary Information**

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
SCHEDULE OF SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1'S  
PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024  
LAST 10 YEARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proportion of the net pension liability	0.02273%	0.02261%	0.01973%	0.01965%	0.01933%	0.01898%	0.01922%	0.01908%	0.01874%	0.02055%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,835,297	\$ 2,611,721	\$ 1,067,187	\$ 2,138,465	\$ 1,981,106	\$ 1,828,856	\$ 1,905,629	\$ 1,651,018	\$ 1,285,968	\$ 1,278,902
Covered payroll	\$ 1,611,299	\$ 1,620,263	\$ 1,571,534	\$ 1,533,069	\$ 1,608,531	\$ 1,501,838	\$ 1,349,875	\$ 1,299,691	\$ 1,190,037	\$ 1,098,615
Proportionate Share of the net pension liability as percentage of covered payroll	175.96%	161.19%	67.91%	139.49%	123.16%	121.77%	141.17%	127.03%	108.06%	116.41%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	75.07%	75.98%	89.47%	76.90%	78.07%	77.89%	75.85%	76.34%	80.35%	79.73%
Measurement date	06/30/23	06/30/22	06/30/21	06/30/20	06/30/19	06/30/18	06/30/17	06/30/16	06/30/15	06/30/14
Valuation date	06/30/22	06/30/21	06/30/20	06/30/19	06/30/18	06/30/17	06/30/16	06/30/15	06/30/14	06/30/13

**Notes to Schedule:**

Benefit changes: The figures above do not include any liability impact that may have resulted from plan changes which occurred after the June 30, 2022 valuation date.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024  
LAST 10 YEARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution (actuarially determined)	\$ 359,842	\$ 327,569	\$ 298,532	\$ 271,204	\$ 239,699	\$ 271,802	\$ 244,533	\$ 218,450	\$ 201,660	\$ 165,075
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	\$ 359,842	\$ 327,569	\$ 298,532	\$ 271,204	\$ 239,699	\$ 271,802	\$ 244,533	\$ 218,450	\$ 201,660	\$ 165,075
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered payroll	\$ 1,909,830	\$ 1,611,299	\$ 1,620,263	\$ 1,571,534	\$ 1,533,069	\$ 1,608,531	\$ 1,501,838	\$ 1,349,875	\$ 1,299,691	\$ 1,190,037
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	18.84%	20.33%	18.42%	17.26%	15.64%	16.90%	16.28%	16.18%	15.52%	13.87%

**Notes to Schedule:**

The actuarial methods and assumptions used to set the actuarially determined contributions for fiscal year 2023-2024 were derived from the June 30, 2021 funding valuation report.



**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1  
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) PLAN  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
LAST 10 YEARS\***

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	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Total OPEB liability:</b>							
Service cost	\$ 203,330	\$ 278,160	\$ 254,721	\$ 181,296	\$ 155,826	\$ 151,287	\$ 199,377
Interest on the total OPEB liability	126,267	89,539	81,313	99,577	93,707	85,855	69,249
Expected versus actual experience	(363,767)	526	(110,833)	(18,166)	(67,721)	26,104	(5,271)
Assumption changes	(23,656)	(808,185)	383,429	592,289	(50,028)	30,994	(478,525)
Benefit payments	(81,537)	(95,795)	(123,401)	(99,659)	(72,323)	(72,323)	(67,941)
Changes of benefit terms	(938,246)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net change in total OPEB liability	(1,077,609)	(535,755)	485,229	755,337	59,461	221,917	(283,111)
Total OPEB liability - beginning	3,518,142	4,053,897	3,568,668	2,813,331	2,753,870	2,531,953	2,815,064
Total OPEB liability - ending (a)	<u>\$ 2,440,533</u>	<u>\$ 3,518,142</u>	<u>\$ 4,053,897</u>	<u>\$ 3,568,668</u>	<u>\$ 2,813,331</u>	<u>\$ 2,753,870</u>	<u>\$ 2,531,953</u>
<b>Fiduciary Net Position</b>							
Employer contributions	\$ 81,537	\$ 95,795	\$ 123,401	\$ 99,659	\$ 72,323	\$ 72,323	\$ 67,941
Benefit payments	(81,537)	(95,795)	(123,401)	(99,659)	(72,323)	(72,323)	(67,941)
Net change in fiduciary net position	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fiduciary net position - beginning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fiduciary net position - ending (b)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Net OPEB liability - ending (a) - (b)	\$ 2,440,533	\$ 3,518,142	\$ 4,053,897	\$ 3,568,668	\$ 2,813,331	\$ 2,753,870	\$ 2,531,953
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Covered - employee payroll	\$ 1,726,720	\$ 1,719,151	\$ 1,666,259	\$ 1,729,605	\$ 1,672,296	\$ 1,556,210	\$ 1,388,793
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	141.34%	204.64%	243.29%	206.33%	168.23%	176.96%	182.31%
Measurement date	6/30/2023	06/30/22	06/30/21	06/30/20	06/30/19	06/30/18	07/01/17
Valuation date	6/30/2023	06/30/21	06/30/21	06/30/19	06/30/19	07/01/17	07/01/17

Notes to Schedule:

- \* Historical information is required only for measurement periods for which GASB 75 is applicable. Future year's information will be displayed up to 10 years as information becomes available.

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## **Other Supplementary Information**

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - ACTUAL AND BUDGET**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**  
**With Comparative Actual Amounts at June 30, 2023**

	<u>2024</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u>
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>				
Water sales	\$ 8,646,910	\$ 8,928,880	\$ (281,970)	\$ 8,600,192
State water contract revenue	2,219,528	2,143,283	76,245	2,141,668
Miscellaneous billings and fees	131,297	142,000	(10,703)	140,719
Total operating revenues	<u>10,997,735</u>	<u>11,214,163</u>	<u>(216,428)</u>	<u>10,882,579</u>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Source of supply	1,528,975	1,399,318	129,657	1,581,661
State water contract expense	2,219,528	2,143,283	76,245	2,141,668
Pumping expense	693,533	730,000	(36,467)	646,488
Water treatment	81,788	107,000	(25,212)	92,454
Transmission and distribution	1,163,285	1,228,985	(65,700)	1,076,006
Administrative and general	1,995,789	3,038,950	(1,043,161)	2,357,485
Special programs and study fees	513,785	631,500	(117,715)	214,341
Unanticipated and special legal fees	21,082	85,000	(63,918)	99,574
Depreciation expense	1,019,657	-	1,019,657	919,648
Total operating expenses	<u>9,237,422</u>	<u>9,364,036</u>	<u>(126,614)</u>	<u>9,129,325</u>
Operating income	<u>1,760,313</u>	<u>1,850,127</u>	<u>(89,814)</u>	<u>1,753,254</u>
<b>Other Income:</b>				
Capital facilities fees	65,295	70,000	(4,705)	85,089
Interest income	1,218,222	350,000	868,222	583,144
Unrealized gain (loss)	780,650	-	780,650	(636,704)
Special assessment	900,308	875,000	25,308	900,478
Total other income	<u>2,964,475</u>	<u>1,295,000</u>	<u>1,669,475</u>	<u>932,007</u>
<b>Other Expenses:</b>				
Interest expense	-	-	-	407
Loss on disposal of assets	64,851	-	64,851	12,770
Total other expenses	<u>64,851</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,851</u>	<u>13,177</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 4,659,937</u>	<u>\$ 3,145,127</u>	<u>\$ 1,514,810</u>	<u>\$ 2,672,084</u>

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING**

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

**HELD AT  
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM  
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA  
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024**

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**Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS**

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: [+1 469-998-7311](tel:+14699987311), [209762335#](tel:209762335) or via the Web at: [Join the meeting now](#)

**“Join a Meeting” - Meeting ID 294 811 517 405 Meeting Passcode: 4nNRT3**

**\*\*\* 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.

---

**AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public comment shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public comment item.)
4. Consent Agenda
  - Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of Special Meeting of September 26, 2024
  - Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of Joint GSAs meeting of September 6, 2024
5. Review and Consider Approval of an Agricultural Director and an Alternate Agricultural Director for the EMA GSA Board of Directors
6. Review and Consider Approval of Contract Services Agreement with GSI for preparation of the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report
7. Receive information on Executive Order N-3-24 and County of Santa Barbara rescission of Ordinance 5158 (Well Verifications)
8. Verbal update on EMA GSA Set-up/Transfer and other initiatives
9. Verbal update on Prop 68 Round 2 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant activities and implementation plan
10. Consider Date/Time for Next Regular and/or Special Meetings of the EMA GSA
11. Board of Directors Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items
12. Adjournment

## Paeter Garcia

---

**From:** Daniel HeimeI <danheimel@confluencees.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2024 3:14 PM  
**Cc:** Charlotte Arnao; Keith Lemieux; Steve O'Neill; mtucker@awattorneys.com; bbuelow@syrwcd.com; randym@cityofsolvang.com; Paeter Garcia; mcshirleyk@countyofsb.org; athompson@syrwcd.com; jacosta@cityofsolvang.com; mcyoung@countyofsb.org  
**Subject:** Proposed Cancelled\_11/21/24 EMA GSA Board Meeting

Hello EMA GSA Board Members (bcc'd),

During our recent call with SYRVGB EMA GSA Member Agency Staff we determined that it would likely be beneficial to cancel the regularly scheduled 11/21/24 EMA GSA Board Meeting. Currently there are no items that EMA GSA Staff needs immediate policy direction on and it would provide Staff with more time to focus on a number of critical administrative and technical initiatives (e.g. website, EMA GSA Bylaws, Action Plan, Prop 68 Round 2 SGM Grant implementation plan, etc.).

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. If no significant concerns are raised, we will send out a formal Meeting Cancellation Notice on Wednesday (11/13/24).

**Dan HeimeI, PE, MS**  
Principal Engineer  
Confluence Engineering Solutions  
[danheimel@ConfluenceES.com](mailto:danheimel@ConfluenceES.com)  
(805) 459-8498



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**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.

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# The Road to Sustainability: SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event - November 18, 2024

## **NEW - Draft Agenda Now Available.**


Join the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on November 18th as we commemorate the 10-Year Anniversary of the historic passing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Hear from local groundwater sustainability agencies, community organizations, state leaders, and others in the SGMA community as they reflect on the progress made over the first 10 years of SGMA, highlight challenges and lessons learned, and look ahead to the next 10 years of advancing sustainable groundwater management. Our scheduled keynote speaker is former California Governor, Jerry Brown. This all-day event will be held in person at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento and online via Zoom.


*If interpretation is requested (either in-person or virtual), please email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov) by Monday, November 4, and we will do our best to make accommodations.*

Register for this Free Event: <https://SGMA10Year.eventbrite.com>

Start: Mon 18 Nov 2024, 8:30 AM

End: Mon 18 Nov 2024, 4:00 PM

 [715 P St, Sacramento, CA, 95814](#)

 Add To Calendar



## The Road to Sustainability: SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event - DRAFT AGENDA

**Monday November 18, 2024; 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

California Natural Resources Agency at 715 P St, Sacramento, CA 95814 or Online via Zoom  
Register for free here: <https://SGMA10Year.eventbrite.com>

Join the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as we commemorate the 10-Year Anniversary of the historic passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Hear from DWR Director **Karla Nemeth** and other distinguished speakers as we acknowledge this landmark legislation.



8:30 AM **Registration and Networking**

9:00 AM **Welcome and Keynote Address** - Former Governor of California, Jerry Brown

**Panel #1: Where Did It All Begin? A Pre-SGMA Reflection** - Panelists will reflect on the state of groundwater management prior to 2014, and the collaboration needed to pass SGMA legislation.

- Roger Dickinson, Former Assemblymember, California State Assembly
- Lester Snow, Former Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency
- Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Cindy Tuck, Deputy Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies
- Felicia Marcus (to be confirmed), William C. Landreth Fellow, Stanford University Water in the West
- Moderated by Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, DWR

### **Networking Break**

**Panel #2: Where Are We Now? Accomplishments of the First 10 Years** - Panelists will highlight the achievements and challenges that have brought their agency or organization to where they are now.

- Trevor Joseph, Manager of Technical Services, Regional Water Authority
- Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, DWR
- Aaron Fukuda, General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District
- Nataly Escobedo Garcia, Water Policy Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability
- Katarina Campbell, Director, Westlands Water District GSA
- Moderated by Keith Wallace, Assistant Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, DWR

**No-Host Networking Lunch Break** - Order lunch and join us for optional tabletop discussions. Please note that lunch will not be included. Lunch suggestions coming soon.

