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, March 17, 2026**
1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room

Notice Regarding Public Participation: For those who may not attend the meeting but wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, please submit any and all comments and written materials to the District via electronic mail at general@syrwd.org. All submittals should indicate **"March 17, 2026 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 FEBRUARY 17, 2026

7. CONSENT AGENDA - All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion without separate discussion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Trustee.

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report
CA-2. Central Coast Water Authority Update

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

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
   a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses
   b) Approval of Accounts Payable

B. OPERATIONS
1. General Update
2. Madera Fence Replacement Project – Phase 2: Consideration and Possible Award

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT
1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

10. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

11. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS

12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: ANY member of the Board of Trustees may request to place an item on the Agenda for the next regular meeting. Any member of the public may submit a written request to the General Manager of the District to place an item on a future meeting Agenda, provided that the General Manager and the Board of Trustees retain sole discretion to determine which items to include on meeting Agendas.

13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for **April 21, 2026 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 – 1 Case]

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

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 – Two Matters]

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:
[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 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, February 17, 2026, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present:	Michael Burchardi Jeff Clay Brad Joos Mark Moniot Nick Urton		
Trustees Absent:	None		
Others Present:	Paeter Garcia Kylie Kelleher Dan Drugan	Racel Cota Peter Thompson Jessica Diaz	Ray Stokes Stephanie Hastings

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:
President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted roll call and reported that all Trustees were present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
President Clay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA:
Ms. Cota reported that the Agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the California Government Code commencing at Section 54953, as well as District Resolution No. 340.

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA:
Mr. Garcia requested that the Board allow the adjustment of the Agenda order and move into Closed Session at this time.

5. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:05 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 1 Case]

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

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 – Two Matters]

6. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION: 5:40PM
[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:40 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 5.A through 5.B (as adjusted), and that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

7. 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.

8. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2026
The Regular Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

9. CONSENT AGENDA:
The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board Packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of January. Various topics were discussed.

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

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

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
   a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses
   Ms. Cota announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the District's website.

   Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of January. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot for the first seven months of the fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by $358,944.63 and the year-to-date ending January 31, 2026 net income was $2,878,003.61.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

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

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 27038 through 27093 in the amount of $411,174.80.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for January 21, 2026 through February 17, 2026.

c) Quarterly Balance Sheet Inclusive of Reserve Accounts and Proposed Transfer to Reserve Accounts

Ms. Cota presented the Statement of Changes in Cash and Investments, which summarized the change in cash and investments for the quarter ending December 31, 2025. The report provided an overview of the District's cash and investments for all activities that occurred during the period October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Ms. Cota reported that no activity occurred for the District's Restricted and Unrestricted Board Reserved funds during that period. She reported a total Unrestricted Unreserved balance of $14,119,090.74,.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by President Clay, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Statement of Changes in Cash and Investments for the quarter ending December 31, 2025.

Ms. Cota stated that in January 2026 the Board approved and accepted the Financial Statements for fiscal years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 resulting in $3,796,466 of surplus revenues due to several financial factors. She stated that management has reviewed the District's Unrestricted Board Reserved fund balances as of December 31, 2025 and recommends that the Board consider splitting the surplus revenue balance 60/40 and transferring $2,277,880 and $1,518.586 to the Plant Expansion and the Repair and Replacement Unrestricted Board Reserved funds, respectively.

After Board discussion, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to authorize the transfer of $3,796,466 of surplus revenues to be split 60/40 at $2,277,880 and $1,518,586 to the Plant Expansion and the Repair and Replacement Unrestricted Board Reserved funds, respectively.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Updates

Mr. Drugan reported that all District employees completed CPR/AED training on February 2, 2026. Staff also responded to a minor service leak for a commercial location in Santa Ynez, which was promptly repaired. He also noted that a Request for Bids is expected to be issued soon for Phase 2 of certain security fencing improvements for District property along Madera Street. Mr. Drugan then informed the Board that the Division of Drinking Water will be visiting the District in February to conduct its bi-annual sanitary survey inspection, and provided a brief update on recently completed maintenance activities for the Meadowlark building.

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update
   The Board packet included copies of the Notice and Agenda for the January 22, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) and the February 12, 2026 Meeting of the Eastern Management Area Citizens Advisory Committee (EMA CAG).

   Mr. Garcia summarized several topics that were discussed at the recent EMA GSA and EMA CAG meetings. He reported that the next EMA GSA meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

12. 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

Mr. Burchardi mentioned to the Board that Santa Ynez Airport Day will be taking place on May 16, 2026. Mr. Garcia noted that the District will plan to host an informational booth at the event similar to the last several years.

13. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS

The Correspondence List was received by the Board.

14. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

There were no requests from the Board.

15. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for March 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

_____

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board

ATTEST: _____

Jeff Clay, President

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

_____

Kylie Kelleher, Executive Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
March 17, 2026

Consent Agenda Report

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. The District's total water production in **February 2026 (116 AF)** was 1 AF lower than total production in **January 2026** (117 AF), 9 AF higher than the most recent 3-year running average (2023-2025) for the month of **February** (107 AF), and 24 AF lower than the most recent 10-year running average (2016-2025) for the month of **February** (140 AF). Overall, production in **February** was pretty close to "average" but perhaps a bit higher this year due to unremarkable rainfall totals for the month (approximately 3.5 inches at Santa Ynez Airport. As noted in previous Consent Reports, the District's overall demands and total production generally have been trending 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 **February 2026**, approximately **32 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells, and approximately **84 AF** was produced from the 4.0 and 6.0 cfs well fields in the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from CCWA, the District did not request or take any SWP supplies for the month, nor were any SWP deliveries made to Cachuma for the South Coast entities, as the Reservoir remained in spill conditions. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **1.15 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Cachuma Reservoir in **February** (ending February 28, 2026) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **754.19'** and end of month storage of **197,003 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the reservoir of **5.34 inches** for the month). Reported reservoir evaporation in **February** was **545.7 AF**. Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **March 9, 2026** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **101.2%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **195,366 AF** (Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Rainfall and Reservoir Summary).

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 recent years, Reclamation approved a 100% Project allocation for federal WY 2023-2024 based on extraordinary rain conditions that spilled the reservoir in early 2023. The reservoir spilled again in early 2024 and Reclamation issued another 100% Project allocation for federal WY 2024-2025, which began October 1, 2024. **As previously reported, the Cachuma Member Units submitted a joint letter dated June 24, 2025 requesting a 100% Project allocation for WY 2025-2026, and USBR approved that request on July 14, 2025. ID No.1's 10.31% share of the 100% Project allocation equals 2,651 AF**. Notably, at the beginning of December 2025, ID No.1 held approximately 4,365 AF of contractual Project supplies in the reservoir (Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board, November 30, 2025), including approximately 1,878 AF of prior year carryover supplies and 2,487 AF from the current WY 2025-2026 allocation. However, according to correspondence from USBR, all Cachuma Member Unit carryover supplies in the reservoir had spilled as of December 31, 2025, which currently leaves the District with approximately 2,487 AF of contractual Project supplies in Cachuma.

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 (**"Table 1 Flows"**).*

- *During Above Normal and Wet water years, the following minimum flow requirements must be maintained at Hwy 154 and Alisal Bridges (**"Table 2 Flows"**):*
  - *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 local rainfall conditions thus far in the new water year, inflows to Cachuma Reservoir have exceeded 33,707 AF and thus have triggered higher fishery release requirements from Bradbury Dam under "Table 2" of State Board Order 2019-0148 (see flow regime above).

CA-2. State Water Project (SWP) and Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Updates.
As previously reported, in 2023 DWR declared a 100 percent SWP Table A allocation for the first time since 2006 (compared to a 5 percent allocation in 2022). In 2024, despite above normal precipitation and snowpack, and above-average storage levels in Lake Oroville, DWR took a conservative approach and limited the final Table A allocation to 40 percent. In 2025, DWR again took a very conservative approach to the Table A allocation, as follows:

- December 2, 2024 – DWR issued an initial 2025 SWP Table A allocation of 5 percent (5%)
- December 23, 2024 – Allocation increased to 15 percent (15%)
- January 28, 2025 – Allocation increased to 20 percent (20%)
- February 25, 2025 – Allocation increased to 35 percent (35%)
- March 25, 2025 – Allocation increased to 40 percent (40%)
- April 29, 2025 – Final Allocation increased to 50 percent (50%)

For the new 2026 Water Year, on December 1, 2025 DWR issued a Notice to the State Water Contractors establishing an initial 10 percent (10%) SWP Table A allocation. By Notice dated January 29, 2026 DWR has now increased this year's Table A allocation to thirty percent (30%). DWR's January Notice explains the updated allocation as follows:

> *A series of atmospheric rivers that arrived mid-December and continued until early January provided for above average precipitation and high runoff, contributing to storage increases in California reservoirs. However, the series of storms were warm, snowpack accumulation has been below average, and continuing warm and dry weather in January has resulted in snowpack loss. ... Considering the recent dry and warm conditions and associated forecasts, we will be carefully assessing and evaluating future allocation increases as hydrologic conditions become clearer. ... To determine the available SWP water supplies, DWR considers various factors including SWP contractors' 2026 carryover supplies and demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, near-term and seasonal climate forecasts, SWP operational, contractual, and regulatory requirements set forth in the Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority.*

As of March 9, 2026 Lake Oroville storage levels were recorded at 87 percent of total capacity (up from 80 percent on February 11, 2025) and 130 percent of its historic average for this time of year. Based on these metrics and the factors mentioned in DWR's Notice above, questions remain on whether DWR will increase this year's Table A allocation above 30 percent.

As reflected in meeting agendas for the February 26, 2026 CCWA Board of Directors meeting and March 12, 2026 CCWA Operating Committee, CCWA remains focused on several important issues related to the SWP and SWP deliveries, including but not limited to: SWP operations and supply conditions; pending and proposed water transfers; land subsidence affecting the California Aqueduct; infrastructure improvements; CCWA strategic planning; and the CCWA FY 2026/27 Preliminary Budget. Also, as noted recent Consent Reports, final and official assignment of the SWP Contract from the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to CCWA was approved by DWR in December 2025. The next regular meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors is currently scheduled for March 26, 2026.

— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Historical Archive and Reports Database

Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 03/10/2026

February 2026

		STORAGE ACRE-FEET		COMPUTED*	CCWA	PRECIP ON	RELEASE - AF.				EVAPORATION		PRECIP
DAY	ELEV	IN LAKE	CHANGE	INFLOW AF.	INFLOW AF.	RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH	INCHES
	753.87	196,027											
1	753.84	195,932	-95	366.7	0.0	0.0	65.0	14.5	360.0	0.0	22.2	0.110	0.00
2	753.82	195,869	-63	407.8	0.0	0.0	77.2	14.5	361.0	0.0	18.1	0.090	0.00
3	753.81	195,838	-31	404.0	0.0	0.0	72.3	14.5	324.0	0.0	24.2	0.120	0.00
4	753.79	195,775	-63	367.0	0.0	0.0	72.3	14.5	319.0	0.0	24.2	0.120	0.00
5	753.76	195,680	-95	339.7	0.0	0.0	73.0	14.5	319.0	0.0	28.2	0.140	0.00
6	753.73	195,586	-94	292.5	0.0	0.0	63.8	14.5	282.0	0.0	26.2	0.130	0.00
7	753.71	195,523	-63	309.8	0.0	0.0	62.2	14.5	280.0	0.0	16.1	0.080	0.00
8	753.69	195,460	-63	248.8	0.0	0.0	61.1	14.5	208.0	0.0	28.2	0.140	0.00
9	753.67	195,397	-63	306.3	0.0	0.0	60.7	14.5	280.0	0.0	14.1	0.070	0.00
10	753.65	195,334	-63	303.1	0.0	0.0	50.5	14.5	281.0	0.0	20.1	0.100	0.00
11	753.83	195,901	567	354.8	0.0	512.8	46.1	14.5	240.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	1.96
12	753.96	196,310	409	714.4	0.0	0.0	33.7	14.5	239.0	0.0	18.2	0.090	0.00
13	754.01	196,468	158	457.9	0.0	2.6	29.8	14.5	238.0	0.0	20.2	0.100	0.01
14	753.81	195,838	-630	-142.4	0.0	0.0	33.0	14.5	420.0	0.0	20.1	0.100	0.00
15	753.94	196,247	409	1,937.5	0.0	0.0	30.8	14.6	462.0	1,005.0	16.1	0.080	0.00
16	753.28	194,178	-2,069	886.7	0.0	96.2	29.4	14.5	460.0	2,530.0	18.0	0.090	0.37
17	752.80	192,681	-1,497	1,602.7	0.0	390.4	22.8	14.4	459.0	2,966.0	27.9	0.140	1.51
18	752.76	192,556	-125	2,501.0	0.0	253.3	17.9	14.4	457.0	2,390.0	0.0	0.000	0.98
19	753.19	193,866	1,310	3,412.8	0.0	23.4	16.7	14.5	461.0	1,616.0	18.0	0.090	0.09
20	753.55	195,021	1,155	2,660.5	0.0	109.6	22.6	14.5	449.0	1,119.0	10.0	0.050	0.42
21	753.80	195,806	785	2,198.8	0.0	0.0	23.2	14.5	399.0	961.0	16.1	0.080	0.00
22	753.94	196,247	441	1,856.6	0.0	0.0	23.0	14.5	396.0	964.0	18.1	0.090	0.00
23	754.04	196,562	315	1,746.9	0.0	0.0	35.1	14.6	399.0	965.0	18.2	0.090	0.00
24	754.11	196,783	221	1,663.0	0.0	0.0	48.3	14.5	394.0	967.0	18.2	0.090	0.00
25	754.15	196,909	126	1,574.9	0.0	0.0	50.1	14.6	397.0	967.0	20.2	0.100	0.00
26	754.19	197,003	94	1,535.2	0.0	0.0	48.5	14.6	396.0	968.0	14.1	0.070	0.00
27	754.20	197,066	63	1,532.2	0.0	0.0	49.3	14.5	395.0	968.0	42.4	0.210	0.00
28	754.19	197,003	-63	1,391.5	0.0	0.0	47.7	14.5	396.0	968.0	28.3	0.140	0.00
TOTALS			**976**	**31,230.7**	**0.0**	**1,388.3**	**1,266.1**	**406.2**	**10,071.0**	**19,354.0**	**545.7**	**2.710**	**5.34**
AVERAGE		**195,673**											

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: 3/9/2026 **Water Year: 2026** **Storm Number: NA**

Notes: Daily rainfall amounts are recorded as of 8am for the previous 24 hours. Rainfall units are expressed in inches.
All data on this page are from automated sensors, are preliminary, and subject to verification.
*Each Water Year (WY) runs from Sept 1 through Aug 31 and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends
County Real-Time Rainfall and Reservoir Website link ➢ https://rain.cosbpw.net

Rainfall	ID	24 hrs	Storm 0day(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*	AI
Buellton (Fire Stn)	233	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.83	172%	138%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	332	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.95	202%	161%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	208	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.34	149%	118%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	436	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.97	172%	130%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	421	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.50	159%	124%	5.7
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	230	0.00	0.00	0.01	36.53	173%	138%	5.8
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Carneros)	440	0.00	0.00	0.01	22.88	157%	124%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	439	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.07	164%	129%	5.5
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	204	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.58	156%	121%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	212	0.00	0.00	0.01	48.10	171%	139%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	234	0.00	0.00	0.01	24.72	169%	134%	
Santa Maria (City Pub.Works)	380	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.23	137%	107%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	218	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.07	169%	134%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	256	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.89	129%	100%	

Countywide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : 163%

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : 128%

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall calculated assuming no more rain through Aug. 31, 2026 (End of WY2026).

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 Elev. (ft)	Current Elev. (ft)	Max. Storage (ac-ft)	Current Storage (ac-ft)	Current Capacity (%)	Storage Change Mo.(ac-ft)	Storage Change Year*(ac-ft)
Gibraltar Reservoir	1,400.00	1,400.04	4,490	4,500	100.2%	40	2,993
Cachuma Reservoir	753.**	753.76	192,978	195,366	101.2%	-1,294	42,199
Jameson Reservoir	2,224.00	2,223.90	4,587	4,576	99.8%	-12	356
Twitchell Reservoir	651.50	570.97	190,259	25,283	13.0%	-1,034	25,283

Previous Rainfall and Reservoir Summaries

CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dessi Mladenova, Controller March 2, 2026

FROM: Lacey Adam, Senior Accountant

SUBJECT: Monthly Water Deliveries

According to the CCWA revenue meters at each turnout, the following deliveries were made during the month of February 2026:

Project Participant	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Chorro	134
Lopez	105
Shandon	0
Guadalupe	15
Santa Maria	305
Golden State Water Co.	0
Vandenberg	206
Buellton	0
Solvang	0
Santa Ynez ID#1	0
Bradbury	0
TOTAL	**765**

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 766 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

Project Participant	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Chorro	**134**
Lopez	**105**
Shandon	**0**
Guadalupe	**15**
Santa Maria	**306***
Golden State Water Co	**0***
Vandenberg	**206**
Buellton	**0**
Solvang	**0**
Santa Ynez ID#1	**0**
Bradbury	**0**
TOTAL	**766**

***Golden State Water Company delivered 0 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 0 acre-feet to the City of Santa Maria and a charge in the same amount to the Golden State Water Company.**

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

The exchange water is allocated as follows

Project Participant	Exchange Amount (acre-feet)
Goleta	0
Santa Barbara	0
Montecito	0
Carpinteria	0
TOTAL	**0**

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

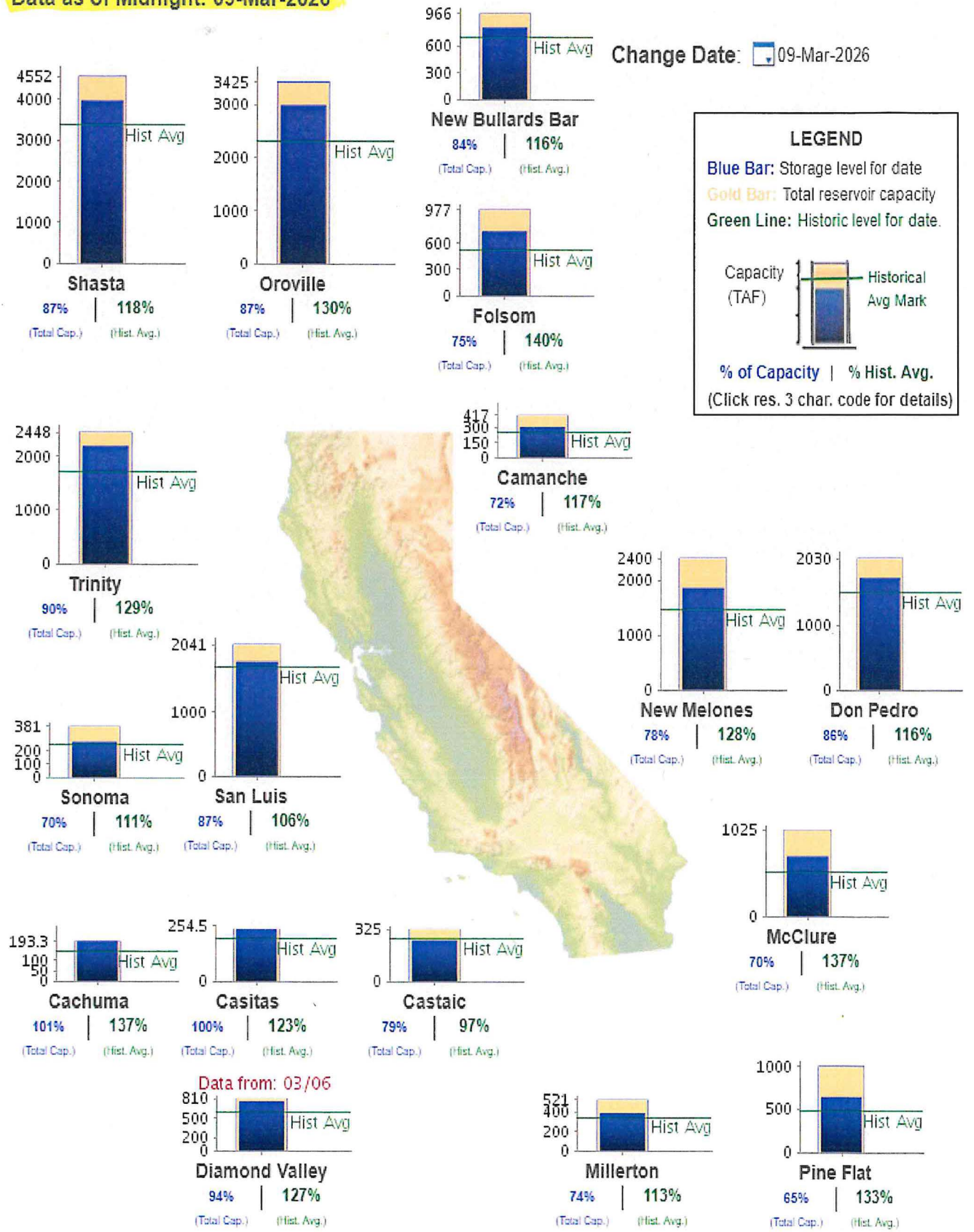
Project Participant	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	0
Montecito	0
Morehart	0
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	0
TOTAL	**0**

cc: Daniel Brooks, Goleta WD
Mike Babb, Golden State WC
Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara
Janet Gingras, COMB
Jeromy Caldera, San Luis Obispo County
Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez RWCD ID#1
Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria
City Administrator, City of Guadalupe
Kelley Dyer, Carpinteria Valley WD
Mike Alvarado, La Cumbre Mutual WC
Pernell Rush, Vandenberg SFB
Nick Turner, Montecito WD
Jose Acosta, City of Solvang
Rose Hess, City of Buellton

CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:09-MAR-2026

Data as of Midnight: 09-Mar-2026

Change Date: 09-Mar-2026



Click to download printable version of current data.