**Panel #3: Where Are We Headed? The Road to Sustainability** - Panelists will share more about the next phase of SGMA implementation and State intervention.

- Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management, DWR
- Dorene D'Adamo, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- Brian Lockwood, General Manager, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
- Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Director of Regulatory and Economic Affairs for Milk Producers Council
- Keali'i Bright, Assistant Director, California Department of Conservation
- Don Cameron, Member of Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel, California Department of Food and Agriculture.
- Moderator to be confirmed.

**Closing Remarks** - Information coming soon.

**Poster Session - How is the State Assisting with SGMA Implementation?**

4:30 PM **No-Host Networking Social** - Connect with colleagues and peers after the event. Location coming soon.

For questions or more information about the event, email [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).  
For more information on the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, visit:  
<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management>.

# VALLEY AG VOICE

*The Local Voice for our Farmers, Ranchers and Dairy Producers since 2013*

## Recent Developments Intensify California's Groundwater Management Landscape

November 4, 2024



*Friant-Kern Canal (East Visalia). (Photo: VISALIA2010 / Wikipedia)*

*By Natalie Willis, Reporter, Valley Ag Voice*

Recent activity in California's groundwater management landscape is marked by critical developments across Central Valley subbasins. Regulatory hearings, court rulings, and ongoing challenges highlight the pressures on groundwater users.

The Tule Subbasin has become the second basin to be placed on probation by the State Water Resources Control Board at its hearing on Sept. 17. The board's determination came after a day-long hearing with



presentations from State Water Board staff, Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and other stakeholders as well as various public comments.

Additional battles in the decade-long Water War between the State Water Board, SGMA, local GSAs, and the agriculture industry include a court victory for the first subbasin placed on probation — the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

## UNDERGROUND REGULATIONS

In September, Kings County Superior Court Judge Kathy Ciuffini ruled in favor of the Kings County Farm Bureau in their efforts to sue the State Water Board after the basin was placed on probation in April. The Farm Bureau's lawsuit was filed in May.

According to the preliminary injunction, four specific causes of action were found to violate the law. Firstly, the court found that the SWB failed to "an affirmative mandate, not an optional duty" to consider the Good Actor Clause, which would exclude certain areas of a subbasin where the GSA demonstrates compliance with the sustainability goal.

Two GSAs — the Southwest Kings GSA and Tri-County Water Authority GSA — requested consideration for the "good actor" exclusion. However, State Water Board staff chose not to exclude any portions of the subbasin from probationary designation as it deemed the entire Groundwater Sustainability Plan inadequate.

"In other words, having and implementing a plan is a key part of the sustainability goal. For a GSA to comply with the sustainability goal of the basin and make a case for a "good actor" exemption, the GSA needs to be implementing a GSP capable of achieving sustainable groundwater management," SWB staff stated. "The only plan covering the Tulare Lake subbasin is inadequate for the reasons described in DWR's inadequate determination and the Final Staff Report. Therefore, no GSA's implementing the plan would qualify for the exemption..."

The court interpreted the clause differently. According to the injunction, the SWB ignored the mandatory injunction to consider good actors by not commenting, analyzing, or considering the merits of the two GSAs' claims.

"SWB's interpretation of this portion of SGMA appears to be incorrect and unlawful and cannot serve as the basis for a probationary decision pursuant to [Water Code] 10735.3," Judge Ciuffini wrote in the injunction. "SWB's interpretation of the Good Actor Regulation would mean that no GSA would qualify if it is part of a subbasin determined to be inadequate by DWR."

The second cause of action is the failure of the SWB to comply with the probationary hearing notice and to provide timely notice of new metering, calibration, and reporting requirements. According to the Kings County Farm Bureau, the SWB did not provide 60 days' notice of the probationary hearing to every groundwater extractor in the basin.

According to SWB staff, namely Senior Engineer Sam Boland-Brien, Supervising Engineering Geologist Natalie Stork, and Senior Environmental Scientist Sarah Sugar, the Board did issue notice to pumpers through its Tulare Lake Subbasin "email list" of known pumpers and confirmed that notices were sent

late to extractors. The court found that SWB staff provided a lack of information as a “list of all known pumpers” should have been included as an exhibit.

“SWB has failed to set forth any competent evidence, i.e. someone with personal knowledge as to the persons and dates when the notices were sent, posted, or emailed,” Judge Ciuffini stated. “The declarations of Boland-Brien, Stork, and Sugar are conclusory and are insufficient for this Court to conclude the notice of provisions of WC 10736 were complied with. If such lists exist, why were they not included as an exhibit to a declaration?”

The third cause of action identified was unlawful regulations. According to the preliminary injunction, the SWB is mandated to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act when adopting regulations.

APA’s purpose is to ensure state agencies like the SWB are transparent in their actions by providing due process and be able to challenge rules that are unfair, undisclosed, and unlawful.

The Court concluded that the SWB did not adopt regulations to avoid the harm and confusion outlined in the case and were out of compliance with APA standards.

The last specific cause of action was that the SWB exceeded its authority. If a subbasin amends their GSP, SGMA regulations require it be submitted to DWR for review. However, the injunction explained that the SWB unlawfully requires GSAs to submitted revised plans to their staff.

According to the SWB 2024 Final Staff Report, if a GSA revises its plan, they can seek to exit probationary status by submitted those plans to the Board. If SWB finds the deficiencies were addressed, it may remove the basin from probation.

However, if the deficiencies are not addressed after a year, the SWB can “take steps to manage groundwater more directly by developing and adopting, after notice and a hearing, an interim plan for the basin.”

According to Judge Ciuffini’s preliminary injunction, this procedure unlawfully expands SWB’s authority contrary to DWR regulations.

As a result of the court’s injunction, probationary pumping fees and reporting demands have ceased. These probationary requirements will be paused until the end of the trial — the next hearing will be in Jan. 2025.

## **TULE SUBBASIN**

On the heels of Kings County Farm Bureau’s victory, the SWB placed the Tule Subbasin GSAs on probation after a 10-hour hearing. The SWB deemed a probationary status necessary due to unresolved deficiencies in its Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

However, of Tule Subbasin’s seven GSAs, “good actors” Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District and Kern-Tulare Water District are exempt from reporting requirements and fees. According to the State Water Board, the “good actor” clause under SGMA allows the board to exempt GSAs from probation if it demonstrates compliance with the sustainability goal.

The Tule Subbasin, located in the southern half of Tulare County and part of the San Joaquin Groundwater Basin, has been critically overdrafted for decades. In March 2023, DWR determined that the GSPs from local agencies in the basin were inadequate as they did not lay out plans to adequately protect groundwater resources for the future. After that determination, DWR referred the basin to the State Water Resources Control Board for further review.

In his opening remarks, State Water Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel explained that while Tule Subbasin GSAs submitted revised plans for public comment in Aug. 2024, the probationary hearing would be based on the 2022 GSPs.

“The Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have sent the new 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the State Board. It’s great that the GSAs have been working to improve their plans. However, a full review of the updated plans will take at least three months to complete,” Esquivel said. “Given the tight timeline between the submission of the 2024 GSPs and the hearing today, the board will focus on the plans agencies adopted in 2022 and allow staff adequate time to review those updated GSPs.”

SWB staff also acknowledged the submission of an updated GSP in their final draft staff report, explaining that the while revised GSPs are undergoing public comments and have not been officially adopted, staff have started to evaluate these new plans.

“While Board staff has not completed its review, it tentatively believes that the Tule GSAs have made substantial progress in addressing many deficiencies identified by the Draft Staff Report,” the draft staff report said. “Preliminary review of these GSPs indicates that many deficiencies appear to have been addressed, and many of the significant and unreasonable impacts allowed by the 2022 GSPs appear to have been addressed or mitigated.”

However, Board staff noted continued deficiencies concerning the subsidence management approach detailed in 2022 GSPs as they did not appear to slow subsidence, especially along the Friant-Kern Canal.

“Based on this preliminary review the Final Staff Report still recommends the State Water Board designate the subbasin as probationary,” the report said.

The deficiencies found in the 2022 GSPs included the chronic lowering of groundwater levels with insufficient management criteria, continued land subsidence, further degradation of groundwater quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water.

Probationary requirements for extractors will begin on Jan. 1, 2025.

## **KERN SUBBASIN**

The Kern County Subbasin’s probationary hearing is set to take place on February 20, 2025. Covering roughly 2,834 square miles, the Kern Subbasin is the largest groundwater subbasin in California.

Despite the Kern County Subbasin submitting a revised 2024 GSP in May, the SWB held a public workshop on the 2022 plan in August. Attendees at the workshop urged the SWB to adequately consider the revised plan before moving forward with the probationary hearing.

For now, SWB staff's recommendation is to place Kern on probation.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



November 5, 2024

TO: All State Water Project Contractors

As we begin Water Year 2025, I wanted to introduce myself, provide an initial outlook for 2025, and highlight some key efforts occurring within the State Water Project (SWP). I took over the role of SWP Deputy Director in May 2024 after four years as the Assistant Deputy Director. I'm excited for this new role and I'm determined to continue our work to improve the reliability, affordability, and safety of the SWP.

Our surface water storage is in good shape following an average water year. However, the pathway to average cut through extremes. Only a handful of very large storms kept us from returning to dry conditions. The SWP filled Lake Oroville to capacity in late spring. However, operational restrictions implemented to help protect threatened and endangered fish species limited the SWP to a 40% allocation. A lot of interaction and coordination occurred this year with the regulatory agencies to improve exports when possible, using the best science available to support decisions. A positive result of this close coordination includes the recent modifications to the Fall X2 requirements. This adaptive management experience during Water Year 2024 also has informed the new permits for SWP long-term operations. We expect these new permits to be in effect at the end of the year, and I believe they will provide better outcomes for both water users and the environment.

As we approach the time for an initial allocation, please bear in mind the two long-standing prerequisites for a substantial initial allocation: Full reservoirs and significant fall precipitation. Current reservoir storage is good, but autumn has been largely dry across Northern California. Without significant precipitation this fall, January storms – should they arrive – will not boost the SWP allocation to the same degree they would in the aftermath of a wet fall.

The state climatologist is following the climate signals that drive wintertime weather patterns, including La Niña, and will keep you and staff informed as the wet season evolves. At DWR, we are planning for a dry 2025 punctuated by extreme storms. But a hyper-wet year punctuated by dry spells is possible, too, and we must be prepared for any scenario. Increasingly, water-year classifications of wet, dry, and normal fail to capture the week-by-week terrain of our extreme-driven hydrology. We do know that we start the water year lagging. Record heat this summer and in early October parched the landscape. We must take dry soils into account in our runoff forecast and in the initial SWP allocation.

The ability to incorporate soil moisture into runoff forecasts is one of many recent DWR improvements, and we keep regulatory agencies informed of this expanding capacity. Investments in Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and improved data collection through DWR's \$7 million California Stream Gage Improvement Program will also help DWR and other agencies to incorporate the best available science and data into water management decisions.

State Water Project Contractors  
November 5, 2024  
Page 2

To provide you all with better information about the likely effects on project operations of future conditions, DWR recently released its 2023 SWP Delivery Capability Report (DCR). The DCR presents a new and enhanced analysis of current and future expectations for the SWP water supply if no new adaptation actions are taken. In a few months, the DCR will be followed by the SWP Climate Adaptation Plan, which will identify how several current initiatives can help avoid the future of reduced water deliveries shown in the 2023 DCR. These key initiatives already underway include improved asset management practices, repair of subsidence damage to major canals, implementation of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, the Delta Conveyance Project, and new storage capacity. Expect to see this analysis in early 2025 and to continue the discussion of how we adapt the SWP to a hotter, drier future of extreme precipitation.

The water landscape in California is changing, presenting us with new regulations, technologies, challenges, and possibilities. We are committed to provide safe, reliable, and affordable water for the well-being and prosperity of California. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,



John Yarbrough  
Deputy Director  
State Water Project

# New Operating Permit Issued for California's State Water Project to Preserve Water Supply While Protecting Endangered Species

Published: Nov 04, 2024

## ***A Balanced Approach is Key to Benefiting California's Endangered Fish Species Through Habitat Restoration, Improved Flow Measures, Monitoring, and Hatchery Production***

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Addressing the dual challenges of climate change impacts and endangered species protections, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has received a new operating permit for the State Water Project (SWP) that will protect endangered fish species while ensuring a reliable water supply for 27 million Californians.

The permit, known as an [Incidental Take Permit \(ITP\)](#), was issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) following the certification of a [Final Environmental Impact Report](#) for long-term operations of the SWP. The permit covers five species protected under the California Endangered Species Act, including Delta smelt, longfin smelt, white sturgeon, winter-run Chinook salmon and spring-run Chinook salmon.

Since 2021, DWR has been working with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and partners at the state and federal fish agencies to update the operating rules for the SWP and the federal Central Valley Project following litigation against the federal rules in 2020, known as the Biological Opinions. As with the previous permits, DWR focused on meeting the requirements of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) independent of the federal Biological Opinions. This allows for simpler processes for adaptively managing the system and ensuring CESA coverage remains in place independent of any future changes to the federal rules.

“The new Incidental Take Permit for the State Water Project issued today provides California with new tools and resources to better manage our water supply for endangered fish species and millions of Californians,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “While the State Water Project is now operating under a permit independent of our federal partners, we continue to work together to make sure the rules that govern operations of both projects are aligned to the benefit of both fish and people.”

“In California, incidental take permits are an important way we regulate infrastructure projects that have the potential to cause harm to protected fish and wildlife,” said CDFW Director Chuck Bonham. “By requiring the State Water Project operation to avoid and minimize impacts, and to mitigate and counteract those impacts through habitat restoration, improved flow measures, monitoring, and hatchery production, we will make sure all fish and wildlife species impacted by the project have opportunities to thrive.”

The new operating plan for the SWP include a portfolio of actions and new science tools designed to reduce and offset impacts to listed species, including commitments to:

- Incorporate new genetic technology that allows real-time differentiation of listed salmonids from non-listed salmonids for real-time operational adjustments
- Complete tidal marsh and floodplain restoration projects that support spawning and rearing habitat for listed species
- Improve fish passage in critical migration corridors
- Support adaptive annual investments in salmon that are responsive to climate change stressors, including droughts
- Support hatchery production actions for listed species

The proposed operations also incorporate a robust adaptive management plan that will allow the SWP to incorporate new science to revise project components in a manner that more efficiently and effectively protects species.

Extreme storms and extended droughts mean we need to be as nimble as possible in operating our water infrastructure. DWR remains committed to using the best available science to operate the State Water Project to support the water supply needs of California's communities while protecting fish and wildlife," Nemeth said.

The SWP operations plan was completed in coordination with partners from the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and CDFW. Efforts to complete the updated operations plan spanned three years and included regular engagement and feedback from interested parties.

The federal Central Valley Project Environmental Impact Statement and Biological Opinions are separate from the SWP Incidental Take Permit and Final Environmental Impact Report. For questions related to the federal regulations process, [please contact the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation](#).

Contact:

Ryan Endean, Public Affairs, Department of Water Resources  
[media@water.ca.gov](mailto:media@water.ca.gov)

Katie Talbot, Public Affairs, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[kaitlin.talbot@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:kaitlin.talbot@wildlife.ca.gov)



# NEW INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT ISSUED FOR STATE WATER PROJECT

BY ACWA STAFF NOV 7, 2024 WATER NEWS

SACRAMENTO – Addressing the dual challenges of climate change impacts and endangered species protections, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has received a new operating permit for the State Water Project (SWP) that will protect endangered fish species while ensuring a reliable water supply for 27 million Californians.

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Since 2021, DWR has been working with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and partners at the state and federal fish agencies to update the operating rules for the SWP and the federal Central Valley Project following litigation against the federal rules in 2020, known as the Biological Opinions. As with the previous permits, DWR focused on meeting the requirements of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) independent of the federal Biological Opinions. This allows for simpler processes for adaptively managing the system and ensuring CESA coverage remains in place independent of any future changes to the federal rules.

“The State Water Contractors (SWC) and its member agencies are grateful for the hard work DWR and DFW have done to prepare this new permit. It appears to resolve issues raised in 2020, incorporating the best available science and bringing regulatory stability for water managers who have been operating through unprecedented challenges over the last several years,” stated State Water Contractors General Manager Jennifer Pierre in a news release.

“We are hopeful that the State’s collaborative approach will set the tone for ongoing coordination with our federal partners and the state’s Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan update,” Pierre continued. “The revised ITP appropriately relies on adaptive management to help us further improve the management of the Delta ecosystem and water supply, making good use of the SWC’s ~\$350 million investment in habitat restoration and significant research and monitoring activities over the next 10 years. We will work closely with our state partners to ensure the reliability and viability of the State Water Project for the millions of Californians who rely on it.”

“The new Incidental Take Permit for the State Water Project issued today provides California with new tools and resources to better manage our water supply for endangered fish species and millions of Californians,” stated DWR Director Karla Nemeth in a news release. “While the State Water Project is now operating under a permit independent of our federal partners, we continue to work together to make sure the rules that govern operations of both projects are aligned to the benefit of both fish and people.”

“In California, incidental take permits are an important way we regulate infrastructure projects that have the potential to cause harm to protected fish and wildlife,” stated CDFW Director Chuck Bonham in a news release. “By requiring the State Water Project operation to avoid and minimize impacts, and to mitigate and counteract those impacts through habitat restoration, improved flow measures, monitoring, and hatchery production, we will make sure all fish and wildlife species impacted by the project have opportunities to thrive.”

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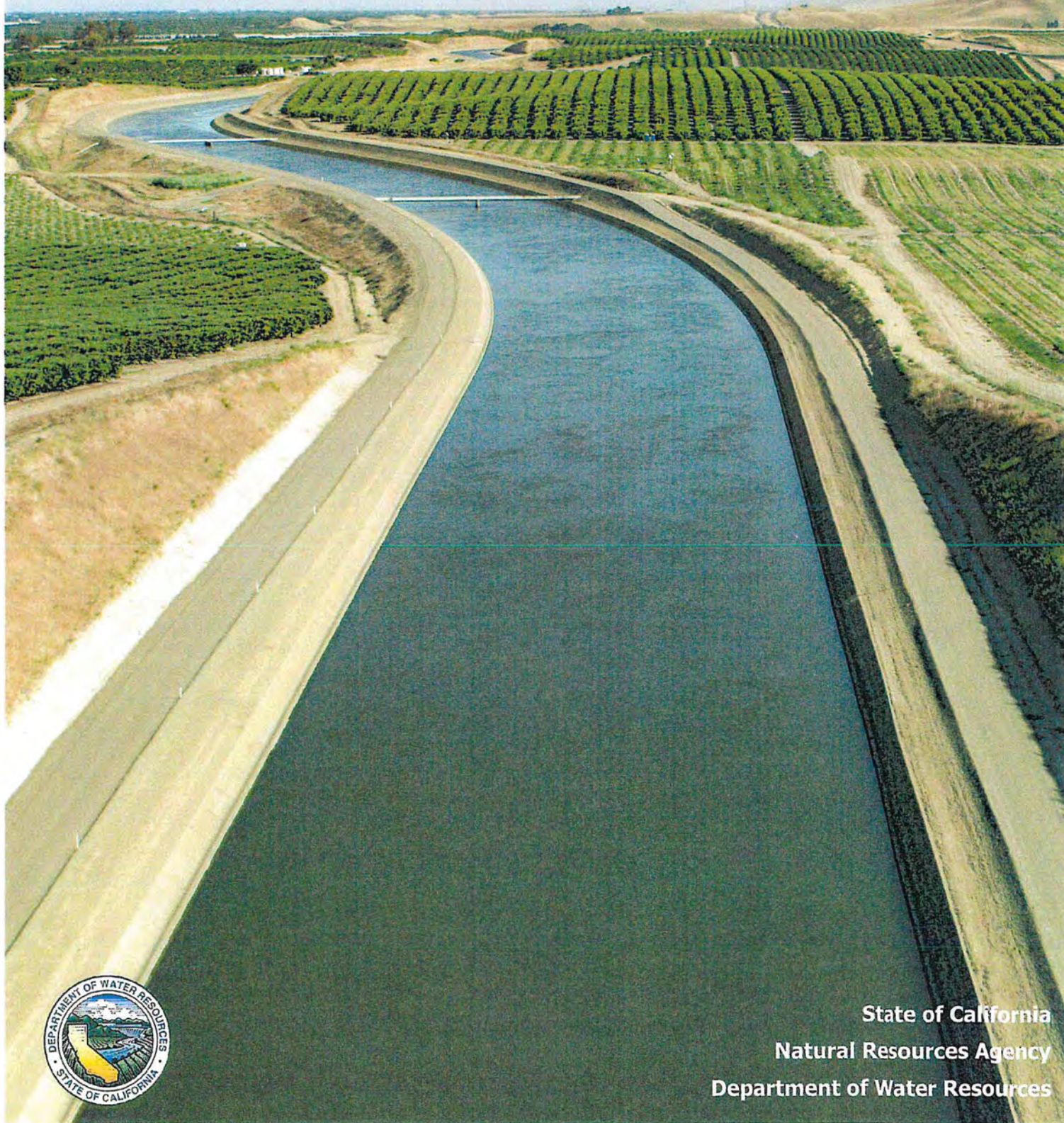
“Extreme storms and extended droughts mean we need to be as nimble as possible in operating our water infrastructure. DWR remains committed to using the best available science to operate the State Water Project to support the water supply needs of California's communities while protecting fish and wildlife,” Nemeth stated.

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The federal Central Valley Project Environmental Impact Statement and Biological Opinions are separate from the SWP Incidental Take Permit and Final Environmental Impact Report.

# The State Water Project Delivery Capability Report 2023

July 2024



State of California  
Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Water Resources

State of California  
**Gavin Newsom, Governor**  
Natural Resources Agency  
**Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources**  
Department of Water Resources  
**Karla Nemeth, Director**  
**Cindy Messer, Lead Deputy Director**  
**Tom Gibson, Lead Deputy Director**

General Counsel Office  
**Ann Carroll**

Internal Audit Office  
**Mabel Lun**

Legislative Affairs  
Office  
**Kasey Schimke,**  
**Deputy Director**

Public Affairs Office  
**Margaret Mohr,**  
**Deputy Director**

Tribal Policy Advisor  
**Anecita Agustinez**

Office of Workforce  
Equality  
**Tiffany Vital,**  
**Manager**

	<b>Deputy Directors</b>
<b>Stephanie Varrelman</b>	Business Operations
<b>John Andrew</b>	Climate Resilience
<b>Laura Hollender</b>	Flood Management and Dam Safety
<b>James Newcomb</b>	Integrated Watershed Management
<b>John Paash</b>	Security and Emergency Management Program
<b>Bianca Sievers</b>	Special Initiatives
<b>John Yarbrough</b>	State Water Project
<b>Paul Gosselin</b>	Statewide Groundwater Management
<b>Delphine Hou</b>	Statewide Water and Energy

**Modeling Support Office**

**This report was prepared under the supervision of**  
**Erik Reyes, Manager**

**Nazrul Islam, Supervising Engineer, Central Valley Modeling Section**

**This report was prepared by:**

**Raymond Hoang**, Senior Engineer, WR, Central Valley Modeling Section

**Individuals contributing to the development of the report:**

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**Zachary Roy**, Engineer, WR, Central Valley Modeling Section

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## Director's Foreword

I am pleased to share with you the latest edition of the bi-annual report, the 2023 State Water Project Delivery Capability Report (2023 DCR), which provides a comprehensive analysis of the current and future conditions for the State Water Project (SWP) water supply.



If actions are not taken to address the water delivery challenges faced by the SWP, the 2023 DCR forecasts substantial reductions in SWP delivery capability and reliability. These reductions are driven by the impacts of climate change and constraints within the federal and State permits needed to protect critical species. And these reductions underscore the need for investments in the SWP in order to maintain its historical delivery capability and reliability.

The Delivery Capability Report is used widely both within and outside the State Water Project for water supply planning. The provision of the information in these reports is a key component of the drought planning done by the SWP and is fundamental to the drought planning done by the Public Water Agencies that receive SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP) Water. These reports provide the information needed by these Agencies to develop and manage their own water supply portfolios and are important inputs for Sustainable Groundwater Management Plans, Urban Water Management Plans, Agricultural Water Management Plans, and Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.