Report Generated: 10-Mar-2026 3:59 PM

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

Paeter Garcia

From: Lisa F. Watkins <lfw@ccwa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:51 AM
Cc: David R. Beard
Subject: San Luis Reservoir Storage and Potential Article 21 Water Availability

Via bcc: CCWA Project Participants

On March 2 DWR provided two San Luis Reservoir (SLR) storage scenarios based on current weather forecasts and SWC delivery operations. No precipitation is currently forecast in the next 10 days, so changes to SWC delivery operations will influence if the SWP share of SLR fills in the near term. The latest projections include:

- A scenario assuming current SWC delivery operations are maintained shows the SWP share of SLR will not fill by the end of March and will hold steady around 1.05 million acre-feet.
- A scenario assuming SWC delivery operations from SLR decrease by 500 cfs shows the SWP share of SLR filling by 3/16/26.
- DWR is still evaluating the overall benefits to SWCs for surcharging SWP water into USBR storage space in the event the SWP share of SLR fills.

Another meeting to review SWP storage projections will be scheduled for Thursday, March 12 and CCWA staff will provide an update once new information is available.

Sent for

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

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

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Paeter Garcia

From: Lisa F. Watkins <lfw@ccwa.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 3:59 PM
Cc: David R. Beard
Subject: San Luis Reservoir Storage and Potential Article 21 Water Availability

Via bcc: CCWA Project Participants

CCWA Participants-

As discussed at the February 26, 2026, CCWA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, DWR notified SWP Contractors that Article 21 water may become available this year. After the BOD meeting concluded, CCWA staff received updated modeling projections which show the SWP share of San Luis Reservoir may fill sometime between March 12 and March 31. Also, DWR reported they are continuing to coordinate with USBR on an agreement to surcharge SWP water into USBR storage space.

Another meeting to review SWP storage projections will be scheduled for Monday, March 2 and CCWA staff will provide an update once new information is available.

Sent for

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

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

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CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Little snow in California and the West as a warm winter nears end

Snow blankets the meadow where the California Department of Water Resources conducted the third snow survey of the 2026 season at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada on Feb. 27. (Xavier Mascareñas / California Department of Water Resources)

By Ian James
Staff Writer | 𝕏 Follow

Feb. 27, 2026 4:18 PM PT

February storms brought fresh snow to the Sierra Nevada, but California's snowpack remains far smaller than average during a winter that has brought record warmth across much of the West.

California water officials said Friday that the Sierra snowpack is at 66% of average for this time of year.

"We're ahead of where we were last month, but still way behind where we would hope to be," said Andy Reising, manager of snow surveys for the California Department of Water Resources.

Reising wore skis as he and other officials measured snow in a slushy meadow at Phillips Station near South Lake Tahoe, where rains in the last week began to melt the snow.

"I fell into a stream this morning because of the water that's flowing under the snowpack," he said.

California Department of Water Resources engineer Derick Louie, from left, engineer Jordan Thoennes, hydrometeorologist Angelique Fabbiani-Leon and Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Andy Reising conduct the third snow survey of the 2026 season at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada on Feb. 27. (Xavier Mascareñas/California Department of Water Resources)

California relies on the Sierra snowpack for about 30% of its water.

But extreme warmth across the West this winter has meant more precipitation falling as rain, not snow — a symptom of global warming, which in recent years has been pushing average snow lines higher in the mountains and changing the timing of runoff.

There are 130 monitoring stations across the Sierra Nevada mountains that provide electronic readings. The northern Sierra is currently at 46% of average and the southern Sierra 90% of average.

California's snow season typically peaks around April 1.

Although much of it hasn't fallen as snow, California has seen above-average precipitation this winter. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, no part of California is currently experiencing drought conditions.

But across 11 western states, 45% of the region is in at least a moderate drought, and large portions of the Colorado River watershed are in severe drought.

The snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin stands at 66% of average. That will mean less snowmelt feeding the river's reservoirs, which are declining to critically low levels.

The western state with the most severe snow drought is Oregon. Its snowpack measures just 34% of average for this time of year, the second-worst since 1981.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Halfway through winter, heat is melting the California snowpack

Jan. 30, 2026

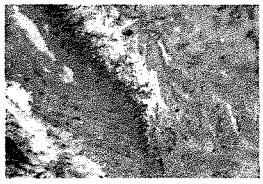
Temperatures from November through January were the warmest on record. "That's really the big story about why our snowpack is so meager," said Larry O'Neill, the Oregon state climatologist and an associate professor at Oregon State University.

"Projections show that our winters are going to look a lot more like this in the future," O'Neill said. "So this is really a test of our resiliency, of our water supply."

More to Read

Satellite photos show California's sudden snowpack meltdown: Now you see it, now you don't

March 5, 2026



Rain, not snow: Extraordinary warmth leaves mountains less snowy across the West

Jan. 26, 2026

Ian James

Ian James is a reporter who focuses on water and climate change in California and the West. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2021, he was an environment reporter at the Arizona Republic and the Desert Sun. He previously worked for the Associated Press as a correspondent in the Caribbean and as bureau chief in Venezuela. Follow him on Bluesky @ianjames.bsky.social and on X @ByIanJames.

CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA

Chairman – Eric Friedman
Vice Chairman – Jeff Clay

Thursday, February 26, 2026
9:00 AM
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 245 555 793 598 09 Passcode: eC3an2We
or by dialing +1 323-484-5095,and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 922 622 415#

Please note: public participation by video call or telephone is for convenience only and is not required by law. If technical interruptions to the video call/telephone occur, the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting and participants are invited to take advantage of the other participation options above.

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 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.

★ indicates written report

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. Closed Session

A. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4)
Initiation of litigation: 2 cases

IV. Return to Open Session

A. Report on Closed Session Actions (if any)

V. Consent Calendar

A. Minutes of the January 22, 2026 Regular Meeting ★
B. Bills ★
C. Controller's Report ★
D. Operations Report ★
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Consent Calendar

VI. Executive Directors Report

A. Water Supply Situation Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

B. Water Transfers Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

C. CCWA Board of Directors Handbook ★
Staff Recommendation: For discussion.

D. Strategic Plan for CCWA Board
Staff Recommendation: For discussion.

E. Resolution No. 26-02 Approving a Travel and Reimbursable Expenses Policy for Directors ★
Staff Recommendation: Approve and adopt Resolution No. 26-02: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Water Authority Approving a Travel and Reimbursement Policy for Directors

F. Resolution 26-03 Approving the Buellton Administrative Office Mold Remediation and Repair Project and Authorizing the Executive Director to Issue a Contract to SB Restoration, Inc. in an Amount Not-to-Exceed $63,455.23 to Complete the Project ★
   1. Staff Recommendation: 1. Approve and adopt Resolution No. 26-03 entitled "A Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Central Coast Water Authority Approving The Buellton Administrative Office Mold Remediation and Repair Project And Authorizing The Executive Director To Issue A Contract To SB Restoration, Inc. In The Amount Of $63,455.23 To Construct The Project"; and
   2. Find that the Board of Directors' approval of Resolution No. 26-03 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 15301, 15302, and 15311, for the reasons documented in the staff report.

G. Support Services Agreement for the Use of PlanetBids Online Support Services ★
Staff Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Support Services Agreement with PLANETBIDS, LLC for the use of PlanetBids Online Support Services in an amount not to exceed $25,464.28.

H. State Water Contractors Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

I. Legislative Report ★
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

VII. Reports from Board Members for Information Only

VIII. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

IX. Date of Next Regular Meeting: March 26, 2026

X. Adjournment

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

AGENDA

Chairman – Paeter Garcia
Vice Chairman – Shad Springer

Thursday, March 12, 2026
9:00 AM
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 295 187 661 590 82
Passcode: 5nE9Rr7Q

or by dialing +1 323-484-5095,and entering access Code/Meeting ID; 355 593 451#

Please note: public participation by video call or telephone is for convenience only and is not required by law. If technical interruptions to the video call/telephone occur, the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting and participants are invited to take advantage of the other participation options above.

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 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 Committee 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 Committee 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.

★ indicates written report

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 January 8, 2026 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
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

C. San Luis Reservoir Storage Forecast and Article 21 Procedures
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

D. Strategic Plan for CCWA
Staff Recommendation: For discussion

E. CCWA FY 2026/27 Preliminary Budget ★
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

F. State Water Contractors Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

V. Reports from Committee Members for Information Only

VI. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

VII. Date of Next Regular Meeting: July 9, 2026

VIII. Adjournment

Central Coast Water Authority

(https://www.ccwa.com/)

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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
4:00 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS
To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: +1 469-998-7311, 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 or 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. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board's jurisdiction. The time for public comment allotted for each individual shall not exceed three minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public comment item.)
3. Consent Agenda
    a. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes for the January 22, 2026 EMA GSA Regular Board Meeting.
    b. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List for January 2026.
    c. EMA GSA Well Permits Approved by County of Santa Barbara EHS
        i. 3650 E. Oak Trail Rd., Santa Ynez, CA 93460
4. CAG Meeting Report-Out
5. Action Items
    a. Review and consider approval of Professional Services Agreement with MLJ Environmental for EMA GSA DMS/well registration and reporting platform.
    b. Review and consider approval of EMA GSA Bylaws.
    c. Review and consider approval of Resolution 2026-01 adopting the Conflict of Interest Code for the EMA GSA.
6. Informational Items
    a. WY 2025 Annual Report Preview Presentation

b. Prop 68 Grant and EMA GSA Initiatives Update

c. EMA Agricultural Trends Update

7. Consider Date/Time and Need for Future Regular and/or Special Meetings of the EMA GSA.

   a. Next Basin-Wide Joint Special Meeting Friday, March 13, 2026, at 9:00 AM at Buellton City Council Chambers.

   b. Next EMA GSA Regular Board Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:00 PM at SYCSD Meeting Room.

   c. Next EMA GSA CAG Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

8. Board of Directors Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted at least 24 hours prior to the special meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and ema-SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency at (805) 457-5065. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

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

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

will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.
at Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California

---

WMA GSA Director and EMA GSA Alternate Director Steve Jordan will be attending the meeting via teleconference from the following location: 46250 East El Dorado, Indian Wells, CA 92210.
Members of the public may join Director Jordan at that location.