Importantly, decreases in the availability of surface water deliveries can lead to supply shortages, an increase in groundwater demand, and reductions in available supplies to support groundwater replenishment. DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Office will use the information in the 2023 DCR to update its existing climate change data and guidance that many Groundwater Sustainability Agencies used for their initial Plans. Similarly, DWR's Office of Water Use Efficiency will be advising urban and agricultural water agencies to update their water budget assumptions based on these new assessments.

The 2023 DCR introduces two innovative approaches to characterize current climate change conditions and emphasize the uncertainty in future climate change projections, both of which have undergone independent peer review and are considered significant improvements over previous methodologies.

While the report focuses on current regulations and operations, collaborative efforts between the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the Water Board, and resource agencies are ongoing to develop new operating permits for the SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP). These permit conditions, once finalized, will be integrated into the 2025 Delivery Capability Reports.

Simultaneously, the Water Board is developing a new Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update. Board staff has proposed a draft Plan that would meet objectives solely through flow requirements - which would have a substantial impact on the future yield of the State Water Project. In parallel, water users in the Delta Watershed are exploring alternative approaches, such as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes initiative, that would rely on a combination of water use reductions and habitat improvements. The outcomes of these negotiations and the eventual Plan adopted by the SWRCB will significantly influence the future operations of the SWP.

Despite uncertainties in future regulations and climate conditions, the 2023 DCR unmistakably demonstrates substantial reductions in SWP delivery capability and reliability if no or insufficient action is taken. Immediate action is imperative to address the impact of a warming climate, with the report indicating that these effects are already in motion.

Looking ahead, the SWP is proactively evaluating and developing key adaptation strategies, including Delta Conveyance, Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, and opportunities for new and expanded storage both above and below ground. A forthcoming SWP Climate Adaptation Analysis in 2024 will provide an evaluation of the expected effectiveness of these strategies.

I encourage all SWP water users to leverage the insights from this report for their own planning and adaptation investigations. Ensuring the water needs of the people of the State are met in the face of a changing climate requires a collaborative and proactive approach.



Karla Nemeth  
Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
May 2024

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## List of Acronyms

ANN	Artificial Neural Network
BiOps	Biological Opinions
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CDEC	California Data Exchange Center
CCWD	Contra Costa Water District
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CII	Commercial, Industrial, Institutional
COA	Coordinated Operation Agreement
CVP	Central Valley Project
CY	Calendar/Contract Year
D-1641	State Water Board's Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641), issued in December 1999 and updated in March 2000
DCD	Delta Channel Depletion
DCP	Delta Conveyance Project
DCR	Delivery Capability Report
DSC	Delta Stewardship Council
DLL	Dynamic Link Library
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DSM2	Delta Simulation Model 2
E/I	Delta Exports to Inflow ratio
EcoRestore	Governor Brown's Delta habitat restoration plan
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCWCD	Flood Control and Water Conservation District
ID	Irrigation District

ITP	Incidental Take Permit for Long-Term Operation of the State Water Project
KCWA	Kern County Water Agency
MAF	Million Acre-Feet
M&I	Municipal and Industrial
MWDSC	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NDOI	Net Delta Outflow Index
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOD	Notice of Determination
NOP	Notice of Preparation
OAL	The State Office of Administrative Law
ROC on LTO	Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project
ROD	Record of Decision
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative
SED	Substitute Environmental Document
SJRRP	San Joaquin River Restoration Program
SMSCG	Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate
SVI	Sacramento Valley Index
SWP	State Water Project
SWPAO	State Water Project Analysis Office
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAF	Thousand Acre-Feet
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VA	Voluntary Agreements
VIC	Variable Infiltration Capacity Model

WaterFix	Water transfer component of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
WD	Water District
WGEN	Weather-regime-based Stochastic Weather Generator
WSD	Water Storage District
WSI-DI	Water Supply Index vs. Demand Index Relationship
WQCP	Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
WY	Water Year
WYT	Water Year Type
X2	Distance in kilometers from Golden Gate, where salinity concentration in the Delta is 2 parts per thousand

## Summary

This Delivery Capability Report presents California Department of Water Resources (DWR) analysis of the State Water Project (SWP) system and provides important planning information for users of SWP water. The analysis provides information about how changing climate, regulatory, and operational considerations impact SWP delivery capability.

DWR has authority under state law to construct, operate, and maintain the SWP to manage, store and deliver water for the benefit of the State. This report is intended to provide information about the key factors affecting the operation of the SWP in California, its long-term capability as a source of water for beneficial use, and an estimate of its current delivery capability. This report meets the requirements of Attachment B to the Monterey Plus Settlement Agreement of May 2003.

Water provided by the SWP is a major source of water supplies available to many SWP contractors. SWP contractors consist of 29 public entities that include cities, counties, urban water agencies, and agricultural irrigation districts. SWP contractors' local/regional water users have long-term contracts with the DWR for all, or a portion of their water supply needs. Thus, the delivery capability of water from the SWP system is an important component in the water supply planning of its recipients, and ultimately affects the amount of water available for beneficial use in California.

The availability of these water supplies may be highly variable. A sequence of relatively wet water years<sup>1</sup> may be followed by a varying sequence of dry or critically dry years. Having good and reliable estimates on how much water each contractor will receive each year—whether it be a wet water year, a critical year, or somewhere in between—gives contractors a better sense of the degree to which they may need to implement increased conservation measures, or plan for new facilities or back up sources of water to meet their needs. This is increasingly important given the anticipated effects of climate change on the sources of these water supplies.

The geography of California and the infrastructure of water conveyance from the source areas, located in the Sierra Mountain Range, to areas of demand

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<sup>1</sup> Water years start on October 1 and end on September 30 of the next calendar year.



for water, makes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta a key feature of the SWP's ability to deliver water to its agricultural and urban contractors in the North Bay, the South Bay, California Central Valley, Central Coast, and Southern California. All but three of the 29 SWP contractors receive water deliveries by diversions from the Delta. These water diversions are pumped by either the Harvey O. Banks or Barker Slough pumping plants.

DWR and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the managing entities of the two statewide systems of water conveyance in California, face numerous challenges in the operation of their diversion facilities in the Delta, and are regulated by several state and federal agencies to maintain, and enhance the Delta's long-term sustainability.

Maintaining suitable quality of water flowing in the channels of the Delta for the numerous in-basin beneficial uses, and the protection of endangered and threatened fish species are important factors of concern for the operators of the Delta export diversion facilities. Ongoing regulatory requirements, such as those aimed at protecting the estuary's resident and migratory fish species, are major challenges to a reliable and sustainable water delivery capability of both SWP, and the Central Valley Project (CVP) systems.

Climate change is also increasing the variability, frequency, and magnitude of floods and droughts. The projected sea level rise caused by the increase in average temperature complicates efforts to manage salinity levels in the channels affected by tides. Additionally, higher ocean levels could result in more frequent water quality degradation in the Delta channels requiring additional Delta outflow to maintain water quality objectives. This report provides estimates of both current and future delivery capability to help inform water users and guide their climate change adaptation efforts.

Operationalizing climate change adaptation requires that we continuously evaluate conditions and respond to new trends. However, this DCR does not include any adaptations in the climate change scenarios. This DCR update includes substantially expanded climate change analysis and planning information to evaluate the effect of climate change on delivery capability. This improved planning information includes multiple scenarios of future climate conditions to help examine the resiliency of SWP water supply to changes in climate. This report presents an acknowledgement of climate uncertainties and the need to manage risks to water supply reliability—and a

greater understanding that important climate changes have already occurred and are affecting water supply reliability today. While this DCR evaluates future climate conditions, it does not model future adaptation strategies that DWR is pursuing and plans to have in place by mid-century, analysis of key adaptation strategies with the DCR climate scenarios will be published in mid-2024. The inclusion of this improved planning information is discussed at length in Section 3 and Section 7 of this report.

The analyses in this report factor in all the current regulations governing SWP and CVP operations in the Delta (i.e., D-1641, 2019 BiOps and ITP), existing infrastructure<sup>2</sup> and assumptions about water uses upstream in the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds. Analyses were conducted that determined the amounts of water that SWP contractors receive and the amounts of water they choose to hold for use in a subsequent year.

SWP Delta exports have decreased since 2005, although the bulk of the change occurred between 2005 and 2009 and in 2019. The former reduction is due to the Delta regulations which constrained exports that culminated in the federal Biological Opinions (BiOps) which went into effect in 2008-2009. These BiOps modified operations of the CVP and SWP diversion pumps. The later reduction is due to two main factors: first, the amended Coordinated Operation Agreement (COA) with accompanying project operation changes which reduced SWP exports and increased CVP exports, and second, a more conservative operation of Lake Oroville by the SWP.

Many of the same assumptions of SWP operations described in the 2021 Report remain the same in this 2023 update, however, there are some

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<sup>2</sup> The studies in this report do not consider the diminished capacities of the California Aqueduct due to subsidence. See Section 4, California Aqueduct Subsidence Program for a discussion on the topic.

notable changes to the inputs to the simulation. The most notable changes include:

- The extension of the modeling period for an additional six years. The model now simulates a 100-year period from October 1921 to September 2021.
- The baseline projected hydrology incorporates the changes in climate that have already occurred.<sup>3</sup>
- The delivery capability with expected climate change 20 years into the future (2043) was evaluated for three levels of risk to the SWP as compared to only one scenario in prior reports.<sup>4</sup>

As a result of the above improvements and refinements, the differences between the 2021 and 2023 Reports can be attributed to differences in hydrology, temporal expansion, and operational refinements.

The most salient findings in this report are:

- Under existing conditions, the estimated average annual delivery of Table A water for this report is 2,202 thousand acre-feet (TAF)/year, 119 less than the 2,321 TAF/year estimated for the 2021 Report (Table 6-2).
- The likelihood of existing condition SWP Article 21 deliveries (supplemental deliveries to Table A water) being greater than 20 TAF/year has increased by 4 percent relative to the likelihood presented in the 2021 Report (Figure 6-6).
- Under the climate change scenarios, which project conditions 20 years into the future under median to extreme hot-dry conditions with no adaptation, the estimated average annual delivery of Table A water shown in the three scenarios is 13 percent to 22 percent lower than under existing conditions. Section 7 highlights the scenario selection

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<sup>3</sup> Refer to <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/state-water-project-delivery-capability-report-dcr-2023/resource/ad861b0b-c0aa-4578-8af0-54485e751ca8> for more information.

<sup>4</sup> Refer to <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/state-water-project-delivery-capability-report-dcr-2023/resource/dffe00a6-017c-4765-affe-36b045c24969> for more information

method and the impact of all three scenarios on the delivery capability of the SWP.

- Under future climate conditions, California's hydrology is likely to become more extreme with periods of high flows that current infrastructure and operations are unable to capture and longer more severe dry periods that challenge operations.
- While the 50% level of concern scenario is considered the median of the expected SWP delivery capability 20-years into the future, SWP water users are encouraged to carefully consider the information from all three 2043 potential future climate scenarios and evaluate their vulnerability to a range of climatic changes based on their respective risk tolerance.



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For Release: Nov 13, 2024

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Representatives signing the consensus for the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project.

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The Bureau of Reclamation and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority today announced a negotiated consensus has been met for the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project.

The joint project creates an additional 130,000 acre-feet of storage space in San Luis Reservoir, the nation's largest off-stream reservoir, producing additional water supply for two million people, over one million acres of farmland and 135,000 acres of Pacific Flyway wetlands and critical wildlife habitat. Reclamation signed the Record of Decision for the project on Oct. 20, 2023, the first approval of a major water storage project in California since 2011.

Significant provisions of the agreement include cost sharing and space management for the federally-funded and authority-funded shares of the expanded reservoir. A \$25 million investment to the project under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was announced in October 2022 and an additional \$10 million in July 2023. An additional \$60 million was authorized for project construction from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, for a total of \$95 million in federal contributions to date in construction costs.

Previously, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided over \$100 million to the B.F. Sisk Dam for a separate but connected project that will increase the dam crest by 10 feet to improve seismic fortification. Leveraging this existing project, Reclamation and project partners entered now-adjudicated negotiation sessions to add an additional 10 feet to the dam to allow for expansion

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of the reservoir's storage capacity. The expanded space will store water that can be delivered to south-of-Delta water contractors and wildlife refuges. This water would meet existing contractual obligations and not serve any new demands.

"I'm thrilled to be here today with our state and local partners to make this important project a reality," said **Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton**. "Projects move at the speed of trust, and we are so proud of these partnerships that allow us to work together to meet our mutually beneficial goals on behalf of the communities we serve."

"It's an honor to celebrate this exciting milestone today with our partners," said **Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Karl Stock**. "The addition of new water storage capacity south-of-Delta in San Luis Reservoir is a crucial part of our strategy for enhancing water reliability for California communities, agriculture, and wildlife."

"San Luis Reservoir has served as the hub of California's water system south of the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay-Delta since its completion in 1967," said **San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Chair Cannon Michael**. "The ability to capture more water in the years it is available, particularly given California's dynamic hydrology, is a critical component of a more secure future for the communities, farms and wildlife dependent on the Authority's member agencies for their water supply. We value our partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and look forward to advancing this important water storage project."

"Reaching this moment is a testament to the strong commitment to addressing the critical issue of water security in the state," said **Westlands Water District General Manager Allison Febbo**. "Water storage is vital for the state and this project stands to benefit millions of Californians, thousands of acres of farmland, and vital wildlife habitats."

"This is a significant milestone for this project, and we are grateful to Reclamation and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for the continued partnership and effort it has taken to get here," said **Valley Water Chief Executive Officer Rick Callender**. "Investing in water infrastructure, including surface storage, is needed now more than ever to become more drought resilient."

B.F. Sisk Dam is a 382-foot high earthfill embankment located on the west side of California's Central Valley, about 12 miles west of Los Banos. The dam is over three miles long and impounds San Luis Reservoir, which has a current total capacity of around two million acre-feet of water.

Visit <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/sccao/sisk/index.html> to learn more about B.F. Sisk Dam and San Luis Reservoir.

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WATER

# Feds Agree to Raise San Luis Reservoir: More Water for Farmers, Communities, Wetlands



By Edward Smith

Published 1 day ago on November 13, 2024

MORE FROM EDWARD SMITH





Work to raise the B.F. Sisk Dam another 10 feet will take place following a project to protect the nation's largest off-stream reservoir against earthquakes. (GV Wire Composite/Paul Marshall)

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- An agreement between U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority paves the way for an effort to increase San Luis Reservoir's capacity.
- The 10-foot raise, adding 130,000 acre feet of water to the reservoir, follows after another project to reinforce the dam against earthquakes.
- The two projects together will cost more than \$2 billion.

SHARE

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Wednesday announced an agreement with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority to raise the nation's largest off-stream reservoir, increasing its capacity more than 6%.

A news release from the water authority said the additional 130,000-acre-foot capacity at the San Luis Reservoir will provide water for 2 million people, 1 million acres of farmland, and 135,000 acres of wetlands.

"The ability to capture more water in the years it is available, particularly given California's dynamic hydrology, is a critical component of a more secure future for the communities, farms, and wildlife dependent on the Authority's member agencies for their water supply," said San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Chair Cannon Michael.

The reservoir west of Los Banos along Highway 152 has a capacity of 2,027,840 acre-feet. Of that total, 1,062,180 acre-feet is the state's share and 965,660 acre-feet is the federal share for the Central Valley Project. Construction on the reservoir began in 1963 and was completed in 1967.

## Two Projects, \$2 Billion Investment for B.F. Sisk Dam

The capacity expansion at the B.F. Sisk Dam comes as the federal government sought to fortify the dam against earthquakes.





Once that project is completed – estimated to be finished by 2027 – construction can begin to raise the dam another 10 feet, allowing for the additional storage, Petersen said.

Petersen said construction will likely last until 2032.

## Six Irrigation Districts Will Help With Funding

Thirty percent of that increase will be for federal uses, such as fulfilling water contracts. The other 70% will be for the dam’s investors, made up of six irrigation districts – including Westlands Water District – the city of Tracy, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

“Reaching this moment is a testament to the strong commitment to addressing the critical issue of water security in the state,” said Westlands Water District General Manager Allison Febbo.

The government will pay for 30% of that \$1.1 billion project, with \$95 million raised so far.

Additional capacity will provide dam investors with flexibility during times of plenty, Petersen said. The farmers and cities that pay into the project can store water there long term.

The water would be directed to wetlands and those farms considered south-of-Delta. The water would not be used for new contracts, but to fulfill existing ones, the release stated.

“The addition of new water storage capacity south-of-Delta in San Luis Reservoir is a crucial part of our strategy for enhancing water reliability for California communities, agriculture, and wildlife,” said Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Karl Stock.



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**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 FEES 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 Fees 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:

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Jeff Clay, President

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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 Charge</u>
10,000 sq. ft.	5/8"	25	1.0	\$ 4,933.50	The meter and service installation charge shall equal the cost of installation as determined 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 FEES  
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 Fee</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



**November 2024**  
 Issue No. 268 13 Pages

# Monthly Briefing

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

## Nationwide Search Launched For New Executive Director

The Family Farm Alliance (Alliance) board of directors has announced that it has initiated a nationwide search for a new executive director. Dan Keppen (OREGON), who has served as the organization's executive director since March 2005, announced earlier this month intends to step down from his current position at the Alliance's October 2025 annual meeting in Reno (NEVADA).

A new job announcement webpage, which includes a link to the recruitment brochure and related press announcements, can be accessed at <https://www.familyfarmalliance.org/ed/>.

The Alliance, a 501-c-6 non-profit incorporated in Arizona in 1991, is a grassroots organization composed of family farmers, irrigation districts, and those in related industries throughout the Western states. The Alliance is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of irrigated agriculture.

The Alliance was formed to ensure that its members' views are regularly communicated to elected officials, regulatory agencies and to the general public. The Alliance works closely with individual farmers and ranchers as well as other organizations that have common interests to ensure efforts to promote western irrigated agriculture are aligned, efficient, and effective.

The principal objective of the Alliance is to help ensure the continued availability of adequate irrigation water supplies to Western farmers.

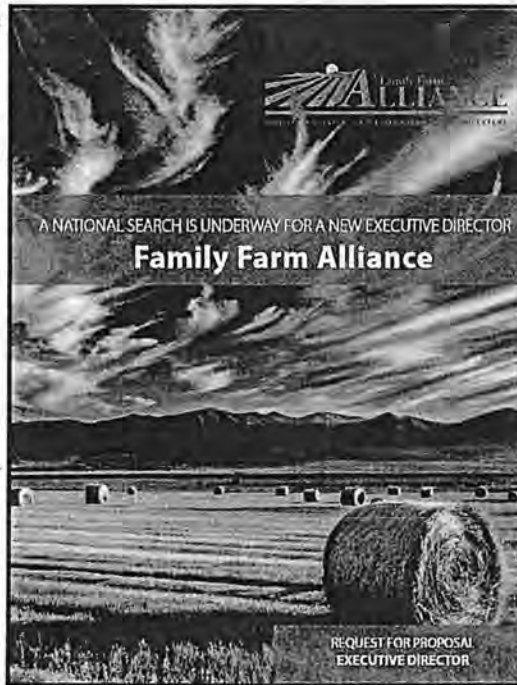
The organization's founders' commitment to the Alliance is prevalent today as they continue to build our organization to carry their vision forward, a vision which is now embraced by members in 16 Western states. The Alliance is seen by many water resource stakeholders and policy makers as a key player in the context of Western water resource management and how this important function is impacted by federal laws and regulations.

The organization has a proven track record of successful engagement with federal policymakers that includes 99 invitations to appear before Congress since 2005.

The Executive Director executes the policy direction provided by a board of directors who are active ranchers or farmers from throughout the Western United States. Technical support and guidance are provided by an Advisory Committee made up of

over 40 irrigation district managers, engineers, attorneys, association leaders, and other industry professionals.

All Alliance staff work – including that of the Executive Director - is done under contract, to maintain flexibility and concentrate Alliance funding on achieving its mission.



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## Mike Connor Steps Down as ASA

Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Civil Works (CW), announced last month that he would step down from the position he has held for the past 3 ½ years.

The ASA is critically important, since, among other duties, this position oversees the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which has jurisdiction over several areas that impact Western water users.

“Cutting to the chase, the opportunity to work with the excellent Commanders and other active-duty soldiers, and the stellar civil servants within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the ASA (CW) office, has been one of the most, if not the most rewarding professional experience I’ve had over a long career,” Mr. Connor said in letter he sent to all Army Civil Works employees on October 24.

According to Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth, Mike Connor was a critical member of the Army leadership team and worked tirelessly to advance the Civil Works mission during his tenure.

“Michael was instrumental in overseeing billions of dollars of infrastructure investments to advance all facets of the Army Corps of Engineers mission-set, including navigation improvements, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration,” Secretary Wormuth said in a prepared statement.

Mr. Connor led the effort to modernize policies, processes, and tools to better serve the interests of marginalized communities and Tribal Nations. He also worked closely with the

Army Corps of Engineers on disaster relief efforts and supported the historic effort to reopen the Baltimore harbor following the collapse of the Key Bridge.

Family Farm Alliance members work with the Corps on a variety of important issues. For example, in recent years increased interest has been shown by some Western water managers to find ways to authorize studies and pilot projects to re-evaluate and update Corps reservoir operation and flood control manuals, some of which were developed decades ago, to help increase usable water supplies during dry years while continuing to meet flood control needs.

The Corps’ role in administering certain Clean Water Act programs is also critical to how Western water managers conduct business.

In May 2021, the Alliance formally supported Mr. Connor’s confirmation by the U.S. Senate to the ASA position, in part because of the solid track record he had with the Alliance, his excellent communication skills, his keen understanding of the relationship between the Administration and Capitol Hill, and his proven results-oriented philosophy.

“We were particularly pleased that Mr. Connor attended every Family Farm Alliance annual conference during his eight years with Reclamation and Interior in the Obama Administration,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “He also worked collaboratively with other stakeholder groups as well, where he applied the same balanced and pragmatic problem solving approach. We thank Mike Connor for his latest service as ASA and we look forward to working with him in his future endeavors.”



Michael Connor (Army Corps photo)

## Executive Director Search Launched (Continued from Page 1)

By issuing the October 15 Request for Proposal (RFP), the Alliance Board of Directors officially announced its search to seek proposals from individuals and/or firms with demonstrated experience to serve as Executive Director under contract.

Establishing a transparent process to hire a new executive director and board leadership transition were identified as top Alliance priorities last February. A strategic board retreat was held in Colorado in July, where a search committee was established to develop timelines, mileposts and deliverables associated with finding a new executive director by mid-summer 2025.

“The retreat also served as a kick-off to begin the board’s succession discussion, which will continue until late summer 2025, with input from the incoming executive director,” said First Vice-President Don Schwindt (COLORADO), who is chairing the Executive Director Search Committee. “Our goal

is to find a great candidate with strong passion for the Alliance’s mission statement that will bring his or her unique attributes to continue strengthening our membership advocacy moving forward.”

An executive director recruitment package, which provides information about the organization, request for proposal, qualities emphasized by the board of directors for the ideal candidate, qualifications, and nomination and application procedures, can be downloaded from the Alliance job search webpage.

The recruitment for this position will close at 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) Friday, **January 31, 2025**.

Candidates are encouraged to apply by emailing a compelling cover letter, comprehensive resume, and list of three references to [KAulenbacher@parsonsbehle.com](mailto:KAulenbacher@parsonsbehle.com).

## Will a New Farm Bill Be Hitched to Disaster Aid Package?

The 2023 farm bill was extended one year to September 30, 2024, but has now expired again. Most House Republicans, including Agriculture Committee Chair Glenn Thompson (R-PA), are urging GOP leadership to prioritize the 2024 farm bill after this month's elections, stressing that farmers can't afford to wait due to rising production costs and falling commodity prices.

The timing of all of this may be tied to the development of the 2023-24 disaster assistance package, which relates to how quickly damage assessments can be developed for Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

"Once Congress has a better assessment of the damage, a relief package will be written," said one DC lobbyist familiar with the disaster assistance discussions. "There is no direct interaction between disaster assistance and the farm bill, but ag committee staff are ramping up work on the farm bill and may seek to attach it to an end-of-year omnibus spending package or a disaster relief bill."