Optional remote public participation is available via MICROSOFT TEAMS
To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: +1 469-998-7311,,854177958#, or via the Web at: **Join the meeting now**
"Join a Meeting" – **Meeting ID: 275 096 167 755 03 Meeting Passcode: bq2bf2hC**

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AGENDA OF JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Consider Appointment of Moderator to Facilitate Joint GSA Meeting
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committees relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committees' jurisdictions. The time allotted for each individual public comment shall not exceed three minutes. No action will be taken by the Committees at this meeting on any public comment item.)
5. Receive and consider approval of the Water Year 2025 Joint Annual Report for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
    a. CMA GSA Board vote
    b. EMA GSA Board vote
    c. WMA GSA Board vote
6. Receive update on Proposition 68 Grant projects, schedule and financial status
7. GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items
8. Adjourn Joint Special Meeting

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

Paeter Garcia

From: Eastern Management Area GSA <emagsa@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:17 PM
To: Paeter Garcia
Subject: EMA GSA JPA Board Regular Meeting, 4:00 PM - CANCELED - March 26, 2026

EMA

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

EMA GSA JPA Board Regular Meeting, 4:00 PM - CANCELED - March 26, 2026

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:00 PM is **CANCELED**.

Eastern Management Area GSA
CA

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California's wine industry drying up

Faced with too many grapes and not enough buyers, companies are laying off staffers and closing production facilities across the state

THE MOON rises over vineyards near Wellsona, Calif., on Dec. 4. (Carlos Avila Gonzalez Associated Press)

BY IRIS KWOK

Winery owner Stuart Spencer estimates that he left about 50 tons of grapes to rot on vines in Lodi, Calif., last fall, as harvesting and processing them would cost more than they were worth.

"We're doing our best to keep our head above water," said Spencer, the owner of St. Amant Winery and executive director of the Lodi Winegrape Commission.

Spencer blames a mix of factors: weak demand, a worsening grape oversupply crisis and an influx of cheap bulk imports flooding the market and collapsing California bulk wine prices. Tariffs have increased the costs of labels, capsules and corks and triggered a backlash from the biggest international consumer of Californian wines, Canada.

Wineries of all sizes across California have started laying off workers and shutting down production facilities to cut costs.

"People [are] having to face their balance sheet," said wine industry consultant Dale Stratton, who spent more than 30 years in leadership roles across Gallo Wines and Constellation Brands. The two companies — among the largest U.S. wine producers — have announced sweeping layoffs recently.

At the heart of the wine industry's crisis is a basic supply and demand problem: too many grapes and not enough buyers.

Consumer demand is shrinking because boomers — the industry's biggest fans — are aging out of the wine market. Younger generations drink less alcohol in general and are less likely to choose wine. The wine industry has lost drinkers to premium beers and spirits.

California wine giant Gallo, the maker of Barefoot wines and the largest supplier of wine in the U.S., notified the state last month that it plans to lay off 93 people and close a facility in St. Helena. The same day, Santa Rosa-based Jackson Family Wines, best known for its Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay, notified the state that it would close its Carneros Hills Winery in April and lay off 13 workers.

Alcoholic beverage behemoth Constellation Brands on Feb. 3 notified the state of plans to lay off 212 workers at its Mission Bell Winery in Madera. The publicly traded company, which owns Robert Mondavi wines and Modelo and Corona beers, has set a goal of $200 million in cost savings by 2028 and is shifting away from wine to focus more on its growing beer business, its financial filings show. Santa Rosa-headquartered Foley Family Wines & Spirits has also wound down operations at its Chalone Vineyard in Monterey and laid off the entire winemaking staff at Chalone, though it plans to keep producing the Chalone label wine enjoyed by Julia Child, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

It's harder to keep track of layoffs at small wineries. California law requires companies with more than 75 employees to give notice of impending layoffs. But small wineries are subject to the same economic pressures.

"We have had to let go more than a dozen people and removed hundreds of acres of vineyards," one Paso Robles winery said in a new report on U.S. wine exports from the Wine Institute. "What concerns us most is the uncertainty."

Winemaking in California traces its roots to the days of the Spanish missions, when Father Junípero Serra cultivated European grapes for Communion and barter at Mission San Juan Capistrano.

As the mission system was dismantled in the 1830s, European immigrants purchased swaths of land across the state, starting in Southern California, and began producing wine commercially. The state's wine business prospered during the Gold Rush, which brought an influx of drinking men.

In 1920, the U.S. imposed a nationwide ban on producing, transporting and selling alcoholic beverages and decimated the American wine industry. A few wineries, including San Antonio Winery in Los Angeles, survived Prohibition by producing sacramental wines for the Catholic Church.

California's wine industry, which was rebuilt in the aftermath of World War II, shot to global prominence after the "Judgment of Paris" tasting in 1976, where French experts in a blind tasting ranked California wines above prestigious French bottles.

In the decades that followed, California wines saw tremendous growth due to the efforts of influential vintners such as Robert Mondavi, whose marketing savvy helped turn wine into a dinnertime staple across America.

Even as consumer demand began to plateau in 2017, wineries stayed in expansion mode, planting more vineyards and adding facilities. The pandemic played a role in warping the wine industry's demand expectations, according to Danny Brager, a beverage alcohol industry expert and former senior vice president of market research firm Nielsen's beverage alcohol practice.

With people staying home instead of spending on luxuries such as concerts and travel, alcohol sales went up for about two years, Brager said.

The uptick didn't last.

Since last year, vintners that depend on exports, stuck in the middle of President Trump's trade war, have found themselves the target of a Canadian boycott of American alcohol.

The boycott, a response to tariffs imposed on Canadian goods by Trump, has dealt a blow to California's wine industry.

The Wine Institute, which represents California wineries, said in a recent report that U.S. wine exports totaled $805 million in 2025, down 35% from 2024.

Boycotts imposed by several Canadian provinces since last March have "erased" roughly $360 million in revenue that the U.S. wine industry would have otherwise earned, according to the report.

"Family wine companies are fighting to survive — this is not hyperbole," one Lodi winery said in the report.

The Wine Institute has called on Canada to end the boycotts, contending that they have forced U.S. wine companies to lay off Canadian sales reps and other employees while depriving the Canadian government of millions in tax revenue.

"It's time for all involved to make resolving this issue a priority before more businesses are permanently harmed," Wine Institute Chief Executive Steve Gross said in the report.

Wineries have found a sympathetic ear in Rep. Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena), who in December introduced a bill that would use taxpayer dollars to reimburse American wine producers for the money they have lost because of tariffs. The Specialty Crop and Wine Producer Tariff Relief Act has bipartisan support but faces a steep climb.

"California's agricultural and wine community are cornerstones of our local economies, from family farms to world-class producers," Thompson said in a statement in December. "Ensuring they can weather sudden tariff hikes isn't just an economic necessity, it's a commitment to protecting the livelihoods that make our district and community special."

One big contributor to the grape oversupply crisis is that large winemakers are increasingly opting to import cheaper foreign bulk wines from Chile and Australia and blend them with American wines. (Blends that contain up to 25% foreign wine can still be marketed as "American" wines.)

The practice has hurt small California wineries, which used to rely on bulk sales to move excess wine.

While Lodi winery owner Spencer has managed to avoid layoffs, many independent grape growers, including those in Lodi, haven't been as fortunate, shedding farmworkers and managers.

"Everybody is being very cautious right now and under-processing with the expectation of not knowing where the market is going to be," Spencer said.

That cautiousness was ultimately what led him to make a tough decision to harvest fewer wine grapes than usual. Last fall, he opted to leave tons of grapes to rot on the vine.

Not all wineries are feeling the crush evenly. In fact, some are thriving, said Andrew Jones, the founder of Field Recordings, a small winery in Paso Robles that registered strong growth in revenue last year.

"I like where we're at in the market right now," Jones said.

Jones believes its small size — 14 employees with an average age of 29 — has helped it stay nimble as big names in the wine industry try to weather the storm. His winery grows about 10% of the grapes it crushes and buys the remainder.

His main demographic is young professionals ages 21 to 50. Jones said his customers prefer acid-driven white wines and chillable, lower-alcohol red wines, perhaps because they grew up in the "sour candy generation," unlike baby boomers and Gen Xers, who grew up eating chocolate and have a different palate.

Jones also sees an opportunity to sell more bag-in-box wines — cartons containing 3 liters of wine meant to be stored in the fridge once opened. Because they are lightweight, they end up being much cheaper to ship than glass bottles, he said.

"There's a ton of opportunity out there," Jones said. "There's still a lot of younger wine drinkers out there that want to drink cool, younger, fresher wines."

Kings County stragglers face fines of $100 per well for not registering

BY MONSERRAT SOLIS • NEWS • FEBRUARY 25, 2026

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- ***Editor's note: Monserrat Solis covers Kings County water issues for SJV Water through the California Local News Fellowship initiative.***

In an effort to prod stragglers, a Kings County groundwater agency approved charging penalties to Lemore-area well owners who don't register with the agency by April 30.

"We have to get these wells registered. We have to do something to get over the hump" Frank Coelho Jr., chair of the South Fork Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) grower advisory group, told the board at its Feb. 18 meeting.

The board agreed and approved a $100 per well late fee for landowners who aren't registered by the deadline.

So far, the GSA has received well registrations from about 67% of landowners.

The registration and penalty policies apply to wells that pump more than two acre per acre of land. Owners of domestic or abandoned wells won't be subject to penalty for registering late.

"We'd prefer to have all the wells registered, but for now the wells that are pumping are our biggest concern," said South Fork's General Manager Johnny Gailey.