### Farm Bill Challenges

The farm bill faces delays due to partisan disagreements over climate and nutrition programs, and a \$30 billion budget gap. Farm bill negotiations lagged for most of the year, but momentum began to shift in September as hundreds of ag groups—concerned about the loss of financial assistance provided by Title 1 of the farm bill—flooded Capitol Hill with stories of the looming massive bankruptcies that producers of Title 1 crops (particularly corn, soybeans, and cotton) would face if the Farm Bill were not finalized soon.

"It's important to keep the focus and the momentum going on getting the farm bill done in this calendar year, so we can have some certainty out in the agricultural world as to what the policies and the rules going forward are," Keeff Felty, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, told POLITICO in September.

This generated plenty of media coverage that renewed calls for major economic assistance to those producers. This in turn triggered some action on Capitol Hill, where it looks like some sort of economic assistance supplemental appropriation might be crafted.

However, Hurricane Helene ravaged the Southeast in late September, and Hurricane Milton arrived shortly thereafter and wreaked more havoc in Florida. The national disasters that occurred in 2023 (including for California flooding, storms in New York, Michigan and some Great Plains states, and Western wildfires) still have not been paid for, and now that disaster price tag is going to skyrocket with the two recent hurricanes added to the mix.

Despite calls for action, there is still no draft of the farm bill legislative text from Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. However, the staff from the "four corners"—the chairs and ranking members of the Senate and House ag committees—are having conversations, and the activity is ramping up.

"At some point, Senate and House leaders will also have to chime in, since the fundamental issue of debate is money," said Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance Executive Director.

Senate Agriculture Committee John Boozman (R-Ark.) is now talking more aggressively about doing a farm bill.

"We must redouble our efforts to pass a farm bill, before the end of the calendar year, that meets this moment—one that provides the support our farmers desperately need to stay in business," Chair Boozman said. "I am committed to sitting down with my counterparts for as long as it takes to hash out a deal that our members can support."

The media has also recently reported there are some in-depth side conversations going on between ag committee leadership at public events in D.C.

### Alliance Engagement on the Farm Bill

The Alliance has worked in the past with the Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition (WACC) to drive many of its farm bill initiatives. However, major funders supporting some of the NGO groups in the WACC consider the climate sideboards untouchable, so reaching some sort of coalition agreement on that matter is not possible at this time.

"Our position has been that the climate sideboards established by the IRA for spending \$20 billion of climate smart agriculture projects should be removed—as the House farm bill does—or significantly loosened," said Mr. Keppen. "We need to make sure water projects get funded with no hassles. Although USDA has written administrative rules that make some of our members' projects eligible for climate smart, we'd also like to see a statutory change to make sure."

The Alliance in the past month revisited its farm bill policy platform in light of the recent developments. Advocacy efforts will continue to focus primarily on the conservation title.

"Those conservation programs must reflect prioritization of project proposals that deliver cross-sector benefits with measurable outcomes to farming and ranching and conservation," said Mr. Keppen. "We believe program delivery can be simplified without harming environmental interests or program integrity."

### Congress Not Returning Before the Election to Pass Supplemental Disaster Aid

After Hurricane Milton devastated Florida, the Biden Administration and House Republican leadership, including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), agreed that new disaster funding legislation can wait until after the November elections.

"As soon as that is done, Congress will meet and, in bipartisan fashion, we will address those needs," Speaker Johnson said on CBS News' *Face the Nation*. "But it would be premature to call everyone back now, because this—these storms are so large in their scope and magnitude, it's going to take a little bit of time to make those calculations."

Despite pressure from lawmakers in disaster-affected states, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials and congressional leaders assert the agency can currently manage with the \$20.3 billion allocated last month.

*Continued on Page 12*

## Rural Spending Focus Continues as Election Day Approaches

With election day less than one month away, the White House on October 8 hosted a “Farmers and Ranchers in Action” event. The event was just one step by Democrats to shore up rural support and shine a spotlight on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) work under the Biden-Harris Administration.

The lineup featured Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s Chief Ag Negotiator Doug McKalip and White House policy adviser Neera Tanden at the White House. Those officials discussed the administration’s key ag investments and conducted a Q&A sessions with attendees.

American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall at the event pressed the White House “to recognize the need for a modernized five-year farm bill this year that addresses threats to interstate commerce and the need to move quickly on disaster assistance to farmers ravaged by everything from low prices and high supply costs to wildfires, hurricanes and flooding.”

USDA at the event announced multiple steps to promote fair and competitive markets for American farmers and ranchers, and lower food prices for American families.

Secretary Vilsack reported that, through a multipart framework, USDA is working to create diverse, resilient, and competitive seed varieties.

USDA also published an interim report that assesses competitive conditions in the meat retail industry. Secretary Vilsack then announced the next steps in a new rulemaking effort under the Packers & Stockyards Act of 1921 to enhance price discovery and fairness in cattle markets.

“Over these last four years, the Biden-Harris Administration has made historic investments in agriculture to help farmers, small businesses, and rural communities get a fair shake,” said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. “Our work on competition is about opening up new markets for farmers and delivering fairer, more competitive choices. Today’s actions will help to deliver on more choice and lower costs for seeds used by farmers, more choice and lower food costs for consumers, and a fairer marketplace for ranchers.”

Leaders in the Biden-Harris Administration continue to distribute billions of dollars of funding provided by massive spending bills passed by Congress in 2021 and 2022. The Biden administration also ramped up rollout of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) ag funds, with a historic \$7.7 billion investment for climate-smart agriculture funding announced last month. USDA allocated another \$1.3 billion later in the month for rural energy funding and \$265 million for forest

conservation projects.

### IIJA / IRA Funding Background

President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law in 2021, which provides a total of \$8.3 billion to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) over five years for water infrastructure projects, including rural water, water storage, conservation and conveyance, nature-based solutions, dam safety, water purification and reuse, and desalination.

Less than one year after the IIJA was signed into law, President Biden on August 16, 2022 signed the \$459 billion IRA – a massive health care, climate and tax bill – into law. The legislation provided \$4 billion of funding for Reclamation, intended to address the Western drought crisis, and another \$20 billion to the USDA to provide farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture tools they need to address the climate crisis.

The Family Farm Alliance was part of a five-organization steering committee that led over 220 water and agriculture organizations who played a critical role in securing the IIJA and IRA funding for Western water infrastructure and drought mitigation efforts.

In response to a request that Alliance farmer lobbyists made during a late September DC fly-in, Reclamation on October 30 hosted an aging

infrastructure webinar to provide an update on where and how the IIJA / IRA funds are being spent.

October was marked by several IIJA and IRA funding announcements by Reclamation and IRA investments by USDA.

### Climate-Smart Practices on Agricultural Lands

USDA on October 2 announced up to \$7.7 billion in assistance for fiscal year 2025 to help agricultural and forestry producers adopt conservation practices on working lands.

“This funding will be used to maximize climate benefits across the country while also providing other important conservation and operational benefits, which will lead to economic opportunity for producers, and more productive soil, cleaner water and air, healthier wildlife habitat, greater connectivity, and natural resource conservation for future generations,” said Secretary Vilsack.



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. (USDA photo)

Continued on Page 5

## **USDA: \$7.7 Billion for Climate-Smart Ag (Cont'd from Pg. 4)**

The funding includes up to \$5.7 billion for climate-smart practices, made possible by the IRA and \$2 billion in Farm Bill funding. This is more than double the amount available last year and the most conservation assistance made available in a single year in U.S. history for popular USDA conservation programs.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received more than 156,485 applications for its conservation programs in fiscal year 2024. While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers can now apply for fiscal year 2025 funding through NRCS at their local USDA Service Center.

NRCS recently released an updated list of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities eligible for IRA funding in fiscal year 2025, which includes 14 new activities, including irrigation modernization and other recommendations advanced by a Family Farm Alliance-led coalition of agricultural and conservation organizations.

NRCS also released the NRCS Conservation Practices and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Information dashboard sharing the expected mitigation benefits and science-based estimation approach for listed practices. These in-demand activities are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon sequestration, as well as provide other significant benefits to natural resources like soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat and air quality.

"In response to feedback received from our coalition, conservation partners, producers and NRCS staff across the country, NRCS considered and evaluated activities based on scientific literature demonstrating expected climate change mitigation benefits," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

### **\$1.5 Billion to RCPP**

USDA on October 23 announced a historic \$1.5 billion for 92 partner-driven conservation projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

The federal investment was made with funding available through the Farm Bill and the IRA. Partners will provide \$968 million in contributions to amplify the impact of the federal investment.

Selected RCPP projects will help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners adopt and expand voluntary, locally led conservation strategies to enhance natural resources while tackling the climate crisis.

"America's working lands and forests are crucial in our fight against the climate crisis—from sequestering carbon pollution to absorbing the impact of storms and floods," said John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for International Climate Policy. "Today's awards make sure that the people who know those landscapes best—farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners—have the resources they need to lead this important work."

The projects support priorities in conservation and climate and can save farmers money and increase productivity. There are also 16 projects that address water conservation in the

West.

NRCS set aside \$100 million for Tribal-led projects, part of a broader effort to support Tribes and Tribal producers through NRCS conservation programs. From this set aside, NRCS has made seven awards to five different tribes and tribal entities.

Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, RCPP has made 334 awards totaling more than \$3 billion. Since its inception, RCPP has made 812 awards involving more than 4,000 partner organizations, with more than \$4 billion in NRCS funding amplified by another \$4 billion in partner contributions.

### **Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities**

USDA on October 17 highlighted the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, a new funding opportunity that expands markets for commodities produced using climate-smart production methods. This effort is intended to assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners implement climate-smart production practices on working lands to build soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, enhance productivity and build revenue.

"Through our Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, we are working to create an economy that supports rural communities, meets global demand for renewable and climate-smart goods, and achieves our climate goals," said Secretary Vilsack at an event in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

In Hershey, the Secretary also pointed to the Iowa Soybean Association's Midwest Climate-Smart Commodity Program, one of the first operational, which now has over 1800 farms enrolled in climate-smart production. The resulting corn, soy, sugar beats and wheat supply insetting markets where corporate entities aim to reduce their greenhouse gas footprint.

A progress report released by USDA highlights the Partnerships program. Since its creation in September 2022, USDA has invested \$3.03 billion in 135 projects that have 1) Connected over 14,000 farms to climate-smart markets, premiums and incentives; 2) Enrolled over 3.2 million acres of working land into climate-smart practices; 3) Sequestered over 400,000 metric tons of carbon, with over 60 million tons estimated by project completion; and 4) Made over 40 climate-smart commodities available to consumers, including rice, beef, yogurt, milk, coffee, beer, vodka, rye whiskey, bourbon, and gin.

USDA believes these results show strong early progress toward the cumulative goals for the 5-year projects.

### **Forest Legacy Program**

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) on October 29 announced an investment of more than \$265 million in IRA funding to conserve nearly 335,000 acres of ecologically and economically significant forestlands across the nation, in partnership with states across the country.

USFS will fund 21 projects in 17 states to conserve work-

*Continued on Page 7*

*Page 5*

## New Mexico Congreso Meetings: November 2024

LATINO FARMERS & RANCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC PRESENTS  
**WATER IS LIFE**  
**EL CONGRESO 2024**  
 NOVEMBER 20, 2024



**SAVE THE DATE**

A FORUM NOTING THE IMMEDIATE AND PROPOSED POLICIES FOR WATER ACCESS AS OUR PRIORITIES- INDIGENOUS WISDOM, ACEQUIA TRADITION, FARMERS AND RANCHERS GENERATIONAL NEEDS.



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 EUGENEPICKETT2015@GMAIL.COM

**CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS 2024**

**¡Semos Acequias!**  
**We Are Acequias!**



FRIDAY NOV. 15 - 9:00-6:30 - WORKSHOPS  
 SATURDAY NOV. 16 - 9:00-2:00 - CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS  
 HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER, LAS VEGAS, NM  
 OR JOIN ONLINE!

Join us for the 25th annual Congreso de las Acequias including music, art, teatro, workshops, presentations, and the beloved bendición de las aguas!

As acequias we are caretakers of the water that flows to our fields and the interconnected waters of our watersheds, rivers, and aquifers. Our communities are surviving in the face of climate disasters and pressure from development and industries. It has never been more important for us to have a united voice to defend our water while we also work for a vibrant future with healthy communities and locally grown food.

We speak with a united voice. We defend water. We are Acequias.

DETAILS & REGISTRATION:

[WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG/CONGRESO](http://WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG/CONGRESO)

Contact: [rudy@lasacequias.org](mailto:rudy@lasacequias.org) - (505) 995-9644



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

Information on conference agenda, registration and hotel reservations, and sponsorship / exhibitor opportunities will be available in the summer of 2025

**2025 Annual Meeting and Conference**

**October 30-31, 2025 Reno, NV**



*Save the date*

**USFS: \$265 million for Forest Conservation (Cont'd from Pg 5)**

ing forests that support rural economies.

"Forests provide innumerable benefits to people and communities, and for nearly 35 years the Forest Legacy Program has allowed us to support States and landowners in their efforts to conserve important forestlands," said USFS Chief Randy Moore.

In 2024 alone, USFS has invested nearly \$420 million to conserve more than 500,000 acres through the Forest Legacy Program and since 2021, has invested more than \$758 million in 123 projects.

Through the Forest Legacy Program, states work with Tribes, local communities, and landowners to identify important private forestlands and USFS selects the top proposals for funding through a competitive, entirely voluntary process and provides grant funding to participating states so they may implement the work.

Some of this land will stay in private ownership and will be permanently protected and conserved as forests, while states will also purchase other parcels to be managed as public land.

"Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, we are protecting parcels we never thought we'd have the resources to secure and even more acres of vital forestlands so that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy all the irreplaceable benefits they provide," said Chief Moore.

**Reclamation IJA Funding Announcements**

Reclamation recently announced a nearly \$92 million investment for 19 projects to restore and protect aquatic ecosystems.

"These projects funded through the bureau's Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program are collaboratively developed and have widespread regional benefits, improving the health of fisheries, wildlife and aquatic habitats," said Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. "This is an important part of our toolbox to improve the ecosystem, mitigate impacts of drought, and improve climate resiliency."

This funding from the IJA and annual appropriations implemented by the Reclamation will be awarded to projects in six Western states for the study, design and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that will improve the health of fish, wildlife and aquatic ecosystems.

"These investments are part of a total \$1 billion provided by the IJA for the WaterSMART program," said Alliance executive director Dan Keppen.

Alliance member United Water Conservation District (CALIFORNIA) was awarded \$20 million to construct new fish passage and monitoring facilities at the Freeman Diversion on the lower Santa Clara River, in southwestern Ventura County.

Once installed, the modification will allow for simultaneous water diversion and fish passage, enabling salmonids access to high-quality upstream watersheds and allowing for monitoring, sorting, and removal of invasive fish species.

The Project was prioritized and designed in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

United's general manager, Mauricio Guardado, said his district is very appreciative of Reclamation's consideration and issuance of funding for such an important project.

"While other, more cost-effective options were identified that meet all the environmental design criteria, the hardened ramp project is the preferred alternative of NMFS and CDFW," said Mr. Guardado.

A condition of United agreeing to the hardened ramp alternative is that NMFS and CDFW will assist in fully funding this experimental project.

"While this recent grant procurement certainly helps in the initial phase, with an over \$200 million price tag, we have a long way to go, and will require tremendous collaboration," he said.

**Drought Mitigation in Kansas**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) last month announced an investment of \$9 million of IRA funding for groundwater recharge, storage and recovery, and a water rights transition program in Kansas.

DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Michael Brain made the announcement at the Kansas Equus Beds Aquifer Recharge, Storage and Recovery Project near Wichita, which will receive \$7 million. The project is a critical supplier for more than 20% of municipal, industrial and irrigation water users in Kansas.

Additionally, the Kansas Voluntary Agreements Program will receive \$2 million for the state implemented Kansas Water Transition Assistance Program in either the Prairie Dog Creek or Rattlesnake Creek Basins.

"This investment from President Biden's Investing in America agenda will help Kansas address immediate needs due to drought," said DOI Principal Deputy Assistant for Water and Science Secretary Brain. "As the state works to slow declining surface and groundwater supplies, these resources will advance efforts to safeguard local water supplies, equipping families and communities for the future."

When fully implemented, the Equus project will recharge the Equus Beds Aquifer providing water to the city of Wichita at a rate of up to 100 million gallons per day through injection and infiltration of Little Arkansas River diversions into the aquifer in south-central Kansas. The Kansas Water Right Transition Assistance Program will conserve approximately 10,000 acre-feet by rotating temporary land fallowing or permanently retiring water rights.

"Decades of over-appropriation and more frequent droughts have now put communities across Kansas in crisis," said Kansas Governor Laura Kelly. "These projects will be instrumental in our work to increase our state's water quality and quantity."

## A Court Win and a Court Loss for Two Colorado Storage Projects

A federal court ruled that Denver Water must reevaluate a reservoir expansion project while a state appeals court rejected a lawsuit from environmentalists last month that sought to force Larimer County to reevaluate a storage project proposed by Northern Water.

### Army Corps Permit for Colorado Reservoir Struck Down in Federal Court

U.S. District Judge Christine Arguello last month ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) erred in issuing a key permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Gross Dam and Reservoir expansion project proposed by Denver Water.

The court ruled that Corps violated federal law when it granted Denver Water permission to discharge dredge and fill material into wetlands.

In 2022, Denver Water began expanding Gross Dam and Reservoir, a project aimed at tripling the size of the reservoir to serve over 1.5 million people. The permit allowed discharges of fill material into wetlands, but Judge Arguello criticized the Corps for failing to fully assess alternatives and climate change impacts.

"The debate over the Gross Dam and Reservoir expansion proposal is both public and passionate," wrote Judge Arguello. "The administrative record makes abundantly clear that a plethora of stakeholders in the Colorado River and Front Range's water resources are deeply concerned about any proposal that tampers with the region's already precarious water management system and uncertain hydrological future."

Environmental groups, including Save the Colorado, filed the lawsuit.

"This is a stunning victory for the Colorado River, the people of Boulder County, and the rule of law," said Gary Wockner of Save The Colorado (the lead co-plaintiff). "We look forward to engaging with Denver Water to reach a good faith agreement about how to remedy The Corps non-compliance."

The court's decision now forces a reevaluation of the project, which involves significant environmental impacts such as deforestation and rock excavation.

Despite the ruling, Denver Water is continuing with construction plans, aiming for completion by 2027.

"Denver Water remains focused on maintaining the safety and forward progress of the project," the utility said in a statement, adding that "it's critical we continue with construction on schedule."

The parties involved must propose remedies to the court by November 15, 2024.

### Appeals Court Rejects Lawsuit Opposing NISP

The Colorado Court of Appeals last month rejected a lawsuit from environmentalists that sought to force Larimer County to reevaluate the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP), intended to supply 40,000 acre-feet of new water to 15 communities on the Front Range.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) – a long-time member of the Family Farm Alliance – first started planning for the project in the 1980s. Environmental activist groups Save the Poudre and No Pipe Dream in 2019 sued the Larimer County Board of Commissioners for approving a local permit for the project. The groups alleged that two commissioners were biased in favor of the project and that the permit should be



*Glade Reservoir is shown in this computer rendering. Photo courtesy of Northern Water.*

denied, according to Colorado Public Radio.

In an October 3 decision, the appeals court upheld a lower court decision and confirmed the permit was properly issued.

"We are gratified that the Court of Appeals upheld the District Court decision, and we are working toward final design of this important project," Jeff Stahla, a Northern Water spokesperson, said in a statement.

The project includes building two new reservoirs. Glade Reservoir, northwest of Fort Collins, will store water diverted from the Cache la Poudre River. Galeton Reservoir, northeast of Greeley, will provide storage for water collected from the South Platte River.

NISP will also include five pump plants and multiple pipelines to deliver water to project participants, as well as for water exchanges with two local irrigation companies.

An endeavor of this size and scope takes years of planning, preparation, study and analysis. NISP has already cleared significant hurdles, including approval from multiple state and county agencies and the federal government via the Army Corps.

Some construction on the project might begin next year, while reservoir construction north of Fort Collins is slated to start in 2027.

## A New Western Water Year Begins

October 1 marked the beginning of the new water year in the Western states.

A water year - also called hydrological year - is a term commonly used in hydrology to describe a time period of 12 months for which precipitation totals are measured.

Its beginning differs from the calendar year in the West because part of the precipitation that falls in late autumn and winter accumulates as snow and does not drain until the following spring or summer's snowmelt.

### The Rearview Mirror

Water Year 2024 - which ended on September 30, 2024 - will be remembered for one of the hottest summers on record, particularly along the Pacific coast.

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, July 2024 was the warmest July on record for the globe in NOAA's 175-year record and "more likely than not the warmest month on record for the globe since 1850."

California experienced its hottest month on record in July, while Oregon and Washington suffered the second highest July ever as searing heat roasted the American West for weeks on end. Those conditions replayed again in October, as an exceptional October heat wave shattered temperature records and accelerating drought conditions throughout the Southwest.

In Washington state, Yakima River basin irrigators with junior water rights ended the season receiving 52% of their normal water allotments, the worst water shortage in the Central Washington region in nearly a decade.

However, the water year closed in some parts of the West with record-breaking rainfall events. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, heavier rainfall totals, up to 600% above normal, were observed over parts of northwest Washington, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

Daily maximum precipitation records were set in parts of Utah and New Mexico.

The heaviest rains fell across Colorado, reporting rainfall totals up to 600% of normal, resulting in improvements of moderate to severe drought and abnormal dryness in western and southern portions of the state.

The Western fire season started early and continued into October. Between January 1 and October 28, the U.S. has had 45,500 fires that have burned 7.97 million acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise.

Last year, 46,561 fires burned just over 2.5 million acres. The annual averages for 2014-2023 are 47,515 fires and 6.2 million acres burned.

Oregon Governor Tina Kotek last month declared a state of emergency and requested a federal major disaster declaration for the state following this year's wildfire season, which scorched a record 1.9 million acres.

That's nearly double the 1 million acres that burned in 2020 and the 1.2 million acres that burned in 2012.

"Wildfires are active across Oregon and are growing at a concerning pace. Governor Kotek said.

"I am declaring a State of Emergency to access state resources for communities across Oregon as we respond to this year's escalating wildfire season."

Water users served by the Yakima Tieton Irrigation District in Washington state successfully made it to the end of their water season despite the tremendous challenges faced in the aftermath of the 45,601 acre Rimrock Retreat wildfire, which began on July 23 as the result of a propane tank explosion at a cabin. The more than century-old Tieton Main Canal was shut down by district managers who were unable to assess damage from the fire.

Much of the canal is not approachable by motor vehicle and must be repaired by teams on foot with wheelbarrows.

"While running reduced operations, we were still able to deliver water to the community and our patrons, a significant accomplishment given the extensive damage sustained by the canal," said Travis Okelberry, Secretary-Treasurer of YTID.

YTID throughout the summer took significant steps to mitigate hazards, restore safe operation, and plan for long-term recovery.

"We are making steady progress, but there is still much work to be done to safeguard the district and its water users," said Mr. Okelberry. "Our focus is on preparing for the next season and restoring full capacity. This winter poses serious challenges, particularly with the forecast of a La Niña event, which could bring excessive rainfall."

### The Water Year Ahead

Water Year 2025 appears to one that will be influenced by La Niña, although it's impacts are now expected to be felt later this autumn than originally predicted.

The tropical Pacific Ocean reflected neutral conditions—neither El Niño nor La Niña—in September.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it didn't just end up being neutral," Oregon State Climatologist Larry O'Neill said of the Pacific Ocean temperatures impacts in coming months.

According to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, during La Niña, the Pacific jet stream often meanders high into the North Pacific and is less reliable across the southern tier of the United States.

Southern and interior Alaska and the Pacific Northwest tend to be cooler and wetter than average, and the southern tier of U.S. states—from California to the Carolinas—tends to be warmer and drier than average.

An AccuWeather report published last month predicts a wet winter for the West Coast, with the forecast showing atmospheric rivers impacting northern, central and southern California over the winter.

Paul Pastelok, an AccuWeather senior meteorologist and long-range expert, told *Newsweek* that another wet winter could prove similarly beneficial for California's water problem should it come to fruition.

"It will continue to improve the water situation," Paul Pastelok, an AccuWeather senior meteorologist told *Newsweek*. "If this happens, it'll help again to keep those levels good all the way through most of 2025."



## On the Road Again.....

### Alliance Reps Spread the Good Word Across the West

It's that time of year again.