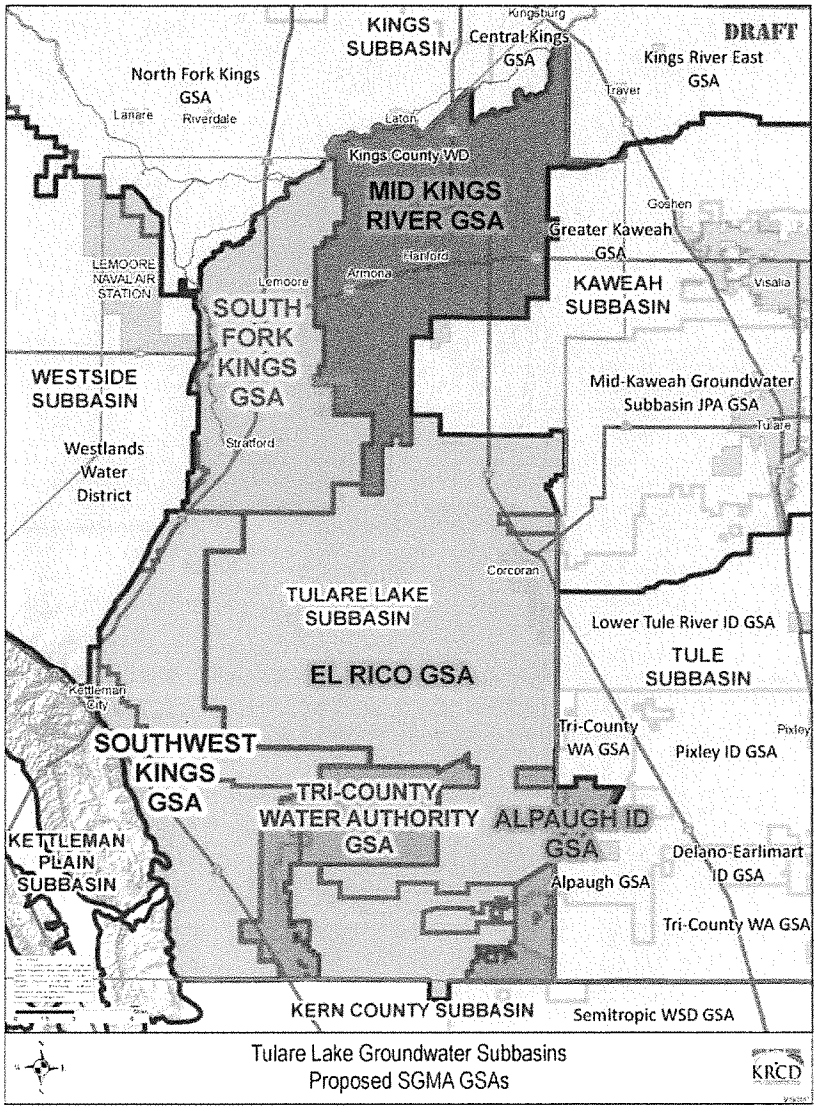
Last year, the GSA held two workshops, offering one-on-one attention to set up an account with Watermark, South Fork's well registration database.

"I'd rather it be on a local level than the state," domestic well owner Cynthia Dias told SJV Water at one of the workshops of divulging her well information.

She referred to the Water Resources Control Board, which placed the Tulare Lake subbasin, which covers most of Kings County, on probation in 2024.

Probation requires landowners to register their wells with the state at $300 each, report extractions and pay $20 per acre foot pumped. Those sanctions were held at bay for more than a year under a preliminary injunction. But that was thrown out and landowners will have to begin reporting extractions May 1.

In the meantime, local GSAs are making a push to register wells on their own as they tweak and finalize groundwater plans in hopes they will pass muster with the state in an attempt to avoid probation.



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Author

MONSERRAT SOLIS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY NEWS

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES, CONTRIBUTED

Solvang City Manager Randy Murphy, left, displays the League of California Cities John H. Nail Memorial Award alongside Santa Barbara City Administrator Kelly McAdoo, center, and Solvang Assistant to the City Manager Olivia Uribe-Mutal.

Solvang city manager receives League of California Cities award

JENNIFER BEST
Contributing Writer

The League of California Cities has honored Solvang city manager Randy Murphy with its John H. Nail Memorial Award.

"Congratulations, Mr. Murphy, for the award, and your team. I get many compliments throughout the week, and I'm so delighted I can share that credit with you guys and your team, so thank you," Mayor David Brown said in announcing the honor at Monday's City Council Meeting.

The award, given last week at the League's city managers conference, recognizes a city manager who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to city government and community advancement.

A post on Solvang's social media account noted Murphy "has strengthened Solvang's organizational capacity, secured critical federal funding for infrastructure improvements, and fostered a culture of collaboration, accountability, and forward-looking planning within City Hall.

"His steady, thoughtful leadership has helped position Solvang for long-term stability while maintaining a strong focus on service to residents and businesses."

When approached, Murphy was quick to point out the recognition reflects the collective work of the City Council and staff, and he extended his sincere appreciation for their partnership and professionalism.

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TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE
Brad Joos

GENERAL MANAGER
Paeter E. Garcia

March 5, 2026

Congressmember Salud Carbajal
2331 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Funding for City of Solvang Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

The Santa Ynez Water District submits this letter in strong support of the City of Solvang's request for federal funding to upgrade its Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The City's WWTP provides critical wastewater treatment service for residents and businesses in our community, and the proposed project is needed to modernize the plant and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements established by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board to protect water quality within the Santa Ynez River Valley.

Upgrades to the City's WWTP will strengthen the plant's ability to meet existing and regional demands for reliable wastewater treatment. Notably, the City and several neighboring communities already rely on the WWTP to provide critical wastewater treatment needs, and plant upgrades are necessary to ensure those existing services can be maintained in conformance with applicable regulations. Equally important, improvements to the WWTP will enhance operational capacity in ways that could possibly accommodate other pending and emerging wastewater treatment needs in our area. The WWTP project will also expand local and regional opportunities to conserve potable water supplies by using high-quality recycled water for non-potable uses.

Our District respectfully requests your full support for the City of Solvang's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. This is a smart investment of federal funding to help protect water quality, strengthen regional infrastructure, and ensure reliable wastewater treatment service for communities of the Santa Ynez Valley. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (805) 688-6015 or via email at pgarcia@syrwd.org.

Sincerely,

Paeter E. Garcia
General Manager

P.O. BOX 157 • 3622 SAGUNTO STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460
(805) 688-6015 • FAX: (805) 688-3078 • WWW.SYRWD.ORG

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GENERAL MANAGER
Paeter E. Garcia

March 5, 2026

Senator Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Paeter E. Garcia

March 5, 2026

Senator Adam Schiff
Hart Senate Office Building, #112
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Issue #283 February 2026

Family Farm ALLIANCE®

PROTECTING WATER FOR WESTERN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY BRIEFING

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

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Message from the Alliance Board President

As we being to navigate through a new year, we find ourselves in a familiar position: drought. The U.S. Drought Monitor continues to depict a widespread drought across the West. Here in the Yakima Basin, our snowpack is currently at 36% of average. This underscores the importance of the need for water infrastructure funding to deal with the changing climate. Improvements to aged infrastructure, increased water storage and improved forest health are just a few areas that will help Western irrigated agriculture provide food and security for our nation. We need to continue educating policymakers about the importance of funding these areas. Highlighting our success stories will assist in this effort. Be it producing with less water, or using improved infrastructures for ecological needs, we have stories that people need to hear. Our philosophy has always been that the best solutions come from the ground and are driven locally by real people who understand what's happening and are heavily invested in the success of those solutions. These success stories are what policymakers should hear as they work to develop solutions.

~ Mark Hansen
Board President

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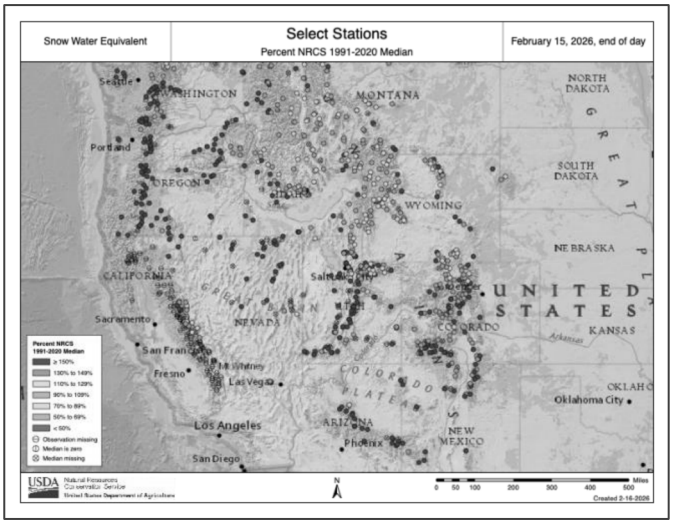
Historic Western Snow Drought Threatens Water Supplies

Western U.S. watersheds are facing an alarming start to 2026. On January 26, NASA reported that at least one monitoring station in every major western watershed recorded the lowest snowpack in at least 20 years. Warm temperatures and rain instead of snow are limiting the natural "frozen reservoirs" that feed rivers, reservoirs, and irrigation systems, raising concerns for spring and summer water supplies.

Drought remains widespread across the Rockies, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and parts of Oregon and Washington, with soil moisture, precipitation, and reservoir inflows all below normal. Low snowpack and early melt risk could exacerbate shortages and heighten wildfire danger.

Across the Colorado River Basin, record-low snowpack in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico underscores the broader "snow drought" gripping the West. Experts warn that while surface water holds temporarily, the long-term outlook for streams, reservoirs, and agriculture remains uncertain.

California offers a rare bright spot: after strong storms in late 2025, all major reservoirs are at or above average, leaving the state drought-free for the first time in 25 years. But much of the precipitation fell as rain, leaving Sierra Nevada snowpack at just 59% of normal, a reminder that even wet reservoirs can't fully replace the slow-release water of mountain snow.



Growing Federal–State Water Tensions in California's Central Valley

Western producers have begun to sound the alarm and urge flexibility as the State of California signals potential challenge to federal operations in one of the United States' most productive farming centers in the West.

The Westlands Water District is raising concerns about mounting water management tensions in the West as federal water operations, state regulatory requirements, and drought-era hydrology converge in California's Central Valley.

The issue surfaced as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently highlighted expanded staffing and operational capacity across the West to support water infrastructure and project delivery. For irrigation districts dependent on the Central Valley Project (CVP), federal capacity is only one piece of a much larger and more urgent policy debate now unfolding in Sacramento.

At the center of that debate is a February regulatory trigger under State Water Board Decision 1641, requiring increased Delta outflows at Port Chicago under the so-called Spring X2 standard. With California snowpack currently well below average and forecasts turning dry after early winter storms, local water leaders warn that as much as 600,000 acre-feet of stored water could be released from upstream reservoirs — water they argue will be critically needed later this year.

In a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom, a member of the Alliance, Westlands Water District,

urged the State Water Resources Control Board to suspend application of the Port Chicago outflow requirement and undertake a constitutional "reasonableness" review under Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution.

"Faced with increased volatility and declining reliability in our lifeblood—our CVP water supply," the district wrote, Westlands growers have embraced major reforms, including groundwater sustainability planning, participation in the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, and land transition efforts that support renewable energy development through its Valley Clean Infrastructure Program. "As we ask more of ourselves, we ask more from decision-makers where their actions can have a profound impact on our District and the State's water supplies."

The district argues that the Spring X2 standard was crafted in 1994 using historical hydrology assumptions that no longer reflect today's climate patterns. The rule was designed around expectations that sustained wet conditions would meet Delta flow objectives naturally. Instead, 2026 is shaping up as a "weather whiplash" year — brief winter storms followed by extended dry conditions and snowpack hovering near half of normal for mid-February.

Under current projections, meeting the Port Chicago requirement would likely require increased reservoir releases from Shasta, Folsom, and Oroville — water that otherwise could be stored to protect cold-water pools for fisheries management later in the season or to supply farms and cities during extended drought.

Westlands points to a similar moment in February 2023, when the State Water Board granted a Temporary Urgency Change Petition filed by Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources, temporarily suspending the requirement before substantial releases occurred. This year, however, without a gubernatorial drought declaration in place, no clear procedural path exists to pursue a comparable remedy.

Citing recent case law, the district contends that even statutory environmental mandates must yield if application under current circumstances results in unreasonable or wasteful water use. The district stresses that it does not dispute environmental stewardship but questions whether rigid triggers based on decades-old assumptions remain scientifically justified in today's hydrologic reality. In other words, the proposal by Westlands is arguably the more environmentally friendly solution to the current set of events.

Meanwhile, California officials have signaled they may challenge aspects of federal operations in the Delta, escalating tensions between Sacramento and Washington over how CVP and State Water Project supplies are managed. That dynamic places the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation squarely in the middle — balancing federal project obligations, environmental compliance, and now potential state-level legal challenges.

For Alliance members across the West, the California dispute carries broader implications. Many irrigation districts have invested heavily in groundwater sustainability plans, infrastructure modernization, water recycling, and voluntary habitat programs. Producers argue that when they are being asked to permanently reduce irrigated acreage and shoulder the costs of climate adaptation, inflexible operational mandates that send significant volumes of water to the ocean during dry years undermine both economic and environmental resilience.

Alliance leadership notes that the question is not whether environmental protections matter, but whether water management frameworks must evolve alongside updated science, changing hydrology, and competing beneficial uses, as well as a recognition that doing so may actually be the most environmentally responsible outcome.

"If applied today," the Westlands letter warns, the 30-year-old condition "would send 600,000 acre-feet of water to the ocean, without a pause to consider whether current conditions actually require this for a beneficial use."

As federal agencies emphasize rebuilding operational capacity across western projects, producers say capacity must be paired with adaptive management authority. In a year already marked by snowpack uncertainty and tightening supplies, the outcome of California's review — and any potential litigation — may shape not only Delta operations in 2026, but the broader trajectory of western water policy in an era of climate volatility.

Colorado River Missed Deadline Shifts Spotlight to Federal Authority

Snow drought deepens, Basin States at Impasse, Interior Moves ahead on Post-2026 rules

The missed February 14 deadline for a Basin-wide agreement on post-2026 Colorado River operations marks a pivotal moment in the long-running balance between state negotiations and federal authority.

After months of closed-door talks among the seven Basin states, no unified proposal emerged to replace the 2007 Interim Guidelines and 2019 Drought Contingency Plans, both set to expire in 2026. In response, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced it will move forward with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to finalize new operating guidelines by Oct. 1, 2026 — with or without full state consensus.

"While the seven Basin States have not reached full consensus on an operating framework, the Department cannot delay action," Interior stated in its announcement. Secretary Doug Burgum emphasized that although negotiations had narrowed differences, "certainty and stability" beyond 2026 require federal action.

For western irrigation districts, the message is clear: the center of gravity is shifting back to Washington.

States Deadlocked, Federal Process Advances

The Colorado River is governed by the "Law of the River," a complex body of compacts, federal statutes, court decrees, contracts, and international agreements, including the 1922 Compact and the 1944 Treaty with Mexico. While the seven states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming — negotiate among themselves, ultimate operational authority over Lake Powell and Lake Mead rests with the Secretary of the Interior, implemented through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The newly released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) outlines coordinated operational alternatives for Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam beginning in 2027. The document evaluates how different release and shortage-sharing structures would protect reservoir elevations, hydropower production, water deliveries, and system integrity under a range of hydrologic futures.

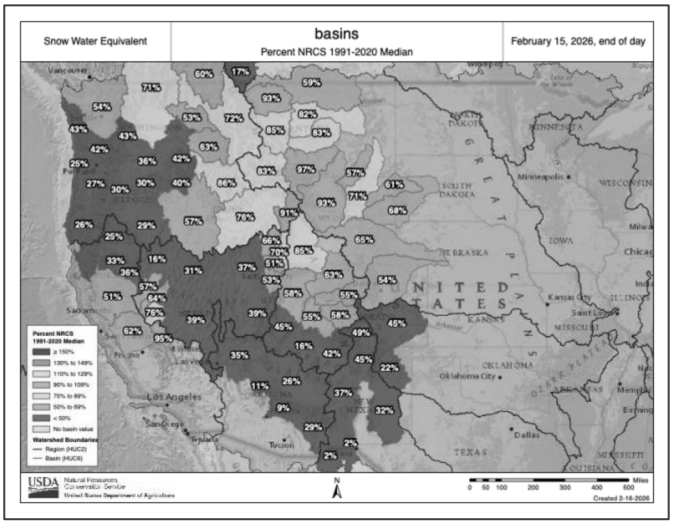
Even if the states had reached an agreement, federal acceptance was never guaranteed. Interior must weigh additional factors beyond state allocations — including the risk of "deadpool" conditions at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, endangered species obligations, tribal water rights and consultation requirements, power generation stability, and treaty commitments with Mexico.

In other words, state consensus is important — but not dispositive.

Climate Pressure and the "New Normal"

The timing could not be more precarious. After more than two decades of drought and aridification, storage in Powell and Mead remains far below historic norms. Federal forecasts show inflows to Lake Powell declining sharply since January, increasing the risk that a single dry year could push the system toward critically low elevations that threaten hydropower generation and downstream deliveries.

Compounding the challenge is a widespread "snow drought" across the Upper Basin. Warmer mountain temperatures are increasingly causing winter precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow, reducing the high-elevation snowpack that serves as the West's natural reservoir. In many Colorado River headwater basins, snow water equivalent sits well below average, with some SNOTEL stations reporting near-record lows for this point in the season.



Researchers contributing to *Colorado River Insights 2025: Dancing with Deadpool* warn that the Basin may be entering a long-term era of structurally reduced flows rather than a temporary drought cycle. If that assessment proves correct, even aggressive conservation may struggle to stabilize the system under the old operating assumptions.

Federal Intervention or Federal Stewardship?

The missed deadline underscores the difficulty of reconciling Upper Basin resistance to mandatory curtailments with Lower Basin demands for equitable shortage sharing. Political rhetoric has occasionally flared, but the underlying issue is mathematical: long-term use has exceeded long-term supply, and yet, most states still want to grow and seek to preserve expanded water use.

With negotiations stalled, the federal NEPA process now becomes the primary vehicle for determining how shortages will be allocated and how reservoir releases will be structured after 2026. Interior's DEIS contemplates coordinated management strategies designed to enhance predictability, expand conservation mechanisms, and build resilience — but it also acknowledges that under severely dry futures, even unprecedented reductions may not prevent further declines. And still, not everyone sees the DEIS as workable, with some states beginning to look at the need for attorneys and court engagement.

For agricultural producers, hydropower customers, municipalities, and tribal communities alike, the stakes are profound. The river supports roughly 40 million people and 5.5 million acres of farmland, along with major power generation at Glen Canyon and Hoover dams.

Searching for Common Sense

Common-sense water management requires flexibility and adaptation — yet existing legal regimes can tie operators' hands. Federal managers must comply simultaneously with compact allocations, federal statutes, court decrees, endangered species protections, tribal consultation obligations, and international treaties. States, meanwhile, guard their apportionments and resist perceived inequities. And at the more granular level, every water system manager or water user is seeking to protect their own priority within the system while also addressing complexities of aging infrastructure. The result is a system where even creative solutions can become entangled in overlapping mandates.

One example is emerging federal legislation — S.3743 in the 119th Congress — directing study of a potential thermal curtain at Glen Canyon Dam. The concept would allow data collection on a more precise temperature management alternative for management of downstream species, potentially reducing the need for operational adjustments that can limit hydropower generation or alter release patterns. While only a feasibility step, it illustrates how infrastructure innovation may help relieve some regulatory and operational constraints.

As the DEIS comment period proceeds, the Alliance is encouraging members to stay engaged. The post-2026 guidelines may be labeled "interim," but they are envisioned to guide operations for up to two decades.

Whether through negotiated compromise or federal determination, the Colorado River's future will depend on balancing legal frameworks and infrastructure based in a wetter century with a hydrologic reality that may be permanently drier.

In the end, the missed February deadline does not end the conversation — it simply shifts it. The question now is not whether the federal government will act, but how it will exercise its authority in a basin where every acre-foot carries cultural, economic, environmental, and political weight.

Interior Rolls Out Order Expanding Local Role in Federal Water Projects

The U.S. Department of the Interior is moving forward with implementation of Secretarial Order 3446, a policy shift issued by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum that gives local irrigation districts and other contractors greater authority in managing aspects of federal water and hydropower

projects operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The order — formally titled "Cutting Red Tape and Reducing Consumer Costs for Reclamation Projects" — does not create new statutory authority. Instead, it directs Reclamation to use existing authorities more aggressively to allow qualified local partners to assume certain project responsibilities, including procurement and construction management, where appropriate.

Reclamation officials outlined their implementation strategy during webinars held Dec. 19 and Jan. 29, emphasizing Sections 5, 6 and 9 of the order. The agency has launched a dedicated webpage (usbr.gov/SO3446) and email portal (SO3446@usbr.gov) to field proposals and questions as the rollout proceeds.

Under Section 5, existing contracts may be reviewed and modified to accelerate project delivery. Reclamation is developing design review guidelines, standard procurement language and potential form contracts aimed at reducing administrative delays. Projects will be screened at area and regional levels, with input from the Solicitor's Office, and approvals will hinge on demonstrated financial capacity, engineering expertise and risk management capability by local partners.

During the January session, Reclamation staff presented case studies illustrating how transferred works entities and irrigation districts could take on expanded roles under state procurement laws, provided federal oversight requirements are satisfied. Officials stressed that the process will be case-specific and communication-driven, encouraging early engagement with local Reclamation offices.

Interior leaders framed the order as a partnership initiative. Senior Advisor Dustin Sherer said the Department views irrigation districts and contractors as "uniquely qualified" to complete projects efficiently because they have direct financial and operational stakes in project outcomes.

The order arrives amid broader conversations about federal water and power reliability. Public power organizations recently urged the Department to ensure that essential hydropower operations and maintenance staff remain in place at Reclamation facilities, noting that federal dams generate carbon-free electricity marketed by regional power administrations to millions of western customers.

How aggressively Reclamation applies Secretarial Order 3446 — and how flexible it proves in interpreting procurement and transfer authorities — will determine whether the policy delivers on its promise of faster project delivery and reduced costs for western water and power users.

For irrigation districts watching closely, the message from Interior is clear: bring forward workable proposals, engage early, and be prepared to demonstrate the financial and technical capacity to take on more responsibility.

Klamath ESA Rewrite Signals New Direction for Western Water Policy

Federal agencies reopen endangered species and water operations framework amid decades of conflict

A federal decision to revisit endangered species and water-sharing rules in the Klamath River Basin may mark a pivotal moment not only for southern Oregon and northern California, but for Endangered Species Act implementation across the West.

Federal water and wildlife agencies are reopening and rewriting the biological opinions and

operational guidance that govern how the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation operates the Klamath Project under the Endangered Species Act. Those rules determine how water is allocated between irrigation, river flows, and species protections for salmon and endangered suckerfish during drought and low-runoff years.

For Klamath irrigators, who have endured repeated water shutoffs over the past two decades, the rewrite represents both risk and opportunity.

NOAA Decision Adds Fuel to Debate

The regulatory reassessment comes on the heels of a significant announcement from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In a recent Federal Register notice, NOAA denied ESA listing protections for two Chinook salmon populations along the Oregon and Northern California coasts, reversing a 2023 preliminary finding that had indicated the fish warranted the highest level of protection.

The affected runs include populations from Oregon's Elk River north to the Columbia River mouth and from Euchre Creek through California's Lower Klamath River. NOAA concluded the populations are not currently at risk of extinction nor likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, and characterized the determination as final.

Environmental groups criticized the move as politically motivated and harmful to salmon recovery. Water users, however, view the decision as evidence that updated science and improved stock conditions must be considered when applying ESA protections — particularly in basins where outdated biological opinions continue to drive severe operational consequences.

Common A Basin Defined by Conflict

The Klamath Basin has long been one of the most contentious intersections of agriculture and environmental law in the West. ESA biological opinions governing flows for listed coho salmon and endangered suckerfish have repeatedly triggered curtailments to irrigation deliveries in dry years, sometimes with little advance notice and limited (or no) local consultation.

At the same time, tribes with senior water rights, commercial fishing interests, and conservation organizations have argued that river flows and lake levels remain critical to long-term species recovery.

The federal decision to revisit the Klamath ESA framework reflects a broader Interior Department effort to reassess how endangered species rules are implemented during prolonged drought and climate stress. Agencies are confronting a reality that many biological opinions were written decades ago under hydrologic assumptions that no longer match current conditions.

Across the West — from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the Columbia and Colorado River basins — states, tribes, irrigators, and federal managers are grappling with how to balance species protections with working landscapes as snowpack declines and runoff becomes more volatile.

Toward Adaptive Management?

According to the Klamath Water Users Association, Reclamation has outlined a new water framework aimed at improving transparency, consultation, and operational predictability in the Basin. Details remain under development, but the agencies' stated goal is to modernize guidance that has driven crisis-level decisions during drought years.

For producers, predictability is paramount. Sudden curtailments not only disrupt crops and contracts but ripple through local economies dependent on irrigated agriculture.

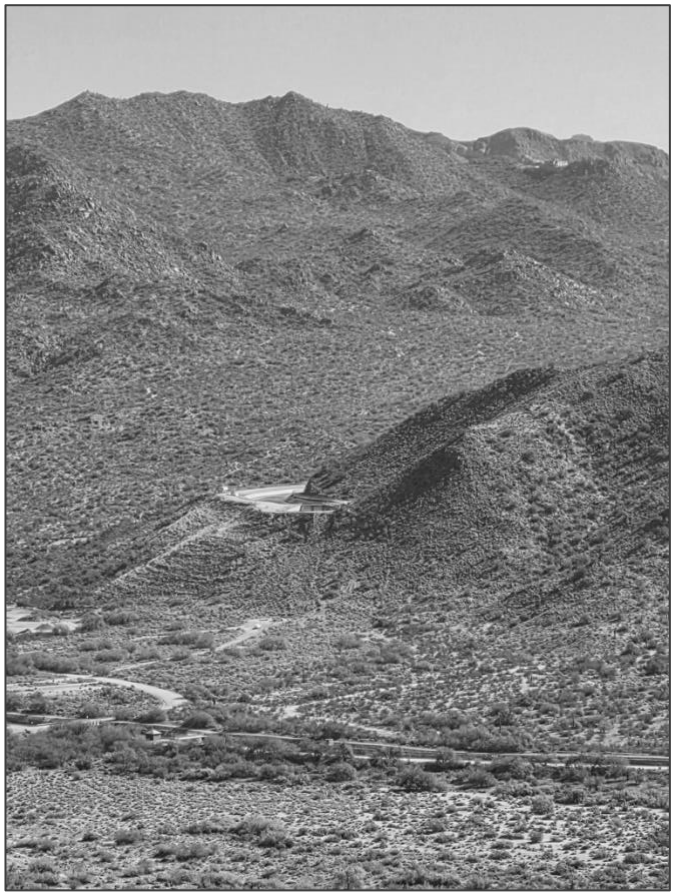
The rewrite does not mean abandoning species recovery. Rather, it offers an opportunity to integrate updated science, real-time hydrology, infrastructure constraints, and basin-wide collaboration into a more adaptive model. And most importantly, it allows those most affected a seat at the table in the discussions – often water districts are overlooked, but their viability can be completely reliant on a seat at the table when water management decisions like these are made.

Conservation groups caution that any shift must not weaken ESA protections or undermine the ecological intent behind recent Klamath dam removals. They argue that stable flows remain central to rebuilding salmon populations.

Legislative Clarification on Consultation

Klamath water users are also preparing draft federal legislation that would clarify consultation requirements with affected irrigation districts when ESA-driven operational changes are contemplated. While many water users believe such consultation is already required under existing law and practice in other regions, past experiences in the Basin have left irrigators wary of unilateral decisions.

The Alliance looks forward to supporting its members on that initiative, describing it as a commonsense measure to ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement before life-altering water determinations are made.



A signal Case for the West

The outcome of the Klamath rewrite could have implications far beyond the Basin. If federal agencies move toward a more adaptive, basin-scale ESA framework that integrates economic and social considerations alongside species recovery, it may provide a template for other drought-stressed watersheds.

If, however, the rewrite devolves into renewed litigation and rigid mandates detached from hydrologic realities, many fear the cycle of crisis-driven curtailments will persist.

In a West increasingly defined by reduced snowpack and intensified climate variability, the challenge is no longer whether to protect species or sustain agriculture — but how to do both under tighter water budgets and overlapping legal regimes.

For Klamath irrigators, tribes, fishermen, and conservationists alike, the coming months may determine whether the Basin enters a new era of collaborative water management — or remains a symbol of the enduring tension between federal environmental law and local water use.

Western irrigated agriculture is a strategic national asset. Ensuring the ESA is implemented in a way that protects species without sacrificing food security, rural communities, or water reliability remains one of the Alliance's top priorities—and we will continue pressing that case in every forum available.

The Alliance will remain closely engaged—tracking implementation, supporting its members, and continuing to advocate for an ESA framework that works for species and for the people who steward Western landscapes every day.

Rio Grande Settlement Moves Closer to Final Approval

The Special Master overseeing the case recently issued his fourth report recommending that the Supreme Court of the United States approve a comprehensive settlement reached last August.

The Supreme Court Justices are scheduled to conference on the recommendation Feb. 27.

The case, originally filed by Texas in 2013, centers on alleged violations of the 1938 Rio Grande Compact. Texas argued that excessive groundwater pumping in southern New Mexico reduced deliveries owed downstream. In August 2025, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado and the United States reached a revised settlement that includes the

federal government — addressing concerns that led the Supreme Court to reject an earlier proposal in 2024.

Under the agreement, New Mexico will forfeit 5.9 billion gallons of groundwater annually and implement new water accounting measures designed to ensure Compact compliance. The deal establishes a framework for tracking water use below Elephant Butte Reservoir and sets annual management targets affecting both irrigation and municipal supplies.

The settlement directly impacts producers served by the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, as well as cities including Las Cruces and El Paso. Local irrigation leaders have expressed support, describing the agreement as a long-awaited path toward certainty for farmers who have operated under litigation cloud for more than a decade.

If the Supreme Court accepts the Special Master's recommendation, the settlement would formally resolve one of the West's most closely watched interstate water conflicts — providing a structured framework for groundwater management and surface water deliveries in the lower Rio Grande for years to come.

Federal Walk-Away from Columbia Basin Settlement Vindicates Western Irrigators' Concerns

In a move that has reshaped river policy in the Pacific Northwest last year, the Trump administration has withdrawn from a multi-party settlement aimed at restoring salmon runs in the Columbia River Basin — a decision that echoed earlier federal actions that stood up for water users against settlements not in their interest. That decision has now come home to roost.

The unilateral pull-out ended the "Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement," a comprehensive plan signed in late 2023 by multiple federal agencies, the states of Oregon and Washington, four tribal nations, and conservation and fishing groups. That deal had temporarily paused decades-long litigation over 14 dams in the Columbia and Snake rivers, included commitments of roughly $1 billion for habitat restoration and alternative energy development, and explored replacing critical services provided by those dams — including irrigation, transportation and affordable hydropower.

The President's June 2025 memorandum revoked the Biden-era memorandum underpinning the agreement and directed the federal government to terminate its support, citing priorities for reliable energy production and water infrastructure. GOP lawmakers and regional power and agriculture stakeholders praised the decision as protecting vital hydroelectric resources and the economic lifeblood of rural communities.

But environmental groups, tribal leaders and states condemned the move as a setback for salmon restoration and a breach of negotiated commitments, returning the region to protracted litigation and uncertainty over fish recovery and hydro operations. Plaintiffs in the underlying court case have since sought to lift a litigation stay previously agreed to under the settlement.

For western irrigators, the administration's action resonates with past instances where the federal government rejected settlement terms that would have disproportionately burdened agricultural water users. In the *Texas v. New Mexico* dispute over Rio Grande deliveries, the United States similarly stood up to proposed resolutions among the states that did not protect irrigation interests, ultimately forging the recent settlement that more appropriately balanced water accounting with farmers' needs. This is a repeat. The Snake/Columbia decision underscores how federal engagement — or disengagement — in basin-wide agreements can tilt outcomes for agriculture, hydropower and regional economies.

With the Columbia Basin Settlement now defunct and litigation potentially restarting, stakeholders on all sides are bracing for renewed courtroom battles and policy wrangling. What remains clear is that federal willingness to walk away from deals that do not fairly account for irrigation, energy and rural economic impacts will shape the West's water landscape for years to come.

FY26 Energy & Water Spending Package Brings Stability — and Signals Shifts — for Western Irrigators

The recently enacted Fiscal Year 2026 Energy and Water appropriations package, a bipartisan "minibus" that funds key federal agencies affecting western irrigators — including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior provides some promise of a bright future for westerners.

The legislation (H.R. 6938) passed the House by an overwhelming 397–28 vote, cleared the Senate by similar numbers, and was signed into law by President Trump ahead of the January 30 continuing resolution deadline. In total, the package advances roughly $180 billion in funding for Energy and Water, Interior-Environment, and Commerce-Justice-Science agencies.

For western water users, the final bill reflects a negotiated compromise: it avoids deeper cuts sought by some fiscal conservatives while still trimming overall federal spending. Importantly, it preserves core water infrastructure programs and excludes controversial policy riders that could have complicated implementation.

Bureau of Reclamation: Modest Reduction, Targeted Direction

Reclamation will receive $1.6 billion for FY26 — a decrease of approximately $286 million from FY25 levels but roughly $400 million above the Administration's request.

Within that topline number:

- Water and Related Resources: $1.465 billion
- WaterSMART Grants: $15 million (down $39 million from FY25)
- Title XVI Water Recycling: $12.5 million (down $17.5 million)
- Drought Response and Drought Plans: $5 million (down $25 million)
- Cooperative Watershed Management: $6 million
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration: $500,000
- Environmental Restoration or Compliance: $5 million

The most significant directive falls under Water Conservation and Development, funded at $127.9 million (a $99 million reduction from FY25). Congressional report language allocates:

- $62.5 million for WIIN Act water storage projects
- $20 million for canal conveyance capacity corrections
- $20 million to create or conserve recurring Colorado River water supplies contributing to Lake Mead and other Lower Basin reservoirs
- $20 million for Indian Water Rights Settlements

For irrigators, this structure reflects a shift: while overall conservation and grant programs are trimmed, Congress continues prioritizing storage, conveyance modernization, and Colorado River system reliability.

Army Corps of Engineers: Construction Emphasis

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers emerges as one of the stronger winners in the package, receiving $10.4 billion — $1.8 billion above FY25 and $3.8 billion above the President's request.

Construction funding totals $3.17 billion, nearly double the Administration's request, signaling continued congressional support for water supply, flood control, and ecosystem infrastructure projects.

Investigations funding also exceeds the President's request, including direction to support new-start feasibility studies. For western communities dependent on multipurpose reservoirs and flood control infrastructure, this investment reinforces the federal role in large-scale water development.

Interior & Forest Service: Stability with Fire Emphasis

The Department of the Interior (excluding Reclamation) is funded at $14.5 billion, relatively flat compared to FY25 and significantly above the Administration's proposal.

The U.S. Forest Service receives $6.1 billion, level with FY25 but dramatically higher than the

President's request. Wildfire suppression funding rises to $4.9 billion, reflecting ongoing concern about catastrophic fire impacts on watersheds and downstream water users. Non-fire accounts see reductions.

For irrigators, watershed health and forest management funding remain directly tied to snowpack retention, runoff timing, and reservoir sedimentation.

What it Means for the West

The FY26 package reflects several broader themes:

1. Infrastructure Over Expansion: Congress prioritized core water infrastructure, storage, and construction over expanded grant and climate-adjacent programs.
2. Colorado River Focus: Dedicated funding to create or conserve recurring Colorado River supplies underscores ongoing basin-wide stress.
3. Moderated Reductions: While certain conservation and drought accounts were reduced, the final bill rejected the deeper cuts originally proposed and maintained federal water agency operational capacity.

For western irrigators, the outcome provides relative stability compared to the uncertainty surrounding earlier budget proposals. However, reduced funding for WaterSMART, Title XVI, and drought response programs signals tighter competition for federal partnership dollars in FY26.

As drought, climate volatility, and regulatory pressure continue shaping western water management, the enacted appropriations bill reinforces a central reality: federal investment in water infrastructure remains substantial — but increasingly targeted toward system reliability, major construction, and basin-scale stabilization rather than broad programmatic expansion.

The Alliance will continue monitoring implementation and advocating for policies that ensure federal spending aligns with the practical needs of irrigation districts, family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities across the West.

Senate Water Package Advances as Markups Approach

With the Senate's recent deadline for introduction of water legislation now behind it, the United States Senate is preparing to mark up a broad slate of water, storage, forecasting and hydropower bills on February 24. The Family Farm Alliance is actively tracking the package and preparing comments to ensure western irrigators' interests are clearly represented.

Among the measures the Alliance supports is S.1242, the Watershed Results Act, sponsored by Sen. Wyden, which seeks to improve watershed-scale restoration outcomes. Others the Alliance is supportive of include S.2437, the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Reauthorization Act (Hickenlooper/Curtis), recognizing the importance of accurate snowpack forecasting to western water management, and S.2753, the Urban Canal Modernization Act (Risch/Merkley), which would help modernize aging canal infrastructure.

On S.3738, the MORE WATER Act (Padilla), the Alliance plans to support key provisions while offering recommendations to address member feedback. Similarly, we expect to provide generally positive but balanced feedback on S.3737, the GROW SMART Act, and to support S.3732, the Storage Reauthorization Act (Gallego), with recommendations including full program reauthorization.

Additional measures the Alliance is tracking include a proposed Glen Canyon Dam thermal curtain feasibility study, legislation to reauthorize large-scale water recycling investments, and the Water Project Navigators Act. Hydropower legislation is also in play, including S.3500/H.R.3657, the Hydropower Licensing Transparency Act (Cortez Masto/Daines), and S.3518, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to address project maintenance and micro-hydropower licensing (Murkowski/King).

Beyond West-wide initiatives, several bills address state and basin-specific issues important to our members, including S.1034, the Southwestern Power Administration Fund Establishment Act (Moran), and S.3409, the Lower Yellowstone River Native Fish Conservation Act (Daines), as well as feasibility studies tied to rural water supply projects in the Dakotas.

As markups begin, the Alliance will continue engaging with committee leadership and sponsors to advocate for practical, locally informed solutions that strengthen storage, improve forecasting, expand supply, and protect irrigated agriculture across the West.

Farm Bill Process Gains Momentum as House Releases New Proposal

The House Agriculture Committee released legislative text for a new five-year Farm Bill this week, marking the most significant step forward in the reauthorization process in over a year. The proposal now moves into the formal markup process, where committee members will debate and amend provisions before advancing the bill to the full House.

The House proposal addresses a wide range of priorities, including risk management tools, conservation programs, rural development, and specialty crop support. Meanwhile, Senate leaders continue bipartisan discussions on their own version of the legislation but have not yet released final bill text. While progress in the House is encouraging, significant work remains before a final Farm Bill is enacted. Differences between House and Senate proposals will need to be resolved, and key funding and policy decisions are still being negotiated.

We will continue working with members of both chambers to ensure the final bill includes strong support for western water infrastructure, drought resilience, conservation programs, and policies that sustain irrigated agriculture and rural communities across the West.

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What's The Secret to our Success? Grassroots Members Like You

Join our membership of agricultural producers, agribusiness, water purveyors, supporting industries, local governments, and community members. Your membership will strengthen our advocacy and connect you to cutting-edge research, analysis, and insight on the policies impacting **agricultural water**.

We encourage you to visit the **RESOURCES** page on our website: www.familyfarmalliance.org to view Reports, Insightful Monthly Briefings and Information Water Reviews. We believe our accomplishments and activities speak for themselves. While you're there, join our email list to be kept up-to-date on our efforts on your behalf.

Family Farm ALLIANCE®

PROTECTING WATER FOR WESTERN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE

LEARN MORE

Defending Western Irrigated Agriculture

The Family Farm Alliance is a powerful advocate for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in seventeen Western states. The Alliance is a focused organization. **Everything we do supports one mission — to ensure the availability of reliable and affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers.**

CORRESPONDENCE LIST
MARCH 2026

1. February 12, 2026 – District sent a New Owner Letter to one customer.

2. February 17, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Regular Board Meeting on February 18, 2026.

3. February 18, 2026 – District sent a Water Service Requirements Letter to one customer.

4. February 19, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda from the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Regular Board Meeting on February 23, 2026.

5. February 19, 2026 – District sent a Can and Will Serve Letter to one customer.

6. February 20, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Central Coast Water Authority Regular Board Meeting on February 26, 2026.

7. February 23, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Finance Committee Meeting on February 26, 2026.

8. February 23, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Personnel Committee Meeting on February 26, 2026.

9. February 23, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Board Meeting on February 26, 2026.

10. February 27, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Interface Committee Meeting on March 4, 2026.

11. February 27, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services Finance Committee Meeting on March 5, 2026.

12. February 27, 2026 – District sent Past Due letters to three customers.

13. March 5, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Central Coast Water Authority Operating Committee Meeting on March 12, 2026.

14. March 5, 2026 – District sent a Water Service Requirements Letter to one customer.

15. March 5, 2026 – District sent a Funding Support Letter for City of Solvang Wastewater Treatment Plant Project to Congressmember Salud Carbajal.

16. March 5, 2026 - District sent a Funding Support Letter for City of Solvang Wastewater Treatment Plant Project to Senator Alex Padilla.

17. March 5, 2026 - District sent a Funding Support Letter for City of Solvang Wastewater Treatment Plant Project to Senator Adam Schiff.

18. March 6, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Wastewater Committee Meeting on March 11, 2026.

19. March 6, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Special Board Meeting on March 11, 2026.

20. March 6, 2026 – District sent a Meter Downsize Request letter to one customer.

21. March 6, 2026 - District received the Notice and Agenda for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint GSAs Special Board Meeting on March 13, 2026.

22. March 7, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Los Olivos Community Services District Regular Board Meeting on March 11, 2026.

23. March 11, 2026 – District sent Backflow Testing Requirement Letters to twenty-five customers.