Just as farmers and ranchers wrap up harvest operations in many parts of the American West, water and agricultural organizations begin scheduling regional conferences, marking the beginning of the convention season that typically extends into early March.

Family Farm Alliance spokespersons are once again accumulating frequent flier miles as the conference season begins.

Alliance Advisory Committee Chair Urban Eberhart (WASHINGTON) last month participated in a Socorro (NEW MEXICO) roundtable discussion designed to get input from farming and ranching communities regarding water conservation strategies and incentives. Mr. Eberhart represented the Alliance and Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) as the featured guest speaker.

"I provided examples of how KRD has worked with other entities in his basin on the Yakima Integrated Plan and to develop, fund and implement mutually beneficial projects for the region," said Mr. Eberhart. "I also provided broader Alliance perspectives, as well."

Mr. Eberhart's presentation highlighted the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, which celebrated its 15-year anniversary last June. The purpose of this multi-stakeholder, multi-agency program is to enhance fish and wildlife through improved water management, to improve reliability of water supply for irrigation, to implement a basin water conservation program and to implement water management projects overseen by the Yakama Indian Nation.

"Our guiding philosophy on this project is that everyone will get some of what they need, but not everything they want," said Mr. Eberhart.

In the Pacific Northwest, Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, the Alliance's representatives in Washington, D.C., delivered a virtual update on federal affairs to the Tri States water associations in September. This group – consisting of directors and staff from the Idaho Water Users Association, Oregon Water Resources Congress, and Washington

State Water Resources Association – meets several times a year, rotating between each of the three states.

This fall, Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen presented on food security and the importance of Western irrigated agriculture to the California Agricultural Irrigation Association's Fall Meeting in Pismo Beach and the Colorado River District's Annual Water Seminar in Grand Junction. He presented a similar talk virtually to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District board of directors.

Mr. Keppen on October 30<sup>th</sup> virtually delivered an overview of the Clean Water Act to the Western Caucus College, a new education program designed to help inform, train, and prepare young Capitol Hill staff who help shape the policies important to the West.

"The Western Caucus College is a 4 day in-person training program that provides staff of Western Caucus members an in-depth, customized training and curriculum on the landmark land and environmental laws undergirding the modern policy discussion," said Darrell Henry, Executive director of the Western

Caucus Foundation.

Mr. Keppen and Bill Hasencamp (manager of Colorado River Resources for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) will take the stage during the November general session of the Irrigation Association annual convention in Long Beach (CALIFORNIA).

"We'll discuss innovative approaches to building sustainable and resilient water management systems, and the urban-agricultural water collaboration needed to overcome today's resource challenges," said Mr. Keppen.

Later in the month Mr. Keppen will provide an update on Alliance activities to the Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts in Casper, as well as at a Family Water Alliance fundraising event in Colusa (CALIFORNIA).

"It's a lot of travel, but it's worth it," said Mr. Keppen of the speaking engagements. "The food security message right now is one that really resonates with audiences."



**Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen (L) and Luke Reynolds (R - Associate Director, Government & Public Affairs for the Irrigation Association) participated in a panel discussion at the California Agricultural Irrigation Association fall meeting in Pismo Beach earlier this fall. Keppen will speak later this month in Long Beach at the Irrigation Association's annual trade show. Photo courtesy of Luke Reynolds.**

## Western Lawmakers / States Raise Concerns with White House *Concerns With Federal Oversight of Groundwater Expressed*

Western House Republicans have sent a letter to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) in response to the Council's request for public input on America's groundwater challenges. The Family Farm Alliance sent a letter to PCAST last summer, stating that groundwater should remain regulated by states and local interests, not the federal government.

The Congressional letter was signed by Rep. Dan Newhouse (WASHINGTON), Cliff Bentz (OREGON), Andy Biggs (ARIZONA), Jake Ellzey (TEXAS), Russ Fulcher (IDAHO) and Mike Simpson (IDAHO).

"As Members of Congress who represent rural and western districts, we staunchly oppose this effort to impede state, local, and Tribal regulatory authority," the Congressmen wrote.

On September 23, Idaho Governor Brad Little and Lt. Governor Scott Bedke sent a letter to President Biden and Vice President Harris expressing concern about the PCAST groundwater effort.

"We are deeply concerned about your administration's efforts to increase federal oversight of groundwater in the states..." the letter said. "Namely, it appears the council has already concluded that the agriculture industry needs to be the focal point of your groundwater grab, prior to even receiving any feedback."

Messrs. Little and Bedke asked the Administration to pause further action on the PCAST report until they answered a series of questions posed in the letter.

The Western States Water Council (WSWC) also submitted a letter to the PCAST Groundwater Working Group in July, noting that States are in the best position to protect groundwater quality and quantity and have demonstrated the ability to do so. The letter emphasized that States have exclusive authority over the allocation and administration of groundwater rights located within their borders.

"The WSWC opposes any and all efforts that would establish a federal ownership interest in groundwater not otherwise recognized or allowed under state law, or diminish the primary and exclusive authority of States over groundwater..." the WSWC letter reads. "No future administrative initiatives should attempt to usurp States' rights and prerogatives related to the management and protection of groundwater resources."

In a related matter, the *Chicago Tribune* last month ran a scare piece - "No, American West, You Can't Have Our Great Lakes Water" - driven by a similar op/ed written earlier by Arizona State University professor Jay Famiglietti in the *New York Times*.

Mike Wade (California Farm Water Coalition) responded with a rebuttal letter to the editor, which the *Tribune* published.

"The proposal for a one-size-fits-all national water policy is irresponsible, like the effort to mislead readers into believing that water from the Great Lakes is at risk of being taken by other states," Mr. Wade wrote. "I suspect that water users in Chicago want control over their own resources just as Western farmers do as they grow much of the food we all depend on."

## Committee Holds Hearing on Pacific NW Water Issues

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairman Cliff Bentz (R-OREGON) and U.S. Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OREGON) on October 8 held an oversight hearing in Central Oregon titled, *"It All Depends on Water: Examining Efforts to Improve and Protect Central Oregon's Water Supply."*

"The hearing examined the importance of collaboration in the Deschutes Basin and its impact on agriculture and species recovery," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

The Alliance has strong representation in Central Oregon, where Deschutes River irrigation districts are working together and with constructive conservation groups, local cities, and government agencies to balance the Deschutes so there is water for all river beneficiaries, including farms.

Marc Thalacker from Sisters, Oregon represents this region on the Alliance Board of Directors.

Farmers in the Deschutes Basin of Central Oregon have been dealing with risks and uncertainties to their water supplies for years. The water users and their irrigation districts - weary of Endangered Species Act (ESA) litigation driven by outside environmental organizations - took matters into their own hands, as they developed a long-term plan that would

provide certainty for agricultural water supplies. At the same time, the plan provides water for and benefits the listed species.

The eight irrigation districts belonging to the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) developed the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the result of over 12 years of studies and negotiations between all interested parties in the basin.

Collaboration along the Deschutes River and support for the HCP were themes that were consistently addressed at the October 8 hearing.

"Water is not a political issue," Rep. Chavez-DeRemer repeatedly emphasized. "It's a community issue and it's an important issue."

U.S. Reps. Celeste Maloy (R-UTAH), Dan Newhouse (R-WASHINGTON) and Val Hoyle (D-OREGON) also attended to hear more from the witnesses.

Jeff Larkin, a Redmond area rancher and board member of Central Oregon Irrigation District, explained that the HCP

*Continued on Page 12*

## Farm Bill and Disaster Assistance (Cont'd from Page 3)

However, concerns remain about FEMA's ability to handle future emergencies, as it has already spent \$9 billion from its disaster fund. While some House lawmakers are pushing for urgent action, introducing bills to provide supplemental funding, for now, congressional leaders maintain they will revisit funding needs when Congress returns later this month.

The aftermath of Hurricane Milton on the state of Florida threatens to exhaust the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is already financially strained. The NFIP, covering nearly 2 million policies in areas impacted by Milton and last month's Hurricane Helene, may deplete its \$5 billion fund and require borrowing from its \$9.9 billion Treasury limit.

Lawmakers are bracing for a lame duck session debate over how to address the situation, with options including raising the NFIP's borrowing cap, appropriating additional funds, or forgiving more debt, as was done after the 2017 hurricanes. However, political disagreements complicate these solutions.

"Congress is tracking this situation closely, and when members return in just a few short weeks, the administration should have an accurate assessment of the actual dollar

amount needed and there will be strong bipartisan support to provide the necessary funding," Speaker Johnson said in a recent statement.

### USDA Issues Natural Disaster Payments

Less than a week before the elections, USDA announced it was issuing payments to agricultural producers impacted by natural disasters, including \$143 million in crop insurance indemnities for Florida producers impacted by Hurricane Milton and more than \$92 million for livestock producers, nationwide, who faced increased supplemental feed costs as a result of forage losses due to 2022 qualifying drought and wildfire.

"Florida farmers, livestock producers and forest landowners have been hit hard by hurricanes this year, and we're continuing our efforts to help producers recover following hurricanes like Mil-

ton," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We've used a number of flexibilities following hurricanes Debby and Helene, and we're extending those to producers impacted by Hurricane Milton and future named storms."



**Empty irrigation canal, 2022. USDA is issuing \$92 million for livestock producers nationwide who faced forage losses that year due to qualifying drought and wildfires. Photo courtesy of Klamath Water Users Association.**

## Field Hearing Underscores Collaboration (Continued from Page 11)

provides crucial protection against potentially harsher regulations for water users under the ESA, while charting a path to improving ecosystem health and habitat for fish and wildlife.

"We are confident that as new challenges come our way, we'll be able to build on this foundation of collaboration to find solutions that work for the Basin as a whole and maintain the balance that drew many of us to Central Oregon," Larkin testified.

Witness Bobby Brunoe, secretary-treasurer/CEO of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, stated that the tribes are committed to working collaboratively with other parties along the Deschutes.

"Having healthy dialogue and collaboration is like having a strong family," Mr. Brunoe testified. "It doesn't prevent bad things from happening, but it helps everyone get through them."

***"Having healthy dialogue and collaboration is like having a strong family. It doesn't prevent bad things from happening, but it helps everyone get through them."***

**Bobby Brunoe  
Secretary-Treasurer / CEO  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**

Local water problems can only be solved by tailoring solutions to each unique region of the West.

"The hearing demonstrated that collaboration in the Deschutes Basin between irrigation groups, tribes, agriculturalists and community leaders is paramount for successful farming operations and species recovery," said Mr. Keppen.

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A Big Thank You to Our New and Supporting Members!

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024**

**DEFENDER (\$1000-\$4999)**

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District  
Salt River Project (ARIZONA)  
Klamath Irrigation District (OREGON)  
Clinton C. Pline (IDAHO)  
Teixeira & Sons – (CALIFORNIA)  
Vail Ranches, LLC (CALIFORNIA)  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers

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Savery-Little Snake River Water Conservancy District (WYOMING)

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Make your tax-deductible gift to the Alliance today! Grassroots membership is vital to our organization. Thank you in advance for your loyal support.

If you have questions, please call our fundraising coordinator, Jane Townsend, at (916)206-7186 OR EMAIL [jane@familyfarmalliance.org](mailto:jane@familyfarmalliance.org)

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**2025 Annual Meeting and Conference**

**October 30-31, 2025 Reno, NV**



**CORRESPONDENCE LIST**  
**NOVEMBER 2024**

1. October 7, 2024 – District Update received from Los Olivos Community Services District
2. October 8, 2024 – Letter from District to three customers regarding past due water service account
3. October 9, 2024 – Letter from District to Customer regarding Billing card requirement for water service
4. October 13, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the October 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
5. October 18, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Central Coast Water Authority for the October 24, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
6. October 22, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 141-321-016
7. October 23, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the October 24, 2024 Special Meeting
8. October 25, 2024 – Letter from District sent to three customers regarding past due water service account
9. October 30, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 137-030-063
10. October 31, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the November 6, 2024 Wastewater Committee Meeting
11. October 31, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the November 6, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting
12. November 6, 2024 – Water Service Requirements letter sent for APN 139-040-050
13. November 6, 2024 – Letter from District to fifteen customers regarding backflow testing requirement
14. November 11, 2024 -Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the November 12, 2024 Personnel Committee Meeting
15. November 14, 2024 – Notice and Agenda received from Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board November 18, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting