



Board of Directors
Michael W. Mobley, President
Bruce E. Dandy, Vice President
Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Edwin T. McFadden III
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

AGENDA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 12:00 P.M.
Board Room, UWCD Headquarters
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Meeting attendees should be aware that the meetings of the Board are, as required by law, open to the public and the District has very limited powers to regulate who attends Board meetings. Therefore, attendees must exercise their own judgement with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19, as the District cannot ensure that all attendees at public meetings will be free from COVID-19.

In addition to its public Regular Board of Directors meeting,
people may choose to participate virtually
using the Webex video conferencing application.

To participate in the Board of Directors meeting via Webex, please access:
<https://unitedwaterconservationdistrict.my.webex.com/unitedwaterconservationdistrict.my/j.php?MTID=m24ae5db158b3b25f5fb45bb9ca5412ca>

Meeting number: 126 404 6142

Password: Direct (347328 from phones)

Join by phone (audio only) +1-408-418-9388 (toll rates apply)
Access code: 126 404 6142 Password: Direct (347328 from phones)

BOARD MATTERS

*Normally, Action (Motion) Items will be considered and acted upon separately; Consent Items will be considered and acted upon collectively, although a Consent Item may be considered and acted upon separately; and Information Items will be considered separately without action.
The Board of Directors in its discretion may change the order of agenda items.*

1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 12:00 P.M.

Items to be discussed in Executive (Closed) Session will be announced.

1.1 Public Comments
Information Item

Members of the public may address the Board on any matter on the Closed Session agenda or on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit. Virtual participants, please use "raise hand" option in "participants" menu.

1.2 EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION 12:05 P.M.

The Board will discuss matters outlined in the attached Executive (Closed) Session Agenda (Exhibit A).

2. SECOND OPEN SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER 1:00 P.M.

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

**2.2 Public Comment
Information Item**

Members of the public may address the Board on any item on the Consent Calendar or on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

**2.3 Approval of Agenda
Motion**

**2.4 Oral Report Regarding Executive (Closed) Session
Information Item**

Presented by District Legal Counsel David D. Boyer.

**2.5 Board Communication
Information Item**

Board members may present non-agenda information including, but not limited to, the following: 1) meetings, workshops, conferences and functions attended during the previous month on behalf of the District; 2) meetings, workshops, conferences and functions Directors plan to attend in the upcoming months; and 3) possible conflicts that Directors might have with respect to issues on the Agenda.

**2.6 General Manager's Report
Information Item**

The General Manager will present information on his activities of possible interest to the Board and that may have consequence to the District.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR: All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

**A. Approval of Minutes
Motion**

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of March 10, 2021.

**B. Groundwater Basin Status Reports
Information Item**

Receive and file Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District.

C. Monthly Investment Report

Information Item

Report on the District's investments and the availability or restriction of these funds. All investments are in compliance with the District's investment policy, which is reviewed and approved annually by the Board.

4. MOTION ITEMS (By Department)

Water Resources Department – Maryam Bral

4.1 PUBLIC HEARING

Opening of Annual Groundwater Hearing to Accept Comment on Groundwater Conditions within the District

In accordance with the District's principal act in the California Water Code, the Board annually conducts a public hearing to consider the conditions of groundwater resources within the District. An "Annual Investigation and Report of Groundwater Conditions" was submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board on March 30, 2021 and has been available for public review and comment. This hearing will be opened and continued to the regular May 2021 and June 2021 Board meetings. At this meeting, staff will give a report about current groundwater conditions, and members of the public will be permitted to give testimony. At its June 10, 2021 meeting, the Board may choose to close the hearing and consider the establishment of zones and the levying of groundwater extraction charges in those zones.

Public comment will be accepted at this time.

This hearing will be continued first until Wednesday, May 12, 2021, and again to Wednesday, June 9, 2021. No Board decisions will be made until the final hearing on June 9, 2021.

Park and Recreation Department – Clayton Strahan

4.2 Resolution 2021-08 Lake Piru Recreation Area Fees, Fee Administration, Loyalty Rewards Program, and Reservation/Cancellation/Refund Guidelines Motion

The Board will consider approving Resolution 2021-08, establishing Lake Piru Recreation Area Fees, Fee Administration, Loyalty Rewards Program and Reservation, Cancellation, Refund Guidelines.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS (By Department)

Operations and Maintenance – Brian Collins

5.1 Monthly Operation and Maintenance Department Report Information Item

Staff report and presentation to the Board regarding the monthly operations and maintenance of District facilities including Santa Felicia Dam and hydroplant; the Piru Groundwater Recharge facility; the Freeman Diversion Dam; the Saticoy and El Rio Groundwater Recharge facilities; the Pleasant Valley and Pumping Trough Pipeline systems; and the Oxnard-Hueneme Pipeline system. The report covers operating plans, the quantity and quality of water diverted and delivered, fish ladder status, major maintenance problems and repairs, status of O&M projects and safety and training issues.

Park and Recreation Division – Clayton Strahan

5.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report Information Item

Staff report and presentation to the Board regarding operations and items of note relative to the Lake Piru Recreation Area. Items may include, but are not limited to, camping and boating policies at the lake; operations and activities; financing and status of facility improvement projects; maintenance activities; security issues; and emergency response activities.

Water Resources Department – Maryam Bral

5.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report Information Item

Staff report and presentation to the Board on monthly Water Resources Department activities. Department activities include, but are not limited to, updates to the Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model; brackish water treatment feasibility study; upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL; hydrologic and well conditions statewide and locally; available Forebay storage; Ventura County well ordinance update; Fox Canyon GMA issues; City of Oxnard's recycled water program; potential water supply and recycled water projects, including use of United's terminal reservoirs; user groups (including but not limited to Oxnard Plain and Pumping Trough Pipeline groups); and potential District solar power facilities.

5.4 Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item

Staff report and presentation to the Board on the monthly activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Mound Basin GSA, Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA, and the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency), for which the District serves as a member director, and Santa Paula basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee (including formation of groundwater sustainability agencies in the District's basins, stakeholder and basin user groups, joint powers or

governance agreements, development of water markets, and potential basin boundary changes). Staff may also report on state-wide issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

Administrative Services Department – Joseph Jereb/Josh Perez

5.5 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report – Anthony Emmert

Information Item

Summary report on Administration Department activities including issues associated with budget development, financial performance versus budget plan, financial accounting requirements and procedures, potential debt issuance and related financial services, status of District investments and reserves, updates on its capital improvement programs, human resources and safety, District property and facilities maintenance and administration, the search for new District offices, District records and reports, groundwater extraction statements administration, risk management and District liability insurance matters, management of District contracts, policy development, governance procedures, and supporting activities of Board and staff.

Engineering Department – Maryam Bral

5.6 Monthly Engineering Department Report

Information Item

Summary report on various water resources, planning efforts and department programs affecting the District, including, but not limited to design and construction; dam safety; FERC license compliance; Freeman Diversion; recycled water; pipeline operations and various engineering analysis.

Environmental Services Department – Linda Purpus

5.7 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report

Information Item

Summary report on environmental and regulatory issues of note to the District. The report will include water releases, operations of the fish ladder at the Freeman Diversion, various monitoring efforts, study plans and issues associated with the Endangered Species Act, including the Section 10 MSHCP process, future fish passage requirements, compliance with the District's FERC license/Biological Opinion, the Santa Felicia Dam, studies and operations in and near Piru Creek, any interactions with Rancho Temescal and Rancho Camulos.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS READING FILE

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT

UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

April 14, 2021

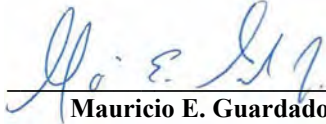
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The Board will adjourn to the **Regular Board Meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday, April 14, 2021** or call of the President.

All testimony given before the Board of Directors is recorded. Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at the District's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street, Suite 200, Oxnard CA 93030 during normal business hours.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the District Office at (805) 525-4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Approved:



Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr. – General Manager

Posted: (date) April 8, 2021

(time) 10:30a.m.

(attest) *Kris Sofley*

At: United Water Conservation District Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Posted: (date) April 8, 2021

(time) 10:45a.m.

(attest) *Kris Sofley*

At: www.unitedwater.org

EXHIBIT A
EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AGENDA

1. LITIGATION

1.1 Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), one (1) case.

1.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)

A. City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District, et al,
Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. VENCI00401714

B. City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District, et al,
Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 1414739 (consolidated for
purposes of trial with case in subsection A.)

Note: 1.2 A and B consolidated in the California Supreme Court, 2nd Civil No. S226036, Review granted on June 24, 2015 of published decision of Division Six, Second District of the Court of Appeal of the State of California, 2d Civil No. B251810.

C. City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District, et al,
Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. 1467531

D. Wishtoyo Foundation, et al v. United Water Conservation District, U.S.
District Court for the Central District of California, Case No.2:16-cv-
03869 GHK (PLAx)

E. Josey Hollis Dorsey, a minor, through his guardian ad litem Ryan Dorsey;
and The Estate of Naya Rivera, through its personal representative, Justin
Stiegemeier, v. County of Ventura, a California public entity; United Water
Conservation District, a California public entity; and Parks and Recreation
Management, d/b/a Parks Management Company, a California corporation;
and Does 1-20, inclusive, Superior Court of the State of California for the
County of Ventura Case No. 56-2020-00547077-CU-PO-VTA



Staff Report UWCD Board of

To: Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board

Date: April 5, 2021 (April 14, 2021 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.5 Board Communication
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive information provided by the Board of Directors and review the calendar of upcoming District meetings and events.

Discussion:

This item is provided on the agenda of each regular District Board of Directors meeting in order to allow Directors to present non-agenda information including, but not limited to, the following:

1. UWCD Committee participation – Committee Chair to report on Committee’s objectives and actions to Board.
2. Meetings, workshops, conferences and functions attended during the previous month on behalf of the District.
3. Meetings, workshops, conferences and functions Directors plan to attend in the upcoming months.
4. Possible conflicts that Directors might have with respect to issues on the Agenda.

A calendar of scheduled District meetings and other events for 2021 is attached, along with the AWA-VC calendar for 2021.

Attachments: A – 2021 Calendar of District's Standing Committee and Outside Agency meetings
B -- 2021 AWA VC Meeting and Events Calendar



United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 UWCD Standing Committee and Outside Agencies Meeting Dates

JANUARY: 04 - Legislative and Outreach (9am-10:15am)

05- Water Resources (9am-11:15am)
06- Recreation (9am-9:48am)
07- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:05am)
12- Finance and Audit (9:04am-10:08am)
13- Board Meeting (12noon-4:55pm)
20- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
21- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
27- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

FEBRUARY: 02- Water Resources (9am-10:13am)

03- Recreation (9am-9:34am)
04- Engineering and Operations (9am-9:48am)
09- Finance and Audit (9am-9:52am)
10- Board Meeting (12noon-3:08pm)
17- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
18- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
24- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

MARCH: 02- Water Resources (canceled)

03- Recreation (9am-9:34am)
04- Engineering and Operations (9:04am-10:03am)
09- Finance and Audit (9am-10:03am)
10- Board Meeting (12noon-3:10pm)
17- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
18- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
24- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

APRIL: 01- Engineering and Operations (canceled)

05- Legislative and Outreach (canceled)
07- Recreation (9am)
12- Water Resources (9am)
13- Finance and Audit (9am)
14- Board Meeting (12noon)
21- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
22- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
28- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

MAY: 04 - Water Resources (9am)

05- Recreation (9am)
06- Engineering and Operations (9am)
11- Finance and Audit (9am)
12- Board Meeting (12noon)
19- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
20- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
26- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

JUNE: 01 - Water Resources (9am)

02- Recreation (9am)
03- Engineering and Operations (9am)
08- Finance and Audit (9am)
09- Board Meeting (12noon)
16- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
17- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)

JUNE, continued: 23- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

JULY: 01 - Engineering and Operations (9am)

05- Legislative and Outreach (9am)
06- Water Resources (9am)
07- Recreation (9am)
13- Finance and Audit (9am)
14- Board Meeting (12noon)
21- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
22- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)

28- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

AUGUST – UWCD is DARK

18- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
19- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
25- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
31- Water Resources (9am)*

SEPTEMBER: 01- Recreation (9am)

02- Engineering and Operations (9am)
07- Finance and Audit (9am)
08- Board Meeting (12noon)
15- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
16- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
22- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

OCTOBER: 04 - Legislative and Outreach (9am)

05- Water Resources (9am)
06- Recreation (9am)
07- Engineering and Operations (9am)
12- Finance and Audit (9am)
13- Board Meeting (12noon)
20- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
21- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
27- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

NOVEMBER: 02 - Water Resources (9am)

03- Recreation (9am)
04- Engineering and Operations (9am)
09- Finance and Audit (9am)
10- Board Meeting (12noon)
17- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
18- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
30- Water Resources (9am)*

DECEMBER: 01- Recreation (9am)

01- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
02- Engineering and Operations (9am)
07- Finance and Audit (9am)
08- Board Meeting (12noon)
15- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
16- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)
Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)

*scheduled to prevent dual meetings on the same day



ASSOCIATION OF WATER AGENCIES OF VENTURA COUNTY

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All meetings/events are confirmed by AWA via official notices sent prior to each meeting/event.

Note: All 2021 meetings/events will be via video-broadcast until further notice.

JANUARY	7	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	19	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	21	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
	27	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
FEBRUARY	4	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	16	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	18	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
	24	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
MARCH	4	Board Meeting (Annual Meeting-Elections)	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	16	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	18	WaterWise Program (Installation/Directors)	8:00 am, Thursday	
	24	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
APRIL	1	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	15	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
	20	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	28	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
MAY	6	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	18	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	20	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
	26	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
JUNE	3	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	15	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	17	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
	23	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
Date to be Confirmed	—	CC/Water Systems Workshop (Confined Space)	8-Noon	(Fire Dept-Camarillo)
JULY	1	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	15	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
	20	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	28	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	
AUGUST		DARK		
SEPTEMBER	2	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	21	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	22	Channel Counties/Water Systems Luncheon	8:00 am, Wednesday	
Date to be Confirmed		Math Workshop: Water Distribution Exam Review	8:00am–Noon	
Date to be Confirmed	*30	Reception for Members/Elected Officials	4:00 pm, Thursday	(AWA Members/Guests Only)
OCTOBER	7	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	Date to be Confirmed *21	Annual Water Symposium & Exposition	7:00am–1:00pm, Thurs.	Courtyard – Oxnard
	Date to be Confirmed *21	Operators Tech Workshop & Exposition	7:00 am–3:30pm, Thurs.	Courtyard – Oxnard
	Date to be Confirmed	Math Workshop: Water Treatment Exam Review	8:00am–Noon	
NOVEMBER	4	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	Date to be Confirmed	Annual VC Water Supply Bus Tour	8:00 am	
	16	Water Issues Committee	7:00 am, Tuesday	(AWA Members Only)
	*17	Channel Counties/Water Systems Lunch	8:00 am, Wednesday	
	18	WaterWise Breakfast Program	8:00 am, Thursday	
DECEMBER	*09	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	
	09	Holiday Mixer/Corporate Night	4:00 pm, Thursday	(AWA Members/Guests Only)

* Indicates change from typical event date



Staff Report UWCD

To: Board of Directors

From: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

Date: April 5, 2021 (April 14, 2021 meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.6 General Manager's Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive an update from the General Manager related to items of possible interest to the Board and that may have consequences to the District.

Discussion:

The General Manager's primary responsibility is to ensure that the policies and directions of the Board of Directors are adhered to as he oversees and manages the efforts of the department managers and their staffs in the day-to-day operation and administration of the District. All of these efforts are to be consistent with the District's Mission Statement and within the fiscal constraints set by the Board of Directors.

The District's managers provide detailed monthly updates to the Board of Directors which outline projects' statuses, accomplishments, issues of concern, projects planning, etc. The monthly General Manager's report provides an opportunity for the General Manager to discuss issues that may impact the efforts of the separate departments as they pursue their defined goals and objectives. The report also provides the Board with information on the District's efforts and involvement in local, regional and state-wide issues.

Finally, the monthly General Manager's report offers the Board of Directors an overview of how their policies and directions are being administered through discussion of the work plan and efforts of the General Manager.



Board of Directors
Michael W. Mobley, President
Bruce E. Dandy, Vice President
Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Edwin T. McFadden III
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 12:00 P.M.
Board Room, UWCD Headquarters
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Meeting was held in person at UWCD's Boardroom and virtually via WebEx

Board Members Present

Michael W. Mobley, President
Bruce E. Dandy, Vice President
Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer (virtual participation)
Mohammed A. Hasan
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Edwin T. McFadden, III (virtual participation)
Daniel C. Naumann

Staff Present

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., general manager
David D. Boyer, legal counsel
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
John Carman, operations and maintenance program supervisor (virtual participation)
Brian Collins, chief operations officer
Dan Detmer, supervising hydrogeologist
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Joseph Jereb, chief financial officer
Tessa Lenz, associate environmental scientist
Josh Perez, human resources manager
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator
Linda Purpus, environmental services manager (virtual participation)
Robert Richardson, senior engineer (virtual participation)
Kris Sofley, executive administrative coordinator/clerk of the board
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger
Dr. Jason Sun, senior hydrogeologist/modeler (virtual participation)

Public Present

Frank Brommenschenkel, Frank B & Associates
Alan F.
Burt Handy
Pat Kelley
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
Brian Wheeler, AALRR

1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 12:00 P.M.

President Mobley called the meeting to order at 12:01p.m. and asked the District's Legal Counsel David Boyer to announce what the Board will discuss in Executive (Closed) Session.

Mr. Boyer said the Board would be discussing five cases of existing litigation, including three cases with the City of San Buenaventura, one case with Wishtoyo Foundation and one case brought by the Dorsey family; and one case of anticipated legislation.

**1.1 Public Comments
Information Item**

President Mobley asked if there were any public comments at this time; none were offered.

1.2 EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION 12:03 P.M.

President Mobley adjourned the meeting into Executive (Closed) session at 12:03p.m.

2. SECOND OPEN SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER 1:10 P.M.

President Mobley called the Second Open Session of the Board meeting to order at 1:10p.m. and asked the Clerk to call roll. All seven Directors (Berger, Dandy, Hasan, Maulhardt, McFadden, Naumann, Mobley) were present.

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Mobley asked everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.2 Public Comment
Information Item**

President Mobley asked if there were any public comments; none were offered.

**2.3 Approval of Agenda
Motion**

President Mobley asked General Manager Mauricio Guardado if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Guardado responded that there were no changes.

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Dandy; Second, Director McFadden. Roll call vote: seven ayes (Berger, Dandy, Hasan, Maulhardt, McFadden, Naumann, Mobley); none opposed. Motion to approve the agenda carries unanimously 7/0.

**2.4 Oral Report Regarding Executive (Closed) Session
Information Item**

District Legal Counsel David D. Boyer reported that the Board took no action in Executive (Closed) session that is reportable under the Brown Act.

2.5 Board Communication

Information Item

Director Berger reported that on March 5, he and President Mobley met with Ventura County Supervisor Bob Hubner to discuss the opportunity for the County to fund State Water purchases. Director Berger said he was honored to be in the company of the Board's outstanding leader, President Mobley, who did a fine job at explaining the opportunity to Supervisor Hubner. Director Berger also reported his participation at the District's Recreation Committee meeting on March 3 and the District's Finance and Audio Committee meeting on March 9 as well as his attendance at a couple of AWA VC meetings.

Director McFadden reported his participation at the Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA meeting on February 18, the UWCD Recreation Committee on March 3, the UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee on March 4 and a meeting he and Director Naumann had with Ventura County Supervisor Kelly Long.

Director Maulhardt reported his participation at the UWCD Finance Committee meeting on March 9 and apologized to staff for missing two committee meetings earlier in the month. Director Maulhardt also reported joining Mr. Guardado in a zoom meeting with Oxnard Councilmember Bryan MacDonald, and met with Jeff Pratt to discuss Article 21 water and, with Director Naumann, met with Board members of the Fox Canyon GMA, and he also had a one-on-one meeting with the General Manager, Mr. Guardado.

Director Dandy reported his participation at the UWCD Finance Committee meeting on February 9 and the UWCD Board meeting on February 10, he also attended the VCSDA meeting on February 2, the AWA VC Water Issues Committee on February 16, and the AWA VC WaterWise morning meeting on February 18. He also attended an ACWA meeting on February 24, a Family Farm Alliance meeting on February 28 and had several meetings with the General Manager.

Director Naumann reported his participation at the AWA VC meeting on February 18 and the VCSDA meeting of February 2. He also attended a CoLAB meeting, a Fox Canyon GMA prep meeting with District staff and the actual FCGMA Board meeting, he also met with Fox Canyon GMA Board members and attended the Family Farm Alliance annual conference with Director Dandy and the General Manager. He also attended the District's Engineering and Operations Committee meeting on March 4 and he and Director McFadden met with Ventura County Supervisor Kelly Long to seek her support of the State Water purchase.

President Mobley reported attending a prep meeting on February 16 with District staff for the Fox Canyon GMA Board meeting on February 24, which he also attended. He met with the General Manager yesterday (March 9) to prepare for today's Board meeting; on February 23 he attended the Ventura Water Commission meeting and on February 18 he attended the Mound Basin GSA Board meeting.

President Mobley said he also attended a Mound Basin GSA workshop on March 4, had met with Supervisor Matt LaVere and Supervisor Bob Huber and Steve Offerman from Supervisor Linda Parks' office and that he has a Fox Canyon GMA Board meeting coming up on March 24, and he said he also wanted to thank Dan Detmer and John Lindquist for their support.

Director Hasan reported his participation at the AWA VC WaterWise event and his meeting with Supervisor LaVere, whom he invited to come for a visit of United's facilities. Director Hasan also reported his participation at the Ventura Water Commission meeting and the Ventura City Council meeting. Director Hasan also reminded the Board that he was also a member of the Board of El Concilio Family Services, who serve the underserved ag sector of Ventura County, and that he attended its Board meeting this month.

2.6 General Manager's Report

Information Item

The General Manager reported to the Board that he had good news regarding the collaboration with the County of Ventura on the Piru Stormwater Capture project, in that the project was named as the Project of the Year by the Public Works Association's Ventura Chapter and that on Thursday, March 11, at 10:45a.m., the County's Ewelina Mutkowska would be presenting an overview of the project to the association's membership and that if anyone wanted to participate in that meeting, the clerk of the board has details.

National Public Radio's Central Coast affiliate KCLU interviewed Chief Ranger Clayton Strahan to learn more about the District's new Pothole Trailhead facility. The interview ran repeatedly on Friday, March 5, between 4am and 9am as part of the station's Morning Report and KCLU also posted the interview and two different stories with photos on its website, which were reposted on the District's and Lake Piru's Facebook pages.

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert of Colorado recently introduced the Western Water Security Act, to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from conditioning any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States, and for other purposes. In essence, this legislation protects private property rights, upholds state water law, and prohibits federal takings. Mr. Guardado said that the bill was brought to his attention by our friends at Family Farm Alliance and the District sent a letter supporting the bill to the Congresswoman, who included UWCD as a supporter of the proposed legislation in a press release her office distributed. Mr. Guardado added that the District continues to cultivate relationships among state and federal legislators.

Mr. Guardado also acknowledged Director Dandy's election as president of the Ventura County Special Districts Association (VCSDA), stating that he was excited to have United represented on the Board of the VCSDA and that he is sure Director Dandy will bring a high level of sophistication to the organization.

Lastly, Mr. Guardado reported that he had an opportunity to visit the General Manager of the Palmdale Water District and tour the facilities. He said the two discussed various projects and similar circumstances with various regulators and believed that together both organizations would work together to influence policies and regulations impacting water agencies. Mr. Guardado also reported that Palmdale has a State Contractors water allocation and there is potential for a future water deal.

2.7 Update on Public Health Mandates Regarding Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)

Information Item

The District's Human Resource Manager Josh Perez addressed the Board, updating them on the latest developments regarding the COVID-19 virus, including the assumption that Ventura County would be moving into the less restrictive red tier in the next seven to 10 days, opening more businesses including gyms, restaurants and movie theaters.

2.8 Public Hearing

Proposed Ordinance No. 25 - Consideration to Increase the Compensation of the Board of Directors

Motion

President Mobley opened the continuation of Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed adoption of Ordinance No. 25, which, if approved, would provide for an increase in the Board of Director's per diem from \$226 to \$237 per day.

Burt Handy, a member of the public, asked for clarification as to why United Water Conservation District was not included in the multi-year review of other agencies' Board compensation rates. Clerk of the Board explained that the compensation report was conducting by another agency and was used for comparison. UWCD General Manager Mr. Guardado added that the current per diem rate of \$226 and the proposed new rate of \$237 were both included in the staff report for this motion item.

President Mobley asked if there were any more questions or comments. None were offered. He then closed the Public Hearing portion of the discussion and asked if the Board wanted to make a motion.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 25, approving an increase in the Board of Director's per diem compensation from \$226 to \$237 per day, Director Dandy; Second, Director Berger. Roll call vote: four ayes (Berger, Dandy, Hasan, McFadden); three nos (Maulhardt, Naumann, Mobley). Motion carries four to three (4/3). The increase in Director's per diem will increase to \$237 effective May 12, 2021.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR: All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of February 10, 2021.

B. **Groundwater Basin Status Reports**

Information Item

Receive and file Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District.

C. **Monthly Investment Report**

Information Item

Report on the District's investments and the availability or restriction of these funds. All investments follow the District's investment policy, which is reviewed and approved annually by the Board.

The Clerk of the Board addressed President Mobley regarding two changes to Consent Calendar items. First, regarding item 3A, MINUTES for February 10, 2021, on page seven, item 5.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Staff Report, Mr. Collins requested clarification in the paragraph covering the Oxnard Hueneme Booster Plant Rehab project to indicate that the project, now completed, is *eligible for up to \$35,000 from Southern California Edison's incentive program*. The MINUTES indicated that the District had already recouped this amount, which was incorrect. Secondly, in item 3B, the Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report, in the top table (Monthly diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2020/21 in acre feet) on page 12 of that report, under Saticoy Spreading for February, the figure has been updated from 54 to 47.

President Mobley asked if there were any questions or comments, or if any of the Board wished to pull an item for discussion. None were offered.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar items, Director Naumann; Second, Director Maulhardt. Roll call vote: seven ayes (Berger, Dandy, Hasan, Maulhardt, McFadden, Naumann, Mobley); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 7/0.

4. MOTION ITEMS (By Department)

Engineering Department – Dr. Maryam Bral

**4.1 Oxnard Hueneme (OH) System Backup Generator Project Construction
Contract Award to Oilfield Electric and Motor**

Motion

Dr. Bral addressed the Board, explaining that Oilfield Electric and Motor were the lowest responsible bidder on the Oxnard Hueneme System Backup Generator

Project regarding construction of the site. Oilfield Electric and Motor's bid was in the amount of \$771,000 and Dr. Bral asked the Board to consider awarding the construction contract to Oilfield Electric and Motor as well as authorizing the General Manager to execute the contract with Oilfield Electric and Motor.

Director Naumann said that the Engineering and Operations committee had reviewed the motion and agreed to recommend approval to the full Board. Director Berger asked if the removal of the old generator was included in this contract. Dr. Bral said no, the removal of the old generator was not included in this contract award, and explained that District staff would be dismantling and discarding the old generator parts. General Manager Guardado said that staff would adhere to all appropriate protocols in decommissioning the old generator.

Motion to award the construction contract for the Oxnard Hueneme System Backup Generator Project to Oilfield Electric and Motor in the amount of \$771,000, and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract on the Board's behalf, Director Naumann; Second, Director Maulhardt. Roll call vote: seven ayes (Berger, Dandy, Hasan, Maulhardt, McFadden, Naumann, Mobley); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 7/0.

Operations and Maintenance – Brian Collins

4.2 Execution of a Contributed Funds Agreement Amendment for the Physical Modeling of the Freeman Diversion Rehabilitation Project with the Bureau of Reclamation

Motion

Mr. Collins addressed the Board and explained that this motion was a continuation of a previous discussion. He stated that in response to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) comments received from the initial modeling plan submitted by the District on November 23, 2020, District and Bureau of Reclamation staff have developed an amended physical modeling plan to hydraulically model both the hardened ramp and the vertical slot project proposals within the Bureau's Technical Service Center (TSC) in Denver, Colorado.

Director Naumann stated that the Engineering and Operations Committee had reviewed the motion and recommend the motion be approved by the full Board. Director Maulhardt asked what the additional amount was for the amended CFA. Mr. Collins replied that it was \$1.85 million based on staff estimates.

Motion to authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a contributed funds agreement (CFA) amendment with the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) for the physical modeling of the two proposed project alternatives for the Freeman Diversion Rehabilitation Project, currently under engineering design by Stantec and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Director Naumann; Second, Director Maulhardt. Roll call vote: seven ayes (Berger, Dandy, Hasan, Maulhardt, McFadden, Naumann, Mobley); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 7/0.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS (By Department)

Administrative Services Department – Joseph Jereb and Josh Perez

5.1 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report – Joseph Jereb and Josh Perez

Information Item

Mr. Jereb and Mr. Perez provided a presentation jointly to the Board on Administration Department activities over the past month. (see attached slide presentation).

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

Engineering Department – Maryam Bral

5.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report

Information Item

Dr. Bral provided a presentation to the Board on various engineering and water resources department activities. (see attached slide presentation)

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

Environmental Services Department – Linda Purpus

5.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report

Information Item

Ms. Purpus introduced the Board to Tessa Lenz, associate environmental scientist to provide a presentation to the Board on environmental and regulatory issues of note to the District. (see attached slide presentation)

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

Operations and Maintenance – Brian Collins

5.4 Monthly Operation and Maintenance Department Report

Information Item

The Board received a summary report regarding the monthly operations and maintenance of District facilities.

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

Park and Recreation Division – Clayton Strahan

5.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

Information Item

The Board received a summary report regarding operations and items of note relative to the Lake Piru Recreation Area.

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

Water Resources Department – Maryam Bral

5.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report

Information Item

The Board received a summary report on monthly Water Resources Department activities.

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

5.7 Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Information Item

The Board received a summary report on the monthly activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Santa Paula basin.

President Mobley asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board or public. None were offered.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS READING FILE

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Mobley asked if any of the Board members had any future agenda items they would like considered. None were offered.


8. ADJOURNMENT 3:10p.m.

President Mobley adjourned the meeting at 3:10p.m. to the **Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021** or call of the President.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Board of Directors meeting of March 10, 2021.

ATTEST: _____
Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: _____
Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board



United Water

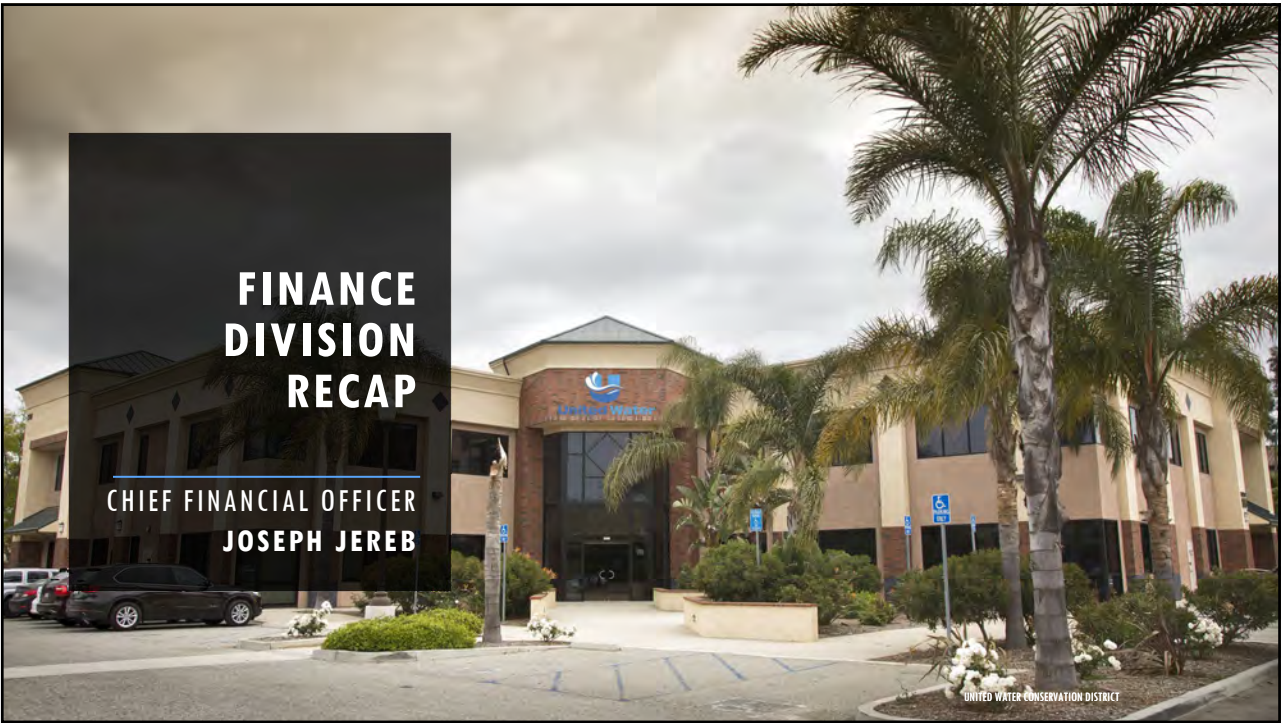
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

United Water Conservation District manages, protects, conserves and enhances the water resources of the District and produces a reliable and sustainable supply of groundwater for the reasonable, beneficial uses of all users.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

FEBRUARY 2021 RECAP

1



2

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

- 344 payables processed with a total amount of \$1.7M

Invoices


Bills

PAYROLL

- Paid 19 payroll-related vendors a total amount of \$370K
- 291 hours of overtime worked
 - 2.79% of regular hours
 - 159 paid-out
 - 132 accrued as compensatory time

Gross: \$531K

Net: \$350K



FINANCE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 3

3

FEBRUARY 2021 PIPELINE

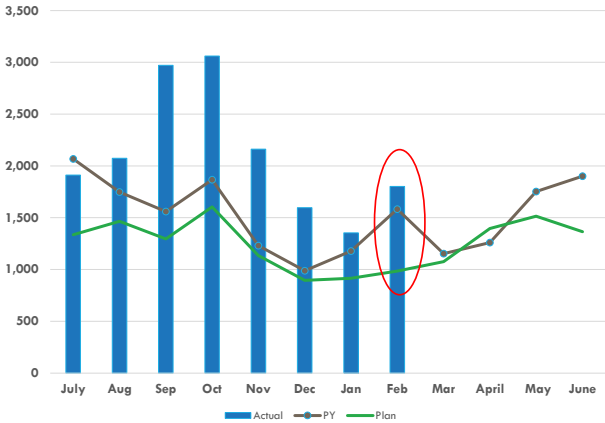
	\$ Billed	Actual AF	Plan AF	Variance
OH	\$605K	996	735	261
PT	\$229K	433	250	183
PV	\$65K	372	0	886

- Year-to-date February deliveries 76% ahead of Plan and 39% over PY
- 113% of FY Plan delivered to date
- Excluding Pleasant Valley deliveries, volumes 37%, 16% ahead of Plan & PY

FINANCE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 4

Total Pipeline Deliveries (AF)



Month	Actual	PY	Plan
July	1900	2000	1300
Aug	2050	1800	1400
Sep	2950	1600	1300
Oct	3050	1800	1500
Nov	2150	1200	1200
Dec	1600	1000	900
Jan	1350	1100	900
Feb	1800	1500	1000
Mar	1150	1100	1100
April	1250	1300	1400
May	1750	1800	1500
June	1900	1900	1400

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 4

4

2

CASH COLLECTIONS

- Pipeline: \$923K
- Groundwater: \$4.7M
- Rents: \$13K
- Miscellaneous (Lake Piru): \$94K

Total: \$5.7M



FINANCE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT5

5

H2 2020
GROUNDWATER
PUMPING AND
REVENUE RECAP

VOLUME (AF)

	Ag Pumping		M&I Pumping		
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone A	Zone B	TOTAL
Billed	43,600	31,743	6,929	8,552	90,823
Budget	33,103	34,231	6,881	7,000	81,215
AF Variance	10,497	(2,488)	48	1,552	9,608
AF % Variance	32%	-7%	1%	22%	12%

REVENUE (\$'000s)

	Ag Pumping		M&I Pumping		
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone A	Zone B	TOTAL
Billed	2,389	2,816	1,139	2,276	8,620*
Budget	1,814	3,037	1,131	1,863	7,845
Total \$Variance	575	(221)	8	413	775
	32%	-7%	1%	22%	10%

* Excludes \$270K water purchase surcharge

FINANCE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT6

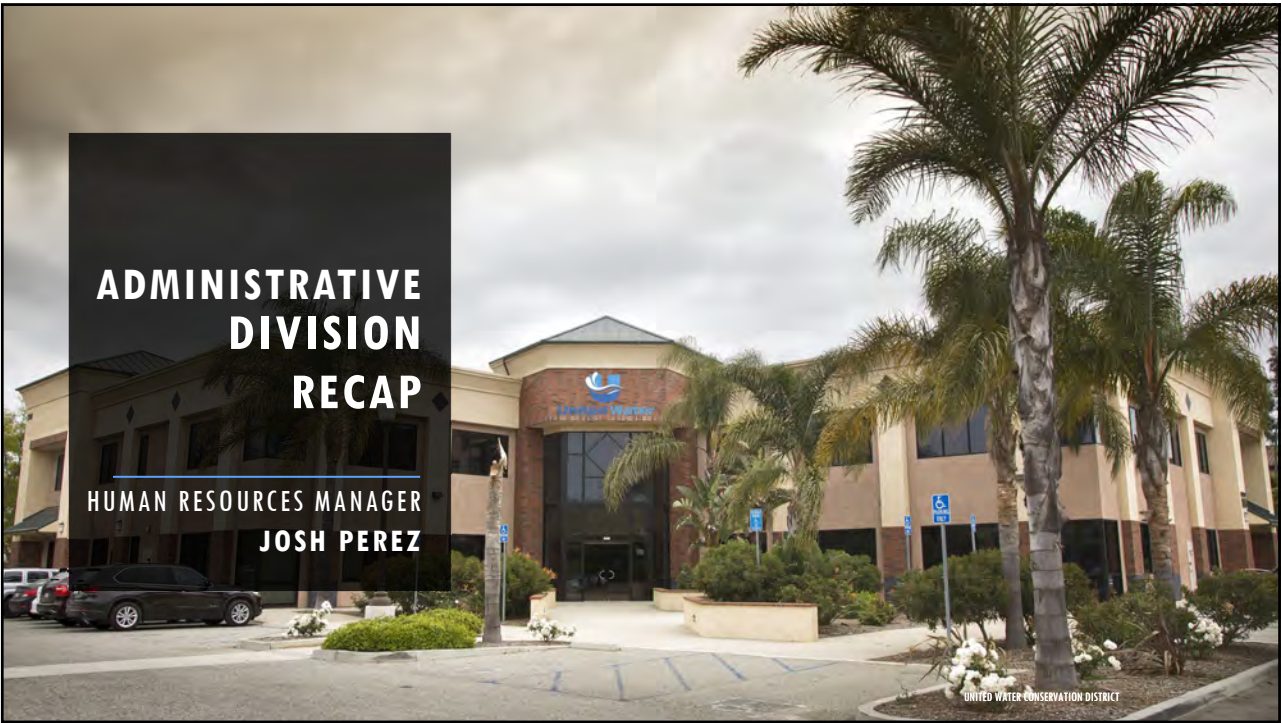
6

- Met with Department Managers to review their FY 21-22 Budget Templates and Preliminary Requests. Staff working to combine requests into a FY 21-22 draft Budget
- Processed large volume of groundwater statements received after reporting deadline; followed up with notices to non-reporters
- Auditors began the FY 20-21 Internal Controls audit on February 22. Auditors have interviewed Finance and other department staff on budget, reporting, and procurement processes; currently reviewing control documents and testing sample transactions
- Senior Accountant provided Incode training to Environmental Services team to assist them with budget and expense monitoring


FINANCE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT7

7




8



- Administrative staff completed training on new MySites online reservation system for Lake Piru Recreation Area (LPRA).
- Compiled Lake Piru Recreation Area visitors' email addresses culled from inquiries about camping, boating and day use activities at the LPRA.
- Assisted in launch of new ExploreLakePiru.com website in mid-February.
- Promoted the new online reservation system and reopening of Lake Piru Recreation Area for camping (beginning March 11) using Social Media.
- Prepared and coordinated District Board and Committee meetings.
- Prepared and coordinated Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA and Mound Basin GSA Board meetings and public workshops.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECAP


UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 9



- Assisted Finance Department in obtaining HR information for CalPERS audit.
- Worked with O&M Department with onboarding intern O&M staff.
- Onboarded several seasonal Recreation personnel.
- Processed several enrollment applications and contribution changes for staff in District's 457b Plans.
- Worked with Safety and Security on ordering, updating, and posting 2021 Compliance Posters for all District facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 10




A graphic featuring the words "RISK Management" in a 3D, blocky font. The word "RISK" is in red with white letters, and "Management" is in black. To the left of the text are two vertical blue bars of different heights. Below the text is a horizontal blue bar. To the right of the text is a vertical blue bar. The entire graphic is set against a white background.

- Updated COVID-19 Prevention Program.
- Disseminated COVID-19 vaccine update and registration best practices to staff.
- Continued to partner with O&M Leadership on update OH System Emergency Response Plan.
- Delivered monthly safety meeting, covering Hand & Power Tool Safety as well as COVID-19 updates.
- Implemented and delivered training on new Safety Data Management System with staff.
- Completed CPR/AED/First Aid renewal training in preparation for instructor course next month to establish internal ability to certify new and existing District staff.
- Attended CSDA - USC Emergency Preparedness Summit.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 11

11





A graphic featuring the words "RISK Management" in a 3D, blocky font. The word "RISK" is in red with white letters, and "Management" is in black. To the left of the text are two vertical blue bars of different heights. Below the text is a horizontal blue bar. To the right of the text is a vertical blue bar. The entire graphic is set against a white background.

- Coordinated annual fire sprinkler system inspection at District HQ.
- Coordinated with elevator vendor to resolve letter from Cal/OSHA elevator unit.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on FERC Cyber Security Policy documents with internal stakeholders.
- Stored and delivered emergency preparedness meals for District facilities.
- Disseminated IT advisories via SMS text via mass notification system.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 12

12





- Provided IT support and assisted staff working from home to upgrade to a more recent version of VPN and Security software.
- Provided IT support for seven meetings during the month of February.
- Reviewed Cybersecurity Bulletin from information sharing partners on Oldsmar Water Treatment Facility Cyber Intrusion.
- Set up computer access for newly hired O&M Intern.
- Completed renewal of United's Secure Certificates (SSL) for Exchange/E-mail servers and applied renewed security certificates to UWCD E-mail servers.
- Remediated an issue with latest IT Security Anti-malware solution that was intermittently causing network interruption between staff computers and network file share efforts and printing.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT13

13

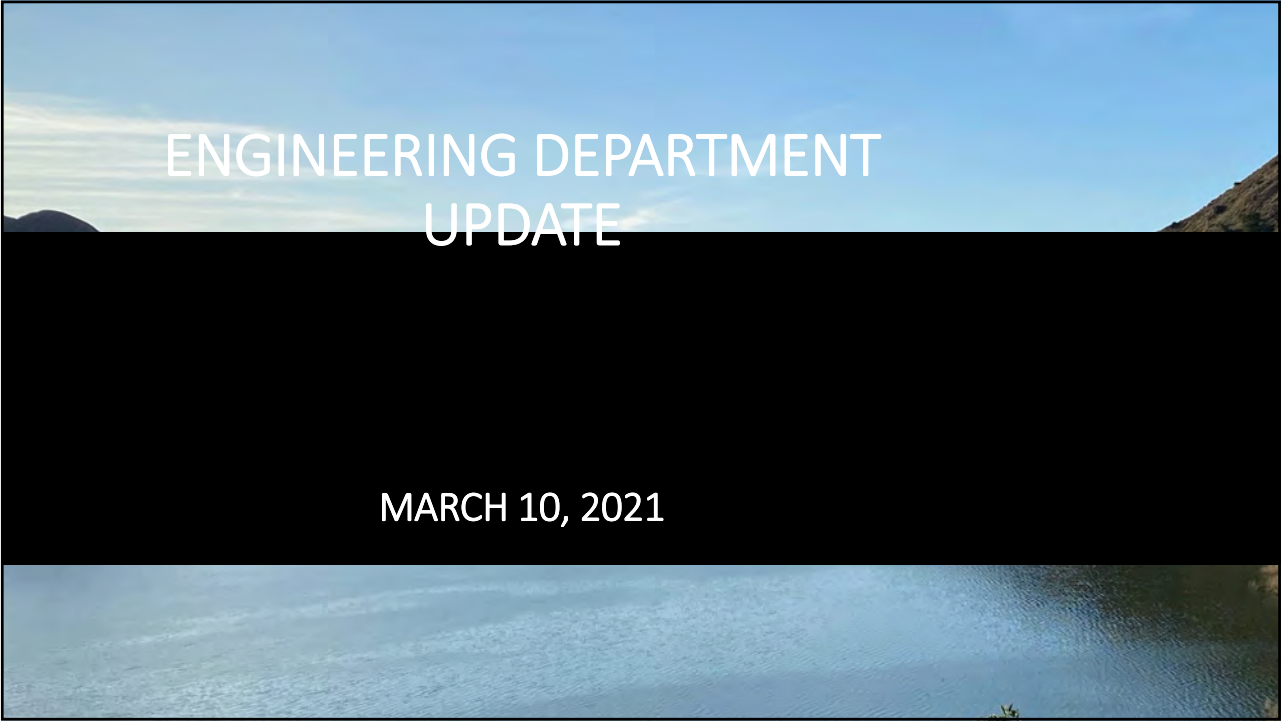


- Renewed and applied the Checkpoint Security Annual Licensing for all products (Firewall's, PC Endpoint Protection, Management software and Enterprise-based support on Checkpoint hardware and software).
- Registered the renewal of United's Secure Certificates (SSL) for Exchange/E-mail Servers. Including applying the renewed security certificates to its E-mail servers.
- Addressed United's internet and IP phone services while its primary service providers experienced a systematic wide area outage on 2/22 through 2/23.

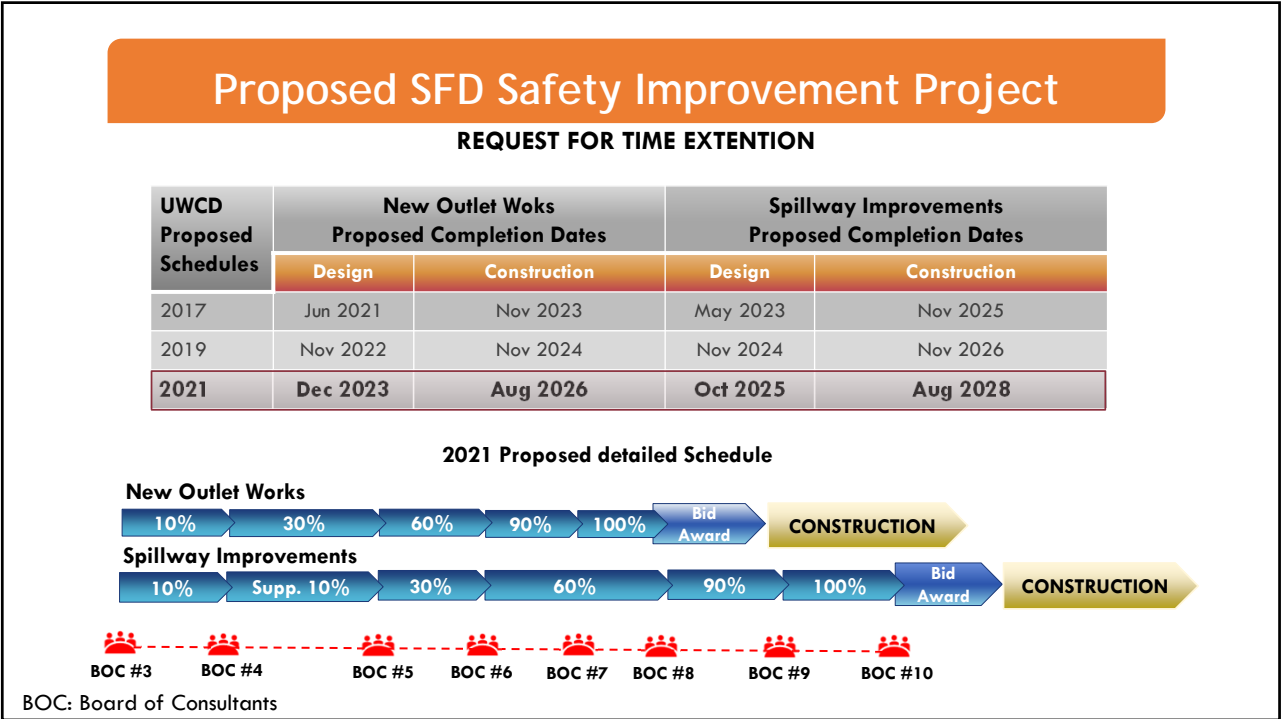
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECAP

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT14

14



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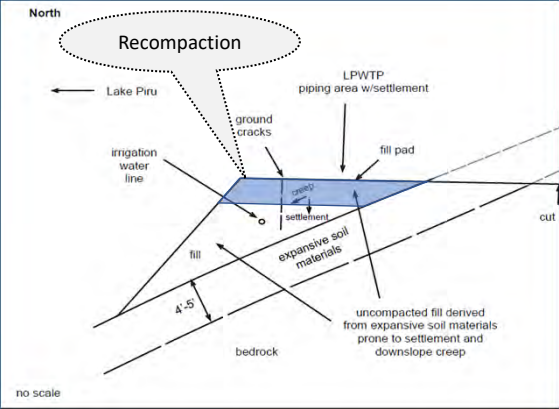



2

Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant Slope Stabilization

➤ Oakridge Geoscience retained to provide recommendations for soil stabilization

➤ District to retain ECG to perform topo survey for design of drainage improvements





3


OH System Backup Generator Project


➤ New 800 kW Generator Procurement by District


➤ Permit to Operate by VC Air Pollution Control District

➤ Generator Installation - Construction Contract

- Notice Inviting Bids to 5 qualified Contractors
- 3 Bids: Oilfield, Pacific Industrial, Taft Electric
- Lowest Responsible Bidder: Oilfield (\$771,000)





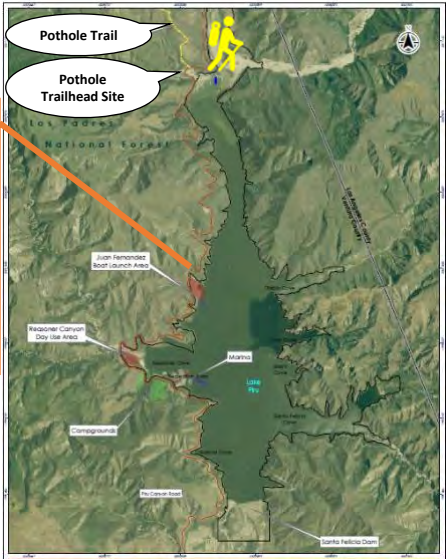


4

Pothole Trailhead Parking Area

Current Status

- US Forest Service committed to open Juan Fernandez Gate starting March 1, 2021
- Notice of Completion was submitted to FERC on March 1
- District has met its obligations per Article 411 of the FERC License by the Dec 31, 2020 due date.
- **Next Steps**
- Execute an easement to US Forest Service
- Install an interpretative sign structure in April 2021

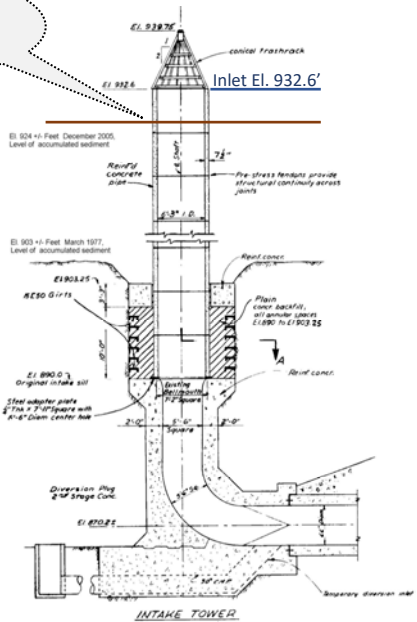


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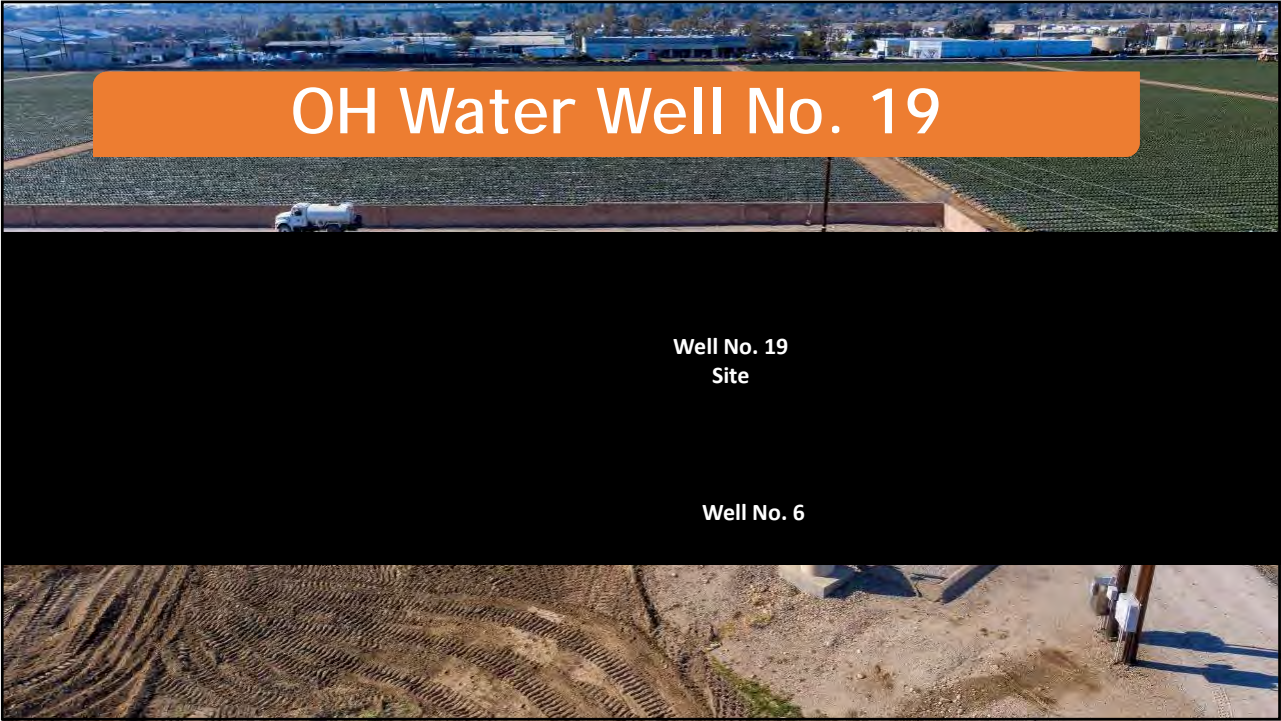
Intake Tower Bathymetric Survey



- Fugro to conduct trial bathymetric scan of SFD intake tower at no cost to UWCD.
- A new equipment (multibeam system) to be used to track sediment levels at SFD intake tower.
- New information to supplement the standard bathymetric survey data.




6



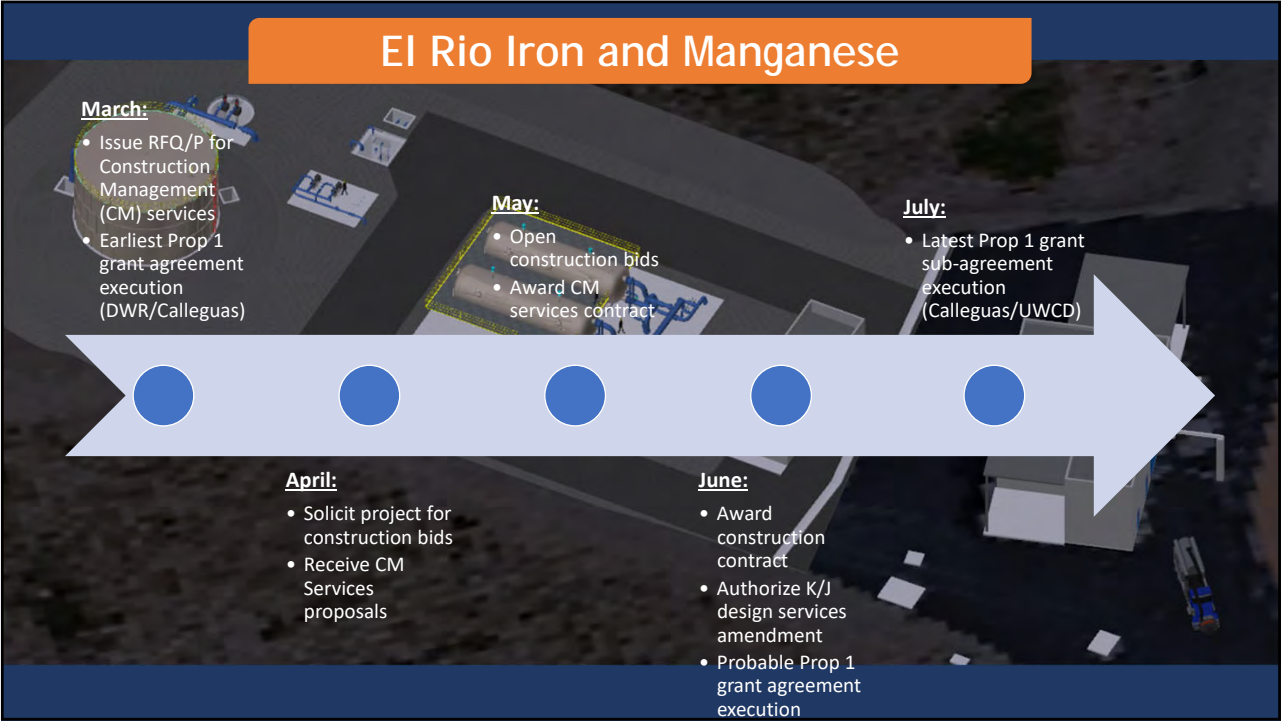
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2020 Urban Water Management Plan




March 12, 2021	April 1, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 12, 2021	June 9, 2021	July 1, 2021
Available for Public Comment On District's Website	Presentation to E&O Committee	Presentation to E&O Committee	Public Hearing for	Board to Adopt	Submit to DWR
Draft UWMP (Sections 1-9) Draft WSCP (Section 8), a stand-alone document	Highlights of Draft UWMP & Draft WSCP	Updated UWMP & WSCP in response to Public comments	UWMP & WSCP receive additional public comments	final UWMP & WSCP	Final UWMP & WSCP

8



9



PTP Metering System Improvement

INSTALLATIONS
3 meters installed in Feb 22 - Mar 5, 2021 7 additional meter installations by July 1, 2021 22 of 61 meters installed to date (36% Complete)
EASEMENTS
11 of 41 easements recorded (27% complete) 23 letters and deeds pending with owners 8 letters and deeds in preparation

10

AWA Waterwise Meeting

Coastal Brackish Groundwater Treatment Plant Project Progress Update

"United's project has a potential to significantly benefit both the military mission and the local community of Ventura County. The Navy is excited for this opportunity to continue exploring this important project."

Captain Lagerquist, Naval Base Ventura County

- 2nd presentation at AWA Waterwise
- Co-presenting with USNBVC
- 129 total attendees
 - 14 cities and public agencies
 - 12 consulting firms



"We are very confident that the incredible scientists and engineers here at United can really show regulatory agencies and the public how this project can be feasible to provide a sustainable drought resistant water source for the County."

Nathan Jacobsen, P.E., Water Program Manager, US Naval Base Ventura County



1

Environmental Permitting Milestones

February 2019	CEQA Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified
May 2020 amendment	Environmental Assessment (Exhibit E) and application for license submitted to FERC
February 11, 2021	Final response from California SHPO on Section 106 NHPA consultation
February 22, 2021 Board	401 Water Quality Certification – pre-filing meeting with State Water Board
February 23, 2021 with CDFW	Lake and streambed alteration agreement – pre-filing meeting
March 3, 2021	Submitted State Water Board 401 Water Quality Certification application



2

Modifications to the Timeline

New EPA guidelines (July 2020, Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule) → Recent revisions to the permitting schedule



- New EPA guidelines intended to encourage interagency notification, increase stringency of decision deadline (1-year), and introduce restrictions to state review scope
- Original Plan – Focus on federal FERC and NMFS Permits/Consultation – These are the critical path items
- Modification – CDFW state permit process moved earlier in schedule
- Continue with original 401 Certification timeline (apply for SWRCB before USACE 404 Application)

3



Moving Forward...

- Complete ESA consultation with NMFS and USFWS
- Obtain state and federal project specific permits:
 - State Water Board, 401 Water Quality Certification
 - US Army Corps, CWA 404 Nationwide Permit
 - CDFW, Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
 - CDFW Incidental Take Permit

4

Questions





Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Maryam A. Bral, Chief Engineer

From: Kathleen Kuepper, Hydrogeologist
Bram Sercu, Senior Hydrologist

Date: April 5, 2021 (April 14, 2021, meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.B Groundwater Basin Status Report
Informational Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this summary report from the Water Resources Department regarding activities for the month of March 2021.

Summary:

Spreading and Pipeline Deliveries for Month of March 2021

Location	Amount (acre-feet)
Saticoy	331
Noble and Rose Pits	
El Rio	1,092
Piru	
Diverted at Freeman for Pipeline Deliveries	648
Saticoy/O-H Deep Wells Pumped for Ag Pipeline Deliveries	
Lloyd-Butler Diversion	18

Groundwater Basin Available Storage at End of Month of March 2021

Basin	Available Storage (acre-feet)
Oxnard Forebay	102,700

Precipitation for Month of March 2021

Location	Precipitation (inches)
Lake Piru	1.29
Santa Paula	1.04
El Rio	1.02

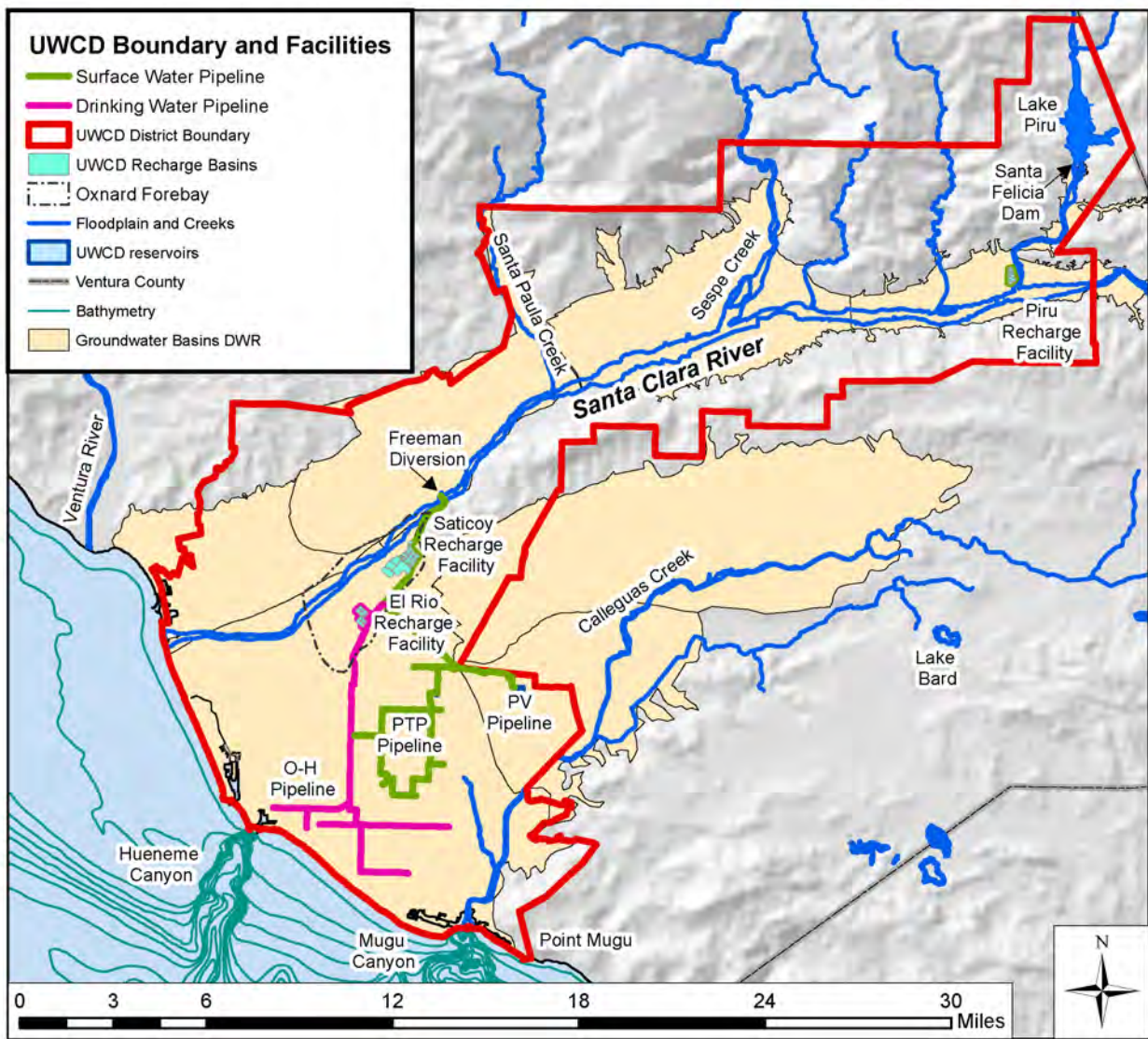


United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

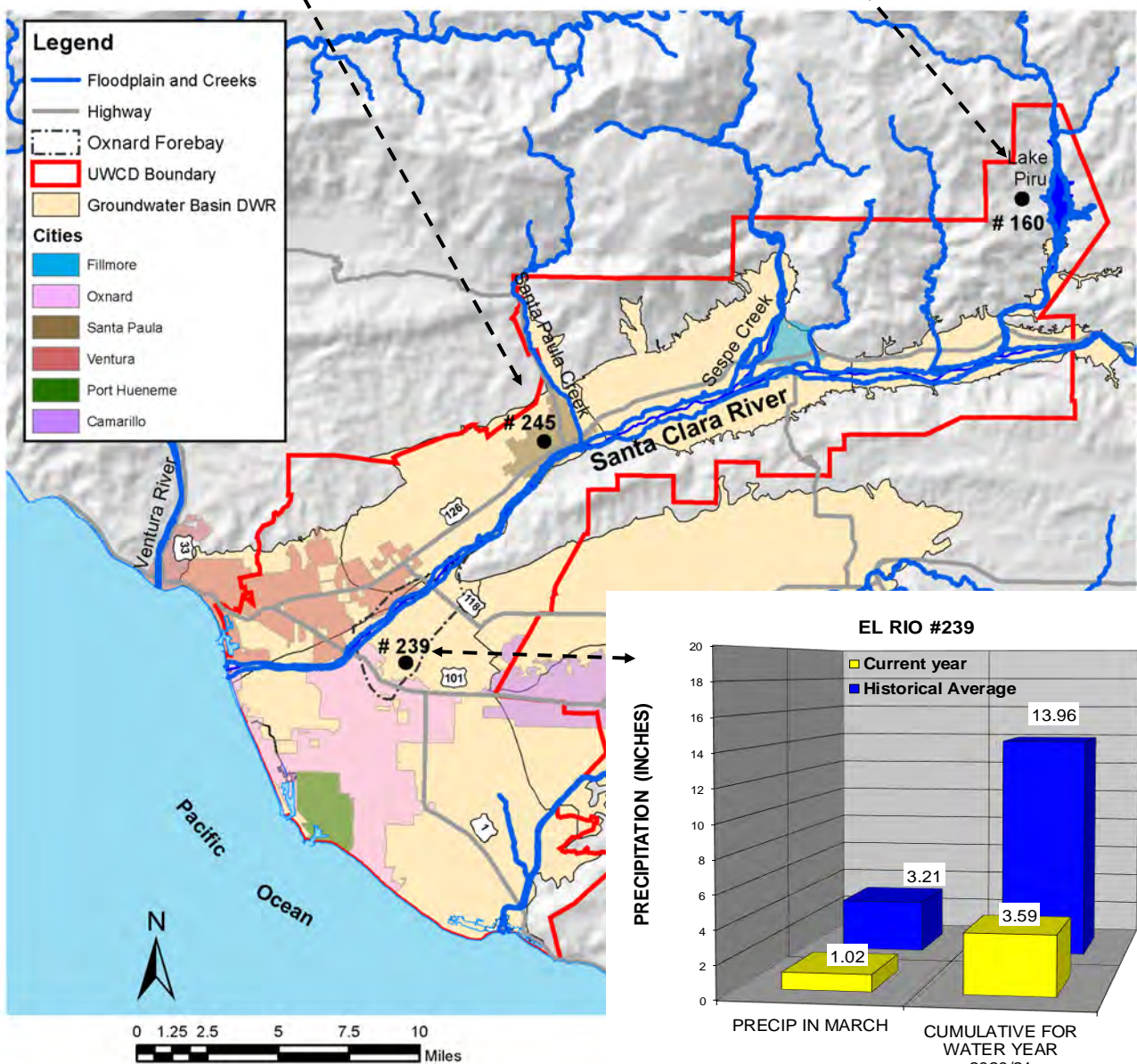
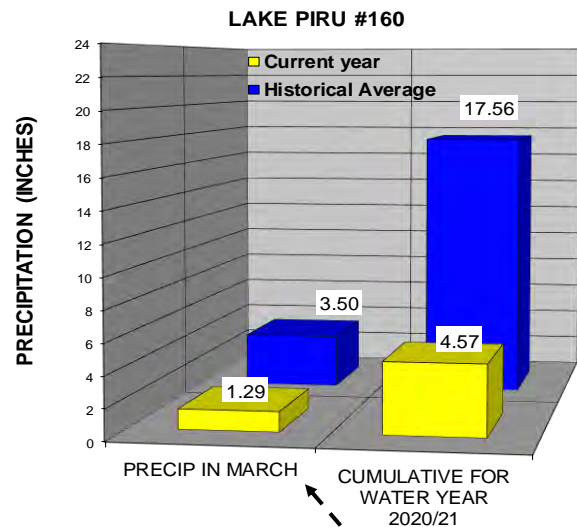
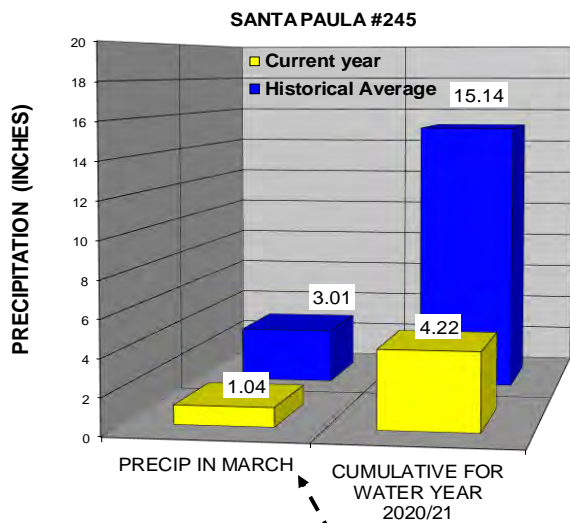
March 2021 Hydrologic Conditions Report 2020/21 Water Year

April 5, 2021



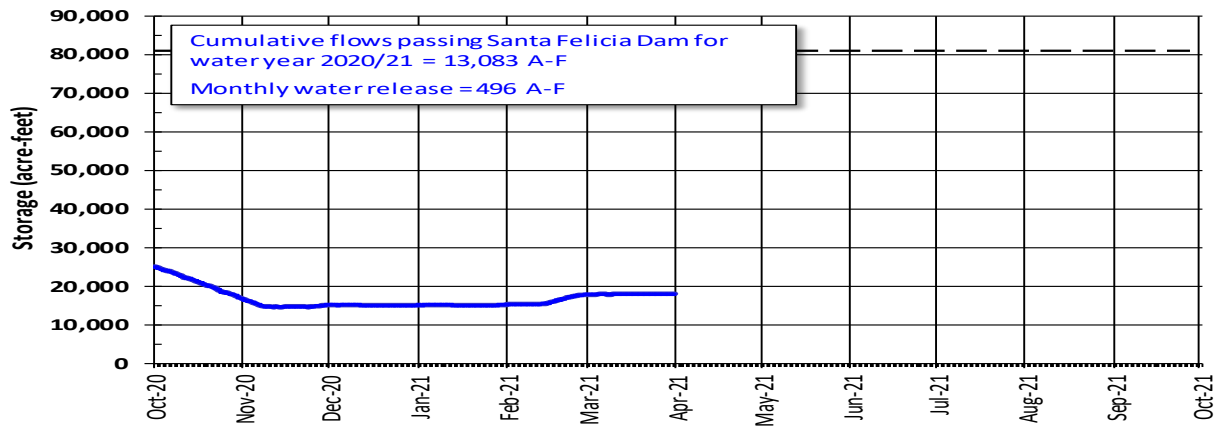
Note: This report may contain provisional data until final review at the end of the water year.

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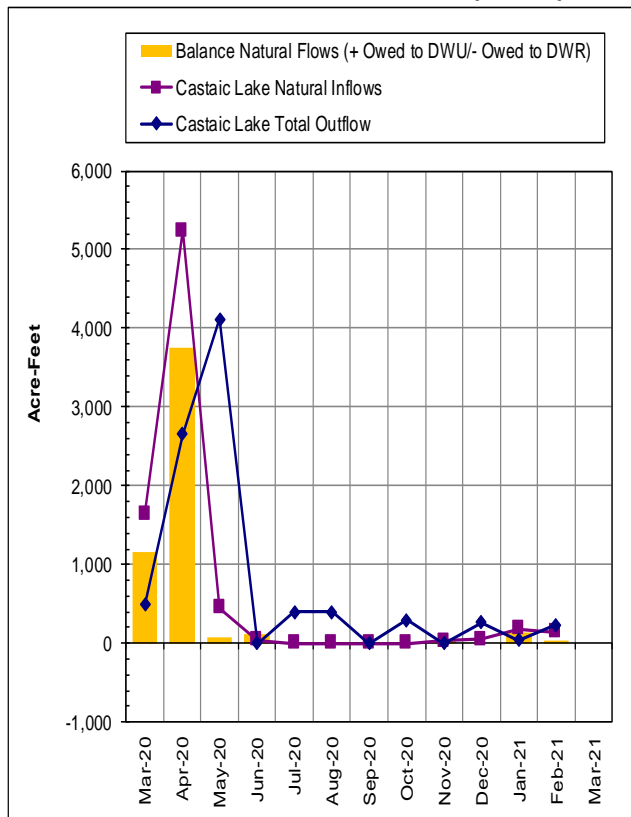
District-wide percent of normal precipitation = 27%

Lake Piru storage and outflow

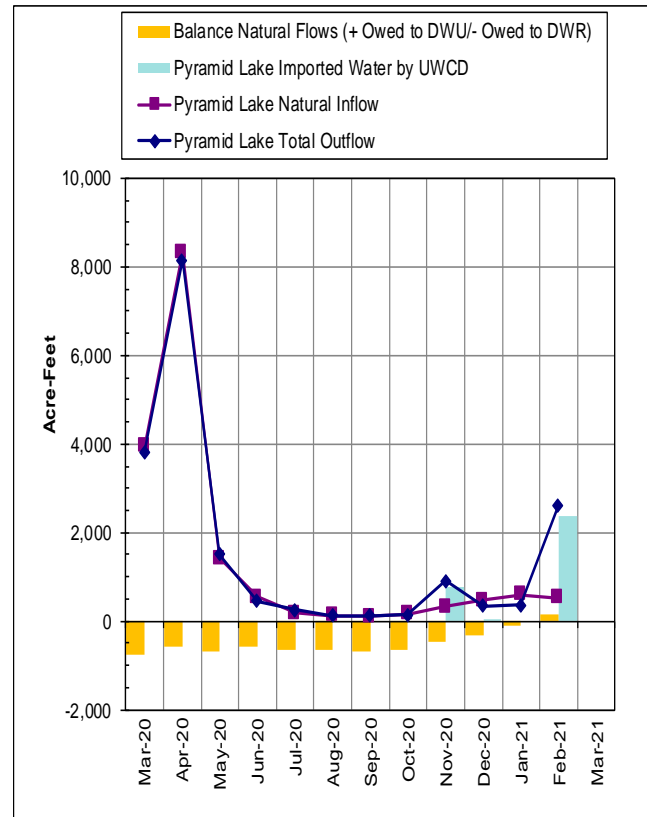


	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Hydro Plant Outflow (Acre-Feet)	4,345	214	0	0	0	0						
Cumulative Hydro Plant Outflow (A-F)	4,345	4,559	4,559	4,559	4,559	4,559						

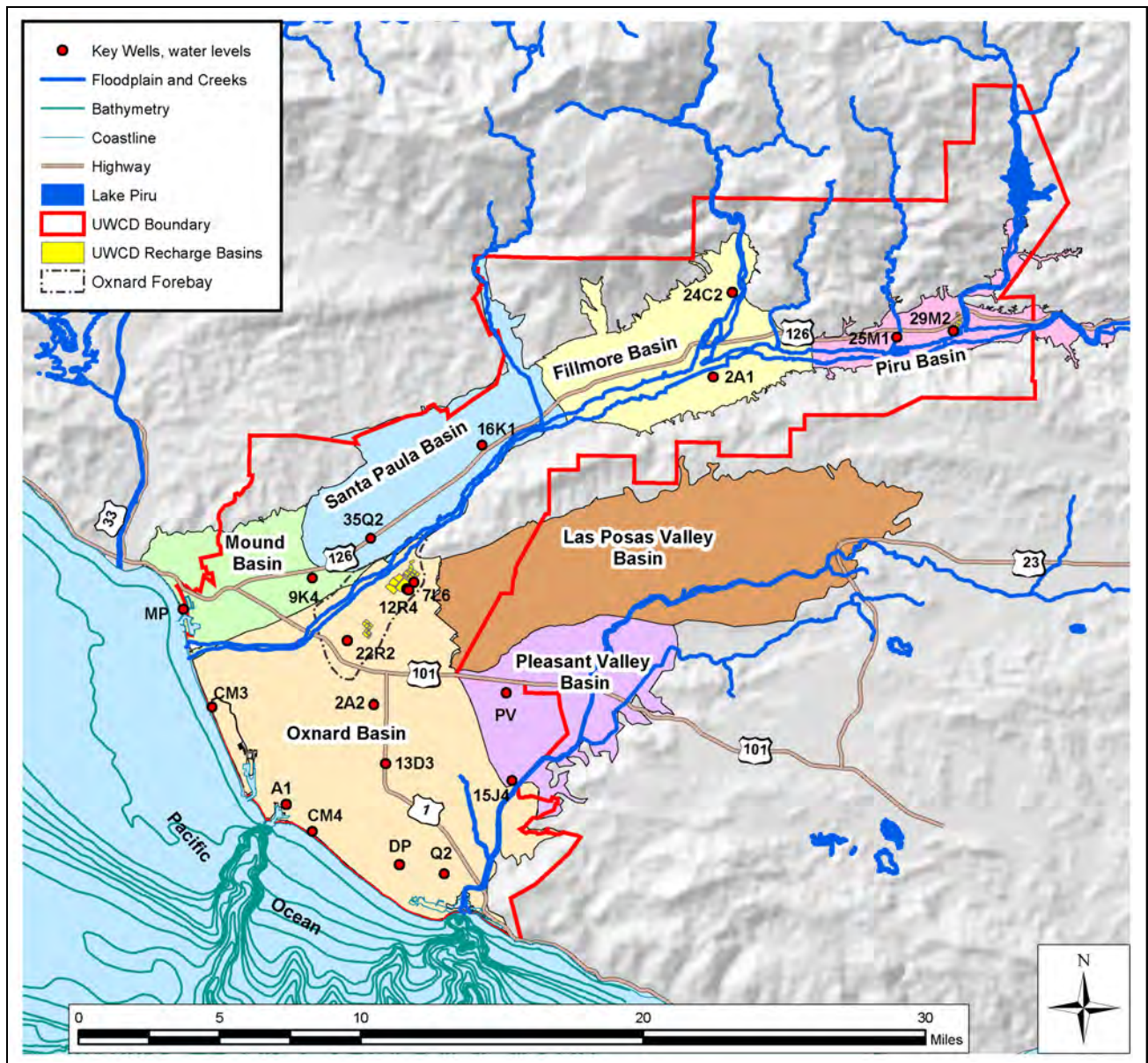
Castaic Lake releases to downstream water users (DWU)



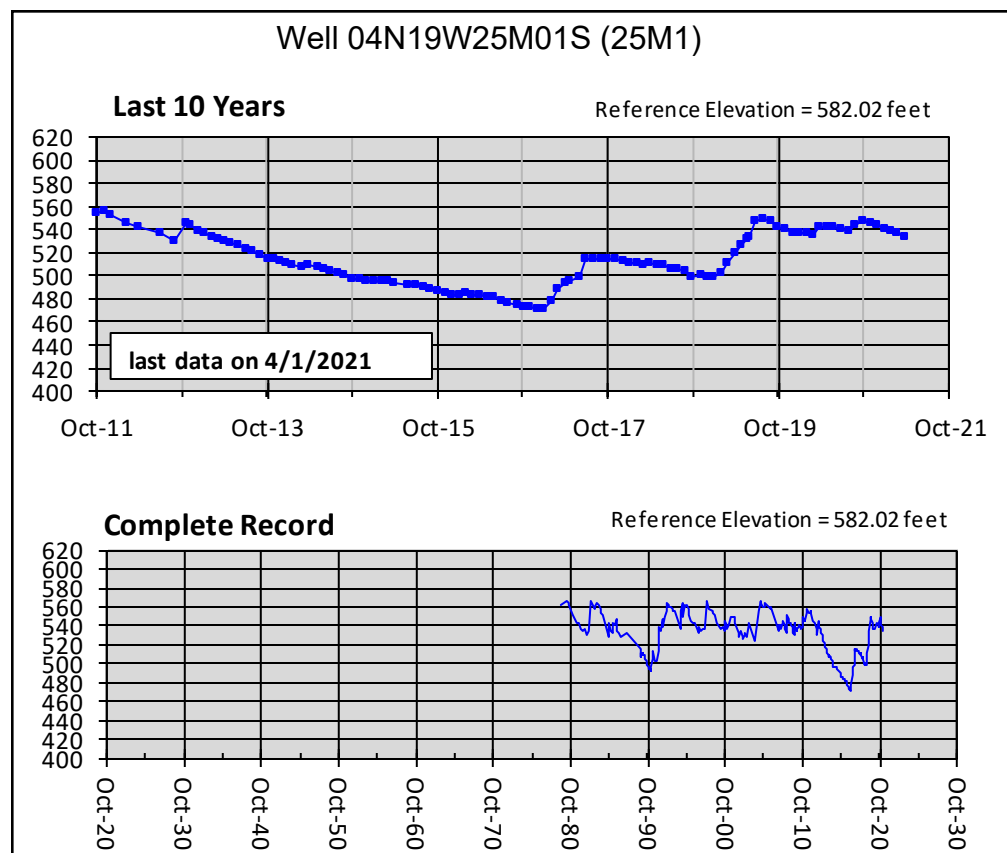
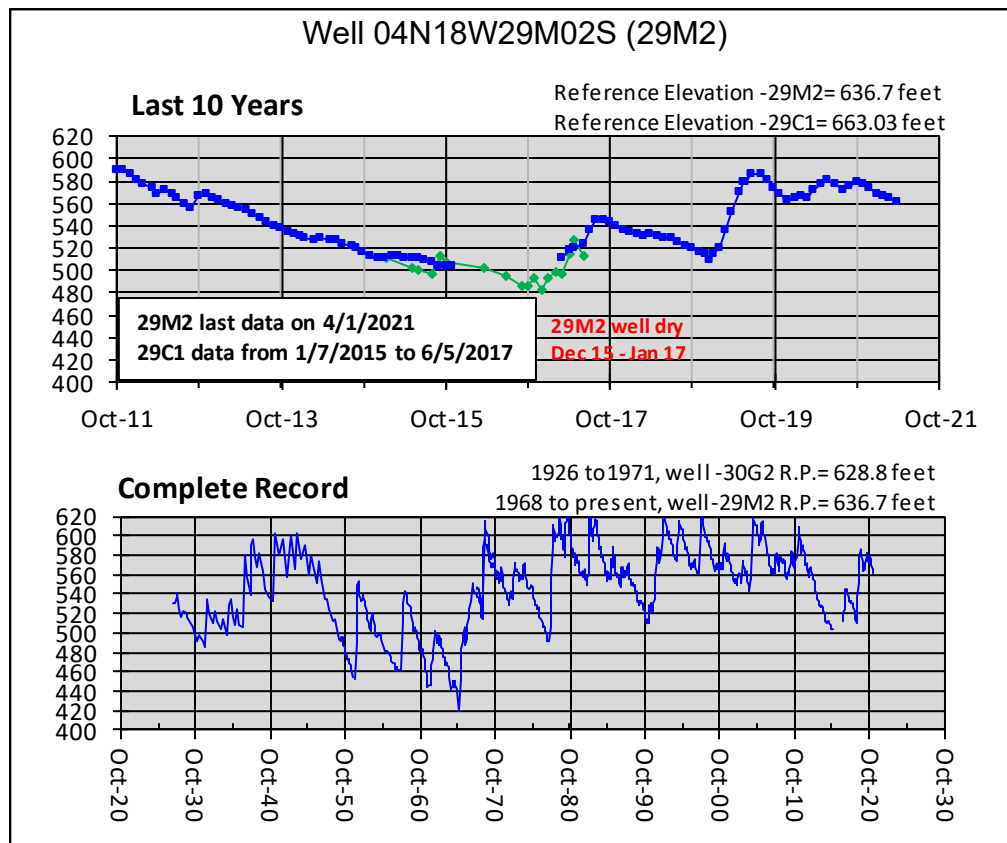
Pyramid Lake releases to UWCD



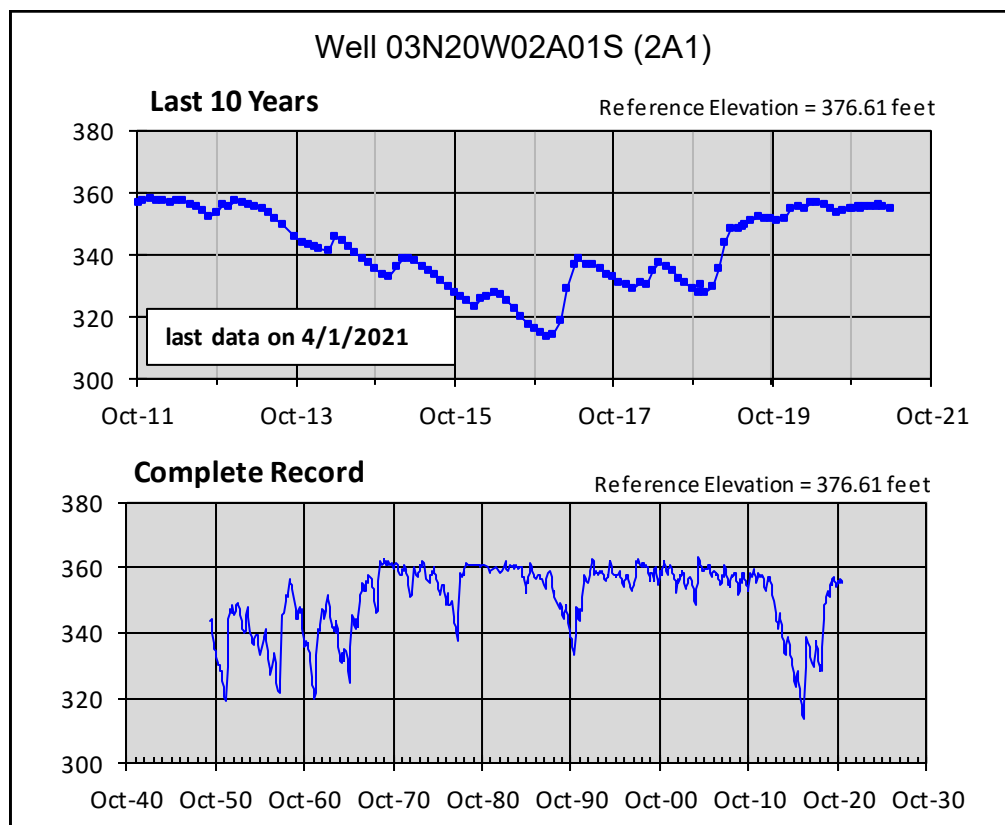
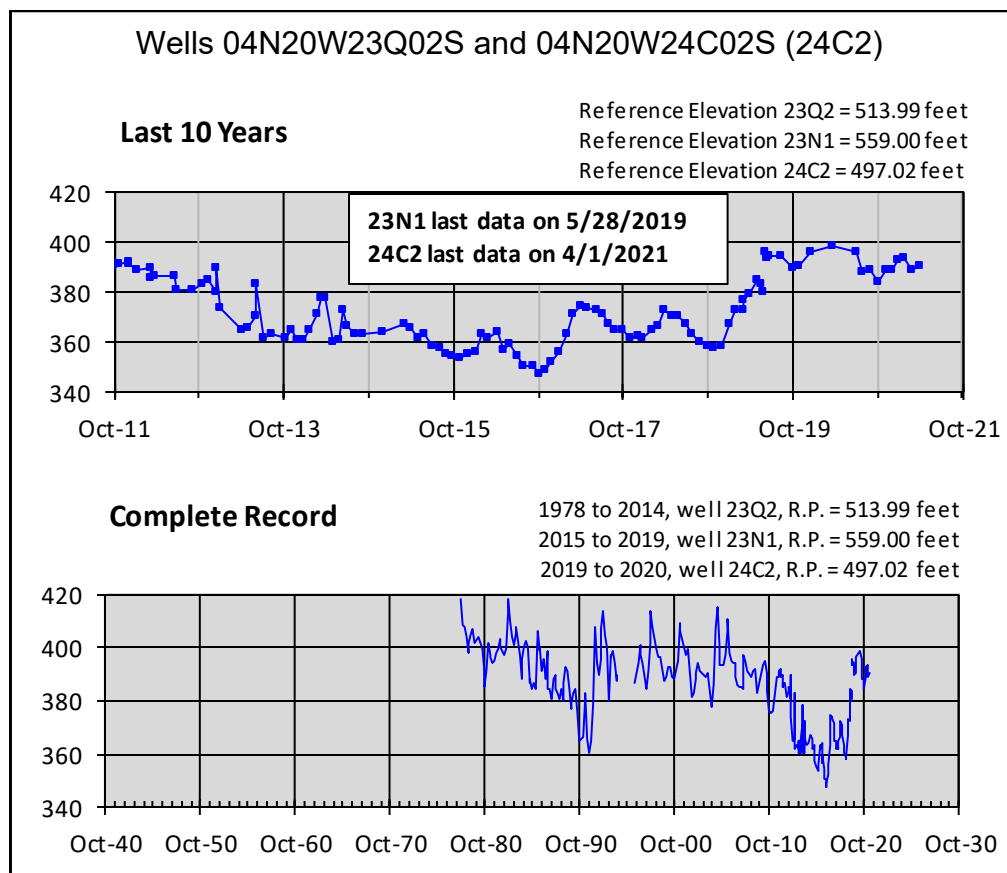
Locations of key wells, monthly groundwater elevation monitoring



Piru Basin Key Wells Groundwater Elevation Records

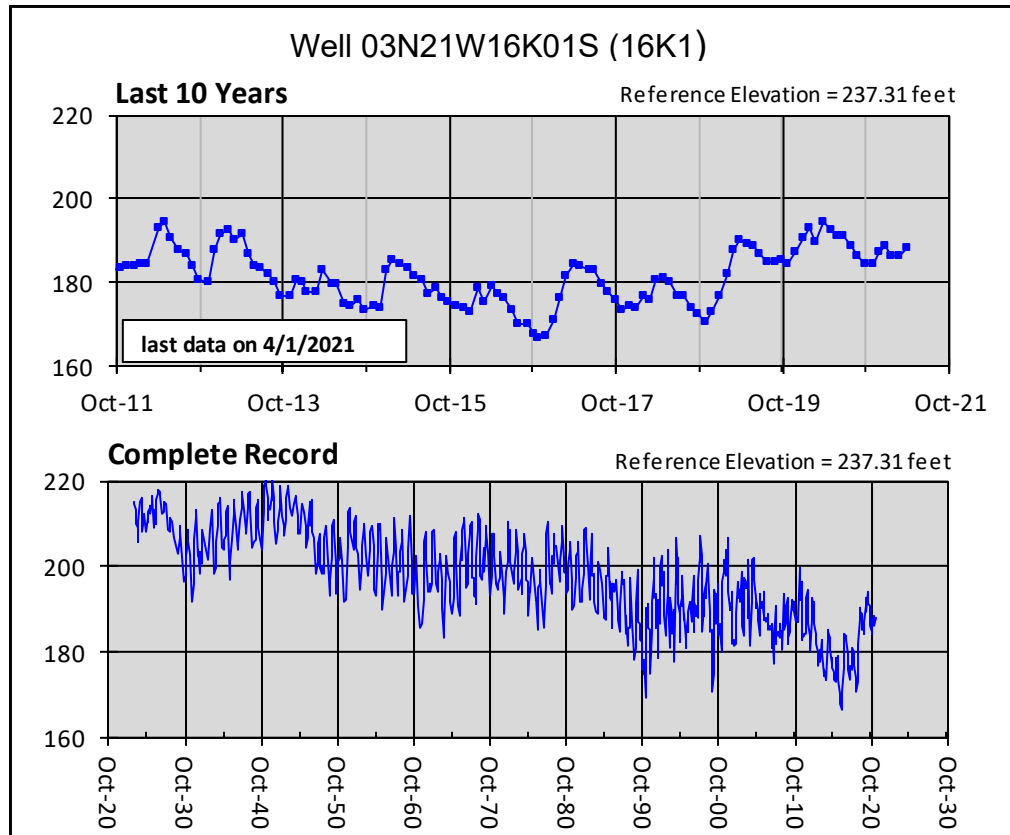


Fillmore Basin Key Wells Groundwater Elevation Records

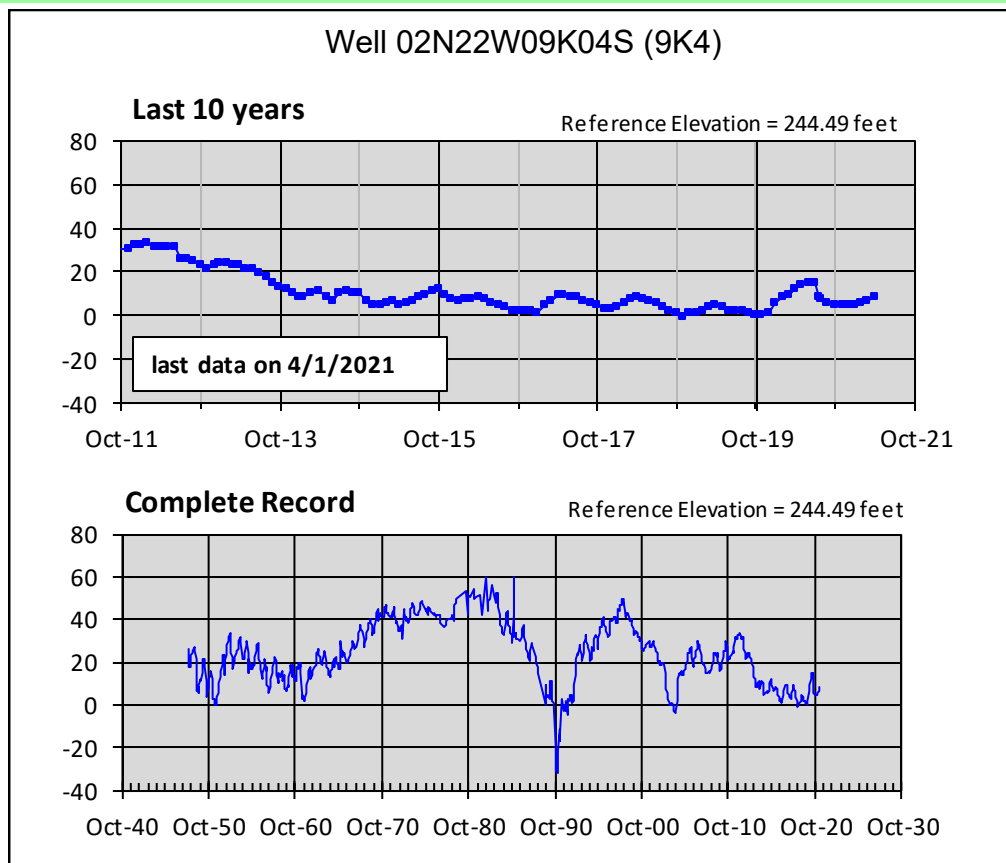


Groundwater Elevation Records

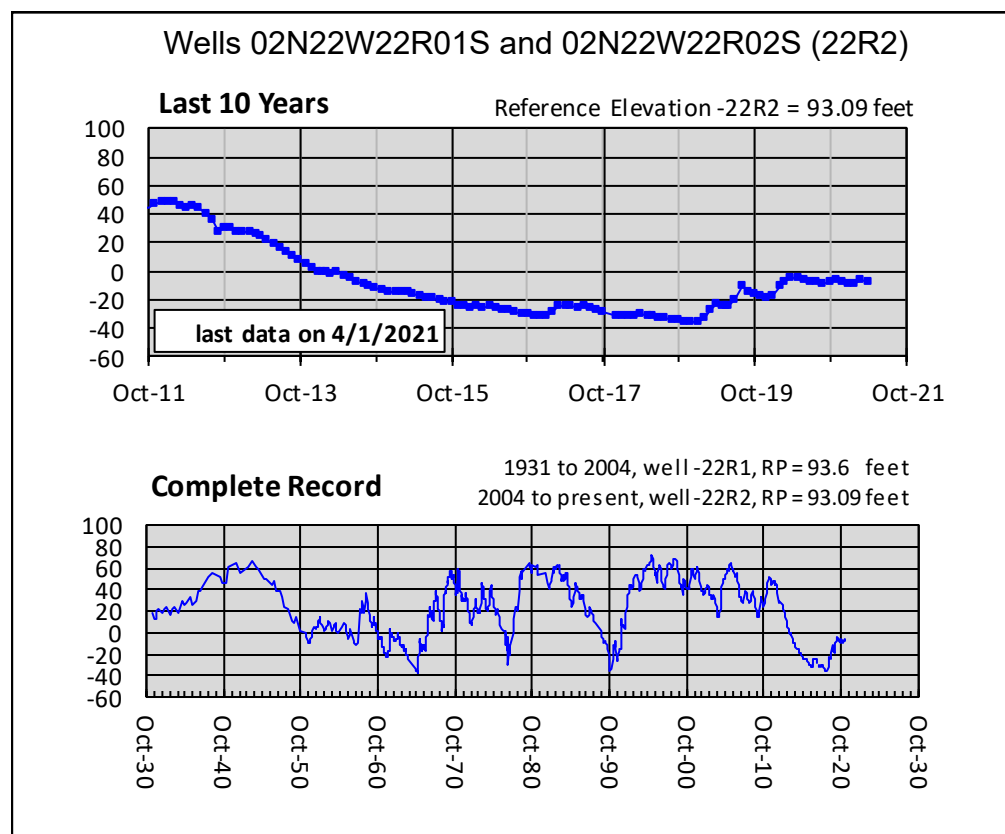
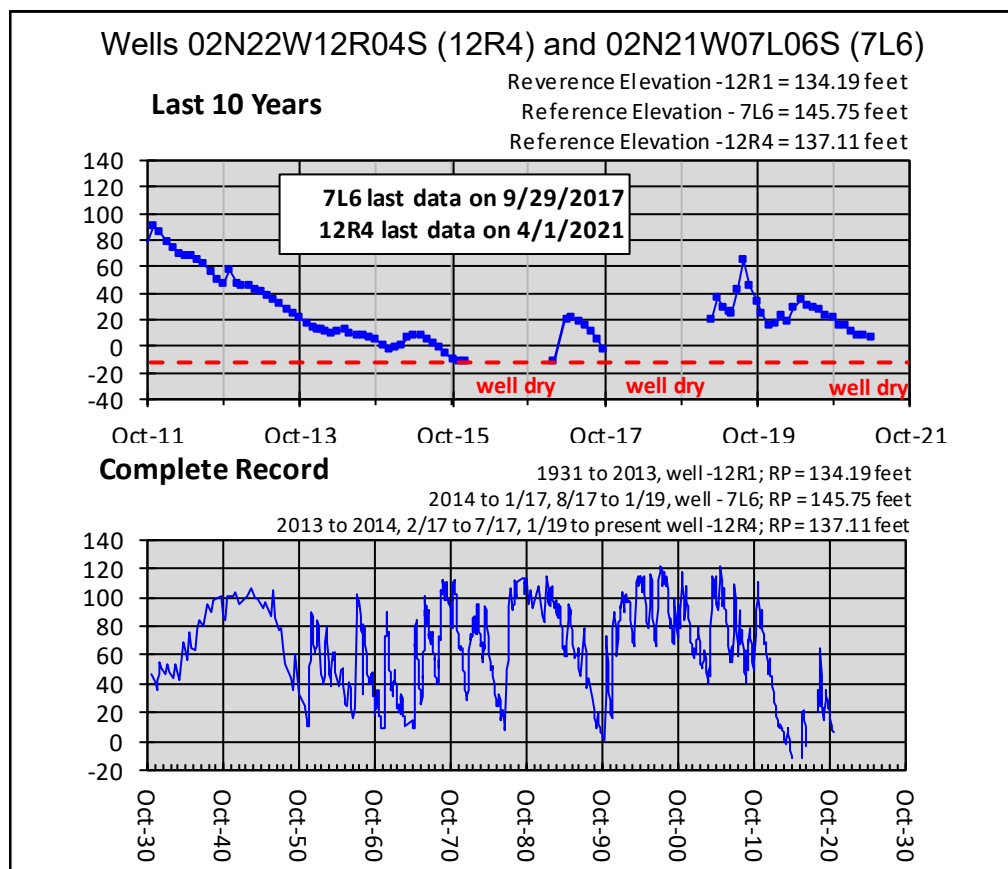
Santa Paula Basin Key Well



Mound Basin Key Well

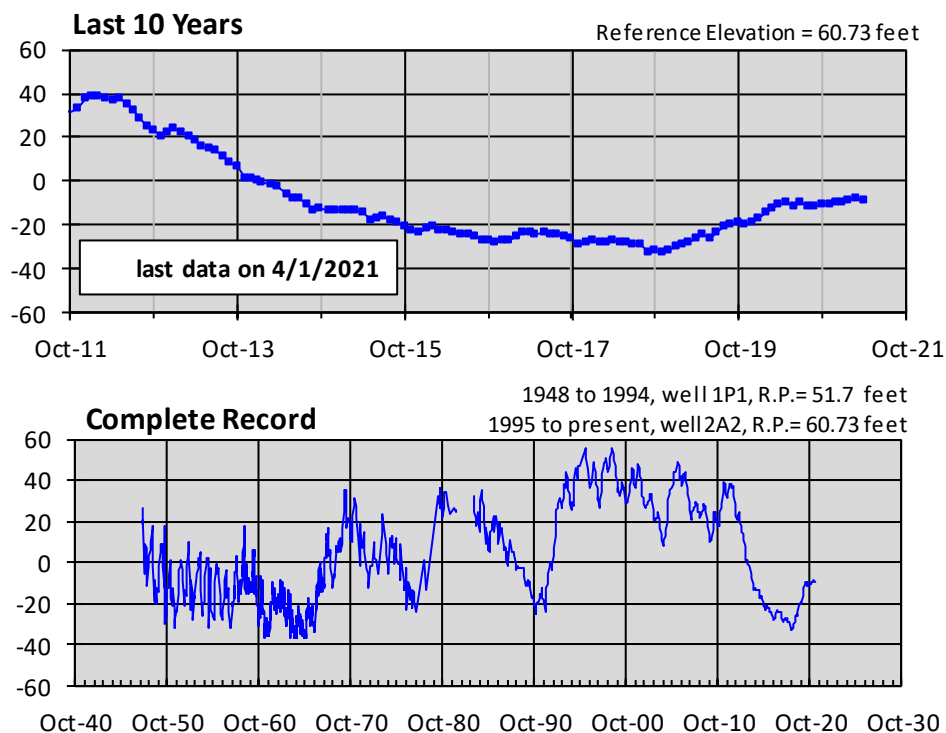


Oxnard Basin—Forebay Key Wells Groundwater Elevation Records

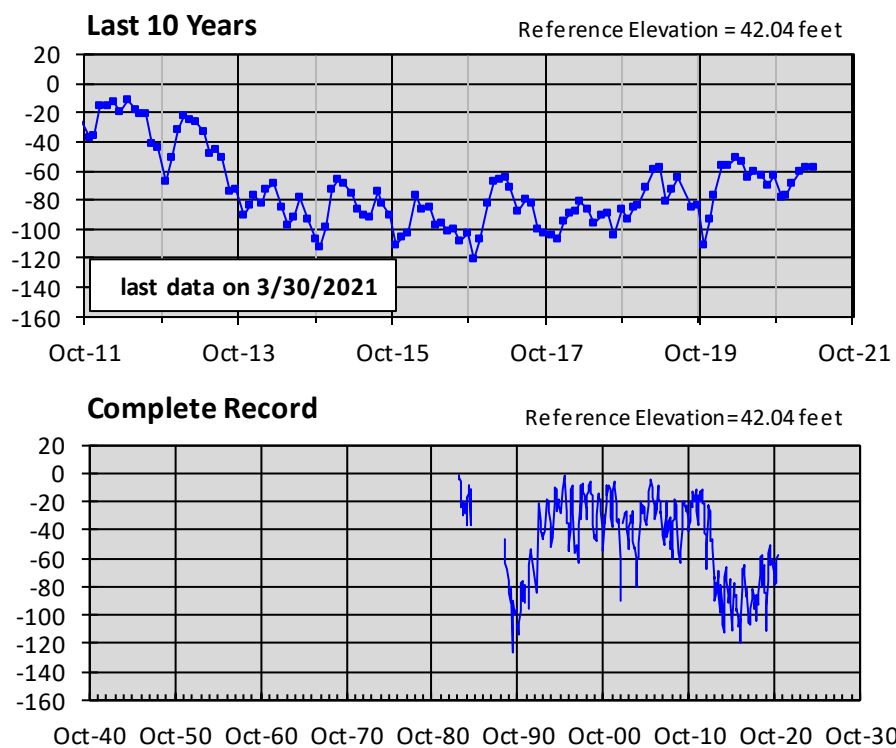


Oxnard Basin Key Wells Groundwater Elevation Records

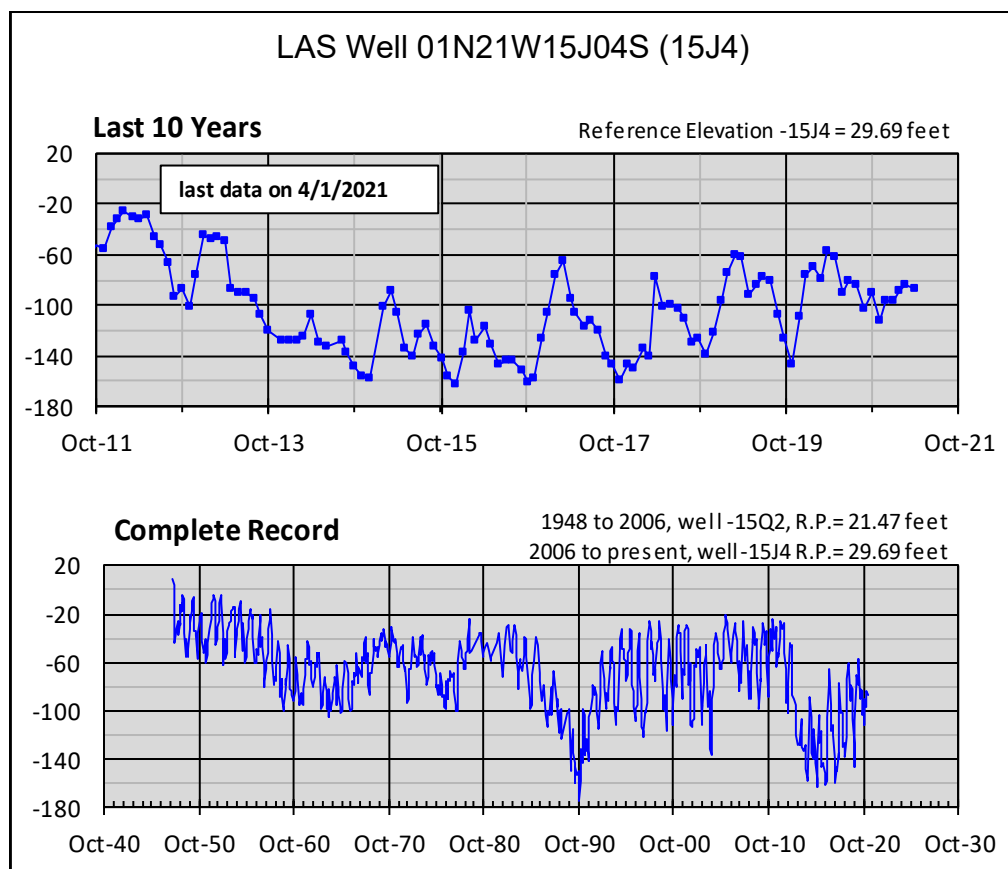
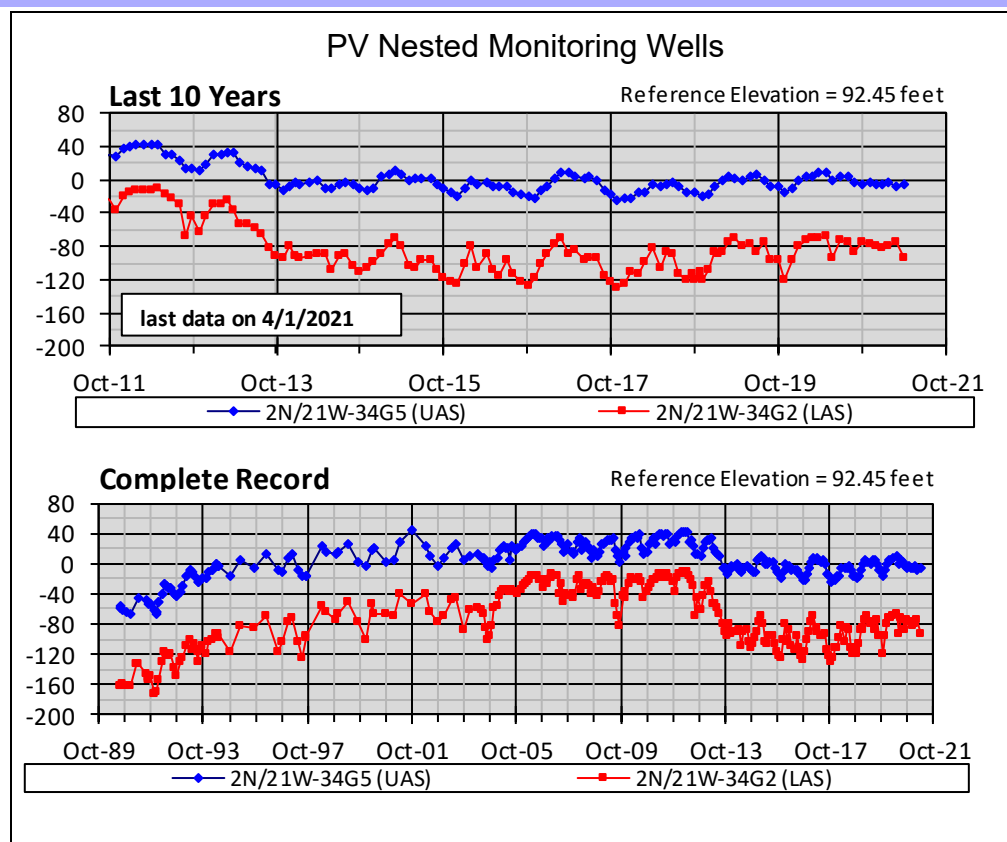
UAS Well 01N22W02A02S (2A2)



LAS well 01N22W13D03S (13D3)

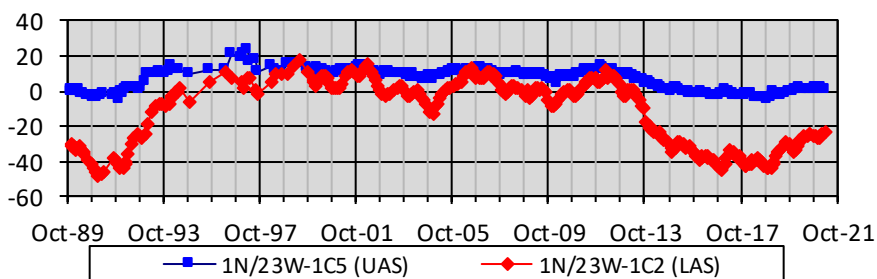


Pleasant Valley Basin Key Wells Groundwater Elevation Records

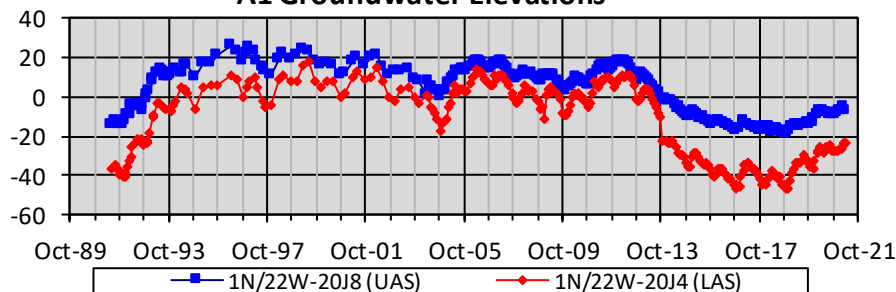


Oxnard Plain Coastal Key Wells—Nested Monitoring Wells

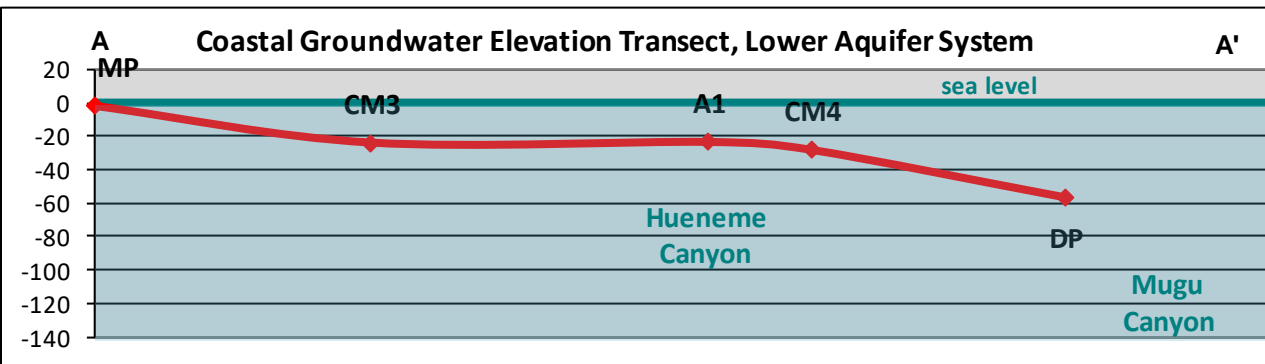
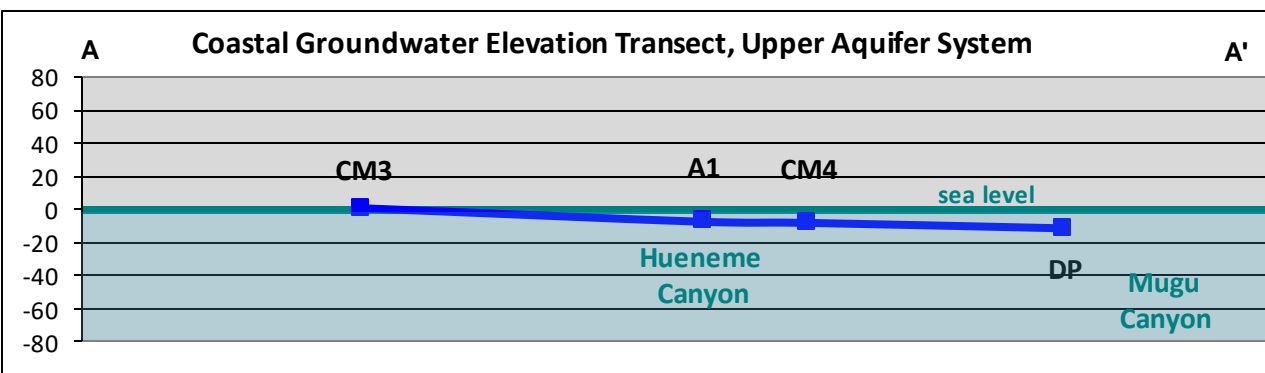
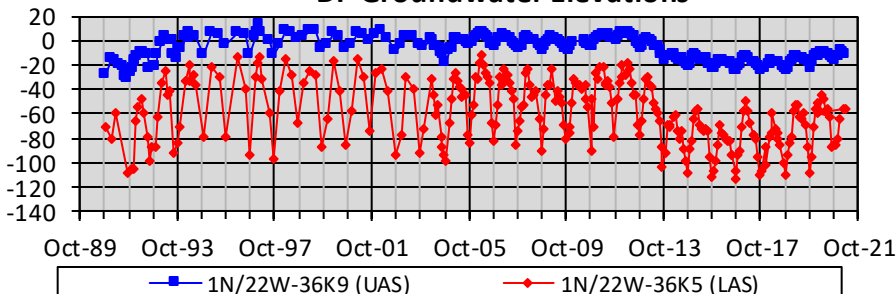
CM3 Groundwater Elevations



A1 Groundwater Elevations



DP Groundwater Elevations



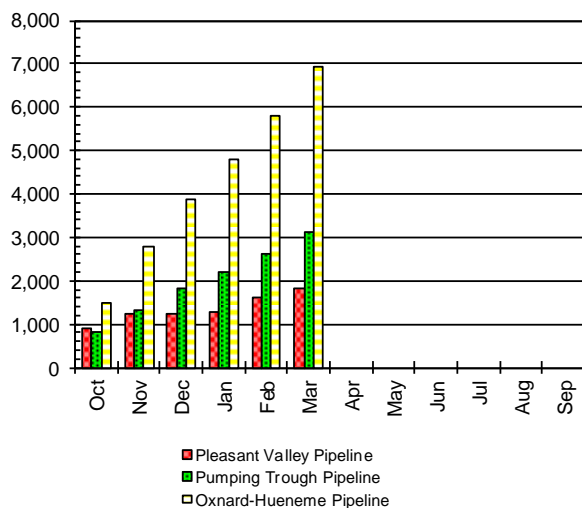
Monthly Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2020/21)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PV Pipeline (surface water)	902.5	329.0	13.4	16.9	372.0	174.2						
PV Pipeline (saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total to Pleasant Valley Pipeline	902.5	329.0	13.4	16.9	372.0	174.2						
Saticoy Well Field	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
PTP (surface water)	783.7	422.6	483.9	390.7	410.6	473.4						
PTP (groundwater)	24.8	92.3	19.0	0.6	4.9	9.4						
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total PTP	808.5	514.9	502.9	391.3	415.5	482.8						
O-H Pipeline (groundwater)	1,503.0	1,296.0	1,063.0	936.0	1,012.0	1,107.4						
Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP & PV)	1,686.2	751.6	497.3	407.6	782.6	647.6						
Total Groundwater Delivery (OH & PTP)	1,527.8	1,388.3	1,082.0	936.6	1,016.9	1,116.8						
Total Delivery, Surface Water & GW	3,214.0	2,139.9	1,579.3	1,344.2	1,799.5	1,764.4						

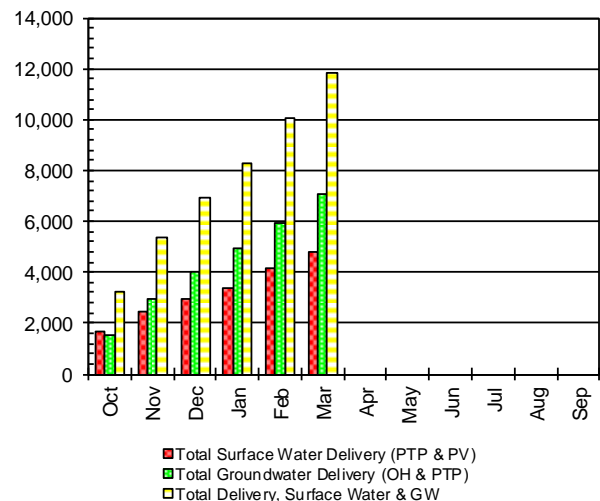
Cumulative Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2020/21)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PV Pipeline (surface water)	902.5	1,231.5	1,244.9	1,261.7	1,633.7	1,807.9						
PV Pipeline (saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total to Pleasant Valley Pipeline	902.5	1,231.5	1,244.9	1,261.7	1,633.7	1,807.9						
Saticoy Well Field	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
PTP (surface water)	783.7	1,206.3	1,690.2	2,080.9	2,491.5	2,964.9						
PTP (groundwater)	24.8	117.1	136.1	136.7	141.6	151.0						
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total PTP	808.5	1,323.4	1,826.3	2,217.6	2,633.1	3,115.9						
O-H Pipeline (groundwater)	1,503.0	2,799.0	3,862.0	4,798.0	5,810.0	6,917.4						
Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP & PV)	1,686.2	2,437.8	2,935.1	3,342.6	4,125.2	4,772.8						
Total Groundwater Delivery (OH & PTP)	1,527.8	2,916.1	3,998.1	4,934.7	5,951.6	7,068.4						
Total Delivery, Surface Water & GW	3,214.0	5,353.9	6,933.2	8,277.4	10,076.9	11,841.3						

Cumulative deliveries by system



Cumulative deliveries by source/type



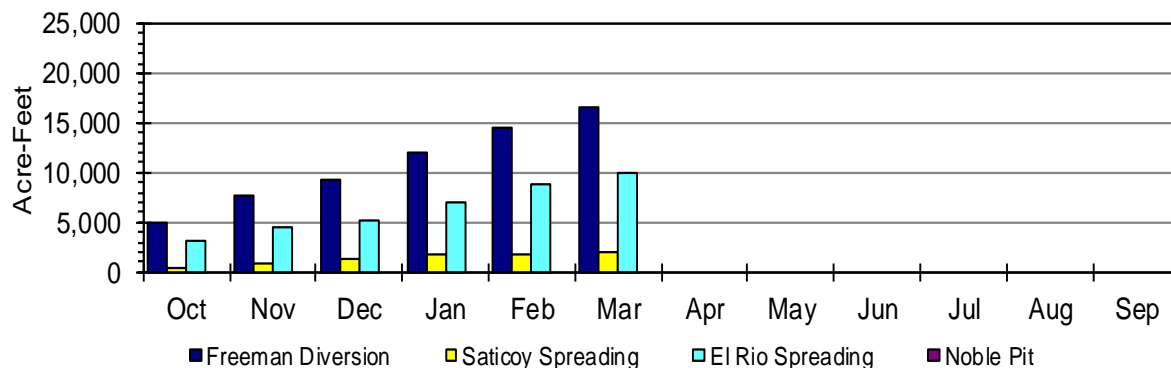
Monthly diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2020/21, in acre-feet

Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading	El Rio Spreading	Noble Pit
Oct	0	5,073	365	3,155	0
Nov	0	2,661	612	1,366	0
Dec	0	1,477	392	634	0
Jan	0	2,703	374	1,960	0
Feb	0	2,620	47	1,798	0
Mar	0	2,007	331	1,092	0
Apr					
May					
Jun					
Jul					
Aug					
Sep					

Cumulative diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2020/21, in acre-feet

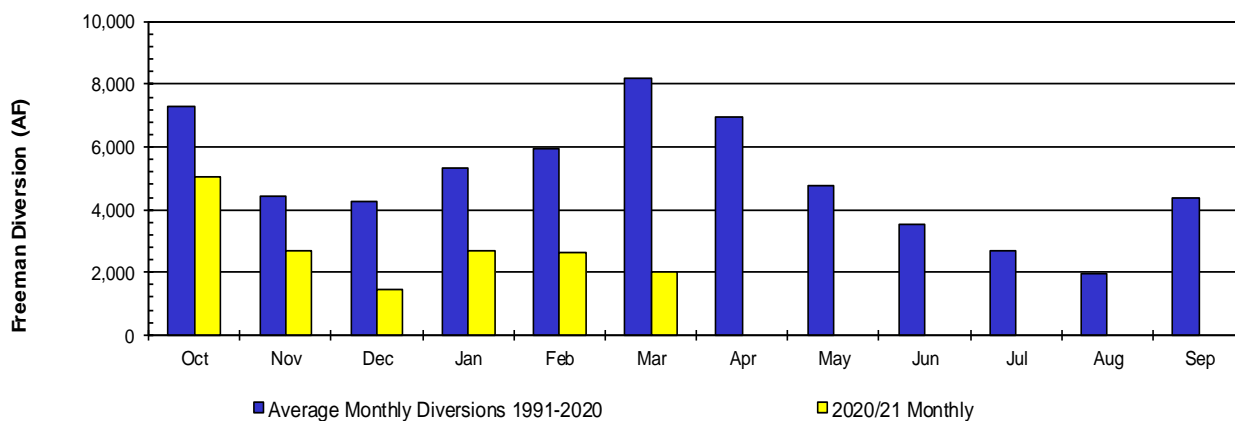
Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading	El Rio Spreading	Noble Pit
Oct	0	5,073	365	3,155	0
Nov	0	7,734	977	4,521	0
Dec	0	9,211	1,369	5,155	0
Jan	0	11,914	1,743	7,115	0
Feb	0	14,534	1,790	8,913	0
Mar	0	16,541	2,121	10,005	0
Apr					
May					
Jun					
Jul					
Aug					
Sep					

Cumulative diversion at Freeman, and distribution to recharge facilities

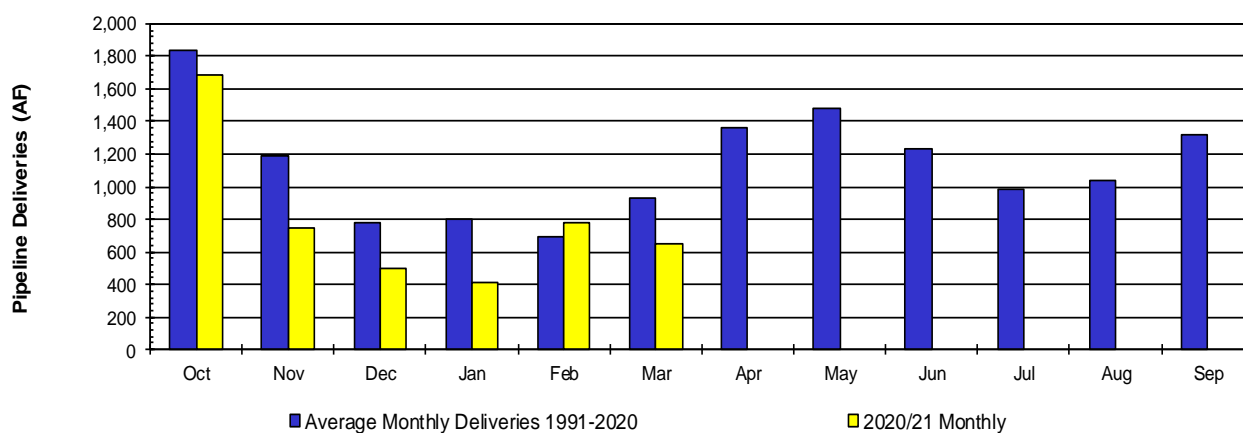


Cumulative diversions to Piru Spreading Grounds, 2020/21 = 0 AF

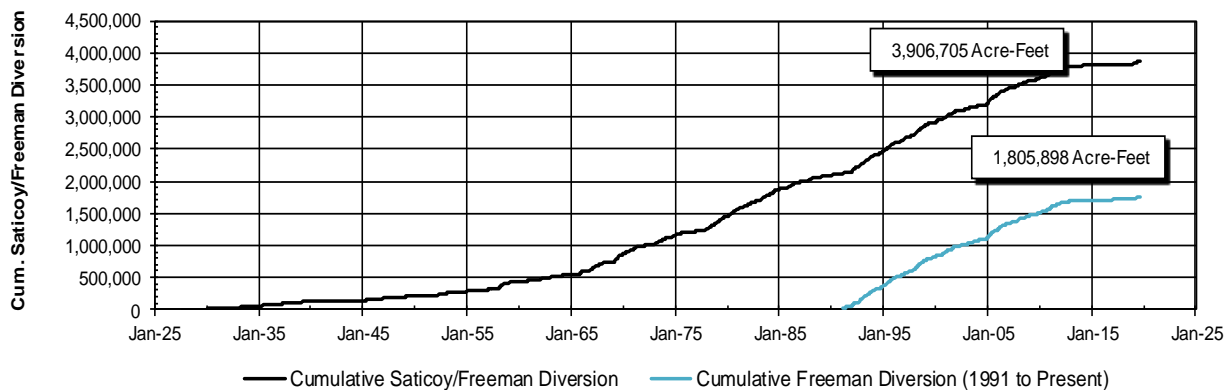
Monthly 2020/21 diversion at Freeman, compared to average monthly diversions (1991-2020)



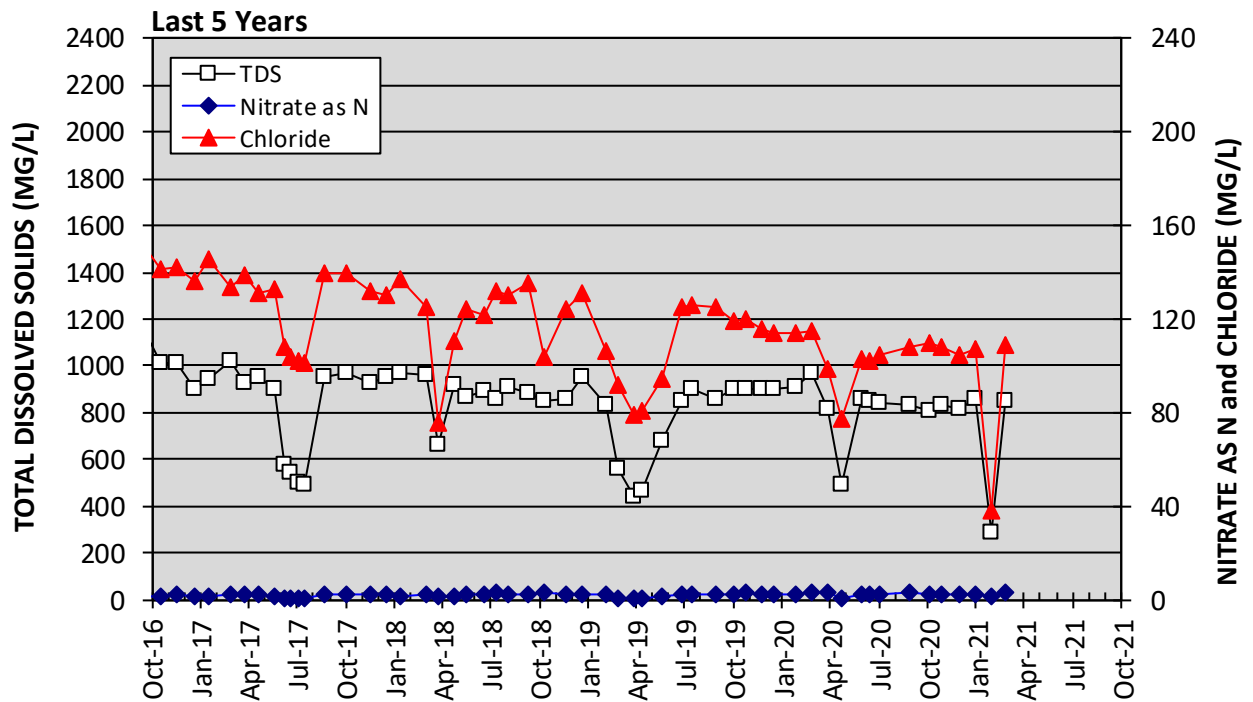
Monthly 2020/21 pipeline deliveries (surface water deliveries), compared to average monthly pipeline deliveries (1991-2020)



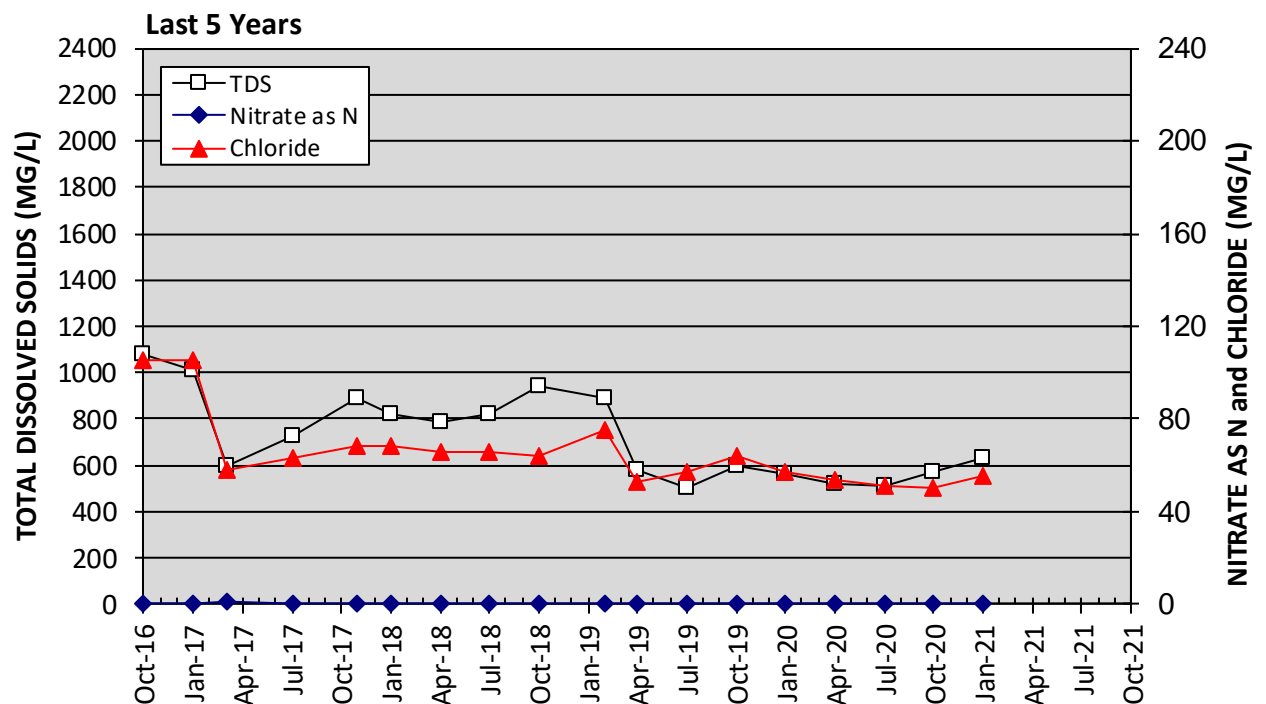
Cumulative diversion at Saticoy and Freeman Diversion, in acre-feet



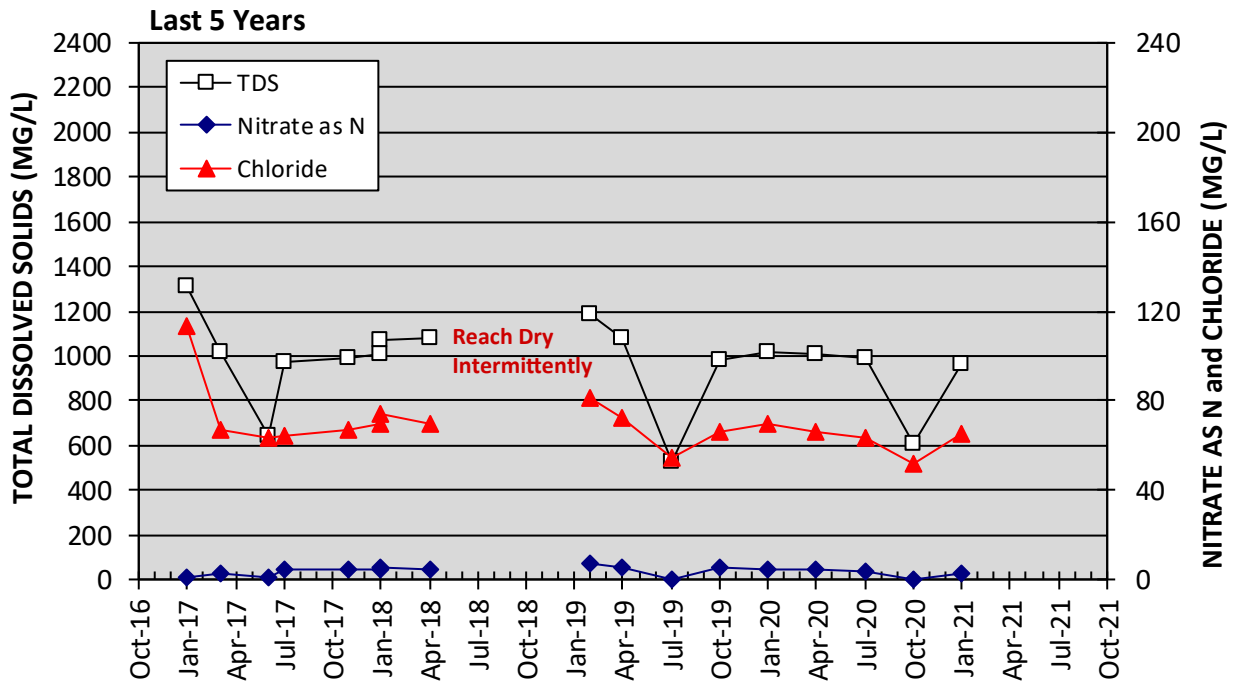
Santa Clara River water quality near Los Angeles/Ventura County line



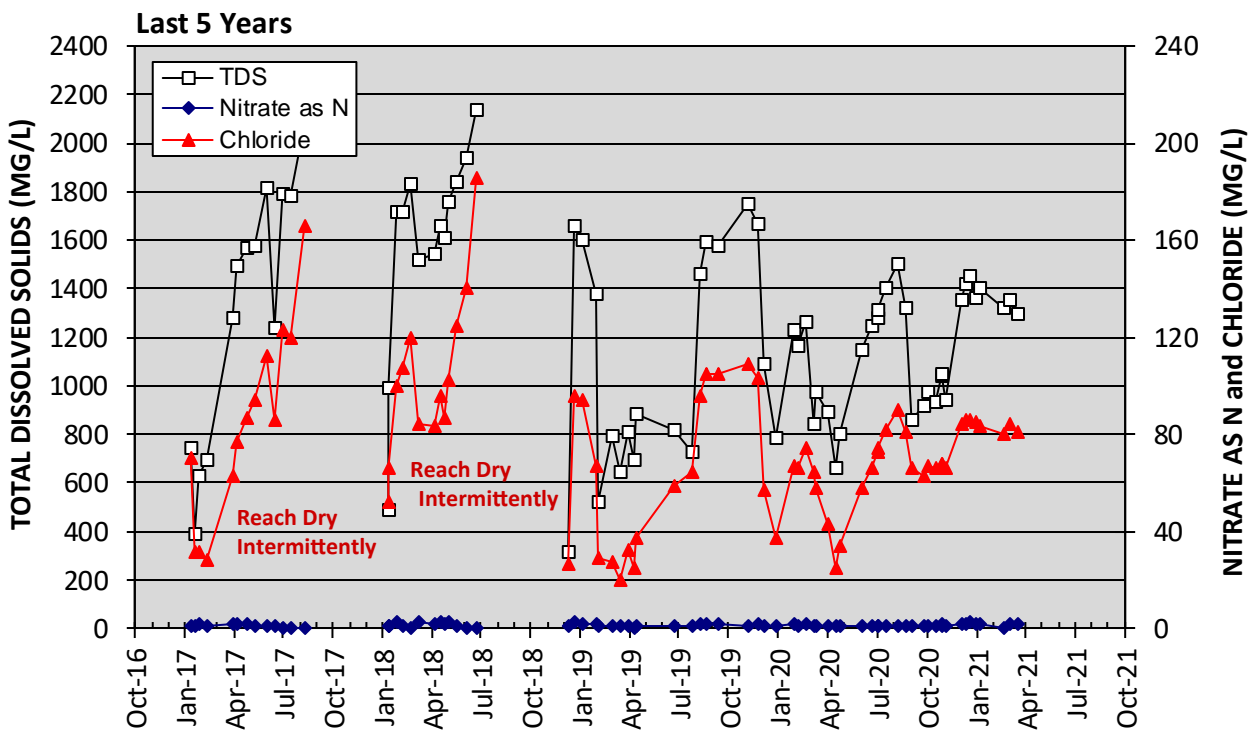
Piru Creek water quality below Santa Felicia Dam



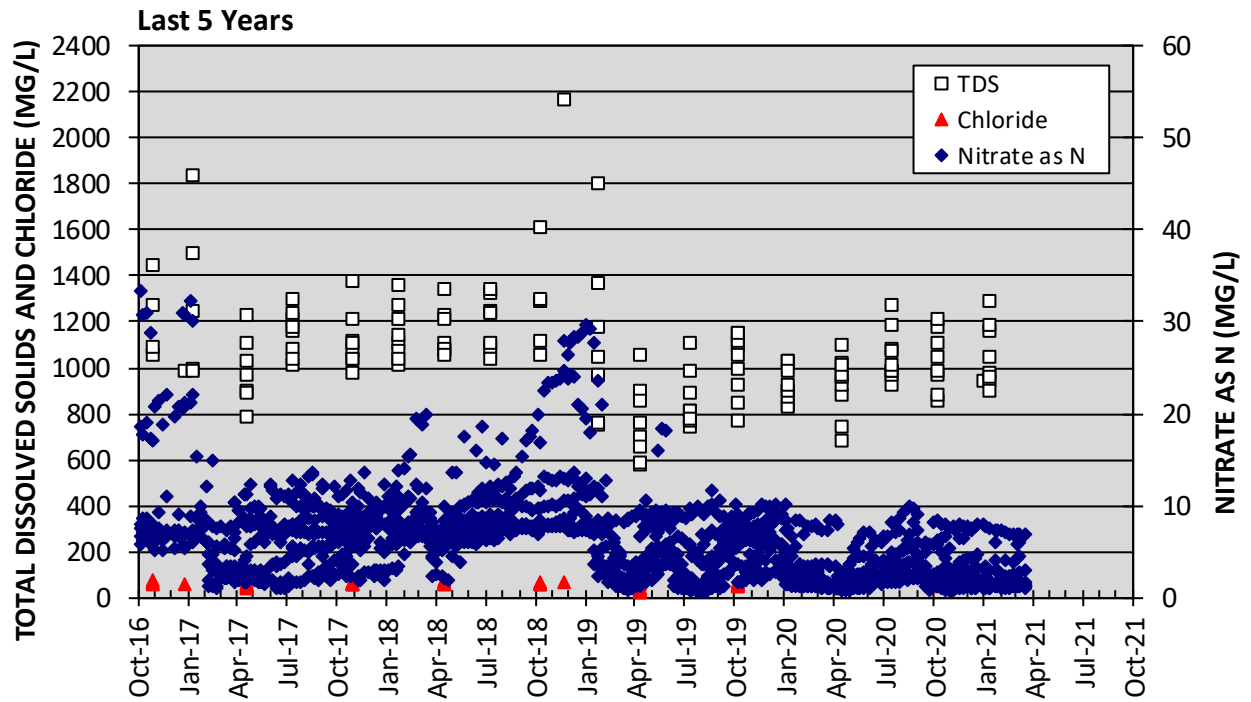
Santa Clara River water quality near Fillmore Fish Hatchery

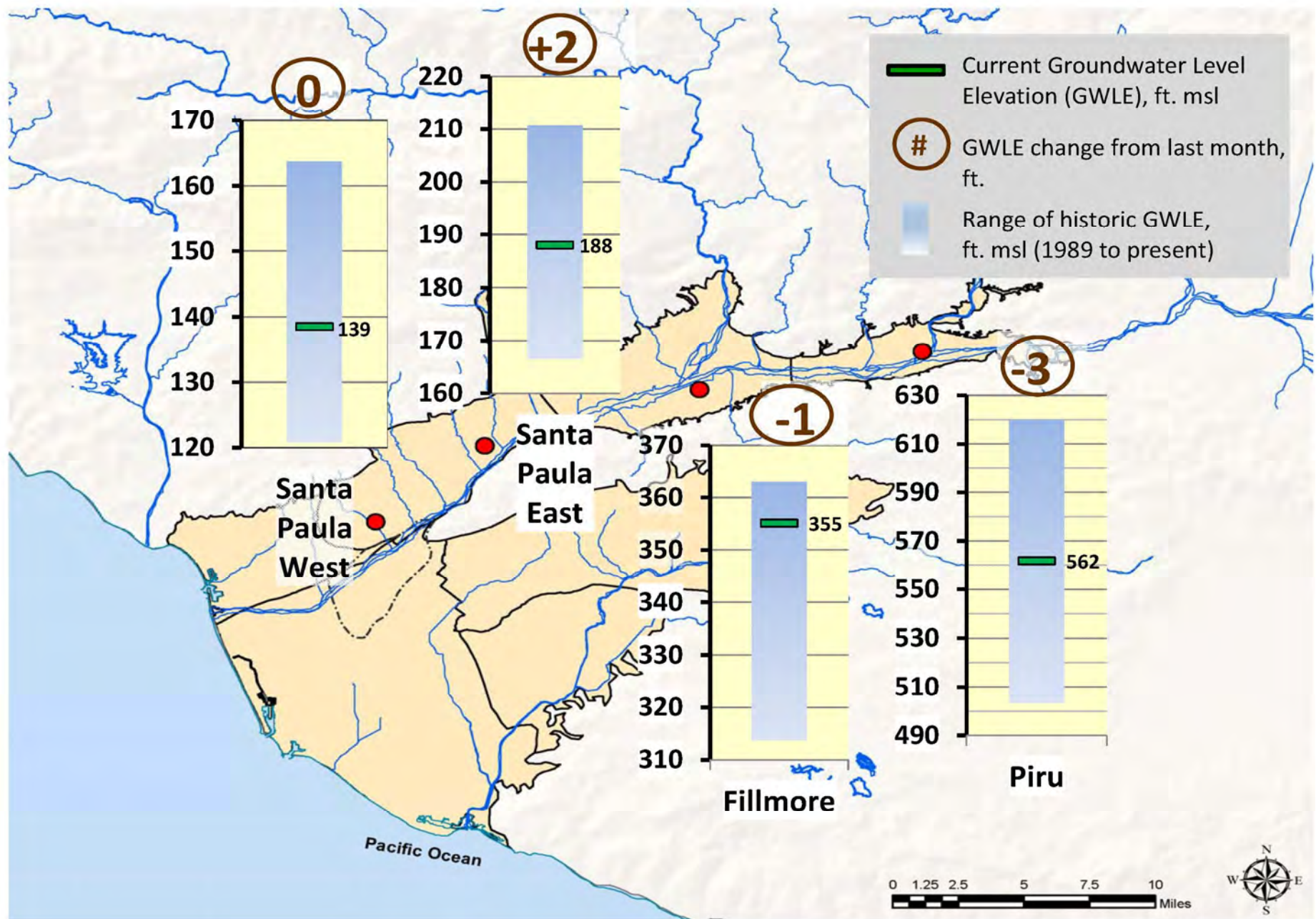


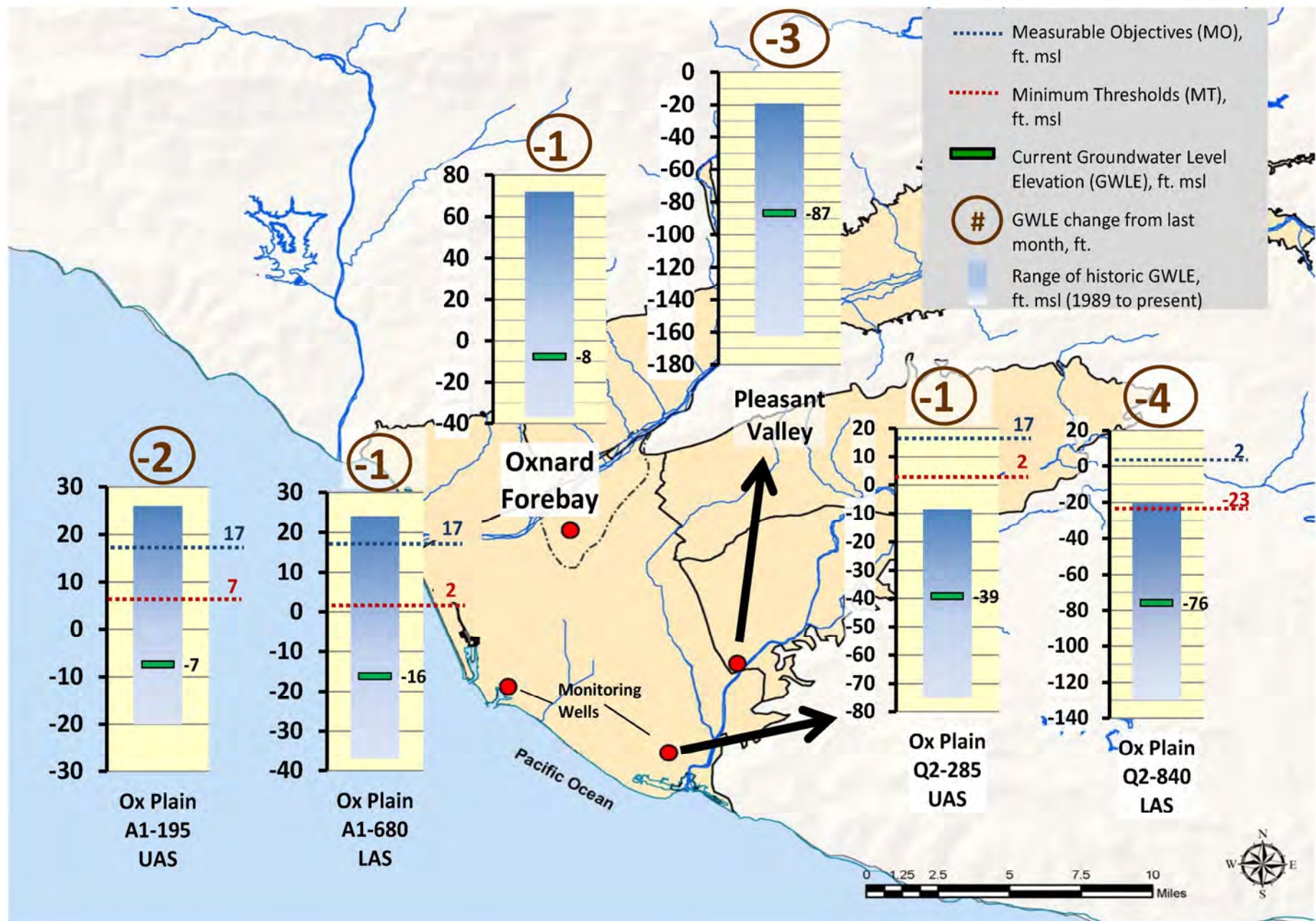
Santa Clara River water quality at Freeman Diversion



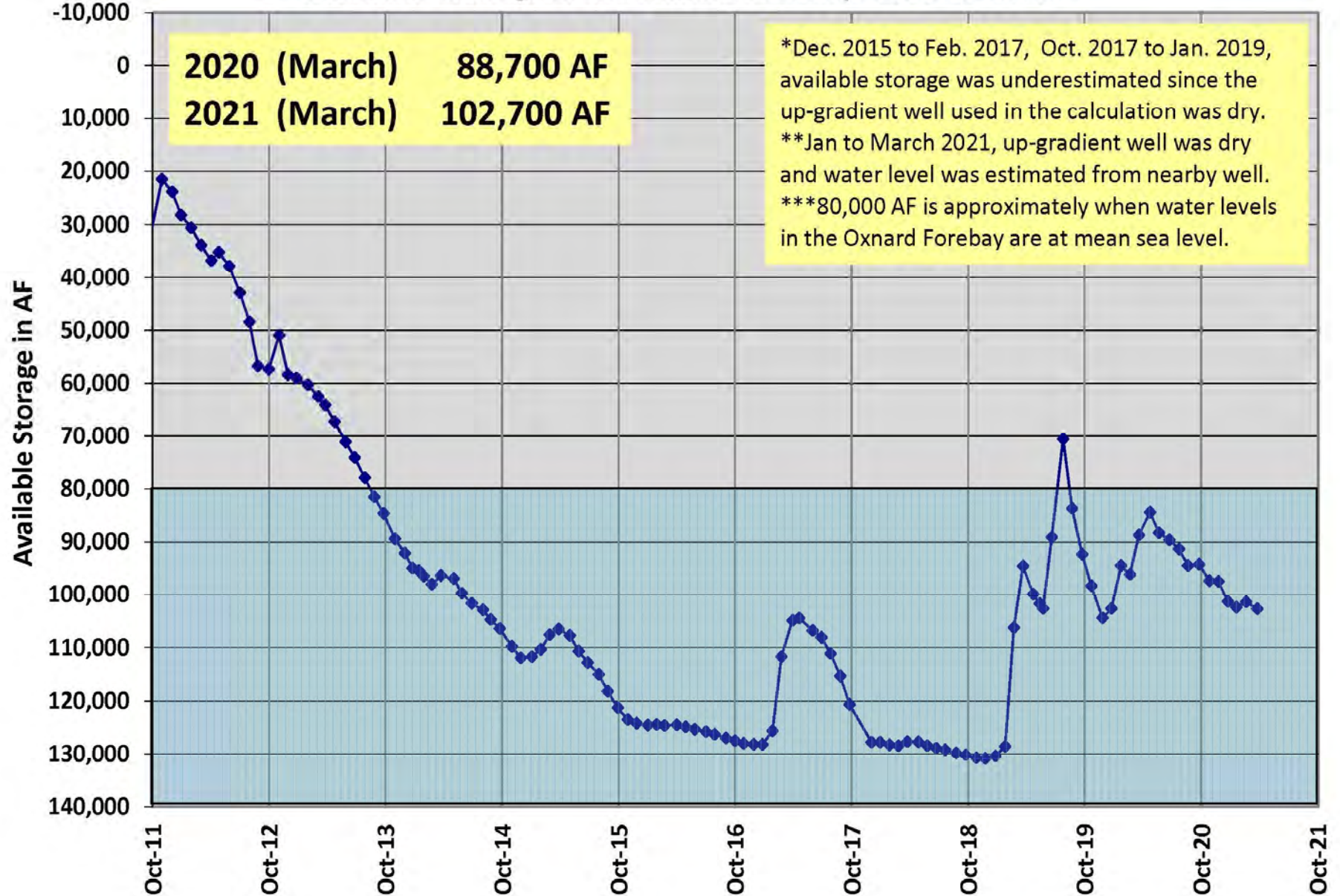
Water quality of Upper Aquifer System wells, El Rio well field

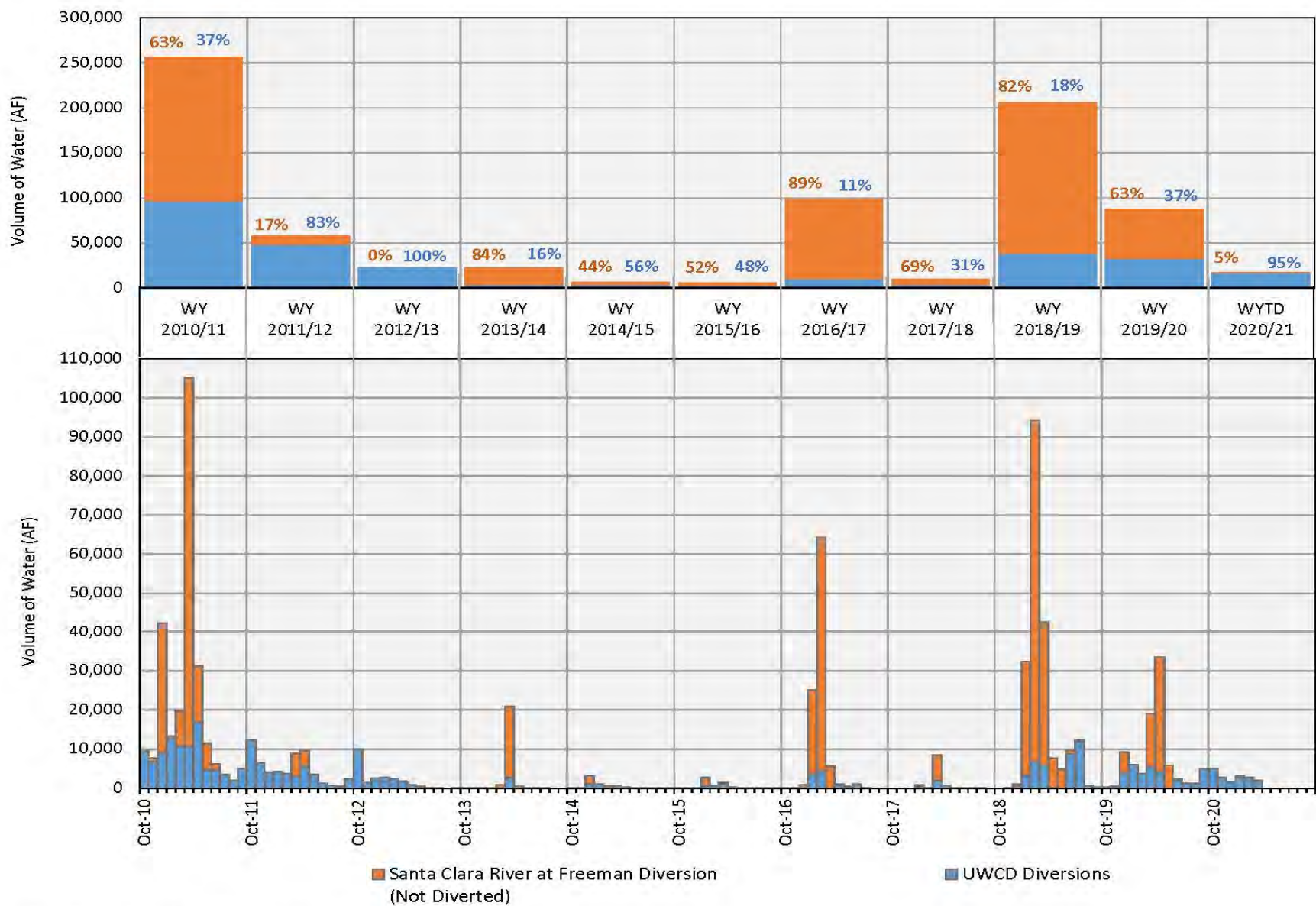






Available Storage in the Oxnard Forebay - Last 10 Years





Water Year (WY) = October 1 to September 30; WYTD = Water Year To Date



To: UWCD Board of Director

Through Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Joseph Jereb, Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 23, 2021 (April 14, 2021 meeting)

Agenda Item: **3C – Monthly (February 28, 2021) Investment Report**

Recommendation

Review and discuss the most current investment report for February 28, 2021 that is enclosed. Based on the information provided, and the ensuing discussion, provide any necessary direction to staff.

Fiscal Impact

As shown.

Discussion

Based on the information included in the attached reports, staff will present a summary and discuss key information as an overview.

Attachments: Combined Investment Report

United Water Conservation District
Monthly Investment Report
February 28, 2021

<u>Investment Recap</u>	<u>G/L Balance</u>	<u>Weighted Avg Days to Maturity</u>	<u>Diversification Percentage of Total</u>
Bank of the Sierra	2,103,582	1	3.97%
Union Bank - 2020 COP Bond Balance	19,006,952	1	35.92%
Petty Cash	1,000	1	0.00%
County Treasury	1,444	1	0.00%
LAIF Investments	31,808,927	1	60.10%
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Securities	52,921,906		100.00%
Investment Portfolio w/o Trustee Held Funds	52,921,906		
Trustee Held Funds	-		
Total Funds	52,921,906		

Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)	Beginning Balance	Deposits (Disbursements)	Ending Balance
	27,808,927	4,000,000	31,808,927
	Interest	Interest	
	Earned YTD	Received YTD	Qtrly Yield
	99,392	200,267	0.63%

All District investments are shown above and conform to the District's Investment Policy. All investment transactions during this period are included in this report
Based on budgeted cash flows the District appears to have the ability to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months.

DocuSigned by:

Mauricio Guardado

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Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

3/16/2021

Date Certified

DocuSigned by:

Anthony Emmert

70D59ECE0D8D46E...

Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

3/15/2021

Date Certified

DocuSigned by:

Joseph Jereb

366DA3150F61440...

Joseph Jereb, Chief Financial Officer

3/15/2021

Date Certified

<i>United Water Conservation District</i>			
<i>Cash Position</i>			
February 28, 2021			
Fund	Total	Composition	Restrictions/Designations
General/Water Conservation Fund:			Revenue collected for district operations
General/Water Conservation	14,984,913	5,868,729	Includes General, Rec & Ranger, Water Conservation
		1,725,000	Reserved for legal expenditures
		5,435,000	Designated for replacement, capital improvements, and environmental projects
		1,956,184	Supplemental Water Purchase Fund
General CIP Funds	3,693,862	3,693,862	Appropriated for capital projects
2020 COP Bond Funds	18,772,248	18,772,248	Reserved for CIP Projects
Special Revenue Funds:			Revenue collected for a special purpose
State Water Project Funds	3,231,341	3,231,341	Procurement of water/rights from state water project
Enterprise Funds:			Restricted to fund usage
Freeman Fund	1,170,400	1,170,400	Operations, Debt Service and Capital Projects
		-	Designated for replacement and capital improvements
		-	Reserved for legal expenditures
Freeman CIP Fund	3,679,521	3,679,521	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Fund	2,015,990	2,015,990	Delivery of water to OH customers
OH CIP Fund	1,740,245	1,740,245	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Well Replacement Fund	988,569	988,569	Well replacement fund
PV Pipeline Fund	454,901	454,901	Delivery of water to PV customers
PV CIP Fund	279,325	279,325	Appropriated for capital projects
PT Pipeline Fund	1,261,219	1,261,219	Delivery of water to PTP customers
PT CIP Fund	649,371	649,371	Appropriated for capital projects
Total District Cash & Investments	52,921,906	52,921,906	



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist

Date: April 5, 2021 (April 12, 2021 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.1 PUBLIC HEARING Opening of Annual Groundwater Hearing to Accept Public Comment on Groundwater Conditions within the District

Staff Recommendation:

Open Annual Groundwater Hearing.

Discussion:

In accordance with the California Water Code, the Board annually conducts a public hearing to consider the conditions of groundwater resources within the District. An Annual Engineering Investigation and Report of Groundwater Conditions within the United Water Conservation District was submitted to the Board's Secretary/Treasurer on March 30, 2021, and has been available for public review and comment. It is suggested that this hearing be opened and continued through each regular Board meeting through June. During its June meeting, the Board may choose to close the hearing and consider the establishment of zones and the levying of groundwater extraction charges in those zones.

Staff will present a summary of the groundwater conditions detailed in the 2021 Annual Report. The Water Code Section 75574 uses specific definitions for terms such as "overdraft" and "total of annual overdrafts"; these terms will be explained in the context of their use in the Annual Report.

	2019-2020 (previous year)	Water Year 2020-2021 (current year)	2021-2022 (ensuing year)
Annual Overdraft	38,600 AF	112,000 AF (projected)	0 - 78,900 AF
Accumulated Overdraft	20,000 – 25,000 AF	20,000 – 25,000 AF	-
Total of Annual Overdrafts	2,078,000 AF	-	-
Estimated Groundwater Pumping for Agriculture	-	-	118,000 AF
Estimated Groundwater Pumping for M&I	-	-	39,000 AF

4.1 **PUBLIC HEARING** Opening of Annual Groundwater Hearing to Accept Public Comment on Groundwater Conditions within the District

	2019-2020 (previous year)	Water Year 2020-2021 (current year)	2021-2022 (ensuing year)
Estimated Surface Water Distribution	-	-	Much less than 64,000 AF
Total Water Distribution	-	-	Much less than 221,000 AF

The Forebay groundwater basin is an important element of the water resources management program implemented by the District. Staff calculates the available storage in the Forebay on a monthly basis. The available storage, as of March 2021, is approximately 102,700 AF. For reference, an available storage value of about 80,000 AF means that water levels in the Forebay basin are at about sea level and these lower water levels cannot provide the positive pressures on the seawater intruded aquifers at the coast to retard landward migration of saline waters.

Public comment will be accepted at this time. This hearing will be continued first until Thursday, May 12, 2021. No Board decisions will be made until the final hearing on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Attachment A: [Annual Engineering Investigation and Report of Groundwater Conditions within the United Water Conservation District](#)

Annual Investigation and Report of Groundwater Conditions Within United Water Conservation District



*A summary of findings for the previous water year (2019-2020)
current water year (2020-2021), and ensuing water year (2021-2022)*

**Prepared by
Groundwater Department**

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 2021




Board of Directors
Michael W. Mobley, President
Bruce E. Dandy, Vice President
Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Edwin T. McFadden III
Daniel C. Naumann

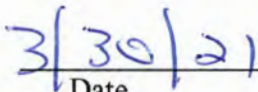
General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

I, Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District, do certify that I am in receipt of the Annual Investigation and Report of Groundwater Conditions within United Water Conservation District – *A summary of findings for the previous water year (2019-2020), current water year (2020-2021), and ensuing water year (2021-2022).*



Signature



Date

**ANNUAL INVESTIGATION AND REPORT
OF
GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS WITHIN
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE
PREVIOUS WATER YEAR (2019-2020),
CURRENT WATER YEAR (2020-2021),
AND ENSUING WATER YEAR (2021-2022)**

**PREPARED BY
GROUNDWATER DEPARTMENT
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Cover Photo: United Water Conservation Districts El Rio Facility on
March 09, 2021
Photo by John Carman.

MARCH 10, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Background

United Water Conservation District (the District) is organized and operates pursuant to the Water Conservation District Law of 1931, which is set forth in Division 21 of the Water Code. [Section 74000 et seq.]

The District may establish and levy groundwater charges against persons operating groundwater producing facilities within zone(s) of the District. Such groundwater charges are in furtherance of the District's activities in the protection and augmentation of the water supplies for users within the District or its zone(s) which are necessary for the public health, welfare and safety of the people of the State of California. In connection with the establishment and levying of such charges, Section 75560 of the Water Code provides that "The district shall annually cause to be made an engineering investigation and report upon the groundwater conditions of the district". The annual groundwater conditions report is provided to the District's board of directors to assist the board in evaluating the nature and extent of groundwater overdraft within the District.

Definitions

Several terms are defined here to minimize confusion as to their meaning within the context of this report. The following definitions are provided from the California Water Code:

Water Year means July 1st of one calendar year to June 30th of the following calendar year. (§ 75507)

Annual Overdraft means the amount, determined by the board, by which the production of water from groundwater supplies within the district or any zone or zones thereof during the water year exceeds the natural replenishment of such groundwater supplies in such water year. (§ 75506)

Accumulated Overdraft means the amount of water necessary to be replaced in the intake areas of the groundwater basins within the district or any zone or zones thereof to prevent the landward movement of salt water into the fresh groundwater body, or to prevent subsidence of the land within the district or any zone or

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

zones thereof, as determined by the board from time to time.
(§ 75505)

The management of the basins within the District has required artificial recharge to be an integral part of annual replenishment. Therefore, this report includes both artificial recharge and natural recharge in all calculations of overdraft. The above definition of "accumulated overdraft" for water conservation districts differs significantly from the definition in the Water Code used for water replenishment districts, where "accumulated overdraft" is an accumulated total of annual overdrafts. The District has historically tracked this accumulated total of annual overdrafts. Data analysis via the District's Geographic Information System (GIS) and use of the Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model (as adapted from the USGS RASA Model, [Hanson et al, 2003]) has informed the calculation of "accumulated overdraft" under the meaning of Section 75505; however, the Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model was not specifically used in calculating the figures presented in this report. In this report, we use the term "**total of annual overdrafts**" for the running total of accumulated annual overdrafts, and the term "**accumulated overdraft**" for the long-term increase of the average annual replenishment that is necessary to prevent landward movement of salt water and to prevent subsidence. Techniques for these calculations and differences between the overdraft totals are described in the sections "Data and Methods" and "Discussion".

Groundwater Basins of the District

All or portions of seven groundwater basins lie within the District. These basins are defined by their hydrologic, geologic and physiographic interconnectivity, which influence the quantity, and quality of groundwater available in each of the basins. Three ground water basins are located completely or almost completely within the boundaries of the District. These three basins include two along the upstream reaches of the Santa Clara River (Fillmore and Santa Paula basins), as well as one basin in the coastal plain area (Oxnard basin). In addition to these three groundwater basins, most of the Mound Basin in the Ventura area and portions of the Pleasant Valley and Las Posas groundwater basins also lie within the District. A majority of the Piru basin is within the District; however some eastern areas of the Piru basin with minimal groundwater pumping extend beyond the boundaries of the District. The locations of these basins are shown on Figure 1.

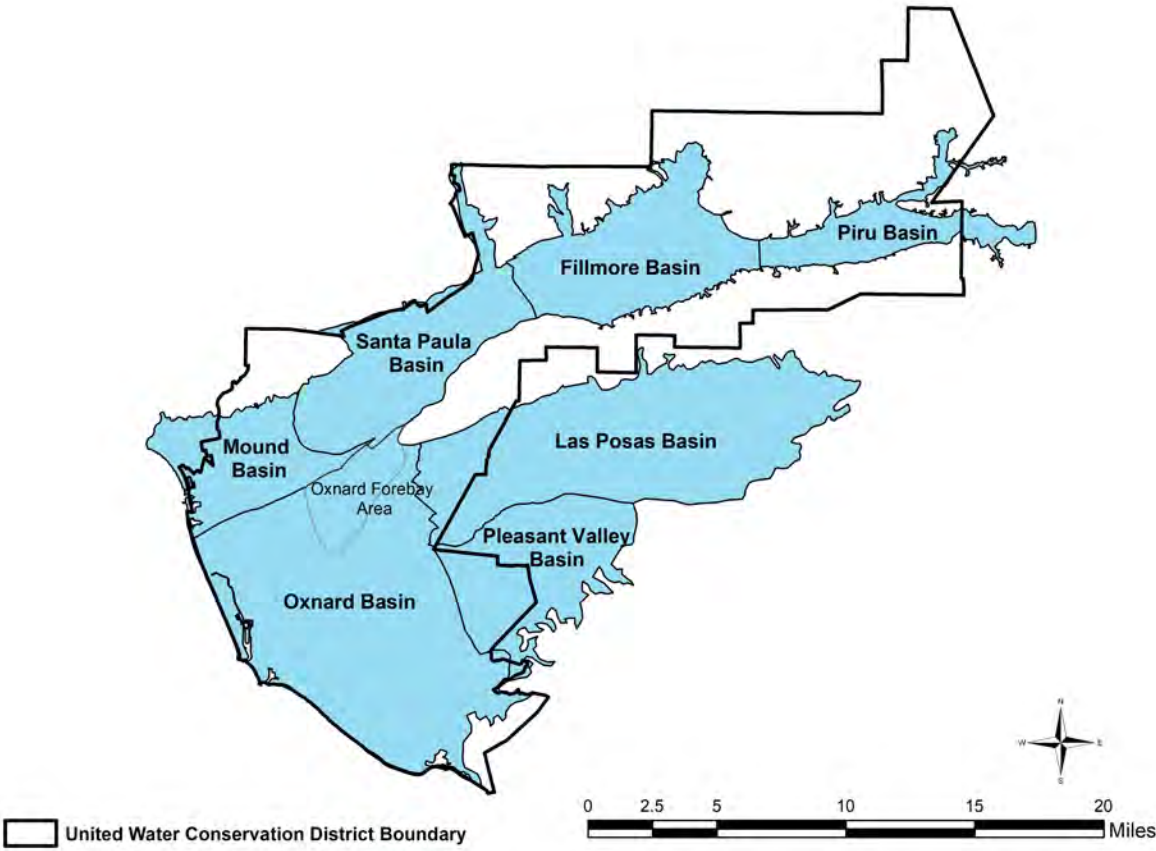


Figure 1. Groundwater basins of United Water Conservation District.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF REPORT

This report provides the District's board of directors with updated information on groundwater overdraft so that the board may consider that information when deciding: 1) whether to levy a groundwater charge or charges, and 2) whether a zone or zones should be established within which groundwater charges should be levied.

The District compiles and evaluates hydrologic data to promote efficiency in its water conservation operations and to assist in planning for future water needs. The District also uses these data to prepare a district-wide water balance to evaluate the occurrence and extent of groundwater overdraft. This report presents those findings concerning the occurrence and extent of groundwater overdraft, and other related issues, as outlined in section 75574 of the Water Code.

DATA AND METHODS

The methods used by the District to compute "Annual Overdraft" were changed in 1991. Prior to 1991 it was assumed that overdraft only occurred in the Oxnard Plain Basin, and the amount of overdraft was calculated using groundwater elevation data. Beginning in 1991, the District began using a District-wide water balance method to evaluate and report "Annual Overdraft". This method compares estimates of annual recharge to reported groundwater extractions. Precipitation and surface-water data compiled by federal, state, and local agencies are used to evaluate groundwater recharge.

Utilizing the Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model (formerly the USGS RASA Model), Geographic Information System (GIS) and its extensive historic data bases of groundwater levels, groundwater extractions, artificial recharge and water chemistry, the District has been able to document and model the response of the hydrologically interconnected basins to varying climatic cycles and, subsequently, to variations in the seasonal amounts of natural and artificial groundwater recharge. The District has used these tools and information to help inform the "Accumulated Overdraft" estimate which is the long-term increase of the average annual replenishment that is necessary to prevent landward movement of salt water and to prevent subsidence (see FCGMA, 2007).

FINDINGS AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 75574 OF WATER CODE

- (a) The average annual overdraft for the immediate past 10 water years is estimated to be approximately **78,900 acre-feet**.
- (b) The annual overdraft for the current water year is estimated to range up to **112,000 acre-feet**. This **positive** number implies that extractions will exceed replenishment for the District, as a whole.
- (c) The annual overdraft for the ensuing water year is estimated to be between **0 and 78,900 acre-feet**.
- (d) The accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the preceding water year is estimated to range between **20,000 and 25,000 acre-feet**.
- (e) The accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the current water year is estimated to range between **20,000 and 25,000 acre-feet**.
- (f) The estimated amount of agricultural water to be withdrawn from the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing water year is **118,000 acre-feet**.
- (g) The amount of water for M&I purposes to be pumped from the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing water year is estimated to be approximately **39,000 acre-feet**.
- (h) The estimated amount of water for surface distribution for the ensuing water year is expected to be much less than the long-term average of **64,000 acre-feet**.
- (i) The amount of water, which is necessary for the replenishment of the groundwater supplies of the District, is estimated to be at least **1,662,000 acre-feet**.
- (j) The District is not obligated by contract to purchase any amount of water, except State Project water, ordered for and reimbursed by the Port Hueneme Water Agency. This amount of water is not to exceed 1,850 acre-feet per year.

- (k) The total production of water from the groundwater supplies of the District during the preceding water year was approximately **156,900 acre-feet** [WC Section 75561 (c)].

An additional finding, which was incorporated in the required findings, is that the “total of annual overdrafts” for the District as of the end of the preceding water year was approximately **2,078,000 acre-feet**.

Description of Findings as Required by Section 75574 of Water Code

(a) The annual overdraft (explained in item b) of the preceding ten years is averaged to derive the average annual overdraft. The average annual overdraft of **78,900 acre-feet** means that over the last ten years the average pumping has exceeded the average recharge, both natural and artificial, on a District-wide basis.

(b) Although the annual overdraft for the previous year can be calculated, the **annual overdraft** for the current water year must be estimated. This is because only a portion of the year has passed. At best, the appropriate data are available for the period July 1 through February 28 of the current water year. To standardize this prediction for current year overdraft, the groundwater staff developed a regression curve fit that compares overdraft for previous years to rainfall through February for each of the years 1981-82 through 2019-2020 (Figure 2). The goal is to be able to predict the annual overdraft for the current year, based on the percentage of normal rainfall as of the end of February. The prediction is considerably improved by weighting in the prior year precipitationⁱ. This serves to recognize antecedent conditions, which influences how readily the Santa Clara River, streams and precipitation can recharge to groundwater.

As of February 28 of this current water year (2020-2021), precipitation was approximately **25%** of normal for that date. The previous year precipitation was approximately **67%** of normal at the end of February. The overdraft is predicted to be approximately **112,000 acre-feet**. The **positive** number implies a net **deficit** to the aquifers. A review of overdraft data since 1981 suggests that a net District-wide surplus of water will occur when the weighted precipitation, of the current year and

ⁱ Weighted percent of normal precipitation = [present year + (previous year * 0.5)]/1.5

the prior year, equals or exceeds approximately of **130%** of normal. For the 2020-2021 water year this weighted precipitation is **39%**.

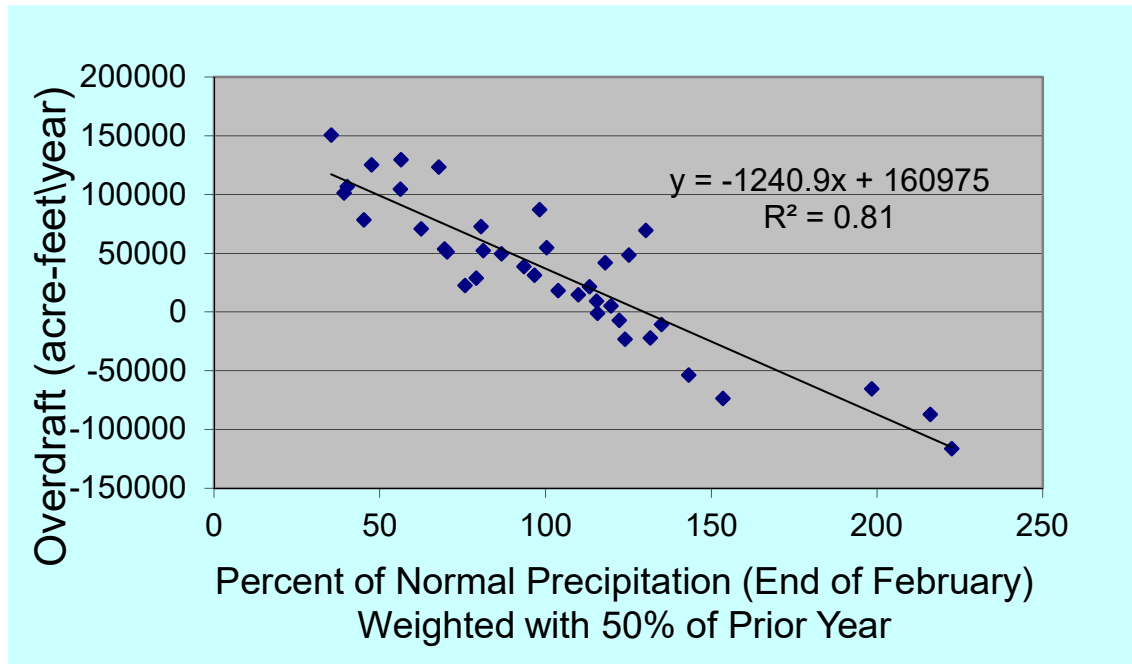


Figure 2. District-Wide Overdraft vs. Percent of Normal Precipitation.

The prior year overdraft is calculated once all the data are available for the period July 1 to June 30. In this manner, the actual overdraft is calculated approximately 8 months in the arrears. This calculated overdraft for the prior year is then used with the 9 preceding years to determine the ten-year average annual overdraft.

Last year, the regression correlation was used to predict an approximate overdraft District-wide of approximately **45,000 acre-feet** for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. After receiving data for the entire year, the actual annual overdraft was determined to be approximately **38,600 acre-feet**. Therefore the projected annual overdraft was overestimated by approximately **6,400 acre-feet**. A basic summary of the methodology for determining the hydrologic balance for the groundwater basins is included in Appendix A of this report.

(c) The annual overdraft for the ensuing water year is difficult to forecast. It projects the hydrologic balance 16 months in advance. The projected District-wide overdraft is assumed to be between 0 acre-ft and the ten-year average annual overdraft.

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(d) “Accumulated Overdraft” means the amount of water necessary to be replaced in the intake areas of the groundwater basins within the District to prevent the landward movement of salt water into the fresh groundwater body, or to prevent subsidence of the land within the district or any zone(s) thereof (§ 75505, California Water Code).

The District has utilized the Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model and Best Management Objective (BMO) groundwater level goals to inform the calculation of “Accumulated Overdraft”. Groundwater modeling in 2006 for the 2007 Fox Canyon GMA Management Plan update calculated the amount of pumping reduction in the South Oxnard Plain and Pleasant Valley basins needed to raise groundwater levels so that on the average over a complete hydrologic cycle (1944 to 1998 hydrology) there is no net landward movement of seawater (Fox Canyon GMA, May 2007). This pumping reduction is the “Accumulated Overdraft” and is estimated to be 20,000 acre-feet to 25,000 acre-feet mostly in the Lower Aquifer System (LAS).

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans in December 2019. The plans were prepared in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and based upon estimated sustainable yield for the Oxnard Plain and Pleasant Valley basins the “Accumulated Overdraft”, or the necessary reduction in pumping if no new water supply projects are completed, may be as high as 40,000 acre-feet to 45,000 acre-feet.

(e) The “Accumulated Overdraft” does not change from year to year unless new water supply projects are brought on line or unless there is a long-term change in pumping or climate. The “Accumulated Overdraft” should be recalculated every 5 years as major new projects are put in place.

(f) The amount of agricultural water likely to be withdrawn for the ensuing water year should be reported as the same as the previous year unless there is overriding information that pumping will change. Because the Groundwater Conditions Report is finished in early March before the year’s rainfall can be accurately predicted, it is more conservative to use the previous year’s pumping. The number comes from the District’s Finance Department’s semi-annual statements of pumping charges, where the water usage is reported as either agricultural or M&I.

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(g) As in (f), it is more conservative to use the previous year's pumping. The number comes from the previous year's semi-annual statements of pumping charges.

(h) The long-term average diversions for the Freeman Diversion are approximately 64,000 acre-feet per year.

(i) The total replenishment necessary for replenishment of groundwater supplies of the District comes from the equation: $\text{Total Replenishment} = 0.80 * \text{Total Annual Overdrafts}$. The 80% factor comes from the USGS RASA groundwater flow model simulation results, which indicate that about 19% of the annual overdraft is water derived from dewatering of fine-grained sediments (and subsequent subsidence); this water cannot be forced back into the sediments, it is storage space lost forever, and thus should be subtracted from the total water needed to replenish the aquifer. A factor of 20% is used instead of 19%, to signify a higher degree of error associated with determining water derived from dewatering of fine-grained sediments. However, thick deposits of fine-grained sediments are not common to all the basins within District boundaries, and this 20% factor may be too high.

(j) The District is not obligated by contract to purchase any amount of water, except State Project water, ordered for and reimbursed by the Port Hueneme Water Agency. This amount of water is not to exceed 1,850 acre-feet per year.

(k) The preceding year's water production comes from the District's Finance Department records of reported pumping from the semi-annual statements of pumping charges.

“Total of Annual Overdrafts” – this additional finding is a cumulative total of each year's annual overdraft (item b). It is derived by adding the previous water year annual overdraft to last year's “total of annual overdrafts.” In the wettest years when there is a surplus of water, this total will be reduced. In average and dry years, the total will increase. Even in some slightly wetter years, there exists a District-wide overdraft and the total will increase.

DISCUSSION

The occurrence of overdraft in a groundwater basin is often controversial. This is due in part to the definition of the term. Overdraft is defined as “*the*

condition of a groundwater basin or aquifer in which the amount of water extracted exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of many years (during which hydrologic conditions do not significantly change)” (Bachman et al., 2005). Within the District, the withdrawal of groundwater is known through reporting by pumpers. The recharge within the District by artificial means is also known through measurements of diversions, spreading, and pipeline deliveries (e.g., State water deliveries and Conejo Creek diversions as discussed in Appendix B). Natural recharge, however, must be determined through indirect measurements. This natural recharge occurs primarily along the rivers and streams within the District, but also occurs by direct infiltration from rainfall and by leakage through adjacent bedrock and alluvial units.

The District calculates the natural recharge in its basins using measured data on stream flow, precipitation, and groundwater levels. The value reported as annual overdraft compares the natural and artificial annual recharge to annual withdrawals. The average annual overdraft varies over the long-term with fundamental changes in both historic pumpage and artificial recharge facilities. Year-to-year, however, the annual District-wide overdraft varies widely with the climatic cycle. Wet years produce a surplus of replenishment whereas dry years result in an overdraft.

Long-term overdraft is more serious than an annual overdraft. Long-term overdraft occurs when recharge is less than extraction over a period of many years. Long-term overdraft has resulted in landward migration of saline ocean water on the Oxnard Plain and dewatering of salt-rich clays surrounding the aquifers; this dewatering has resulted in salt water moving from the clays to the aquifer and in compaction of the clays (UWCD, 2016). The majority of this saline ocean water is likely contained in the extensive offshore portions of the aquifers of the Oxnard Plain. It is in the areas of the submarine canyons that this seawater is drawn into onshore portions of the aquifer where it is a hazard. It is also in these areas where it is imperative that an offshore gradient be maintained to prevent further intrusion. Thus, the calculation of “accumulated overdraft” for water conservation districts in the Water Code is very appropriate to the District’s situation -- it is the replenishment water necessary to prevent landward movement of salt water or to prevent subsidence. This is an inherently important aspect of the District’s efforts to protect and augment water supplies for users within the District or its zone(s) which are necessary for the public health, welfare and safety.

We have calculated two values in this report that relate to long-term overdraft: 1) the amount of water necessary for the replenishment of the

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

groundwater supplies of the District, which is calculated from the total of annual overdrafts, with a value of **1,662,000 acre-feet** as of 2019-2020; and 2) the accumulated overdraft, as per the Water Code, which represents the amount of additional replenishment water that is needed on a continuing basis in the future to prevent further salt water intrusion. Past estimates suggest that a minimum of approximately **20,000 to 25,000 acre-feet** of additional replenishment water per year is required to prevent further salt water intrusion; however, more recent estimates suggest as much as 40,000 to 45,000 acre-feet may be required. A large proportion of this saltwater intrusion is associated with seawater intrusion of the offshore extension of the aquifers and onshore seawater intrusion in the vicinity of Port Hueneme and Point Mugu. The remainder is from poor quality water derived from the compaction of clays.

There is evidence for the occurrence of long-term overdraft in at least two of the groundwater basins of the District. Groundwater levels have generally been declining for periods of several decades in the Oxnard Plain and Pleasant Valley basins. While the factors causing declining groundwater trends may have varied among these two basins, long-term replenishment rates have not kept up with long-term withdrawal rates in either of them. Thus, these basins are considered by the District to be in a condition of long-term overdraft.

In the past, the Santa Paula Basin had been considered in a state of potential overdraft. A basin yield study (UWCD, 2003) by experts for the City of Ventura, Santa Paula Basin Pumpers Association, and the District suggests that the yield of the basin is probably near the historic pumping amount. In 2017, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc., estimated that safe yield of the Santa Paula Basin is in the range from 24,000 to 25,500 acre-feet per year (AF/yr), slightly less than the long-term-average pumping rate of 25,800 AF/yr (Daniel B. Stephens, 2017).

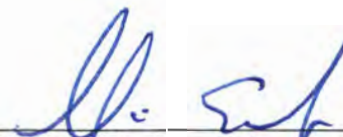
The 2009-2010 Annual Report for the Santa Paula Basin (Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee, October 2011) concluded that: "...the majority of the wells in the Santa Paula Basin have experienced a gradual groundwater level decline during the 1998 to 2005 observation period and the 2005 to present (2010) observation period." UWCD (2011) concluded that: "The water level fluctuations observed from 1998 to 2009 in the Santa Paula Basin cannot be attributed solely to spatial or temporal variations in pumping."

The stresses that cause long-term overdraft in a particular basin may be occurring only within that basin, or they may be occurring in several connected basins. For example, the seawater intrusion that has occurred in a portion of the

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

Oxnard Plain Basin can be aggravated by increases in pumping from that basin, but it can also be aggravated by decreases in the replenishment supply coming from the upstream basins. This is caused by the hydraulic continuity between the aforementioned groundwater basins.


The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recognized the hydraulic continuity of the District's several groundwater basins, and in 1980 DWR concluded that these basins should be considered as one groundwater basin, the Ventura Central Basin (DWR, 1980). The Ventura Central Basin was identified by the DWR as "subject to critical conditions of overdraft". The Bulletin 118 Update (DWR, 2003) did not re-evaluate the conditions of critical overdraft in the Ventura Central Basin and other California groundwater basins because the task was not identified by the State Legislature, nor was there sufficient funding. More recently, DWR has confirmed that all the groundwater basins within the District boundaries are high-priority basins, with the exception of the Santa Paula basin, which is adjudicated. The Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins remain subject to critical overdraft.



Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

3/30/21

Date



Maryam A. Bral, Ph.D., P.E., Chief Engineer

03/30/2021

Date

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Appendix A

Methodology for Hydrologic Balance

United Water Conservation District submits an annual groundwater conditions report to the State of California. The report is specifically written to meet our requirement under the Water Code.

In 1992, staff improved the methodology for determining the groundwater conditions within the District's boundaries. The new methodology determined annual hydrologic balance in a relatively simple manner. The balance incorporates precipitation, natural recharge, artificial recharge and return flow as recharge components and groundwater extraction and phreatophyte consumptive use as discharge components.

The balance for each groundwater basin is determined individually. The hydrologic balance for the entire district is the net sum of the balance for each basin. The data acquired for each basin includes:

- Annual rainfall (ft);
- Total area of each basin (acres);
- Mean daily surface flows (cfs);
- Daily artificial recharge (ac-ft);
- Mean daily diversions (cfs);
- Consumptive use rate (percent of groundwater pumping);
- Annual groundwater extractions (ac-ft); and
- Annual Phreatophyte consumptive use (ac-ft).

Precipitation

Recharge by precipitation on valley alluvium or aquifer outcrop is held constant at 10% for all the unconfined groundwater basins. Rain gauges at Lake Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, and El Rio are used to calculate the amount of recharge to the corresponding basin.

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

Area

The areas for the Piru Basin, Fillmore Basin, Santa Paula Basin, and the Oxnard Forebay Basin are from John Mann's 1959 report to the District.

Surface Flows

Mean daily surface flows for Piru Creek, Hopper Creek, Santa Clara River (at Blue Cut), Sespe Creek at Fillmore, and Santa Paula Creek are used in conjunction with the percolation rates for the Santa Clara River. Percolation rates on the Santa Clara are a function of mean daily flow rates and location on the river (Brownlie, Taylor EQL Report 17-C, Feb. 1981). Percolation rates are as follows:

<u>Mean Daily Flows (cfs)</u>	<u>Percolation Rates (%/mile)</u>	
	Upper 28 miles	Lower 11 miles
0 - 100	1.8	>1.25
100 – 500	1.57	1.09
500 – 1000	0.456	0.317
> 1000	0.155	0.106

There exist ten reaches of the Santa Clara River, between Blue Cut and the ocean. Each reach is depicted in the accompanying map. Spreadsheets with mean daily flow for the river and gauged streams determine the flow of the river at any given location. At the confluence of the river and a contributing stream, the flow of the river becomes the total of the river upstream plus the contributing stream. The diversion at the Freeman Diversion is accounted for on a daily basis, to account for the loss in flow of the river. Similarly, the diversion of water from Piru Creek to the Piru Spreading Facility is accounted for on a daily basis.

Final data approved for publication is used whenever possible but due to the timing of this report, provisional data was used in some instances.

Artificial Recharge

The annual recharge to Piru, Saticoy, Noble and El Rio facilities are allocated to respective basins. It is assumed that there exists 100% efficiency in the recharge (i.e. no losses).

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

Groundwater Extractions

The groundwater extractions for each basin are tabulated through reported pumping to the District.

Consumptive Use

A 65% consumptive use factor is used for all the unconfined groundwater basins. In the unconfined groundwater basins, this results in a return flow of 35% of groundwater pumping. Pressure basins have 0% return flow that effectively recharge the UAS.

Phreatophyte consumptive use is estimated to be 3.5 ac-ft/year per acre. This is applied to the Santa Clara River and Sespe Creek channels.

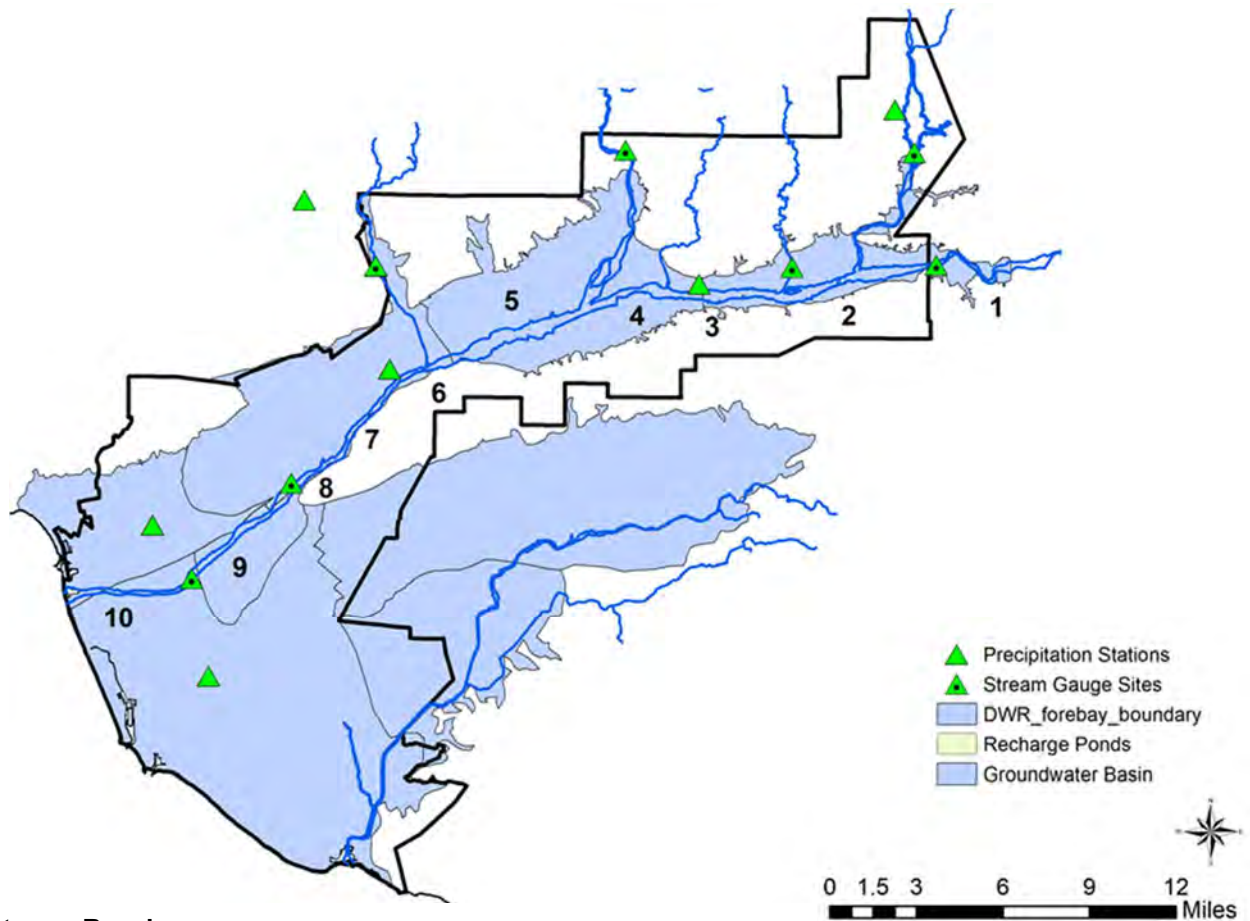
The phreatophyte acreage in each groundwater basin is as follows:

Piru	64 acres
Fillmore	540 acres
Santa Paula	384 acres
Montalvo	64 acres

Groundwater Basin Water Balance

$$\begin{aligned} &[(\text{Total Percolated Rainfall} + \text{Percolated Surface Water} + \text{Artificial Recharge} + \text{Return Flow}) \\ &- (\text{Groundwater Extractions} + \text{Phreatophyte Consumptive Use})] = \text{Basin Water Balance} \end{aligned}$$

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report



Stream Reaches:

1. Blue Cut-Piru
2. Piru - Hopper
3. Hopper - E. Fillmore Basin Boundary
4. E. Fillmore Basin Boundary - Sespe
5. Sespe - E. Santa Paula Basin Boundary
6. E. Santa Paula Basin Boundary - Santa Paula Creek
7. Santa Paula Creek - Freeman Diversion
8. Freeman Diversion - E. Montalvo Basin Boundary
9. E. Montalvo Basin Boundary - W. Montalvo Basin Boundary
10. W. Montalvo Basin Boundary - W. Mound Boundary

Appendix B

Additional Water Resources Utilized within the District

State Water

The District has State water allocation of 5,000 acre-feet per year. The District contracts out 1,850 acre-feet per year of this allocation to Port Hueneme Water Agency where it replaces an equal amount of groundwater pumping on the Oxnard Plain. The District receives 3,150 acre-feet per year of this allocation through Pyramid Lake. This water eventually flows down the Santa Clara River within the District where it contributes to streamflow and groundwater recharge.

The full 5,000 acre-feet allocation is not received most years. The California Department of Water Resources determines what percentage of the allocation that is available for purchase each year which, is generally less than 100%, especially during periods of drought. The District does not purchase its full allocation of State water on very wet years due to the lack of available storage.

Conejo Creek Diversions

The Conejo Creek diversion, located near U.S Highway 101, diverts an average of approximately 5,600 acre-feet of water per year from Conejo Creek to Pleasant Valley County Water District, where it replaces groundwater pumping in the Pleasant Valley Basin.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Clayton W. Strahan, Chief Park Ranger

Date: March 24, 2021 (April 14, 2021 meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.2 **Resolution 2021-08 Lake Piru Recreation Area Fees, Fee Administration, Loyalty Rewards Program, and Reservation/Cancellation/Refund Guidelines Motion**

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will consider approving Resolution 2021-08, establishing Lake Piru Recreation Area Fees, Fee Administration, Loyalty Rewards Program and Reservation/Cancellation/Refund Guidelines.

Discussion:

In May of 2019, the Board received a draft fee schedule for fees at the Lake Piru Recreation as proposed by Parks Management Company (PMC), United's then concessions service provider. The fees proposed were supported by the current operations at the time. As the Board is aware, on December 31, 2020, PMC's agreement with the District expired, and on January 1, 2021, United resumed operational oversight of the facilities. Based on staff's takeover of management responsibilities of the Lake Piru Recreation Area facilities, staff has identified changes and/or additions to the existing fee schedule as noted below:

1. Propose changing the daily vehicle fee from \$14 per day currently to:
 - a) \$10 per day Non-Peak Season and \$14 per day Peak Season to maintain consistency with an unapproved change made by PMC and practiced for the past 19 months.
2. Propose changing Group Camp 2 individual site rental from \$30 per night to:
 - a) \$25 per night Non-Peak Season and \$32 per night Peak Season to be consistent with fees associated with all other basic hookup campsites in the park. PMC was not charging consistently for individual sites associated with the Group Camp 2 site.
3. Reduce the daily motorcycle fee from \$9 per day to \$8 per day, regardless of season.
4. Increase the reservation fee from \$9 to \$10, regardless of season.
5. Adopt a new \$100 refundable cleaning/security deposit for all group camp sites.

4.2 Resolution 2021-08 Lake Piru Recreation Area Fees, Fee Administration, Loyalty Rewards Program, and Reservation/Cancellation/Refund Guidelines Motion

6. Adopt a new \$50 cancellation fee for all group camp sites.
7. Adopt new Wi-Fi fees of \$9.00 per day, \$22.00 per week, or \$39.00 per month, regardless of season.

Staff is requesting the Board approve a Loyalty Rewards and Incentives Program as part of the 2021 Lake Piru Fee Schedule to appeal to, attract and encourage greater visitation among various organizations, nonprofits, and/or military service members. Staff believes this Loyalty Rewards and Incentives Program will enhance visitation at times when the park has historically seen little to no visitation. It is assumed that these rewards and incentives will enable staff to enhance revenue growth and revenue opportunities. The proposed Loyalty Rewards and Incentives are noted below and highlighted at the bottom of Attachment A. Loyalty Rewards and Incentives apply only to camping fees. All other fees apply.

1. 10% Discount on camping for all Active-Duty Military and Law Enforcement. Must present badge and/or I.D.
2. 10% Discount on camping (excluding all major holidays) for those with an active AAA, Airstream, AARP, or Good Sam Membership.
3. 5% Discount on camping for Annual Pass holders (excluding all major holidays).
4. Fall Special (October): Pay for two weeknights of camping and get one weeknight free (Non-Peak Season). Offer is valid Monday to Thursday only.
5. Thanksgiving Special (November): Pay for three nights of camping (or more) and receive one free night.
6. Holiday Special (Dec. and Jan.): Buy one night of camping and receive one-night free, limited to two free nights per visit. All additional fees apply.
7. Peaked Promotion (Peak Season): Pay for two weeknights of camping and get one weeknight free (Non-Peak Season). Offer is valid Monday to Thursday only.
8. Multiplier Promotion: Rent four or more camp sites (two-night minimum) during the Non-Peak Season and receive a 10% discount.
9. Organizational Group Rates: Organizational groups shall receive a 15% discount on all camping fees with the approval of the District's Chief Park Ranger (Scouts, nonprofits, schools, and church groups).

To align the Lake Piru operation with United's financial policies and procedures, draft Reservation, Cancellation, and Refund Guidelines were developed. The purpose of the proposed draft guidelines, attached herein, is to ensure proper cash handling practices and to protect the District from lost revenue and business. The attached guidelines provide clear direction to recreation staff involved with cash handling practices. The guidelines are further expected to provide Lake Piru guests with a clear and concise understanding of the financial guidelines associated with services rendered at the Lake Piru Recreation Area. The attached guidelines address:

4.2 Resolution 2021-08 Lake Piru Recreation Area Fees, Fee Administration, Loyalty Rewards Program, and Reservation/Cancellation/Refund Guidelines Motion

- Cancellations
- “No Show” Cancellations
- Refunds
- Reservations
- Checking-In and Checking-Out Procedures
- Deposits

It is staff's recommendation that the Board consider and approve the draft guidelines.

Fiscal Impact:

Staff anticipates that these changes and guidelines will facilitate improved customer service which, in turn, could have a positive fiscal impact on Lake Piru Recreation Area's future revenue.

Attachment A – Resolution 2021-08

Attachment B -- Lake Piru Recreation Area Fee Schedule

Attachment C – Lake Piru Recreation Area Reservations/Cancellations/Refund Guidelines

RESOLUTION 2021-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPROVING THE 2021 LAKE PIRU RECREATION AREA FEE SCHEDULE, FEE ADMINISTRATION, LOYALTY REWARDS PROGRAM, AND RESERVATION/CANCELATION/REFUND GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2020, the Board of Directors (Board) of United Water Conservation District (District) adopted Amended and Restated Ordinance No. 15 (Ordinance No. 15), establishing rules and regulations for public use of properties owned by United, including the Lake Piru Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.1 of Ordinance No. 15 provides for the Board to establish by resolution public use fees for entering into and use of various Lake Piru Recreation Area facilities; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2021, United resumed operational oversight of the Lake Piru Recreation Area facilities, and, based on staff's takeover of management responsibilities, identified changes and/or additions to be made to the existing fee schedule as noted herein:

1. Changing the daily vehicle fee from \$14 per day currently to \$10 per day Non-Peak Season and \$14 per day Peak Season.
2. Changing Group Camp 2 individual site rental from \$30 per night to \$25 per night Non-Peak Season and \$32 per night Peak Season.
3. Reduce the daily motorcycle fee from \$9 per day to \$8 per day, regardless of season.
4. Increase the reservation fee from \$9 to \$10, regardless of season.
5. Adopt a new \$100 refundable cleaning/security deposit for all group camp sites.
6. Adopt a new \$50 cancellation fee for all group camp sites.
7. Adopt new Wi-Fi fees of \$9.00 per day, \$22.00 per week, or \$39.00 per month, regardless of season.

WHEREAS, staff is also recommending a Loyalty Rewards and Incentives Program as part of the 2021 Lake Piru Fee Schedule to appeal to, attract and encourage greater visitation among various organizations, nonprofits, and/or military service members as noted herein:

1. 10% Discount on camping for all Active-Duty Military and Law Enforcement. Must present badge and/or I.D.
2. 10% Discount on camping (excluding all major holidays) for those with an active AAA, Airstream, AARP, or Good Sam Membership.
3. 5% Discount on camping for Annual Pass holders (excluding all major holidays).
4. Fall Special (October): Pay for two weeknights of camping and get one weeknight free (Non-Peak Season). Offer is valid Monday to Thursday only.
5. Thanksgiving Special (November): Pay for three nights of camping (or more) and receive one free night.

6. Holiday Special (Dec. and Jan.): Buy one night of camping and receive one-night free, limited to two free nights per visit. All additional fees apply.
7. Peaked Promotion (Peak Season): Pay for two weeknights of camping and get one weeknight free (Non-Peak Season). Offer is valid Monday to Thursday only.
8. Multiplier Promotion: Rent four or more camp sites (two-night minimum) during the Non-Peak Season and receive a 10% discount.
9. Organizational Group Rates: Organizational groups shall receive a 15% discount on all camping fees with the approval of the District's Chief Park Ranger (Scouts, nonprofits, schools, and church groups).

WHEREAS, it should be noted that the Lake Piru Recreation Area Loyalty Rewards and Incentive offers apply only to overnight camping rates and all other fees still apply.

WHEREAS, the Lake Piru Recreation Area operations align with District financial policies and procedures, and draft Reservation/Cancellation/Refund Guidelines have also been developed with respect to the public use fees, the purpose of which is to ensure proper cash handling practices and to protect the District from lost revenue and business. These guidelines provide clear direction to recreation staff involved with cash handling practices and further provide Lake Piru guests with a clear and concise understanding of the financial guidelines associated with services rendered at the Lake Piru Recreation Area. The guidelines address:

- Cancellations
- "No Show" Cancellations
- Refunds
- Reservations
- Checking-In and Checking-Out Procedures
- Deposits

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District approves the 2021 Lake Piru Recreation Area fee schedule, fee administration, loyalty rewards program, and reservation/cancellation/refund guidelines.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of April, 2021.

ATTEST: _____
Michael W. Mobley, President

ATTEST: _____
Sheldon G. Berger, Secretary/Treasurer

2021 Lake Piru Recreation Area Fee Schedule

Location/Unit	Term	PROPOSED Non-Peak	PROPOSED Peak Season
Day Use- Access to Marina and Day Use Areas- NOT campground			
Vehicle - Day Use	Per Vehicle, Per Day	\$10	\$14
Senior - Day Use (Monday - Thursday Only)	Per Vehicle, Per Day	\$10	
R.V. and Bus - Day Use	Per Bus/RV, Per Day	32 + \$5 pp over 8 persons (Not yet approved)	
Motorcycle - Day Use	Per Motorcycle, Per Day	\$8	
Annual Permit - Regular Day Use	Per Vehicle, Per Year	\$130	
Annual Permit - Senior Day Use (62+)	Per Vehicle, Per Year	\$75	
Annual Permit - Day use - Extra Vehicle	Per Vehicle, Per Year	\$50	
Annual Permit - RV (5% Off Camping) - NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS	Per RV, Per Year	\$150	
Annual Permit - Motorcycle	Per Motorcycle, Per Year	\$120	
Walk in/Bicycle/Extra Person (Hiker/Biker/Walk In)	Per Person/Bike, Per Day	\$5	
Pets	Per Pet, Per Day	\$3	
Annual Pet Pass - Per Pet	Per Pet, Per Year	\$25	
Boating and Watercraft			
Daily Vessel Permit (Motorized)	Per Vessel, Per Day	\$8	
Daily Vessel Permit (Non - Motorized)	Per Vessel, Per Day	\$5	
Daily Personal Water Craft (PWC) Permit	Per PWC, Per Day	\$8	
Annual Vessel Permit (Motorized)	Per Vessel, Per Year	\$130	
Annual Vessel Permit (Non - Motorized)	Per Vessel, Per Year	\$50	
Annual Vessel Permit - Senior (62+)	Per Vessel, Per Year	\$75	
Non Emergency Vessel Tow	Per Occurence	\$50	
Camping			
Basic - No Hookups	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Night	\$25	\$32
Electric - Electric Hookup	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Night	\$28	\$38
Full Hookup - Water, Sewer, Electric	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Night	\$40	\$50
Extra Vehicle - 2nd Vehicle	Per Night (Max 4 ppl)	\$15	
Weekly - Basic	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Week	\$140	\$180
Weekly - Electric	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Week	\$170	\$210
Weekly - Full Hookup	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Week	\$230	\$290
Weekly - Extra Vehicle	Per Week, Per Car	\$75	\$85
Monthly - Electric	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Month	\$600	-
Monthly - Full Hookup	1 Vehicle, 4 ppl, Per Month	\$900	-
Monthly - Extra Vehicle	Per Vehicle, Per Month	\$300	-
Cancellation Fee	Per Occurrence	\$10	
Site Change Fee	Per Occurrence	\$10	
Reservation Fees (\$7 reservation fee and \$3 processing fee)	Per Reservation	\$10	
Group Pic-Nic			
Group Pic-Nic (Up to 100 people)	Per Reservation	\$150	
Reservation Fee (Non Refundable)	Per Reservation	\$40	
Deposit - Refundable Cleaning/Security Deposit	Per Reservation	\$100	
Group and Overflow Camping (2 Night Minimum and 3 Night Minimum on Holidays)			
Group Camp #1 (50 people, 8 Vehicles) up to 4 extra vehicles	Per Night	\$250	
Group Camp #2 (Up to 125 people, 12 vehicles) up to 8 extra vehicles	Per Night	\$450	\$525
Group Camp #2 (Individual Site Charges) 2 vehicles and 8 person max	Per Night	\$25	\$32
Extra Vehicle Fee	Per Night, Per Vehicle	\$15	
Overflow Camping	Per Vehicle, Per Night	\$25	
Deposit - Refundable Cleaning Deposit	Per Reservation	\$100	
Cancellation Fee	Per Reservation	\$50	
Reservation Fee (Non Refundable Monday - Thursday)	Per Reservation	\$30	
Storage and Miscellaneous Fees			
Monthly Dry Storage	Per Unit, Per Month	\$100	
Monthly Wet Storage	Per Vessel, Per Month	\$105	
Marina Slip Rental	Per Vessel, Per Day/Weel	\$15 p/d and \$70 p/w	
Dump Fee	Per Use	\$9	
Wi-Fi Fee	Per use	\$9.00 p/d and \$22.00 p/w and \$39.00 p/m	
Sports Equipment Deposits	Per Item	\$10	

Loyalty Rewards

Loyalty Rewards and Incentives apply only to camping fees. All other fees apply.

- 10% Discount on camping for all Active-Duty Military and Law Enforcement. Must present badge and/or I.D.
- 10% Discount on camping (excluding all major holidays) for those with an active AAA, Airstream, AARP, or Good Sam Membership.
- 5% Discount on camping for Annual Pass Holders (excluding all major holidays).
- Fall Special (October): Pay for two weeknights of camping and get one night of camping free (Non-Peak Season). Offer is valid Monday to Thursday only.
- Thanksgiving Special (November): Pay for three (or more) nights of camping and receive one night free.
- Holiday Special (Dec. and Jan.): Buy one night of camping and receive one night free. Maximum two free nights per stay. All additional fees apply.
- Peaked Promotion (Peak Season): Pay for two weeknights of camping and get one night free (Non-Peak Season). Offer is valid Monday to Thursday only.
- Multiplier Promotion: Rent four or more sites during the Non-Peak Season (two-night minimum) and receive a 10% discount.
- Organizational Group Rates: Organizational groups shall receive a 15% discount on all camping fees with the approval of the District's Chief Park Ranger (Scouts, non profits, schools, and church groups).



LAKE PIRU RECREATION AREA GUIDELINES

Name:	Lake Piru Reservations, Cancellations, and Refund Guidelines		
Approval Authority:	General Manager	Adopted:	04/14/2021
Responsible Executive:	Chief Park Ranger	Revised:	
Responsible Office:	Park and Recreation	Contact:	Clayton Strahan (805) 790-4311

1. Cancellation Guideline

This set of guidelines has been established to protect the District from lost revenue and business associated with guest cancellations for camping accommodations at the Lake Piru Recreation Area and to protect the guest from unwarranted cancellations associated with a planned stay. It is the District's recommendation that all cancellations for camping must be received 72 hours prior to arrival. Cancellations must be made by phone by contacting (805) 521-1500.

In addition to the above, the following applies:

- The District will provide a full refund for all cancellations received 72 hours prior to arrival but will retain the original \$10 non-refundable processing/reservation fee.
- If a guest cancels a reservation with less than 24 hours before their arrival date, the first night's campsite fee is forfeited for each site and the guest will be charged a \$10 cancellation fee per site.
- If a guest must leave the park one or more days early, the guest must notify the staff at the Park's entry kiosk. In such occurrences a guest will forfeit the site fee for the date of departure and be refunded any site fees for the duration of their stay. The guest will be charged a \$10 cancellation fee per site when a refund is applied for additional days.
- If a guest is unable to honor their reservation due to a medical emergency or death in the family, a cancellation fee of \$10 per site will be applied to the cancellation and in addition the District will retain the \$10 nonrefundable processing/reservation fee.
- In cases of inclement weather, when the campground remains open, but a guest chooses to leave, refunds will not be allowed unless a declared evacuation or emergency procedures force a closure of the campground.
- If an emergency or disaster forces closure of a campground, the District will make every effort to notify visitors in advance. All fees, including the reservation fee, will be refunded.
- **Group camp** reservations must be canceled with a minimum of 14 days' notice and will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee in addition to the retention of the \$30 nonrefundable

processing/reservation fee. Group camp reservations canceled with less than 14 days' notice will be charged the \$30 cancellation fee and forfeit the first night's use fee.

2. No-Show Cancellation Guidelines

This set of guidelines has been established to protect the District from lost revenue and business associated with guest cancellations for camping accommodations at the Lake Piru Recreation Area and to protect the guest from unwarranted cancellations associated with a planned stay. It is the District's recommendation that a campsite reservation will be held for a guest until 12 p.m. the day after the initial arrival date for a multi-day stay. If a guest does not call the park before that time, they will be considered a "no-show," and the park will cancel the reservation. The following will apply:

- The guest will not be refunded the amount paid for the campsite.
- Those with one-night reservations that do not arrive and do not call to cancel the reservation will not be refunded any amount.
- Those with multiple night reservations that do not arrive and do not call to cancel the reservation will not be refunded any amount and, after 24 hours, will forfeit the site and the site may be re-rented for use. The guest must notify the park of their intent to arrive late before the check in time of 2:00 p.m. on the second day of their stay.
- If a guest misses the first day, but plans to arrive later, the guest must call the park each day to hold the remainder of the guest's reservation.

3. Refund Policy Guidelines

This set of guidelines has been established to provide the park's guests with security of knowing that the District's behinds the products and services we offer while protecting the District from lost revenue and business:. Cancellations made with less than 24 hours will be refunded the balance of the reservation less the cost of one night's use fee, less the non-refundable processing/reservation fee, and less the \$10 cancellation fee per site.

- Refunds for day use shall NOT be granted to a guest whose boat or vessel breaks down.
- Refunds for day use guests shall not be granted based on a customer's dissatisfaction with the water levels, water conditions or shoreline conditions.
- Refunds for Day Use guests shall not be granted to a guest having been in the park more than 15 minutes.
- Refunds for Day Use guests may be granted for those having experienced a medical emergency and/or family emergency that requires them to leave.
- Refunds WILL NOT be granted to a visitor who has been asked to leave the facility or removed from the facility for physical security compliance issues.
- Refunds will not be granted to those who are dissatisfied with the quality of the overflow camping area.

4. Reservation Guidelines

This set of guidelines has been established to provide the guarantee of service to park our guests while simultaneously protecting the District from lost revenue and business. Reservation using

Attachment - C

www.explorelakepiru.com are for personal use only. The resale, transfer or use for profit activity of any reservation or memberships is strictly prohibited and will be subject to immediate cancelation without notice, refund, or reimbursement. If a guest attempts or participates in any prohibited or unlawful activity, a guest's account may be blocked, canceled, and voided without notice and the guest may not be allowed to make any reservations or open new accounts. There are currently no approved vendors to operate as third-party partners at Lake Piru. Reservations will be accepted as follows:

- Reservations will be accepted online at www.explorelakepiru.com seven (7) days a week.
- Reservations must be made online 5 days prior to the scheduled stay. Reservations made with less than five (5) days' notice will be required to be made over the phone with a Lake Piru Recreation Area guest service employee.
- Phone reservations will only be accepted Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- A reservation is required to camp at the Lake Piru Recreation Area.
- All reservations will be charged a nonrefundable \$10 processing reservation fee.

4a. Check-In and Check-Out Guidelines

This set of guidelines has been established to provide a guest with the parameters for services associated with staying at the Lake Piru Recreation Area and to ensure protection from liability for the District. A guest may check in to a campsite no sooner than 2:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled arrival. Upon arrival, the guest should present the reservation number to the kiosk employee or work camper on duty, along with a photo ID. The guest will be required to sign a copy of the reservation invoice acknowledging the terms of the stay and will be provided with the appropriate passes to be displayed. Guests checking in after-hours may self-check-in using the confirmation email sent on the day of the scheduled arrival. A guest services employee will provide passes for the next day. Check out time is 12:00 p.m.

4b. Cleaning Deposit Policy Guidelines

This set of guidelines has been established to protect the District from lost revenue, business and time associated with the misuse of the facilities located within the Lake Piru Recreation Area. Group Camp 1 and Group Camp 2 will be charged a \$100 cleaning deposit at the time of making a reservation. This one-time charge will be refunded at the time of check-out upon satisfactory inspection of the site. The following items will lead to unsatisfactory inspection: litter, vandalism, missing items, pet waste, and/or property damage.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Brian Collins, Chief Operations Officer

From: John Carman, Programs Supervisor

Date: April 1, 2021 (April 14, 2020 Meeting)

Agenda Item: **5.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report**
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive a staff report and presentation from the Operations and Maintenance Department regarding its activities for the month of March.

1. Water Releases, Diversions and Deliveries

- Lake Piru rose 0.17 feet in March to 17,907 acre-feet (AF) of storage.
- 2007 AF of water was diverted by the Freeman Diversion facility in March.
- 0 AF of water was diverted to the Saticoy recharge basins in March.
- 1092 AF of surface water was delivered to the El Rio recharge basins in March.
- 480 AF of surface water was delivered to the PTP system in March.
- 110 AF of surface water was delivered to Pleasant Valley County Water District in March.

2. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
 - Lake Piru rose 0.17 feet March 1, 2021 through April 1, 2021, to 17,907 AF of storage.
 - On April 1, 2021 the lake level was 71.5 feet below the spillway lip.
 - On March 1, 2021, the cumulative rainfall measured at rain station 160 was 3.28 inches which did not exceed the March 1st 12 inch trigger; habitat water releases from Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) were maintained at 7+ cubic feet per second (cfs), for the month of March, as per the Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan for lower Piru Creek.
 - Ventura County Air Pollution Control District virtual inspection for above ground fuel tank performed at SFD.
 - The District residence septic tank pumped and serviced.
 - SFD Truck crane annual inspection performed by Konacranes.
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**Agenda Item: 5.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report –
Information Item**

- **Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities**

- Flows at the Freeman Diversion averaged 33 cfs for the month of March, with 28 cfs of surface water being diverted on April 1, 2021.
- During the month of March, 0 AF of surface water deliveries were made to the Saticoy Recharge Facility.
- During the month of March, 1092 AF of surface water deliveries were made to the El Rio Recharge Facility.
- El Rio Recharge Facility roadways were graded.
- On March 23, 2021, new 6900 gallon poly tank was purchased and installed at Freeman Diversion for the auxiliary screen fresh water supply which will be utilized during winter storms.
- Staff painted the Butler Bridge railing.
- Staff acid washed Moss Screen drums #1 & #2.
- Static water levels (distance of water from the well pad to the water table):

	2021	2020	2019
Saticoy	122.2'	95.4'	89.9'
El Rio	117.4'	107.16'	125.17'
PTP	100' - 132'	92' - 129'	99' - 139'

- **Noble/Rose/Ferro Basins**

- 0 AF of surface water was delivered to the Noble & Rose basins during March.

- **Oxnard-Hueneme (OH) Delivery System**

- Staff assisted with three separate OH Booster Plant tours for Iron & Manganese Plant construction management prospective bidders.
- Cement pad poured and Tuff Shed installed for new post chlorination micro analyzer station.
- Hach Technician performed quarterly calibrations of Turbidity and Chlorine analyzers.

- **Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD)**

- During the month of March PVCWD received 110 AF of surface water from United and PVCWD continued to receive surface water from the Conejo Creek Project and also received some highly treated recycled water from the City of Oxnard's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF).
- District staff dewatered PV Pipeline and installed newly rebuilt meter.
- Staff troubleshoot entrapped air condition and installed new distribution Air Vac on PV Pipeline.

- **Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)**

**Agenda Item: 5.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report –
Information Item**

- During the month of March, the majority of the PTP system demand was met with surface water deliveries from the Freeman Diversion facility and was supplemented with PTP wells, as needed during peak demands.
- Staff installed six new Endress Hauser meters as part of the grant funded PTP Meter upgrade project.
- Staff worked with contractor Travis Ag to replace mainline isolation valve at Turnout 149.

- **Instrumentation**

- Instrumentation staff and contractor Diener Electric installed two communication poles for PTP meter upgrade project.
- Staff worked with contractor United Controls upgrading PLC at Saticoy Desilt Basin.
- Staff commissioned new 1gig network communications link between Santa Felicia Dam Crest and Shop.
- Configured, wired and performed start-up for six upgraded PTP meter installations.
- Instrumentation staff replaced El Rio SCADA Control Room Operator interface workstation computer.
- Staff replaced SFD Recreation campsite #188 electrical pedestal.

- **Lake Piru Water System**

- All chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the drinking water system were within proper ranges for the month of March.
- Monthly pH, turbidity and coliform samples were obtained for Lake Piru, as part of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule compliance monitoring.

3. Operations and Maintenance Projects Update

- Staff prepared 750K OH wellfield emergency generator for removal draining all fluids and coordinated with contractor for asbestos remediation.

4. Other Operations and Maintenance Activities

- The Santa Felicia Dam Emergency Action Plan sirens located in Piru were exercised on March 5, 2021.
 - On March 17, 2021 staff attended the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce board meeting remotely.
 - Staff raised Freeman Diversion Flocculation Building septic tank lid access.
 - The monthly inspection of Santa Felicia Dam was performed.
 - Monthly bacteria samples were obtained for the PTP system.
 - Monthly meter readings were obtained for the OH, PTP, and PV Pipelines.
 - Completed and electronically transmitted the monthly OH Pipeline report to the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.
 - Static water levels were obtained for all El Rio, Saticoy, and PTP wells.
 - Weed abatement continued throughout the District.
 - Action priority update biweekly meetings for operations staff were continued.
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**Agenda Item: 5.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report –
Information Item**

5. Safety and Training

- During the month of March approximately 3,100 hours of work, within the O & M department, were performed with no reportable accidents. The YTD safety record is 0 recordable injuries.
- Two separate safety meetings were conducted on March 25 & 26, utilizing the Microsoft Teams application, to maintain social distancing practices and to accommodate the separately scheduled teams. Two videos were provided to staff entitled *United States Army Combat Readiness Center videos on Team Lift and Overhead Lift*. An AWWA safety handout entitled “Take a Load off: Tips for Safe Lifting” was also briefed to staff. The primary objective was to provide awareness and share safety best practices on material handling, storage, use and disposal. Staff fulfilled Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance requirements by reviewing the “a. Code of Safe Practices & Operating Procedures (Section E – Material Handling)”;
- Tailgate safety meetings were conducted at all individual O&M field locations and the topics included refresher training on equipment used at the various O&M locations. The online Target Safety assignment for March was “Water Industry: Material Handling, Storage, Use and Disposal.”
- FEMA Incident Command System trainings are ongoing.

Attachments: A- Operations Log for March

OPERATIONS LOG	
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DATE	SANTA FELICIA DAM								FREEMAN DIVERSION**					RECHARGE					IRRIGATION						O-H	
	SFD EL	Stor.	Surface	Evap.	Inflow Balance	Outflow USGS	Hydro	Rain 106E	River	Diverted	Fish*** Facility	Bypass Channel	Crest	El Rio	Saticoy Facility		Noble/ Rose	Piru	T.I.D.	P.T.P.	PVCWD	L.P.	Saticoy Wells	Total	C12	
	Ft.	A/F	Acres	Inches	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Kw	Inches	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Misc CFS†	Weir CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	A/F	A/F	A/F	%	A/F	A/F	A/F	Lbs.
A/F*	17789				5,904	12,588	3.28		15,366	14,534	370	460		8,913	1831		0	0.0	3,789	2,536	1,349	0.0	0	5,781	46,135	
3/1/21	983.30	17815	537.30	0.202	23	7.75	0	0.00	30	28	1.3	0	0	0.38	15	0	0	0.0	26.1	22.6	3.5	0.06	0.0	0.0	46.8	365
3/2/21	983.33	17832	537.60	0.145	18	7.85	0	0.00	29	29	0	0	0	7.9	8	0	0	0.0	26.4	24.9	1.5	0.03	0.0	0.0	43.1	352
3/3/21	983.35	17842	537.80	0.148	15	8.12	0	0.00	30	30	0	0	0	13.28	4	0	0	0.0	26.5	22.5	4.0	0.07	0.0	0.0	43.8	338
3/4/21	983.35	17842	537.80	0.160	10	8.03	0	0.04	27	27	0	0	0	13.58	0	0	0	0.0	25.4	20.9	4.5	0.08	0.0	0.0	37.4	297
3/5/21	983.37	17853	537.90	0.109	15	7.94	0	0.00	27	27	0	0	0	13.95	0	0	0	0.0	26.5	23.7	2.8	0.05	0.0	0.0	40.3	302
3/6/21	983.37	17853	537.90	0.146	10	7.87	0	0.00	27	27	0	0	0	13.38	4	0	0	0.0	19.1	13.8	5.3	0.10	0.0	0.0	35.4	285
3/7/21	983.37	17853	537.90	0.115	9	7.88	0	0.00	29	29	0	0	0	17.32	8	0	0	0.0	6.9	2.1	4.8	0.08	0.0	0.0	32.6	358
3/8/21	983.33	17832	537.60	0.080	-2	7.84	0	0.00	32	32	0	0	0	15.83	4	0	0	0.0	22.6	21.9	0.7	0.01	0.0	0.0	37.5	289
3/9/21	983.33	17832	537.60	0.128	9	7.84	0	0.00	30	30	0	0	0	14.71	5	0	0	0.0	19.8	14.1	5.7	0.10	0.0	0.0	35.4	267
3/10/21	983.36	17848	537.80	0.144	18	7.8	0	0.36	37	37	0	0	0	17.7	13	0	0	0.0	11.6	3.3	8.3	0.11	0.0	0.0	37.8	262
3/11/21	983.38	17848	537.80	0.092	9	7.81	0	0.23	39	39	0	0	0	19.66	12	0	0	0.0	12.8	6.0	6.8	0.09	0.0	0.0	30.9	248
3/12/21	983.42	17880	537.30	0.097	25	7.78	0	0.36	40	40	0	0	0	27.58	8	0	0	0.0	9.4	10.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	32.3	255
3/13/21	983.43	17885	538.40	0.079	11	7.76	0	0.00	41	41	0	0	0	34.64	3	0	0	0.0	6.3	7.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	33.9	262
3/14/21	983.43	17885	538.40	0.082	9	7.74	0	0.00	40	40	0	0	0	39.97	0	0	0	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	27.4	222
3/15/21	983.45	17896	538.60	0.103	14	7.76	0	0.09	44	44	0	0	0	32.88	8	0	0	0.0	6.0	6.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	28.2	241
3/16/21	983.45	17896	538.60	0.095	9	7.76	0	0.13	42	42	0	0	0	30.59	3	0	0	0.0	16.4	13.5	2.9	0.03	0.0	0.0	30.8	239
3/17/21	983.45	17896	538.60	0.111	9	7.75	0	0.00	39	39	0	0	0	26.32	5	0	0	0.0	16.7	13.2	3.5	0.04	0.0	0.0	32.0	236
3/18/21	983.46	17901	538.60	0.102	11	7.72	0	0.00	38	38	0	0	0	21.26	6	0	0	0.0	20.4	13.2	7.2	0.10	0.0	0.0	32.5	250
3/19/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.119	12	7.75	0	0.00	36	36	0	0	0	20.04	4	0	0	0.0	23.7	18.5	5.2	0.07	0.0	0.0	33.1	289
3/20/21	983.48	17912	538.80	0.083	11	7.94	0	0.08	36	36	0	0	0	18.56	6	0	0	0.0	22.3	16.1	6.2	0.09	0.0	0.0	35.1	305
3/21/21	983.49	17918	538.90	0.148	13	8.59	0	0.00	35	35	0	0	0	23.17	7	0	0	0.0	11.1	2.4	8.7	0.12	0.0	0.0	29.6	337
3/22/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.181	5	8.76	0	0.00	35	35	0	0	0	19.29	6	0	0	0.0	20.9	18.7	2.2	0.03	0.0	0.0	36.1	270
3/23/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.170	10	8.31	0	0.00	35	35	0	0	0	20.9	3	0	0	0.0	20.4	23.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	36.8	283
3/24/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.187	10	8.31	0	0.00	32	32	0	0	0	16.37	3	0	0	0.0	23.2	21.1	2.1	0.03	0.0	0.0	35.1	275
3/25/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.191	11	8.92	0	0.00	29	29	0	0	0	14.22	1	0	0	0.0	27.6	24.2	3.4	0.06	0.0	0.0	35.2	283
3/26/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.095	10	9.09	0	0.00	29	29	0	0	0	11.25	4	0	0	0.0	26.7	22.6	4.1	0.07	0.0	0.0	39.8	303
3/27/21	983.46	17901	538.60	0.145	8	9.32	0	0.00	27	27	0	0	0	8.55	6	0	0	0.0	25.3	22.4	2.9	0.05	0.0	0.0	38.6	313
3/28/21	983.48	17912	538.80	0.155	16	8.63	0	0.00	26	26	0	0	0	11.43	8	0	0	0.0	13.5	7.7	5.8	0.11	0.0	0.0	32.5	254
3/29/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.204	8	7.87	0	0.00	27	27	0	0	0	9.8	5	0	0	0.0	24.3	20.5	3.8	0.07	0.0	0.0	39.8	302
3/30/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.190	10	7.95	0	0.00	24	24	0	0	0	12.14	2	0	0	0.0	20.6	17.4	3.2	0.07	0.0	0.0	38.4	291
3/31/21	983.47	17907	538.70	0.244	11	7.93	0	0.00	22	22	0	0	0	4.92	5	0	0	0.0	24.4	23.7	0.7	0.02	0.0	0.0	43.1	330
TOTAL CFS						358	250	1.29	1015	1014	1	0	0	552	167	0	0	0.0								
AVERAGE CFS						12	8		33	33	0	0	0	18	5	0	0	0.0								
TOTAL A/F						709	496		2009	2007	3	0	0	1092	331	0	0	0.0	584	480	110		0	0.0	1111	8903
MONTHLY REVENUE TO DATE (approx.)							\$0	K																		
AVERAGE A/F						23	16		65	65	0	0	0	35	11	0	0	0.0	19	15	4	6%	0	0.0	36	287
WATER YEAR TOTALS A/F						6,613	13,083	4.57	17,376	16,540	372	460	0	10,005	2,162		0	0.0	4,373	3,016	1,459		0	0	6,893	55,038

[illegible]

** Daily averages imported from Ranch Systems

***Fish facility flows include Denil fishladder, aux pipe and smolt bypass pipe

† Includes Ponds A, C, E, and I overflows, temporary storage in the desilting basin and Pond B, JLB diversions, losses between meters. Negatives mean prior storage from pond B or desilting basin is discharging to other metered sources.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Clayton W. Strahan, Chief Park Ranger

Date: March 28, 2021 (April 14, 2021 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive this staff report and a presentation from the Park and Recreation Department staff regarding its activities for the month of March 2021.

Discussion:

The month of March brought increased traffic, more temperate weather, and new developments to the Lake Piru Recreation Area. Many guests could be found testing out their boats and personal watercrafts in preparation for the coming summer. On March 1, after several years of planning and assistance from the United States Forest Service and UWCD Engineering, Operations & Maintenance, and Environmental Services Divisions, we were able to open the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area to the public. This has proven to be exceedingly popular with the public, with 81 passes issued for the area thus far. Since opening, staff has spent approximately 30 hours patrolling the trailhead/access road and cleaning/maintaining the facilities.

On March 11, we welcomed our first guests back to the campground. Despite working through some minor issues that might be expected with a new reservation system and processes, as well as some unexpected minor operational difficulties, the return of camping to the Lake Piru Recreation Area has been a welcomed development. Already, a strong, positive energy has resulted. The initial reservations process has been effective and efficient and produced exceptional results. In addition, we welcomed several new staff members to the team to help operate the entry kiosk and campground. The typical pace of daily routines, maintenance, and patrol activities kept our staff extremely busy throughout the month.

1. Staff Tasks and Activities

- **March 1:** With assistance from O&M staff, worked together to remove and replace a frozen valve on the outlet from the irrigation water storage tank.
 - **March 1, 2:** With assistance from O&M staff, isolated and repaired a hose spigot in the campground after it was struck by a vehicle, causing significant water loss.
-

- **March 4, 5:** Provided boat transportation and safety patrols for contract divers conducting maintenance and research on quagga mussels.
- **March 5:** Installed eyewash stations at the cleaning chemical storage location to provide a safe working environment in compliance with State regulations.
- **March 7:** Acquired and programmed new handheld radios for new personnel at the Recreation Area to enable more efficient communication.
- **March 7, 8:** Pressure washed the interior and exterior of all restrooms within the Recreation Area to ensure a good experience for guests upon reopening of camping.
- **March 10:** With assistance from Mather Bros Ice, facilitated installation of two ice machines within the Olive Grove Campground to offer ice sales to our guests.
- **March 15:** Coordinated the repair and inspection of the Recreation Area gasoline pump by California Service Station Maintenance, allowing staff to fill their vehicles more conveniently.
- **March 16:** Installed safety signs at the Water Treatment Plant to ensure emergency responders can easily see what chemicals are in use at the plant.
- **March 17:** With assistance of O&M staff, isolated, excavated, and repaired a leak in the domestic water line in the Lower Oaks Campground.
- **March 18:** Coordinated with T&T Crane to arrange for the transportation of two storage containers to a more convenient location within the Recreation Area.
- **March 19:** Installed a new fee and hours sign at the entry kiosk.
- **March 19, 20:** Coordinated with Pacific Vista Landscape to install 18 new Sycamore trees in the Day Use and Group 2 Camping area, as well as new irrigation to supply the trees.
- **March 21:** Installed ADA-compliant hand sanitizer stations in all restrooms throughout the Recreation Area.
- **March 24:** Installed a fishing line recycling tube on the courtesy dock in a partnership with California Department of Boating and Waterways to reduce the amount of fishing line and tackle that is dumped into the lake.
- **March 24:** Received six Yamaha utility carts to allow camp hosts and other staff to move around the Recreation Area more efficiently and transport supplies.
- **March 26:** Installed Firewood Sales and Fuel Log storage boxes in the Recreation Area to provide accountability and inventory tracking.
- **March 27:** With assistance from O&M staff, installed a new Y strainer in the irrigation line feeding the Day Use area to provide better water flow and protect the irrigation infrastructure in the picnic area.

2. Staff Training/Meetings/Events

- **March 1:** Met with producers from Evolution Media regarding potential filming locations within the Recreation Area.
- **March 2:** Met with members of the Engineering team regarding upcoming CIP renovations of the Condor Point area.
- **March 6:** Welcomed participants an early morning bass tournament and provided safety patrols.
- **March 10:** Received training from representatives of House Sanitary Supply regarding the safe and effective use of cleaning chemicals within the Recreation Area.
- **March 12:** Facilitated filming with Evolution Media on the marina – the first filming event of 2021.

5.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

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- **March 22:** Rangers completed training on District policies & procedures through Lexipol.
- **March 26:** Participated in a departmental meeting with management to receive updates on district policy related to operations at the entry gatehouse and Recreation Area.

3. Revenue and Visitation Recap

2021 Day Use Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2021 Day Use Revenue (Jan. 1-March 27, 2021)	\$ 48,559.50
2020 Day Use Revenue (Jan. 1-March 31, 2020)	\$ 9,731.25
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	\$ 38,828.25
Annual Increase in %	399%
2021 Camping Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2021 Camping Revenue (Feb. 19-Mar. 27, 2021)	\$54,843.60**
2020 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 2020)	\$49,321.80

****** Camping Revenue has been impacted by the park closure order due to COVID-19. Camping reservations resumed on February 19, 2021.

2021 Total Visitation Figures				
Month	# Nights/Sites	# People	# Vehicles	# Vessels
January	0	2627	1196	219
February	0	2047	1049	155
March (1-27)	203	2899	1451	334

4. Incidents/Arrests/Medicals

- **March 23:** Rangers took custody of a mallard duck with a fishhook and line stuck in its mouth and facilitated transfer to members of the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, who will provide medical treatment to the duck and release it back to the wild.
- **March 28:** Rangers responded to a report of a dumpster fire within the Olive Grove Campground and were able to safely extinguish a small fire within the dumpster using backpack water pumps. No injuries to guests or staff occurred, and no property was damaged beyond the dumpster itself. The cause of the fire was not determined but is likely a result of guests depositing coals or other burning material into the dumpster.

5. Citations/Enforcement Summary

Throughout March, Rangers began the process of issuing warnings and educating the public regarding continued trespassing for the purposes of fishing in the Bobcat Cove area as well as other areas of the Recreation Area, particularly after hours. Enforcement activity in this area will continue.

6. Grants

Staff is continuing to actively monitor and evaluate all available grant opportunities. There is currently nothing to report on this matter.

Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist

Date: April 2, 2021 (April 14, 2021, meeting)

Agenda Item: **5.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report**
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive a staff report and presentation from the Water Resources Department regarding its activities for the month of March as well as receive the presentation to the Board supporting this report.

Discussion:

As noted in our previous staff reports, the majority of staff continue to work from home and communicate via teleconferencing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Staff Activities

In addition to the Department's routine, ongoing groundwater monitoring and reporting program and its support of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (summarized in a separate staff report), notable efforts and activities conducted by staff during the past month included the following:

- Groundwater modeling:
 - Staff has expanded the active domain of United's numerical groundwater flow model to incorporate the Piru, Fillmore and Santa Paula basins. The model was calibrated through 2015 and validated through the 2016-2019 period. Now that the expanded model has been validated, staff are preparing model documentation and applying the model for a number of urgent tasks, as described below and in the SGMA update staff report.
 - Staff has completed various future model runs in support of area Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). These model runs account for significant land use changes that affect runoff in the Santa Clara River watershed, and apply climate change
-

Agenda Item: 5.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report
Information Item

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factors to historical streamflow and rainfall records, as required to simulate future hydrology for the GSAs.

- Staff continue to help the Environmental Services Department (ESD) evaluate effects of existing and potential future surface water flow conditions at the Freeman Diversion.
 - Staff are assisting ESD in evaluating fish passage modifications under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- Staff continue to assist with planning and coordination for release of Table A water and supplemental State Water Project water acquired from the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency and the City of San Buenaventura. 3,150 AF has been received and we have the option to purchase an additional 1.260 AF.
- Staff completed and submitted 2020 water rights reporting documents the State Board as required by our water rights permits and licenses.
- Staff has entered available lithologic information from wells in the Mugu area into a RockWorks database and has constructed cross-sections in order to map the continuity of confining units in the vicinity of the proposed Coastal Brackish Groundwater Extraction and Treatment Project. Staff will work on model refinements in the Mugu area in April.
- Staff continue to collaborate with the Engineering Department with development and design of a portfolio of new or improved water-supply projects within the District's service area. Staff are meeting biweekly (with consulting engineers from Kennedy-Jenks) to refine estimates of project yields and costs, and to better optimize planned projects so that they yield the best value in terms of sustainable yield for the groundwater basins in United's service area. Model input files are being developed.
- Staff supported the Engineering Department and a consultant in developing the 2021 updates to United's Urban Water Management Plan for its O-H and Lake Piru water-supply systems.
- Staff supported the Engineering Department by reviewing drill cuttings, monitoring drilling, and providing hydrogeological assistance with design of El Rio water well #19 (replacing El Rio #6). The replacement well has been designed and the casing and screen is being fabricated.
- Field staff completed the "spring high" water level monitoring run and collected water quality samples from the coastal monitoring wells.

Outreach and Educational Activities:

- Staff gave a virtual tour and provided a lecture on the water supply impacts of Freeman Diversion to an Environmental Science and Resource Management class from CSU Channel Islands on March 11.

Agenda Item: 5.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report
Information Item

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- Staff participated in Oxnard Union High School District's "Agriculture, Green Technologies, and Natural Resources Spring Committee Meeting" on March 18, providing insight with regard to career and learning opportunities in the Water Resources field, and offering to lead field trips in the future when allowed again.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Supervising Hydrogeologist

Date: April 2, 2021 (April 14, 2021, meeting)

Agenda Item: **5.4 Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Information Item**

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive a staff report and presentation from the Water Resources Department regarding its activities for the month of March as well as receive a presentation to the Board supporting this report.

Discussion:

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA)

Staff continue to monitor and, where appropriate, participate in the FCGMA's groundwater sustainability planning and implementation efforts in the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley (western management area) basins, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The FCGMA Board held a regular meeting online on March 24. Notable topics included:

- The Board directed its Operations Committee to explore the feasibility of purchasing imported water from Calleguas MWD for “in-lieu replenishment” in Las Posas Valley basin.
 - The Board approved an ordinance to amend the existing Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) allocation ordinance, eliminating some of the use-reporting requirements for mutual water companies, special districts, and municipalities that extract groundwater from the OPV basins and use it on lands overlying other groundwater basins.
 - Staff provided an update on processing of variance applications under the OPV allocation ordinance. Some Board members suggested that review of the variance applications should be expedited. The first meeting of the Variance Review Committee is scheduled for April 6.
-

Agenda Item: 5.4 Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item

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- The Board approved an ordinance exempting domestic well owners/operators from the FCGMA's requirement to install advanced metering (AMI) on water-supply wells.

The next regular FCGMA Board meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 1:30 pm.

OPV Core Stakeholder Group meetings –

The OPV Core Stakeholder Group held meetings on March 2, 16, and 30.

Notable topics of the March 2 meeting included:

- Review and preliminary discussion of key technical issues, including sustainable yield, starting allocation, rampdown, and minimum allocations.

Notable topics of the March 16 meeting included:

- Continued discussion of AG and M&I proportions of operating yield and differences for minimum allocation and ending allocation.

Notable topics of the March 30 meeting included:

- Proposed outline of the report the facilitator will draft and present to the Executive Committee on April 15. Some stakeholders questioned the rush to conclude the process when parties remain engaged and seem to be seeking a compromise solution to some of the difficult allocation and rampdown issues.

Selected United staff and counsel also attended the March 17 and March 25 meetings of the Legal *Ad Hoc* Committee of the OPV Core Stakeholder Group. Discussions by this committee are subject to a non-disclosure agreement.

Staff prepared and submitted a brief report detailing 2020 conditions in the Oxnard basin as required by FCGMA Resolution 2013-02. The report helps determine if recycled water pumping allocations can be used by the City of Oxnard this year without negative impacts on the basin.

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA)

Staff continue to participate in FPBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP preparation for the Fillmore and Piru basins, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The FPBGSA held a regular Board meeting on March 18 at 5:00 pm, followed by a stakeholder workshop. Notable topics included:

- Board received a presentation on the draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Criteria matrix from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates.
- Board received a presentation from Stillwater Sciences on riparian vegetation communities in the Piru and Fillmore basins, some of which are interpreted to be groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Agenda Item: 5.4 Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item

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A special FPBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for April 1 at 5:00 pm and the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 15 at 5:00 pm.

GSP preparation – Consultant DBS&A have reported progress on various work products in support of GSP development and noted the availability of a web-based data management and mapping system that includes well construction information and available water level and water quality records for wells within the Piru and Fillmore basins.

Modeling –Staff has completed the work required to apply climate change factors to historical streamflow and rainfall records, as required to simulated future hydrology in the study area. The initial future runs applying 2030 and 2070 climate change factors and forecasted groundwater pumping and base flows from Los Angeles County have been completed and provided to the technical consultant for the GSA. Additional scenarios with reduced pumping near riparian areas have been provided to help assess impacts associated with pumping compared to drought.

Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)

Staff continue to participate in MBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP development for the Mound basin, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings –

The MBGSA Board held their second GSP public workshop (as a special Board meeting) on March 4. The primary topics presented and discussed at this workshop were sustainable management criteria and water budgets for Mound basin. United staff gave the presentation on water budgets at the workshop.

The MBGSA Board held a regular meeting on March 18. Notable topics of discussion included:

- The Board directed staff to prepare the draft GSP section on sustainable management criteria using the language proposed by Executive Director Bryan Bondy in his staff report to the Board.

The next regular MBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for April 15 at 1:00 pm.

GSP preparation – United staff continue to compile and review data to support preparation of the Mound basin GSP, in general accordance with United's agreement with the MBGSA. United has delivered draft text, tables, and figures in support of the water-budget and monitoring sections of the GSP. United staff are currently updating text, tables, and figures for Sections 3.1 and 3.2 (Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Groundwater Conditions) based on the latest information and comments received from the MBGSA Executive Director, and will continue to provide review and other support as requested to assist the MBGSA with preparation of a complete public-review draft GSP.

Agenda Item: 5.4 Update on Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Information Item

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Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Staff continue to participate in the Santa Paula basin TAC in support of the Santa Paula Basin Judgment and in conformance with SGMA reporting requirements for adjudicated basins, as follows:

- Staff submitted the 2019 Santa Paula Basin Annual Report to DWR.
- Staff are preparing a draft version of the Santa Paula Basin Annual Report for 2020.
- The TAC meeting scheduled for June 2020 has been postponed; a specific date and time have not been selected yet. It is anticipated that the Technical Working Group of the TAC will meet prior to the next TAC meeting, to discuss the current status of United's groundwater flow model expansion and how the effectiveness of the proposed yield-enhancement measures might be forecasted using the model. The Technical Working Group is also expected to discuss the "Triggers" proposal/memorandum at an upcoming meeting.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager

From: Joseph Jereb, Chief Financial Officer
Josh Perez, Human Resources Manager
Zachary Plummer, Information Technology Administrator
Kris Sofley, Executive Administrative Coordinator/Clerk of the Board

Date: March 22, 2021 (April 14, 2021 meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.5 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report
Informational Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this staff report from the Administrative Services team regarding its activities for the month of March.

Discussion:

Activities that took place during the month of March 2021 include:

Finance:

- Developed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget, including holding a series of meetings with Department Managers to discuss plans and priorities for next Fiscal Year.
- Reviewed FY 2021-22 Preliminary Proposed Budget requests with General Manager.
- Continued work on Internal Controls Audit.
- Completed CalPERS Special Compensation Audit.
- Attended grant kickoff meeting with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- Controller back from Medical Leave.

Administration:

- Organized legislative outreach meetings with Foley & Lardner for General Manager and ad hoc legislative committee members;
 - Secured UWCD sponsorship of ACWA Federal Water Issues online meetings;
 - Organized outreach meeting for GM with Native American Heritage Commissioner Julie Tumamait-Stenslie;
 - Provided administrative/clerk duties for Recreation Committee meeting (March 3), Engineering and Operations Committee (March 4) and Finance Committee meeting (March 9);
-

- Provided administrative/clerk duties for Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA Board meeting on March 18;
- Provided administrative/clerk duties for Mound Basin GSA GSP Workshop on March 4;
- Provided administrative/clerk duties for Ventura County Special District Association's meeting on April 6.

Human Resources:

- HR has been working on significant recruitment efforts and onboarding personnel for Recreation positions such as Seasonal Park Ranger Assistants and Camp Host Volunteers that will be working at the Lake during our upcoming Spring and Summer season.
- Worked on recruiting for our Field Technician position to support our Environmental Services team.
- Processed exit documents for two part time Field Technicians that submitted resignations.
- Assisted Finance Department in obtaining specific HR information and documentation for a routine CalPERS audit.

Safety and Risk Management:

- Collaborated with O&M on finalizing the District's Emergency Response Plan to meet regulatory requirements
- Disseminated latest COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance to staff, including best practices on securing appointments
 - Provided individual registration assistance as needed, resulting in additional appointments being secured
- Completed First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor certification training, which results in the ability to provide in-house training and certifications at significantly lowered cost
- Conducted monthly safety meeting that covered material handling and COVID-19 updates
- Provided best practices and guidance regarding O&M's schedule adaptation which will return them to their routine pre-pandemic schedule
- Attended SDRMA Spring Education Day
- Reviewed and issued updated guidance to Park Rangers' manual as a result of state law modifications

Information Technology**Provided IT Support for the following virtual meetings:**

- UWCD Recreation Committee Meeting (March 3rd)
 - Mound Basin GSA - GSP Workshop (March 4th)
 - Engineering and Operations Committee (March 4th)
 - UWCD Finance and Audit Committee (March 9th)
 - UWCD Board of Directors Monthly Meeting (March 10th)
 - FPB GSA Board Meeting (March 18th)
-

General IT Helpdesk/Cyber Support:

- Implemented new technology solution allowing Microsoft Teams to integrate with Santa Clara conference room. This will allow better functionality in virtual room settings.
- Installed upgraded Fish Ladder Camera Recording Hardware. Replaced equipment that had reached end of life status.
- Reviewed Cybersecurity Bulletin from information sharing partners regarding Cybersecurity Breach of Microsoft Exchange Servers. UWCD Exchange servers were patched the same day Microsoft announced the vulnerability and no cybersecurity concerns were observed on any UWCD accounts.
- Assisted and supported O&M Department with modernization of SCADA alerting and monitoring node refresh. Ongoing project that will follow a phased implementation process throughout the next month.
- Refreshed the "Confined Spaces" software application for O&M in a new technology environment. This involved extensive vendor support to test and ensure proper functionality.
- Finalized five laptops' refreshments of O&M and Environmental Services equipment that support UWCD's flex requirements associated with COVID-19 protocols.
- Registered for additional technology cyber monitoring resources provided by our Federal government partnership with the Department of Homeland Security.
- Improved our VPN software for staff members to expedite downloading PDF documents and remote access printing capability addressing a software issue.
- Replaced tokens for a phased group of O&M operators that ensure cybersecurity associated with remote access capabilities.
- Setup IT Accounts, e-mails, and provided proper IT equipment as necessary to Recreation staff that joined the District in the month of March/April to prepare for upcoming Lake Piru Recreation Area busy season.
- Conducted a test of the Lake Piru Recreational Area Public accessible Wi-Fi. As of 3/31; currently six of ten potential wireless access points have been deployed in the campground. These areas include: Restroom areas, Gatehouse, and the Rangers Station. Supplementary access points are planned for the storefront area and the perimeter once a range assessment of the Wi-Fi has been completed.

IT Meetings and Events:

- Call with third party vendor regarding Network Equipment and Professional services to improve firewall between Lake Piru and other UWCD Facilities. This will improve the cyber security, reduce network complexity, and maintain better bandwidth between site-to-site communications throughout the District.
 - UWCD Account review with third party vendors regarding hardware solutions for potential 2021-22 technology enhancements requested in the proposed budget.
 - MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center) Virtual Services Review with the United Water Conservation District.
 - Monthly FBI Long Beach Energy and Water Cyberwatch Information sharing meeting.
-

- Monthly Cal-OES Cyber Security Integration Center Information sharing meeting
- March 2021 Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) Monthly Membership Call (public call)

Technology Systems Customer Service Metrics:

- During the month of March 2021, 20 new customer service requests were added to the ticketing system. Through analysis of reports, 30 service requests were completed in this period with the major accomplishments highlighted in the staff report.

	Open	In Progress	Awaiting Reply	Pending 3rd party	Waiting for approval	Total
IT Projects and Change Management	0	3	0	0	0	3
IT Purchase Request	0	2	0	0	3	5
IT Services and Support	10	3	1	0	0	14
Total	10	8	1	0	3	22

Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alerts and Advisories	0	2	1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3
IT Projects and Change Management	0	2	1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3
IT Purchase Request	6	5	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11
IT Services and Support	10	14	16	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	40
Network Port patching	0	1	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1
New employee	0	2	2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4
Total	16	26	20	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	62



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Maryam A. Bral, Chief Engineer
Craig A. Morgan, Senior Engineer
Robert J. Richardson, Senior Engineer
Michel Kadah, Engineer
Adrian Quiroz, Associate Engineer
Erik Zvirbulis, GIS Analyst

Date: April 5, 2021 (April 14, 2021 meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.6 Monthly Engineering Department Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding activities for the month of March 2021.

Discussion:

As noted in our previous staff reports, the majority of staff continue to work from home and communicate via teleconferencing products during the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Projects

- **Spillway Improvement Project**
 - Staff completed their review of the Hydraulic Analysis, Part 1 and Part 2.
 - Staff completed the review of the spillway heel drain cleanout 90% plans and provided comments to GEI.
 - In response to FERC's letter dated January 6, 2021 and a follow up letter to FERC by the District on February 5, 2021, Staff requested Gannett Fleming (GF) to reevaluate GEI Consultants (GEI) 2015 Seismic Deformation Study (2015 Study) that concluded Santa Felicia Dam is not subject to liquefaction. In a technical memorandum prepared by GF, it was stated that the 2015 Study was adequate and the recommendation No. 26 (2017-REC-26) included in the 2017 Part 12D report is no longer needed. On March 31, Staff submitted a follow-up response letter to FERC along with the technical memorandum by GF, and concluded that the evaluation of the Santa Felicia Dam liquefaction potential is considered finalized at this time.

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- Staff reviewed the Spillway Wall Deflection Observation report prepared by ECG to support the current spillway design phase. Staff will discuss the findings of this report with GEI during the bi-weekly progress meeting on April 6.
- Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - A second workshop with the District's staff and GEI is scheduled for April 29 to continue the discussions on the 30% design details, design changes proposed by GEI, and District's final recommendations prior to finalizing the current design phase.
 - Staff prepared and submitted the monthly vibrating wire piezometers (VWP) readings for the month of March to GEI for evaluation.
- FERC License Amendment Application and NEPA Documentation
 - Staff provided final set of comments on the revised draft Biological Assessment report (BA) to Catalyst. The draft BA will be submitted to FERC for review in the week of April 5.

Santa Felicia Dam Safety

- Staff will proceed with issuing a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) to Encompass Consultant Group (ECG) in April for the biennial SFD Monitoring Survey. The monitoring survey is scheduled to be conducted in May 2021.

2. Santa Felicia Dam Sediment Management Project

- Staff executed a PSA with GEI for the Santa Felicia Dam Sediment Removal Study on March 17, 2021. As planned, GEI submitted a sediment sampling plan to the District on March 26, 2021. The plan outlines the sampling and testing protocols for collecting sediment samples at five (5) locations in the Lake Piru Reservoir. The sampling will be in the dry, as the selected locations are currently in the dry above the reservoir surface elevation. The sediment sampling will help determine laboratory analyzed physical and chemical properties of the lake bottom sediment at various locations and depths. Because the sampling will take place in California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictions, the District will need to acquire the respective environmental permits from these agencies prior to the work. Engineering Staff will coordinate with the Environmental Services Department for this permitting effort. Once the permits are in place, the District will proceed with the sediment sampling in Summer 2021 with the support of a local geotechnical firm.

3. Pothole Trailhead Parking Area

- The Pothole Trailhead Parking Area has now been open to the public since March 1, 2021. The next step is for the District to execute two (2) easements to the Forest Service in perpetuity for the public use of: 1) the trailhead parking area and 2) the stretches of the

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Pothole Trail that lie on District Property. The District's legal counsel has begun work to draft these two documents. The District will retain ECG to provide the legal description of these two areas for their respective easements. Staff continued to work with the Forest Service to finalize the content for an interpretative sign structure. The sign structure will be installed in May 2021.

4. Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant Slope Evaluation

- On March 2, 2021 Engineering and O&M staff conducted a field investigation to verify the depths of the pipelines that lie within the Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant access road. This information will help Oakridge determine the depth to which the surficial materials can be excavated without compromising the integrity of the pipelines below. This information was provided to Oakridge who subsequently updated their Geotechnical Report based on the pipeline depth considerations. Staff received the updated Oakridge Geotechnical Report on March 25, 2021 and is planning to retain ECG to perform a topographic survey of the area. Both the survey and the geotechnical recommendations will be utilized to design drainage improvements at this location. The topo survey will be received in April 2021. The design of the drainage improvements will subsequently be pursued.

5. Freeman Diversion Rehabilitation/Fish Passage Facility

- USBR's commenced the physical model design and provided Staff with drawings of the proposed 1:24 scale Hardened Ramp.

6. Grand Canal

- DOD Construction will start construction of the Grand Canal hydraulic improvements on April 15th and has begun submitting submittals for the work.

7. Iron and Manganese Removal at the El Rio Water Treatment Plant

- March 5, 2021 – Staff issued a Request for Qualifications/Proposals to select consultants for Construction Management (CM) and Inspection Services. One addendum has been issued extending the statement of qualifications/proposal due date to April 23. Staff is anticipating interviews with consultants in May and award of a professional services agreement in July.
- March 16, March 18, March 25, 2021 – Staff provided individual tours of the El Rio facilities and project site to MNS Engineers, Inc. and Water Systems Consulting, Inc. and HDR Engineers who are interested in providing CM and inspection services.
- March 18, 2021 – Staff partially executed a service agreement with BidNet who provides web-based solicitation services for construction bidding and has a California Purchasing Group. Additionally, Staff has been developing an extensive list of prospective contractors

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that have bid on similar projects in the area. Staff plans to use BidNet for construction bid solicitation.

- March 24, 2021 – Staff responded to Kristine McCaffrey (Calleguas Municipal Water District) who is coordinating efforts with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on behalf of the project proponents to finalize and execute the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant. DWR has clarified that all projects need to have all construction related-permits in place before the grant agreement is executed or be reclassified as “placeholder” projects until permits have been obtained. Staff is now working to complete all construction related permits by June 1, 2021.
- March 30, 2021 – Staff prepared the semi-annual progress report for the WaterSmart grant (United States Bureau of Reclamation)
- March 31, 2021 – Staff selected Phoenix Civil Engineering, Inc. (Santa Paula) to prepare the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) under the Construction General Permit.
- Staff continues to perform pre-construction surveys of the project site as part of CEQA document described “avoidance and minimization measures.”
- Staff submitted final comments on the stamped and signed 100% design plans (Plans) on March 18 and continued to review the Plans, specifications and estimate from Kennedy/Jenks Consultants.
- The tentative schedule for the project is as follows:
 - May 7, 2021 – Advertise for construction bids
 - June 23, 2021 – Open construction bids
 - July 14, 2021 – Award construction contract (pending Prop 1 grant agreement execution)
 - July 31, 2021 – Notice to Proceed for construction

8. El Rio Well Replacement

- Best Drilling and Pump Inc. completed the pilot hole for El Rio Water Well No. 19. Staff refined the design of the well based on the results of the geophysical logging and the construction activities are continuing.

9. OH Backup Generator at the El Rio Booster Plant

- CalOES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Administration
 - On February 16, CalOES submitted a Notification of Payment letter with approval to the Staff’s request for reimbursement in amount of \$2,160.29.
 - On March 26, Staff prepared and submitted to CalOES a request for budget increase and time extension. Staff requested a budget increase of \$165,784.00 to the current grant amount to accommodate the revised project cost estimate. In addition, due to the
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anticipated long lead time for the electrical equipment and per CalOES recommendation, Staff submitted a request to extend the project completion due date four (4) months to December 24, 2021. However, Staff will continue pursuing August 26, 2021 as the project completion date.

- Staff is in the process of preparing the second quarterly report to CalOES as required by the CalOES HMGP grant.
- Procurement of a New 800 kW Generator
 - March 5, 2021, Staff reviewed and approved the final specifications of the new generator and authorized Quinn to start the procurement process. The new generator is expected to be delivered to Quinn's yard in Ventura in the beginning of August.
- Generator Installation – Construction Contract
 - March 10, 2021, following the Board of Directors approval, Staff issued a notice of award to Oilfield Electric & Motor (Oilfield) for construction of the project. The contract agreement (Agreement) with Oilfield was fully executed on March 24.
 - April 1, 2021, Staff issued Change Order No. 1 to the Agreement in order to adjust the project duration from thirty-eight (38) working days to one hundred and one (101) working days. Adjustment to the project time will allow Oilfield to immediately start the procurement and submittal process of the long lead electrical equipment to ensure the availability of the equipment and to prevent any delays in manufacturing and delivery due to COVID-19 uncertainties. Change Order No.1 will not impact the project completion date by August 26, 2021 nor the original construction contract cost.
 - April 2, 2021, Staff issued a notice to proceed to Oilfield. A virtual pre-construction meeting was held between Staff, Oilfield, Phoenix Civil Engineering (project construction manager), and Lucci & Associates (project design consultant).

10. PTP Turnout Metering System Improvement

- March 24, 2021 – Staff prepared the progress report for Invoice No. 9 to the Department of Water Resources for reimbursement under the Proposition 1 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Grant. The total State funds expended to date is \$425,287.50.
- Total number of meters installed: 28 of 61 installed, 46% (+10% change)
- An additional three (3) meter installations are planned before the end of Fiscal Year 20-21.
- Easement acquisition completion: 12 of 41 obtained, 29.3% (+2.4% change)
- One (1) owner-signed easement requires recording with the County Recorder's office.

11. Recycled Water Update

- Staff continues to seek funding opportunities for the PTP-PVCWD Laguna Road pipeline interconnection project that could facilitate recycled water transfers from the PVCWD system to the PTP system.

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- The Camarillo Sanitation District is continuing design of its Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir project at the Water Reclamation Facility. The project was awarded \$2 million in grant funding by the Department of Water Resources through the Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant program.
- The City of Oxnard hired Brown and Caldwell for engineering design services related to the Primary Clarifier and Activated Sludge Basin Improvement Project.
- The City of Oxnard held a construction kick-off meeting with Blois Construction, Inc. for the Hueneme Road Phase 2 Recycled Water Pipeline.
- Ventura Water has issued its 2021 Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report including projections that the Advanced Water Purification Facility will produce 2,800 acre-feet per year by 2026 and 4,000 acre-feet per year by 2031.
- Ventura Water has hired a new VenturaWaterPure Program Director, Linda Sumansky.

12. State Water Project (SWP) Interconnection Project

- Staff is tentatively planning to present the modified draft Agreement to the Engineering and Operations Committee, then to the Board of Directors for their approval in May.
- Staff attended the March 5th project progress meeting with the City of Ventura, Casitas, Stantec and HDR Engineers. Stantec discussed the project progress, including the completion of the topographic survey north of Santa Clara River and continued corrosion analysis and testing in the northern segment of the proposed alignment), upcoming geotechnical borings in Santa Clara River and a proposed alignment included in a draft technical memorandum (TM). Staff will review the draft TM and provide comments to the City.

13. Rive Avenue Grade Separation Project

- Staff received the 95% plans and specifications for utilities relocation, including the District's 30-inch pipeline. Staff is currently reviewing the design documents.

14. Coastal Brackish Groundwater Extraction and Treatment Project

- Engineering staff assisted Environmental Services staff in preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultant services for CEQA/NEPA documentation and processing.
 - Staff prepared updated reverse osmosis performance projections using vendor modeling software and the third quarter special sampling results from four monitoring wells located on Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu.
 - On March 23, 2021, Engineering, Water Resources and Environmental staff met with U.S. Navy staff to discuss the upcoming project schedule, the CEQA/NEPA consultant selection process, groundwater modeling efforts under the Proposition 1 grant and conceptual design activities.
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- On March 29, 2021, Board President Michael Mobley, Mauricio Guardado, Maryam Bral, Dan Detmer, Robert Richardson and Yan Qu with Trussell Technologies met with U.S. Navy staff at the Seawater Desalination Test Facility (SDTF) located on Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme. The objective of the tour was to better understand the Navy's testing facilities and capabilities which could facilitate small scale pilot testing for the project in the near future.
- In March 2021, Engineering staff tasked Trussell Technologies with attending the SDTF tour, conducting an extended desktop treatment process modeling evaluation that will be used in the development of a test plan for future pilot scale testing.
- Leadership Meeting No. 3 between the District and Navy staff has been tentatively scheduled on May 26, 2021.

15. Asset Management

- On March 26, 2021 Robert Richardson and Erik Zvirbulis met and discussed setting up an RFP for the asset management project.

16. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

- On March 11, 2021 Staff received Public Draft versions of the UWMP (Sections 1-9) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) from Stantec for Staff to review and finalize for public review.
- On March 12, 2021 Staff released the complete Public Draft versions of both the 2020 UWMP and the WSCP to the Public for review (<https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#water-supply>). On this date, Staff provided Notice of Public Hearing through a newspaper posting as well and Notices to Stakeholder letters (Customers, Cities, County, Agencies) for the Public Hearing and Public Draft version availability. The Public Hearing was stated to be held at the May 12, 2021 BOD meeting to receive public comments.
- On March 19, Staff provided a second Notice of Public Hearing through a newspaper posting for the Public Hearing and Public Draft version availability.
- On March 29, 2021 Staff held a progress meeting with Stantec to discuss the public hearing and comment process as well as any updates by the Department of Water Resources regarding the UWMP guidebook and future requirements.

17. Other Topics, Meetings and Training

- February 24, 2021 – Robert Richardson participated in an AWA Education Program: The History of Pump Efficiency Testing in California
 - February 25, 2021 – Maryam Bral and Robert Richardson participated in a Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Webinar
 - March 2, 16, 30, 2021 – Maryam Bral participated in OPV Core Stakeholders Group Meetings
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- March 3, 2021 – Maryam Bral participated in an SCV Water and UWCD Watershed Issues discussion with SCV Water.
- March 10, 2021 – Robert Richardson participated in a DuPont Webinar: FilmTec™ Fortilife™ membranes matched with Energy Recovery Ultra PX™ provide breakthrough in Minimal Liquid Discharge affordability
- March 16, 2021 – Maryam Bral participated in an AWA Water Issues committee meeting.
- March 18, 2021 – Maryam Bral and Robert Richardson participated in an AWA WaterWise Breakfast meeting: Long Awaited Camarillo Desalter Project Nears Completion
- March 18, 2021 – Maryam Bral, Brian Collins, Robert Richardson, and Kathleen Kuepper met with SCV Water to discuss their new PFAS treatment facility.
- March 24, 2021 – Maryam Bral participated in an AWA Educational Program: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District / Triunfo Water & Sanitation District Joint Powers Pure Water Demonstration Facility
- March 24, 2021 - Engineering Staff participated in the ASDSO webinar – Concrete Repair and Maintenance for Dams
- March 26, 2021 – Maryam Bral participated in CalDesal’s Invitation to Innovate webinar
- March 29, 2021 – United Staff met with the Navy’s team and Trussell Technologies for a tour of the NBVC Seawater Desalination Test Facility



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager

From: Linda Purpus, Environmental Services Manager

Date: April 5, 2021 (April 14, 2021 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.7 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this Monthly staff report on environmental and regulatory issues of note to the District and activities of the Environmental Services Department for the month of March 2021.

Discussion:

1. Santa Felicia Project Operations and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License Support

- Water Release Plan

Under the Water Release Plan and FERC license for the Santa Felicia Project, United is required to make certain water releases from Santa Felicia Dam for steelhead habitat and migration, when specific triggers are met. Triggers for habitat water releases are based on cumulative rainfall within the water year (beginning October 1 each year) as recorded at Ventura County Watershed Protection District's rainfall station No. 160, located at Lake Piru (see table below). United evaluates whether the trigger is met on the first day of each month, between January and June. The table below presents trigger criteria for each month and minimum required releases if those triggers are met. Each month that the trigger is not met, the minimum required habitat water release is 7 cubic feet per second (cfs). The trigger was not met on April 1, 2021. The minimum required habitat water release for the month of April will remain at 7 cfs.

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2021 Habitat water release trigger date	Trigger criteria (total cumulative precipitation on trigger date)	Minimum required water release if trigger is met	2021 Measured cumulative precipitation	Actual minimum required habitat water release for month
January 1	4.80 inches	15 cfs	1.73 inches	7 cfs
February 1	8.10 inches	20 cfs	3.27 inches	7 cfs
March 1	12.00 inches	20 cfs	3.28 inches	7 cfs
April 1	14.90 inches	20 cfs	4.57 inches	7 cfs
May 1	16.30 inches	10 cfs	TBD	TBD
June 1	17.50 inches	9 cfs*	TBD	TBD

*If triggered, the minimum required water release will remain at 9 cfs through October 1, at which time, minimum required water release will be 7 cfs through January 1 of next calendar year.

- Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (SFDSIP)

On March 3, 2021, United submitted an application for a Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

- Historical Properties Management Plan (HPMP)

On February 4, 2021, Environmental Services staff requested a 6-month extension of time to conclude Section 106 consultation and finalize the HPMP document for submittal to FERC by August 6, 2021. On March 18, 2021, FERC issued an order approving the extension of time.

- Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Plan

On March 31, 2021, Environmental Services staff submitted a draft annual report with the State Water Board detailing the results of dissolved oxygen monitoring activities conducted during 2020. Consistent with previous years' results, monitoring results from 2020 indicate there is a narrow operational window in which water released from Santa Felicia Dam may not meet Basin Plan water quality objectives. Staff is engaged in discussions with State Water Board staff to identify appropriate steps to address the issue.

- Fish Passage Feasibility Assessment

On February 23, 2020, United filed a letter with NMFS committing to develop measures to monitor for the presence of upstream migrating adult steelhead in lower Piru Creek and the Santa Clara River (below the Santa Felicia Dam) including design, and fabrication of a low-tech/low-cost interim trapping structure as well as securing any necessary permits and approvals for these actions. On November 20, 2020, United filed a letter with FERC requesting designation as their non-Federal representative for conducting informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for implementing the monitoring activities. On January 6, 2021, FERC issued the requested designation.

On March 3, 2021, Environmental Services staff submitted a status update with FERC outlining activities conducted under the Fish Passage Feasibility Assessment Study Plan, including progress in developing measures for monitoring for the presence of upstream migrating adult steelhead (below the Santa Felicia Dam). On March 5, 2021, staff submitted environmental assessment documentation to FERC to support initiation of consultation with USFWS. On March 17, 2021, FERC requested initiation of informal consultation with USFWS to assess the effects of the proposed monitoring measures on California condor and least Bell's vireo. Based on United's determination, FERC requested concurrence from USFWS that the proposed monitoring measures may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect these species.

On March 24, 2021, staff conducted a snorkel survey in the release reach below the Santa Felicia Dam. No *O. mykiss* were observed.

- Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan

On March 10, 2021, Environmental Services staff filed the 2020 Annual Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan Report with FERC. The annual report outlines activities conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2020, in accordance with the Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan. Activities included tamarisk treatment, monitoring to evaluate the success of prior tamarisk treatments, and consultation with regulatory agencies to review activities and strategize on future vegetation management strategies.

- Annual U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) Consultation

On February 18, 2021, Environmental Services, Recreation, and Engineering staff met with the Los Padres National Forest Service District Ranger and Botanist for an annual consultation in accordance with the FERC license 4(e) terms and conditions. Staff provided updates on activities conducted during 2020 and discussed future plans related to United's projects that have the potential to affect Forest Service lands or have special

interest for the Forest Service. On March 29, 2021, United filed a Record of Consultation with FERC detailing the meeting.

- Pothole Trailhead Parking Area

On March 1, 2021, staff submitted a notification of completion for the Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project to FERC. The submittal provided confirmation that United has fulfilled its construction obligations under Article 411 of the FERC license. United is committed to maintain the facility, file annual reports with FERC, and execute an easement in perpetuity to the Forest Service for the public use of the trailhead parking area as well as the stretches of the Pothole Trail that traverse United owned property.

- Article 412 - Visitation and Lake Level Report

On May 8, 2019, FERC issued an order modifying and approving Article 412 of the license to replace the original requirement for formalized lakeshore facilities between the Juan Fernandez Boat Launch and Texaco Knoll with alternative measures for improving established facilities to provide enhanced recreational opportunities within the Lake Piru Recreation Area. In amending Article 412, FERC issued a reporting requirement (at three-year intervals) to evaluate if conditions warrant a formalized assessment of the need for additional facilities (lake levels maintained at or above 1,025 feet msl elevation during the recreation season, and annual visitation at the project in excess of 75,000 visitors for five consecutive years). On March 31, 2021, staff filed a Visitation and Lake Level Report with FERC detailing conditions during 2018, 2019, and 2020. The trigger for a formalized assessment were not met during the reporting period.

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) FERC License (No. 2426) - South State Water Hydropower Project (Pyramid Lake)

On March 2, 2021, Environmental Services staff attended a follow-up meeting with staff from DWR's FERC licensing and CEQA planning departments to discuss the CEQA compliance process related to United's proposal to eliminate the 3,150 AF State Water Project delivery limit. Moving forward, United is developing a strategy for the completion of CEQA and incorporation into DWR's FERC relicensing process.

On March 17, 2021, United submitted a motion to intervene out-of-time and response to agency preliminary terms and conditions under the South State Water Hydropower Project. United's comments are in response to agency comments on FERC's Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice for the South State Water Hydropower Project.

On March 24, 2021, staff met with research scientists to discuss the assessment framework for evaluating affects to Endangered Species Act listed species including arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher in support of

eliminating the 3,150 AF limit for State Water Project deliveries to United from Pyramid Lake under Article 52 of the South State Water Project FERC License.

2. Freeman Diversion Facility Operations

- During the weeks of March 15 and March 22, 2021, staff coordinated replacement of the network storage device responsible for operating the video surveillance system on the Freeman Fish Ladder. The replacement device is an updated unit that should resolve several bugs and issues encountered with the previous unit. Several issues were encountered and subsequently resolved during device migration and replacement. Support from IT staff was integral in this replacement.

3. Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

- Environmental Services staff participated with Executive Management in meeting with NMFS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) management on March 2, 2021, and March 17, 2021. The meetings were intended to gain concurrence on a proposed approach for resolving new and outstanding issues related to components of the MSHCP. Concurrent with and relevant to these meetings and the process going forward with the MSHCP, United received an additional comment letter from NMFS on March 16, 2021, and a Critical Riffle Analysis completed by CDFW on March 16, 2021.
- United submitted two letters to CDFW requesting specific details on volitional passage criteria for the slower-swimming fish and proposing non-volitional passage alternatives for slower-swimming fish, on March 11, 2021, and March 19, 2021, respectively.
- Staff completed reviews of the biological assessment, cultural resources inventory, and regulatory application packages prepared by GEI Consultants Inc. (GEI) in support of the geotechnical investigations for the Freeman fish passage facility engineering design. Draft Regulatory application packages are complete and will be combined with the draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document (pending review) prior to submittal.

4. Quagga Mussel Management

- Monitoring
 - On March 31, 2021, Environmental Services staff submitted the 2020 Annual Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Report to CDFW. A follow-up consultation meeting will be scheduled to discuss the quagga mussel program and annual report.
 - Staff continues to conduct routine monitoring under the Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan (Plan) comprising: monthly water quality sampling; monthly veliger (microscopic planktonic larvae) sampling; monthly artificial substrate sampling in Lake Piru (plate sampling); and natural substrate sampling in Piru Creek (surface surveys).

Surface surveys were also performed at locations accessed through Rancho Temescal property.

- Staff completed monitoring surveys of the Lower System Quagga Mussel Veliger Monitoring Program on March 3, 2021. These monitoring activities were conducted in the lower water delivery system, including the Pleasant Valley (PV) and Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP) reservoirs. Data has been compiled and summarized for the October 2020-March 2021 monitoring activities.
- Scientific divers collected veliger samples from Lake Piru on March 4, 2021. Samples were analyzed by United staff at the Saticoy laboratory. Data will be used to evaluate quagga mussel reproduction.

5. Miscellaneous

- On March 18, 2021, Tessa Lenz attended the AWA Waterwise Breakfast Series regarding progress on the Camarillo Desalter Project.

The New York Times

How California Stands to Benefit From the \$2.2 Trillion Infrastructure Proposal

Monday: If the plan passes, the state will have big plans for the federal money

By [Shawn Hubler](#), April 5, 2021



President Biden speaking about his infrastructure plan last week. Credit...Anna Moneymaker for The New York Times

Good morning.

“This is a game changer,” Gov. Gavin Newsom exulted last week during a news conference. “We are very, *very* enthusiastic.”

Was he talking about his recent [coronavirus vaccination](#)? The latest poll in the [recall campaign](#)? No, he was reveling in news from what has long been California’s sweet spot — infrastructure, baby.

Perhaps more than any other part of the country, California stands to benefit from [the \\$2.2 trillion proposal](#) introduced last week by President Biden. As our colleague Jim Tankersley and others [reported](#) (and detailed for [The Upshot](#) and “[The Daily](#)”), the sweeping plan would inject huge sums of money into wider roads, [faster internet](#), high-speed trains, charging stations for [electric cars](#), airport terminals, upgraded water pipes and much more.

If it passes — [a big if](#) — the state that conjured Los Angeles out of the chaparral and the nation’s agribusiness capital out of the swamps of the Central Valley will have big plans for the federal money.

The infusion is being seen not only as the path to a long-overdue upgrade of the freeways, dams and aqueducts that have long been California’s hallmark but also as a way to scale up and export the state’s ambitious climate policies.

Take, for example, the bill’s implications for the port of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which together handle about 40 percent of the container cargo that comes into the United States.

The diesel trucks that carry goods from the docks to mega-warehouses many miles inland have long been a target in a state where worsening wildfires have become a year-round reminder of the peril of global warming. Port trucks spew so much pollution on their way out of Long Beach on the 710 Freeway that “Asthma Alley” is the route’s nickname.

The federal infrastructure bill would underwrite not only clean trucks, but also tens of thousands of heavy-duty charging stations between the ports and the mega-warehouses inland where their goods are delivered. Perhaps more important, it would put the weight of the federal government behind California’s ongoing struggle to persuade shipping companies from other nations and states to lower the emissions from their port equipment.

Matt Petersen, who heads the nonprofit Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator and leads a [regional project](#) to significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions from Los Angeles traffic, said last week that if he could pick just one project to fund from the Biden bill, it would be to accelerate the replacement of those aging port trucks.

“That would be it,” he said, “in terms of the biggest overall impact.”

The bill would speed up California’s push to curtail carbon emissions in other ways as well.

Cars: California has been [weaning itself from fossil fuels](#) for decades. The state requires utilities to use increasing amounts of wind and solar power each year, and last year Mr. Newsom issued an executive order requiring that all new cars sold in the state be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

The Biden plan would supercharge that effort with federal incentives to drive zero-emission vehicles rather than gas guzzlers and fund the build-out of tens of thousands of charging stations to make electric cars more convenient to drive.

Buses: The state’s transit agencies are moving toward replacing all diesel-fueled buses within the next two decades. The Biden bill would replace 50,000 diesel public transit vehicles and 20 percent of school buses with vehicles that run on alternative fuel.

That would not only cut down on emissions in the state, but also support the state’s clean tech sector. At least four alternative fuel bus manufacturers are based in California, as are companies such as Silicon Valley’s Zum, which is [replacing Bay Area school buses](#) with a fleet of electric buses.

Rail: The package as proposed would provide \$80 billion for rail projects in California. The state’s embattled high-speed rail project, passed by voters in 2008 but politically shunned in recent years as too expensive, is unlikely to score a windfall, but other projects could benefit, according to a [Los Angeles Times analysis](#).

Among them: high-speed electrification of the rail system between Anaheim and Burbank; construction of a 1.3-mile tunnel to extend passenger rail into downtown San Francisco; and shortening the ride from Los Angeles to San Diego by straightening that rail line.

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) that the plan also could increase the capacity of BART, the Bay Area's transit system, extending it to San Jose and Santa Clara and perhaps connecting high-speed rail to the region. Amtrak also wants to create 30 new routes with the proposed funding, including between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, and to add more trains between San Diego and Los Angeles.

Water: Rural communities throughout the state contend with contaminated drinking water, particularly in [the Central Valley](#). The state has [struggled with the cost of cleanup](#) for years. **The Biden bill has \$66 billion to address water systems nationally.**

Broadband: In the state that gave rise to Silicon Valley, [more than a quarter of public school students](#) still lack reliable internet access — an issue laid bare during the past year as schools shifted to remote instruction during the pandemic. The bill would spend \$100 billion nationally on high-speed broadband.

In-home care: The bill also includes \$400 billion to expand access to caregiving for people who are older and disabled, and to improve pay and benefits for caregivers. California is projected to have a [higher proportion of residents over 65 than Florida](#) within the next decade.

Region gets \$2M in state power resiliency grants

By [Amber Hair](#) / Friday, April 2nd, 2021

New generators, MRE rations, a tow vehicle, a transformer, a manual transfer switch and room to plan. That's some of what the state gave the Tri-Counties when it awarded almost \$2 million to the region in the most recent round of Community Power Resiliency Program funding, according to state public records provided to the Business Times.

The statewide grant program, which has awarded close to \$50 million, is meant to provide communities with resources to deal with the growing likelihood of extended power outages. In the tri-county region, the money went to counties, cities, special districts and tribes. The cities of Santa Maria and Santa Paula both got \$300,000, and the city of Santa Barbara got \$169,600. At the county level, San Luis Obispo received \$111,167, while Santa Barbara was given \$233,635 and Ventura got \$285,487.

A couple of local water districts also received grant money from the state: The Goleta Water District got \$105,000, the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District was given \$160,699 and **United Water Conservation District in Ventura County got \$198,612.** Tribes also received money from the state, including the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians, which received \$108,400.

The money went to local projects designed to help communities and their energy infrastructures be more prepared for disasters. Some governments, like the city of Santa Paula and the county of Ventura, bought additional power generators, which will help maintain critical services and shelters during emergencies.

"Without this grant from the state, the city would have difficulty funding the infrastructure needed to help keep the city moving during a power outage," said Dan Singer, Santa Paula's city manager, in a press release. "We are grateful for the state's commitment to helping communities like ours, especially in light of the unpredictable emergency situations we have experienced over the past several years."

For Ventura County, the generator is one of a laundry list of things it wants to use its funding for. Patrick Maynard, the director of the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services, said the county is also getting \$95,000 in meals ready to eat, which will have a five-year shelf life, and \$20,000 for equipment to provide cell phone charging at shelters. Another \$60,000 is going for a tow vehicle to transport generators, and the county is putting aside \$50,000 of the money toward a community needs assessment to find out which residents and neighborhoods aren't well-served by the current emergency response plans.

Santa Barbara is also looking at using the funding to create a road map for the community. Alelia Parenteau, the energy and climate manager for the city of Santa Barbara, said the city will use the money to build an energy resilience plan.

Parenteau wants to work within the community to develop resiliency hubs, like libraries and community centers, where people will be able to go during disasters to get information and recharge their devices. Those hubs wouldn't provide shelter, but they could help residents get access to news and social media if power went out for several days.

Ideally, the grant would also cover battery power generation for those facilities, but "\$170,000 doesn't go super far when you're trying to buy infrastructure," Parenteau said.

Another goal for the city is to get community leaders together to figure out what other needs Santa Barbara might have during an emergency, which will open the door for additional city projects and grants.

SLO County isn't sure where the money it received is going yet, but Scott Milner, the emergency services coordinator for the county, said it's collecting proposals for generators from school districts, and that priority will be given to schools that also act as emergency shelters.

"Every little bit helps," Milner said.



WATER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

California Weighs Changes for New Water Rights Permits in Response to a Warmer and Drier Climate

WESTERN WATER NOTEBOOK: State Water Board report recommends aligning new water rights to an upended hydrology



[The American River in Sacramento in 2014 shows the effects of the 2012-2016 drought. Climate change is expected to result in more frequent and intense droughts and floods. \(Source: California Department of Water Resources\)](#)

As California's seasons become warmer and drier, state officials are pondering whether the water rights permitting system needs revising to better reflect the reality of climate change's effect on the timing and volume of the state's water supply.

A report by the State Water Resources Control Board recommends that new water rights permits be tailored to California's increasingly volatile hydrology and be adaptable enough to ensure water exists to meet an applicant's demand. And it warns that the increasingly whiplash nature of California's changing climate could require existing rights holders to curtail diversions more often and in more watersheds — or open opportunities to grab more water in climate-induced floods.

“California's climate is changing rapidly, and historic data are no longer a reliable guide to future conditions,” according to the report, [*Recommendations for an Effective Water Rights Response to Climate Change*](#). “The uncertainty lies only in the magnitude of warming, but not in whether warming will occur.”

The report says [climate change](#) will bring increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as [atmospheric rivers](#) and [drought](#), prolonged fire seasons with larger fires, heat waves, floods, rising sea level and storm surges. Already, the state is experiencing a second consecutive dry year, prompting worries about drought. “The wet season will bring wetter conditions during a shorter period, whereas the dry season will become longer and drier,” the report said.

The State Water Board report catalogues 12 recommendations — inserting climate-change data into new permits, expanding the stream-gauge network to improve data and refining the means to manage existing water rights to ensure sufficient water is available to meet existing demands. At the same time, the report says, the State Water Board should build on its existing efforts to allow diverters to capture climate-driven flood flows for underground storage.

Because floods and the magnitude of the peak flows are expected to increase under [many climate change projections](#), “there may be greater opportunity to divert flood and high flows during the winter to underground storage,” the report said. The State Water Board could build on the flood planning data used by the Department of Water Resources to help inform water availability analyses and to spell out conditions for the resulting water right permits for floodwater capture.

“Water rights can either be something that helps us adapt and create resiliency ... or it can really hinder us.” ~*Joaquin Esquivel, State Water Resources Control Board Chair*

“The recommendations are a menu of options,” said Jelena Hartman, senior environmental scientist with the State Water Board and chief author of the report. The goal, she said, was to “clearly communicate what the water rights issues are and what we can do.”

The result of a [2017 State Water Board resolution](#) detailing its comprehensive response to climate change, the report could be the first step toward a retooled permitting system for new

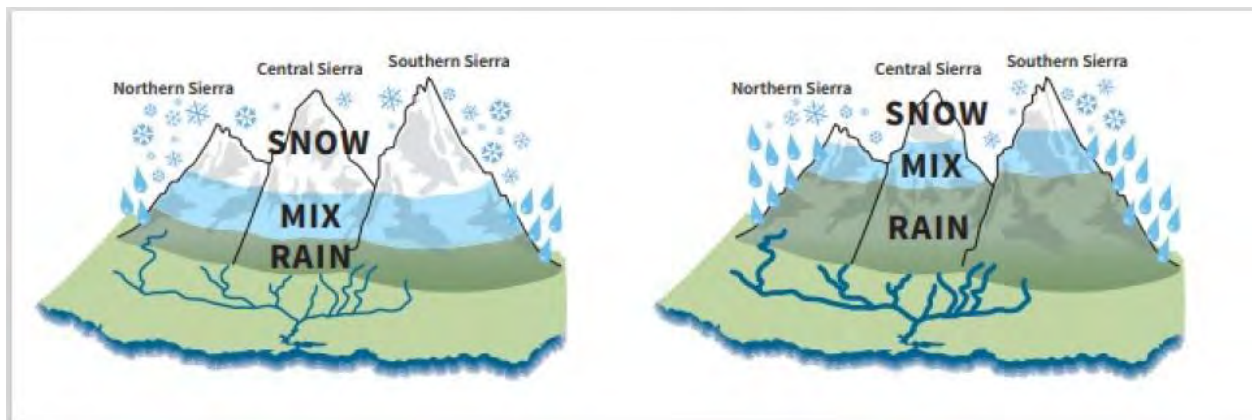
water rights applications. (The Board has averaged about a dozen newly issued permits per year, mostly for small diverters, since 2010.) The State Water Board is [seeking public comments](#) on the report through March 31.

And while the report does not call for reopening existing permits, it does sound a warning for those permit holders: With droughts projected to become longer and more severe, the State Water Board may need to curtail water diversions more often and in more watersheds.

Time to ‘Reset Expectations’?

During a March 18 webinar on the report, Erik Ekdahl, the State Water Board’s deputy director for the Division of Water Rights, said it may be time to “reset expectations” regarding curtailments for water use permits, given that curtailments have only been implemented by the state in 1976-1977 and 2014-2015.

“That’s not an overuse of curtailments,” he said. “If anything, it’s an underuse. We may need to look at curtailment more frequently.”



[Climate change is expected to move the snow line in Sierra Nevada watersheds higher, which will likely change the timing and volume of winter and spring runoff. \(Source: California Department of Water Resources\)](#) Some water users fear the report could be the beginning of a move to restrict their access.

“To the extent climate change is incorporated into water rights administration, it should be to respond to a changing hydrology in a manner that is protective of existing users ... and not to turn back the clock on water rights or to service new ambitions for instream flows that aren’t in the law,” said Chris Scheuring, senior counsel with the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The report notes that many of California’s existing water rights are based on stream gauge data drawn during a relatively wet period (since about 1955). Although California has had some of its most severe droughts on record since the 1970s, annual flow on many streams is highly variable due to California’s Mediterranean climate. Fluctuations in year-to-year precipitation are greater than any state in the nation, ranging from as little as 50 percent to more than 200 percent of long-term averages.



[Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. \(Source: State Water Resources Control Board\)](#)

If climate conditions swing drier overall, the report says, it will be difficult for those existing water right holders to divert their permitted volume. Expanding the network of stream and precipitation gauges will be critical, the report says, to improving the accuracy of water availability analyses.

But the report's focus is on new water rights applicants and the need to weave climate change data into their permits to provide a clear description of projected water availability. "We take the long view in asking if there is sufficient water available for a new appropriation," Hartman said.

State Water Board leaders said the water rights response is part of the umbrella of actions needed to confront climate change.

"Water rights can either be something that helps us adapt and create resiliency ... or it can really hinder us," Chair Joaquin Esquivel said at the Board's Feb. 16 meeting where the report was presented.

Writing Climate Change into New Permits

The fingerprints of climate change are increasingly evident in California's seasonal weather. Extreme conditions are on the upswing. Peak runoff, which fuels the state's water supply, has shifted a month earlier during the 20th century. The four years between 2014 and 2017 were especially warm, with 2014 the warmest on record. Annual average temperatures in California are projected to rise significantly by the end of the century.

"We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change," said Amanda Montgomery, environmental program manager with the State Water Board. The continuous warming creates an "unambiguous trend" toward less snow, she said, and shifts in snowpack and runoff are relevant for water management and water rights.



[Jennifer Harder, a professor at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento and an expert on water rights law. \(Source: McGeorge School of Law\)](#) Jennifer Harder, a water rights expert who teaches at the University of Pacific's McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, said integrating climate change considerations into water rights permits is good policy that aligns with the State Water Board's mission of ensuring the highest and most beneficial use of water.

"It's beyond dispute that the changes in precipitation and temperature patterns resulting from climate change will affect water availability," she said.

Kimberly Burr, a Sonoma County environmental attorney and member of [the North Coast Stream Flow Coalition](#), told the State Water Board at the Feb. 16 meeting that knowledge about the effects of climate change on water is sufficient enough to be incorporated into new water rights permits. It's an important issue, she said, because the state must ensure adequate flows exist to protect endangered species, vulnerable communities and public needs under the [public trust doctrine](#).

"There is a finite amount of water and we have to prepare for the worst and move forward with great caution," she said.

A Challenging Water Rights System

[Water rights in California](#) are based on a permitting system that includes several specifics, such as season and point of diversion and who can continue taking water when there is not enough to supply all needs. Getting a water right permit can take from several months for a temporary permit to several years for a permanent right.

In deciding whether to issue permits, the State Water Board considers the features and needs of the proposed project, all existing and pending rights, and the necessary instream flows to meet water quality standards and protect fish and wildlife.

The priority of a water right is particularly important during a drought, when some water right holders may be required to stop diverting water according to the priority of their water right. Suspension of right is done through curtailments of the user's ability to divert water.



[Dorene D'Adamo, a member of the State Water Resources Control Board. \(Source: State Water Resources Control Board\)](#) If the State Water Board implemented the recommendations in the water rights and climate change report, critics say, it would add another component in a system that aims to meet the demand for additional water. Already, local groundwater agencies are lining up to get access to available water sources for aquifer recharge and groundwater banking so they can comply with the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

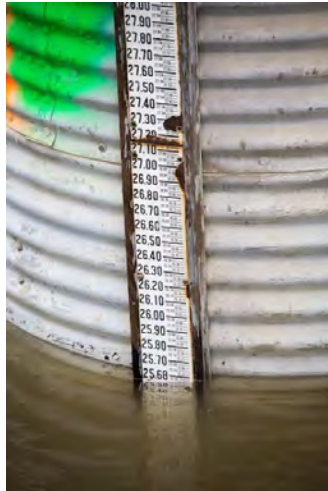
Some question whether putting the report's recommendations into action would possibly hinder the permitting process.

"The concern I have is we have quite a big backlog already and it's already challenging to get through the system," said State Water Board Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo, who serves as its agriculture member. "How do we incorporate all of this and still be nimble and move with deliberate speed?"

Incorporating a climate change response into new water rights permits would be complicated, but necessary, State Water Board member Tam Doduc said.

Striving For Complete Data

Adding climate change data to water rights permits applications is problematic because of questions about the precision of existing data and the degree to which it can be localized.



[A State Water Board report on adapting water rights permits to address climate change impacts says the state needs to improve its system of stream and precipitation gauges to better track climate change impacts on water availability. \(Source: California Department of Water Resources\)](#) “Current climate change models have disparate findings, and many are calibrated for a global scale but not regional areas,” Lauren Bernadett, regulatory advocate with the Association of California Water Agencies, told the Board. “The recommendations insert significant uncertainty for any person or agency applying for a permit.”

Harder, the law professor, said good data is critical for determining water availability, but perfect data to achieve absolute certainty is

unattainable. “There are many different facets of water management and it requires us to give careful thought into how we make decisions in the face of the data we have, knowing it will never be perfect and always be changing” she said.

Better streamflow data is crucial to knowing whether the water exists to support new permits. The report notes that [the low number of gauges](#), particularly on the smaller stream systems in California, means there is often [not enough information](#) to accurately characterize hydrologic variability over years or decades. That significantly limits the ability to reliably estimate water availability.

The report says the state may need to rethink how it estimates water availability. It added that one way to improve accuracy may be temporary installation of portable stream gauges at requested diversion points.

Moving From Theoretical To Practical

Addressing how to respond to climate change in water rights permitting would be a substantial undertaking, particularly given the existing array of complex and controversial matters on the State Water Board’s agenda.

“We don’t have all the details yet and this won’t be an easy task. Too often we focus on our water quality activities because water rights are too difficult.”

~Tam Doduc, State Water Board member

“We don’t have all the details yet and this won’t be an easy task,” Doduc said. “Too often we focus on our water quality activities because water rights are too difficult.”

Said Esquivel: “There is a lot of work to be done and it can seem overwhelming. But there is a lot of great groundwork and a commitment to making sure the water rights system is going to adapt and be here for us when we need it most.”

The State Water Board already has broad authority under existing law to take on climate change in water rights permits should it decide to do so, said Harder, with McGeorge Law School.

“What the board is trying to do,” she said, “is snap those tools together in a new way and polish up the edges.”

However the issue proceeds, Harder said, the state should recognize that water resources are best understood by the local agencies that have the most pertinent information about them.

“We need to approach this as a partnership as opposed to looking at it through the lens of ... state power vs. local power,” she said. “There is an important role for both here.”

April 1, 2021

State in another drought four years after last

Brian Melley, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES – California’s hopes for a wet “March miracle” did not materialize and a dousing of April showers may as well be a mirage at this point.

The state appears in the midst of another drought only a few years after a punishing 5-year dry spell dried up rural wells, killed endangered salmon, idled farm fields and helped fuel the most deadly and destructive wildfires in modern state history.

“We’re looking at the second dry year in a row. In California that pretty much means we have a drought,” said Jay Lund, a civil and environmental engineering professor at the University of California, Davis.

In fact, the entire West is gripped in what scientists consider a “megadrought” that started in 1999 and has been interrupted by only occasional years with above-average precipitation. In California, the heaviest rain and snow comes in the winter months, but not this year – about 90% of the state already is experiencing drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Much of California’s water comes from mountain snow in the Sierra Nevada that melts during the spring and summer and feeds rivers and streams that in turn fill reservoirs.

The Sierra snowpack traditionally holds its peak water content on April 1 and the state will take a survey Thursday to determine the level. Last month, a survey showed just 60% of the average.

Four years ago, when then-Gov. Jerry Brown officially declared an end to a statewide drought emergency, he said conservation should continue, warning “the next drought could be around the corner.”

Its arrival will mean different things depending on where people live.

The 2012-2016 drought required some sacrifice from everyone as Brown ordered a 25% reduction in water use. Residents took shorter showers, flushed less frequently and let their cars get dirty. Many homeowners replaced their lawns with artificial grass or desert succulents.

Such restrictions are less likely this time around because municipal supplies are in better shape and water use has not returned to previous levels, said Caitrin Chappelle of the Public Policy

Institute of California. The Metropolitan Water District, which sells water to public agencies serving about half the state's 40 million residents, has a record high water supply.

But efforts to restore depleted groundwater aquifers or keep river flows high and water temperatures low enough for the winter-run Chinook salmon that almost went extinct on the Sacramento River during the drought, are not as far along.

"The time in between the end of the last drought and, possibly, the beginning of this next one isn't that long," Chappelle said. "They have started doing a better job of planning for it, it's just whether or not they've had enough time to prepare before the emergency hits again."

The Sierra snowpack provides about 30% of California's water and the Department of Water Resources measurement is key to forecasting how much can be allocated to farms and municipalities under a complex system of water rights laws that spell out what each user is entitled. The department already warned 40,000 water rights holders they will probably only get 5% of the amount they requested.

"Guys are in a really tough spot when they don't know what water's going to be available until the planting season, which is now," said Danny Merkley of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

With less water to draw from rivers and the state's intricate network of canals and aqueducts, farmers fallowed hundreds of thousands of additional acres.

Growers will likely do the same thing again, idling low-value row crops such as tomatoes, lettuce or onions, to commit their precious groundwater to highvalue permanent crops like almonds, pistachios and wine grapes, Merkley said.

Tapping those wells could have ramifications for their neighbors. During the last drought, agribusiness was blamed for over-pumping groundwater, causing the land to sink and wells in some poor rural communities to go dry. Lawmakers for the first time decided to regulate groundwater and require plans in the next two decades to stop over-pumping from aquifers. But groundwater levels have not fully recovered from the last drought with another looming.

In Tombstone Territory, an unincorporated area surrounded by orchards outside Fresno, three-quarters of the 50 homes lost their well water during the last drought, said Amanda Monaco of the Leadership Counsel For Justice & Accountability. Many residents are farmworkers who can't afford the \$20,000 required to dig a deeper well.

"If we're headed back into a drought that means potential devastation for communities that we work with," Monaco said. "They're terrified that kind of thing could happen again."

Ray Cano was one of the first Tombstone residents to lose his well water in 2015.

"It started spitting air and then nothing came out of it," Cano said.

His next door neighbor ran a hose over while Cano had his pump replaced and lowered deeper in the well. Cano returned the favor later that year when the neighbor's well dried up.

Even now that their wells are working, the water quality is so poor that residents are provided 50 gallons of drinking water a month under a grant.

With less snow and temperatures warming due to climate change, another bad fire season is likely on the way, said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The state largely escaped fire devastation during the previous drought, but has suffered terribly since, after 100 million trees died and vegetation remained dry as a result of the drought. Since 2015, the state has experienced the largest, most destructive and deadliest fires in recorded state history; Lund found that the drought caused about \$10 billion in damages statewide, without direct loss of life. But the wildfires after caused a record of over \$55 billion in direct property losses and 175 direct deaths, with possibly many other deaths and economic impacts due to weeks of widespread air pollution from smoke.

"The interesting thing about these other drought impacts is they happened after the drought ended," Lund said.

State Water Project allocation drops to 5%; CVP South of Delta 5% not available for delivery until further notice.

DWR Adjusts State Water Project Allocation Following Dry Winter



From the Department of Water Resources:

March 23, 2021

As California experiences a second consecutive dry year, today the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an adjustment to its initial [State Water Project](#) (SWP) allocation for the 2021 water year. The department now **expects to deliver 5 percent of requested supplies this year**, down from the initial allocation of 10 percent announced in December.

Initial allocations are based on conservative assumptions regarding hydrology and factors such as reservoir storage. Allocations are reviewed monthly and may change based on snowpack and runoff information. They are typically finalized by May.

“We are now facing the reality that it will be a second dry year for California and that is having a significant impact on our water supply,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “The Department of Water Resources is working with our federal and state partners to plan for the impacts of limited water supplies this summer for agriculture as well as urban and rural water users. We encourage everyone to look for ways to use water efficiently in their everyday lives.”

Ongoing drought conditions require the coordination of federal, state and local agencies. Today, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the [Central Valley Project](#), is also expected to adjust its initial CVP water supply allocation accordingly. Yesterday, the State Water Resources Control Board mailed early warning notices to approximately 40,000 water right holders urging them to plan for potential shortages by reducing water use and adopting practical conservation measures.

As a result of the persistent drought conditions, and in accordance with its permit for the long-term operation of the [State Water Project](#), DWR has submitted a [revised Drought Contingency Plan](#) to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The plan provides updated hydrologic conditions and outlines areas of concern for the joint operations of the [State Water Project](#) and the [Central Valley Project](#), water quality, and environmental impacts.

DWR does not anticipate the need to pursue a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to allow for temporary changes to the water quality and outflow requirements for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The severity of the situation is particularly evident in the North State. Lake Oroville is currently at 53 percent of average. The Feather River [watershed](#), which feeds into Lake Oroville, has seen significantly less precipitation this year than normal, on track for its second driest year on record. Following a below average 2020 water year, California's major reservoirs are at 50 percent of capacity.

California is better prepared for drought than in the past. Following the 2012-2016 drought, DWR enacted many programs focused on managing the state's water through a strategic, integrated approach with a strong emphasis on water use efficiency and conservation. The state provides assistance and tools to local water agencies to help them reduce their drought vulnerability. DWR's [Water Use and Efficiency Branch \(WUE\)](#) provides agencies and individuals assistance for improving water use efficiency and developing and meeting efficient water use requirements.

The 5 percent allocation amounts to 210,266 acre-feet of water, distributed among the 29 long-term SWP contractors who serve more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland.

Allocations represent the amount of SWP water that DWR will deliver for the year and are reviewed monthly based on several factors, such as water in storage, environmental requirements, and rain and snow runoff projections. For 2020, the initial SWP allocation was 10 percent and the final allocation was 20 percent in May.

For information on current water conditions at the [state's largest reservoirs](#) and weather stations, visit the [California Data Exchange Center website](#).

Spandrio to resign from water district board overseeing a drought-stressed Lake Casitas

[Cheri Carlson](#), Ventura County Star
March 22, 2021

Angelo Spandrio has announced he will resign from the Casitas Municipal Water District board later this month.

The district, which [manages Lake Casitas and supplies water](#) to the Ojai Valley and parts of Ventura, has a five-member board. In recent years, it has faced a long stretch of drought conditions and shrinking water supplies.

Spandrio, of Ojai, announced his decision at a March 10 board meeting, saying he and his wife plan to move to Arizona.

His resignation from the Division 4 board seat will take effect March 26, he said. Elected in 2018, his seat would have been up for re-election next November.

Spandrio apologized for not being able to complete his term and for adding an additional burden to the board.

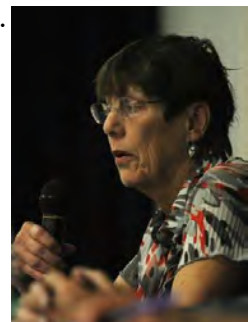
"I also wish to apologize to all the people who voted for me and supported me for any disappointment that I have caused them," he said, speaking during a time reserved for board comments at the meeting.



The board is expected to [discuss the vacancy at its March 24 meeting](#). The item is included on the agenda, and the meeting is expected to be streamed online. The agenda item says the board could either [decide to appoint someone to fill the post or call for an election](#).

Spandrio recommended Mary Bergen for the post if the board decides on an appointment.

Bergen, a retired marine biologist and farmer, was on the board for eight years when [Spandrio challenged her for the seat in 2018](#). A shrinking water supply and years-long drought dominated the race. Lake Casitas had dropped to historic lows after decades of depending on local rainfall and river runoff for its water supply. Spandrio called Bergen "eminently qualified" when he recommended her for the post. She had the support of close to 50% of the Division 4 voters in the last election, he said. Spandrio won the election with roughly 54% of the votes. Bergen finished with 45%.



Fish in Hot Water

Developing a Scientific Method for Fish Conservation

By CalTrout's partners at the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences

#7 in CalTrout's 50th Anniversary series: [Moments That Write History](#)

Knowledge is Power

As of 2021, California is home to 31 distinct kinds of native salmon, steelhead and trout species, 20 of which are found only in our state. These fish are prized for their economic and cultural significance by local communities, and for their recreational attributes by anglers from around the world.

But these fish face an alarming threat that can't be ignored. If current trends continue, *nearly half of these fish will be extinct within the next 50 years.*

How do we know this? And perhaps an even better question: what can be done about it?

The answers to both of these questions are rooted in CalTrout's history of turning science into action, made possible by our close relationship with the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. Our partnership has grown over the decades, including the creation of a university endowment by CalTrout benefactors, ensuring this important collaborative science continues into the future.

CalTrout and UC Davis scientists have worked along side each other for many years, their work culminating in 2017 with the seminal report, *SOS II: Fish in Hot Water*. The only comprehensive review of all native salmonids in California, this peer-reviewed report not only tells us where to focus our efforts, but also how we can support these species through specific restoration and management practices.

A Partnership in Science

By Andrew Rypel, Ph.D., Peter B. Moyle and California Trout Endowed Chair, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences

CalTrout, now 50 years old, has grown alongside the fish conservation programs at UC Davis. In the early years, CalTrout was organized as a small group of concerned citizens that had a tenacious focus on improving management of wild trout populations, and also on the nascent (at the time) concept of catch-and-release angling. Initial efforts to examine FERC relicensing agreements on the Eel River exemplified the types of complex challenges CalTrout was willing to take on. During this same time, Dr. Peter B. Moyle relocated to UC Davis, and was beginning

to build a dominant career as the world's expert in the unique and declining native fish fauna of California. Dr. Moyle's early work culminated with publication of "Inland Fishes of California" – a tour de force on the diversity and emerging challenges for California's native fish fauna.

Legislative battles fought by CalTrout during the 1980s were successful at fighting back a number of threats to California's freshwater ecosystems – most notably in the Mono Lake cases. These victories paved the way to protection of four important coldwater fisheries in the Eastern Sierra Nevada, and also began the process of refilling Mono Lake. By this point, CalTrout had developed a strong reputation for science-based fish conservation and its role in developing better policy on state and fish policy. During the 1990s, work and areas of emphasis between CalTrout and UC Davis began to converge more directly. Fish conservation science was in full swing at UC Davis. Dr. Moyle had trained a generation of fisheries professionals that were filling the ranks of state and federal agencies, as well as academic and other positions across the world.

In 1998, Geologist Dr. Jeff Mount teamed with Dr. Moyle and engineer Dr. Jay Lund to establish the Center for Watershed Sciences (CWS) at UC Davis. CWS was formed as a hub for interdisciplinary science on campus and was aimed at providing tangible solutions to long-vexing water problems. It became a non-partisan forum for problems, served as a gathering spot for dialogue, helped connect global and local ideas, and began to serve as a talent pipeline for students engaged in actionable interdisciplinary science. Collaborations between CWS and CalTrout quickly grew and continue today. Some of the best examples include early floodplain work on the Cosumnes River, the "Nigiri Project," and water temperature and Coho salmon work in Big Spring Creek and the Shasta River. Extensive collaborations between CWS faculty, staff and students with CalTrout continue today.

Sometime around 2012, discussions between CalTrout and UC Davis began around the idea of developing an endowed chair professorship at UC Davis. Similar to the beginnings of CalTrout, the motivation for the position was driven by a group of donors concerned with the conservation and management of coldwater fishes in California. Formed in 2014, **the Peter B. Moyle and California Trout Endowed Professorship** honored Peter Moyle and the historical and productive working relationship between CalTrout and UC Davis. Furthermore, the chair position ensures that UC Davis will remain a hive for research and teaching activities on native California fishes for generations to come.

In 2017, I was thrilled to be hired as the inaugural chair holder. Work in the Rypel Lab specializes in questions emerging at the science-policy nexus, and many students in the lab work closely with CalTrout staff on their research projects.

The Need for Data By Peter B. Moyle, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences



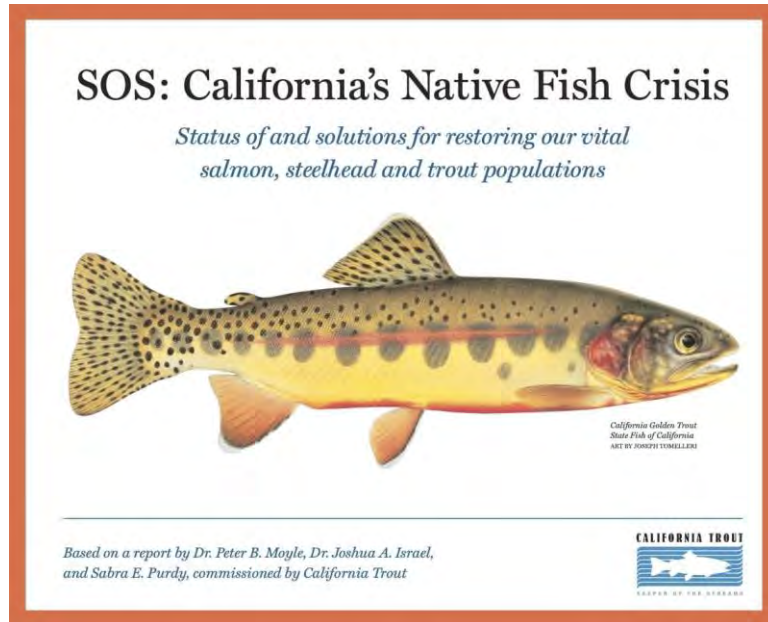
California Trout has a long history of using the best available science to support advocacy for protecting salmon and trout populations. Members realized that good angling experiences depended on healthy fish living in healthy waters. Their original motto, after all, was “Keeper of the Streams.”

But California’s fishes were not doing well. Reversing the trend would only be possible through science-based solutions. So, in 2007, CalTrout approached me (a long-time CalTrout member) about finding a way to start conserving fish in a more systematic matter. The result was a 2008 report by myself, Josh Israel, and Sara Purdy called *Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout in California: Status of an Emblematic Fauna*. The report provided a detailed account of the biology and status of the 31 kinds of salmonid in California, with recommendations for actions. A key part of the report was a repeatable method for numerically rating the status of each species: a survival score. CalTrout then produced a dramatic, colorful version of the report intended for a more general (non-scientific) audience. *SOS: California’s Native Fish Crisis* was widely distributed to policy makers, politicians, and activist anglers, emphasizing the need for action as backed up by solid, peer-reviewed accounts of each species.

In 2017, CalTrout issued an updated, expanded version of the report by myself, Robert Lusardi, and Patrick Samuel (now CalTrout’s Bay Area regional director). The popular version of this report was called *SOS II: Fish in Hot Water*. This report expanded the previous one, with new and better information. It showed that while there were some bright spots—often actions taken directly by CalTrout—the situation had not improved much in the nine years since the initial report was published.

The updated report emphasized two findings in particular: first was the growing problem of climate change, creating unpleasantly warmer waters for cold water fish. The second was creating a list of actions that could be taken for each species.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FISH IN HOT WATER [Click image to download report](#)



Applying Science to Restoration *By Rob Lusardi, Ph.D., California Trout - UC Davis Wild and Coldwater Fish Scientist*

The State of the Salmonids II report is the only comprehensive review of all native salmonids in California and plays an important role in both capturing recent status trends of each species, but also helps guide recovery and restoration efforts on the ground. The

scientific report has been cited numerous times in the scientific literature, often in terms of the current plight of these species, but more generally, the citations appear in scientific manuscripts that aim to recover one or more of California's native salmonids.

While species accounts from the 2008 version comment on specific actions to help recover each individual species, the 2017 version goes one step further and makes holistic and robust recommendations for the broader species complex. These recovery recommendations are independent of species and geography and drive California Trout's strategic plan. The recommendations are steeped in science and include six broad based themes across the salmonid landscape, including: protecting and improving current salmonid strongholds, protecting and restoring source waters, restoring productive and diverse habitats, adopting a reconciliation ecology approach as a basis for management, improving habitat connectivity and passage to historical habitats, and, finally, improving the genetic management of salmonids throughout the state.

CalTrout is working to remove this 1950s hatchery dam blocking 9 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat on Cedar Creek, a tributary of the South Fork Eel River.



The SOS recovery recommendations are guiding principles that help inform and prioritize on-the-ground restoration. This can be readily observed in the Mt. Shasta region through a strategic investment in productive and diverse spring-fed rivers that will be key to anadromous recovery, while at the same time protecting resident salmonids from a rapidly changing climate. The same can be said for the North and South Coast, where investments in fish passage to historical habitats are having real and quantifiable benefits and also through an adoption of a reconciliation ecology approach as the basis for management in the Central Valley, where flooded rice fields are being used to mimic natural floodplains to improve the growth and condition of out-migrating salmon.

In short, the State of the Salmonids report not only defines the current status and trends of all salmonids in the state, but uses science to guide restoration and recovery efforts across California's diverse landscapes.





CalTrout - UC Davis scientists on Central Valley Floodplains



Let's write more history together.

We've seen tremendous success over our first 50 years, but our work has only begun. Together, we can protect California's clean, cold water for generations to come.

For our Future. For California. Forever.

Natural Resources Committee Passes Atkins' Bill to Protect California from Sea Level Rise

March 16, 2021

SACRAMENTO, March 16, 2021 – Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) today presented SB 1, a landmark bill to help California address the impacts of sea level rise, to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, which approved the bill in a 7-2 vote.

“Climate change is acutely affecting California’s coast in subtle and damaging ways through sea level rise. With experts predicting that our state could experience a half foot of sea level rise in the next decade and up to seven feet by the end of the century, the changes could inundate low-lying coastal areas, cause adverse impacts on inland areas, and wreak havoc on our communities and economy,” Pro Tem Atkins said. “We have all experienced the devastating effects of climate change, from disasters like massive wildfires, where we have lost hundreds of lives and seen property destroyed, to long periods of severe drought, which has affected the state’s ability to grow food. This bill would launch efforts that could make a real difference in our state’s response to the yet another imminent threat of climate change – sea level rise.”

SB 1, the Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation Act, directs the Coastal Commission to take sea level rise into account in its planning, policies, and activities, and would establish the California Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative, a cross-government group tasked with educating the public and advising local, regional, and state government on feasible sea level rise mitigation efforts. The bill also would expand funding to assist more disadvantaged communities along the coast that are vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise and are actively working to address environmental justice issues.

Funding for SB 1 is included in SB 45, a \$5.5 billion bond measure that includes \$970 million for coastal protection and restoration. That funding is intended to address sea level rise, which includes better local and regional planning and project investment. The bill specifies that the funding would allocate \$100 million per year for this effort.

“In addressing sea level rise, we must continue to focus on how it also will impact communities that can least afford to address it – communities like Imperial Beach and Chula Vista in my region, Port Hueneme and Marina on the central coast, and from Milpitas to Crescent City in the north,” Pro Tem Atkins said. “This bill is an opportunity for California to not only tackle sea level rise, but a chance to ensure that we are doing so in a way that keeps environmental justice at the forefront of our efforts.”

Toni G. Atkins is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. Having previously served as Speaker of the California Assembly, she began her tenure in the Senate in 2016. As Senator for District 39, she represents the cities of San Diego, Coronado, Del Mar and Solana Beach. Website of President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins: www.senate.ca.gov/Atkins

Feds May Look at Spring-Run Chinook Salmon as Genetically Distinct

[March 15, 2021](#) [MATTHEW RENDA](#)

Wildlife conservationists have been long making the case that spring-run Chinook salmon are a genetically distinct species from the ones that make their runs in the fall. If the federal government agrees, Endangered Species Act protections could follow.



(CN) — The National Marine Fisheries Service is considering whether the spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon that occupy the rivers of Northern California and southern Oregon are genetically distinct.

The decision has huge implications for fish populations as the number of spring-run Chinook salmon has plunged to such depths it would almost certainly result in a listing under the Endangered Species Act if seen as a separate species.

“The science is in on that,” said Rich Nawa, an ecologist who petitioned the agency a year ago to consider the spring-run Chinook salmon as genetically distinct. “There are several papers so no one disputes the science, it’s just how to incorporate it into policy at this point.”

The fisheries service said Monday it will consider the new science as it analyses whether an update to its listing policy is warranted.

“We find that the petition presents substantial scientific and commercial information indicating the petitioned action may be warranted,” the agency said in a [document](#).

The key word in the phrase is “may,” as [a significant dispute](#) exists in the scientific community whether the spring-run Chinook is what is referred to as an “evolutionarily significant unit.”

Researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz published a [study](#) last fall that said both the spring-run and fall-run Chinook are genetically similar and that any differences are tantamount to small differences in humans, like height and eye color.

“It’s like blue and brown eye color in humans — it just depends on what genotype you inherit from your parents,” said John Carlos Garza, a researcher with UC Santa Cruz and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[Other researchers say](#) they have detected the genetic marker that separates spring-run Chinook from their fall-run counterparts.

Spring-run Chinook behave differently, said Craig Tucker, a spokesman for the Karuk Tribe. For instance, spring-run chinook salmon enter the rivers of Northern California and southern Oregon during the spring runoff, when the rivers are swollen with snowmelt. The waters are cooler and historically the fish have used the higher water levels to reach places that fall-run Chinook salmon would be unable to after the rivers have shrunk to their post-summer levels.

“They spend a lot of time in freshwater,” Tucker said.

In fact, the fish spend the summer developing their reproductive organs before they spawn and die. Therefore the [dams and reservoirs](#) that have been installed at various points throughout the rivers of the West Coast create problems for spring-run Chinook that are unique and separate from their closely related cousins.

It also allows the fall-run species to outcompete the spring run since they both are able to reach the same spots in the river to reproduce.

It’s why Tucker thinks the dam removal on the Klamath River will help both salmon species immeasurably.

Dam removal looks inevitable as federal agencies are finalizing the environmental analyses required to pave the way to remove four dams on the Klamath River as soon as 2023.

“I am convinced it’s going to be a giant boon to fish in this basin,” Tucker said.

But Nawa said a listing of the spring-run Chinook salmon will also allow the federal agency to formulate conservation and recovery solutions specific to the species.

“We have to keep the spring-run Chinook salmon as a functioning population in the future,” Nawa said.

Chinook salmon are native to the northern Pacific Ocean and the river systems of western North America. They are anadromous fish, meaning they are born in freshwater, spend most of their lives in the ocean and then return to the freshwater systems of their birth to spawn and die.

The fish is a major staple in the diets of North Americans and contains spiritual and cultural significance to the many Native American tribes throughout the western part of North America.

Los Angeles Times

Judge rules against Los Angeles in Long Valley irrigation fight

By [Louis Sahagún](#) Staff Writer
March 15, 2021 6 AM PT

A judge has ordered the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to continue providing historic quantities of irrigation water to lessees of its pasturelands east of [Yosemite](#), despite the agency's assertion that climate change is making water resources in the Sierra Nevada watershed increasingly unreliable.

Alameda County Judge Evelio Grillo's ruling could have significant implications for water agencies statewide as they face the complex challenges of servicing ratepayers and meeting environmental requirements in a time of rising temperatures, [drought](#), dwindling snowpack and changing water availability.

The case was brought in a lawsuit filed against the city of Los Angeles by Mono County and the Sierra Club and was triggered by new leases the LADWP proposed in 2018 indicating that ranchers on its 6,400 acres in Long Valley should expect little to no irrigation water when they renew, according to court documents.

The plaintiffs argued that making significant changes in water management policies without first conducting an environmental review of the consequences was a violation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Grillo agreed. In a recent ruling, Grillo ordered the DWP to continue providing lessees with about 3.2 acre-feet of water per acre, per year until it completes an environmental review.

In a statement following the order, the DWP said it was concerned the ruling "could set a precedent for all water agencies trying to responsibly manage environmental needs and water operations when faced with volatile water supply conditions and a changing climate reality."

"What the ruling neglects to recognize is that a water system simply cannot be static," the statement read. "Every year, LADWP must adapt its water operations to respond to changes in weather, be it wet or dry, and the needs of the environment and communities we serve."

"Our operations in Mono County," it added, "have always been and continue to be a reflection of changing factors that any responsible agency must consider including annual runoff, storage capacity, environmental needs and more."

Extreme weather conditions are making it harder for Los Angeles to meet state and federal requirements and court settlements in the highly litigated Sierra watershed.

Recent scientific studies suggest meteorological trends are likely to accelerate in decades to come. The implications stretch from [Owens Lake](#) north to Mono Lake, the high-desert water body east of Yosemite National Park best known for its cragged and towering tufa formations.

A bitter history also confounds problem solving along the eastern Sierra.

The DWP's diversions after the turn of the last century, critics say, helped set the stage for major air pollution problems at Mono Lake and at Owens Lake, about 140 miles to the south.

In the early 1900s, city agents posed as ranchers and farmers to buy land and water rights. Then the DWP built dams and diversions that drained Owens Lake and made it all but impossible for the region's ranchers and farmers to make a living.

More recently, DWP ratepayers have spent at least \$1.4 billion for vegetation, gravel, furrowing and shallow flooding that have reduced dust pollution on the Owens Lake playa by more than 99% — the largest dust mitigation effort in the United States. Each year, that project uses about 60,000 acre-feet of water worth about \$42 million, officials said.

An acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover a football field one foot deep. An average Los Angeles household uses about an acre-foot of water for indoor and outdoor use.

In 2018, Mono County complained that the DWP's proposed changes on leased lands that are also habitat for the rare bi-state sage grouse appeared “to be part of a larger plan by the city to completely discontinue water deliveries to the eastern Sierra,” according to court documents.

“We take this to mean that the city plans to increase exports of eastern Sierra Nevada water by reducing or completely discontinuing deliveries to Mono County ranches and habitat,” the county said in court papers.

Siding with the county, the California Natural Resources Agency criticized what it described as “potentially devastating impacts to the natural environment, habitat and wildlife if the LADWP pursues its proposal to upend 70 years of water management policy and practice by eliminating irrigation and stock water from its ranch leases.”

DWP responded by saying it had no intention of “de-watering Mono County” and would continue to provide water to protect the environment.

However, it also said, “The free water LADWP has provided to commercial ranchers is separate and unrelated to the water LADWP provides to serve the region's environment — in fact diverting less water for commercial ranching may have additional environmental benefits for Mono County,” according to court papers.

Before approving new leases, the LADWP said it would complete a full environmental impact report, according to court documents.

Grillo, however, determined that the DWP had already commenced changes in water use without an environmental review, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act, through the proposed new leases announced in 2018.

Water experts expressed mixed feelings about Grillo's ruling.

Max Gomberg, climate and conservation manager at the California State Water Resources Control Board, suggested that it underscored how the California Environmental Quality Act "could be used as a blunt instrument that can kill opportunities. It's not up to the task of confronting the complex and cumulative challenges facing water utilities."

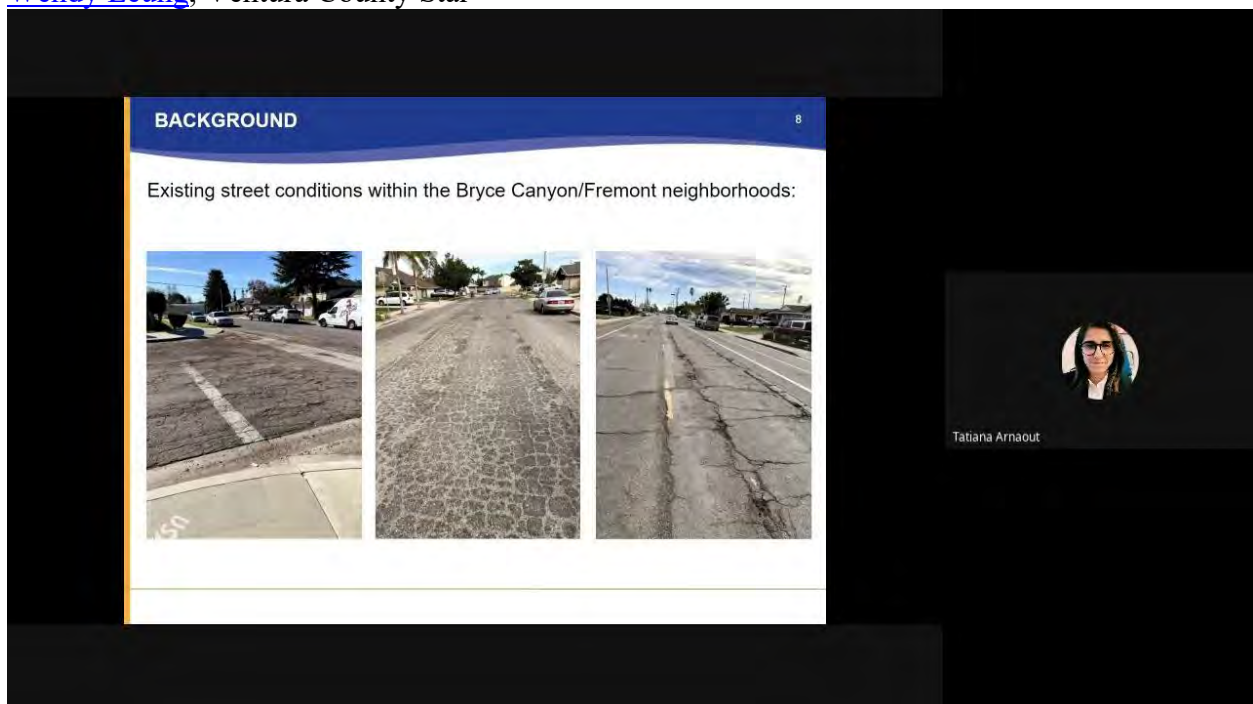
Peter Gleick, a climate and water scientist at the Pacific Institute, a water think tank, however, said the case demonstrated how the law "can be used as a modern tool to try and address past environmental mismanagement in a state where the history of water comes with some very ugly politics."

Looking ahead, Stacey Simon, an attorney representing Mono County, said, "I hope that Mono County and Los Angeles can work together in the future to ensure that water supply decisions respect and protect the valuable resources of Mono County while contributing to the need of the City for a safe and reliable water supply."

Oxnard to apply for \$27.6M loan for recycled water project, readies for more street paving

March 6, 2021

[Wendy Leung](#), Ventura County Star



Oxnard has some major infrastructure projects on the horizon aimed at ramping up recycled water production.

The City Council last week authorized staff to begin the process of seeking a \$27.6 million federal loan to expand the Advanced Water Purification Facility and increase the capacity to purify the city's wastewater. The loan, administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, would cover about half of the total costs of the latest expansion project.

Council voted 6-0 on the loan, with Councilman Bryan MacDonald abstaining due to a conflict of interest. MacDonald lives in close proximity to Campus Park, the location of six recycled water wells that will be constructed as part of the project. Council also approved a \$5 million street paving project for residential streets in the three neighborhoods of Fremont North and Bryce Canyon North and South.



"Those who live there will recognize we have a ton of work out there," said City Engineer Tatiana Arnaout during a presentation ahead of the Tuesday council meeting. "It's one of the worst neighborhoods in the city currently in terms of pavement condition."

The street paving will take place later this month through May. It'll improve the surfaces of residential streets between H Street and Ventura Road in Fremont North and between Saviers Road and J Street in the Bryce Canyon neighborhoods.

Residents have been waiting for years to see their streets improved.

In 2017, the city wanted to repave these streets as part of a project to replace cast iron piping. But funding shortages postponed the paving until now. Last year, the city completed the pipe replacement.

Not far from these neighborhoods is Campus Park, a soon-to-be developed site off Fifth Street that will be home to six new aquifer storage and recovery wells as part of the city's water purification program. Construction of the wells will be coordinated alongside the development of the park.

The \$56.3 million project will upgrade and expand the city's water purification facility to double its current capacity of 6.25 million gallons a day. The project, including well construction, is a major part of the city's Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment, or GREAT, program.

This expansion project will allow the city to produce more recycled water for agricultural users and allow for pumping of the equivalent amount of groundwater for potable use.

DISCUSSION

7

- ASR Project involves four (4) components (continued):
 3. Construction of 20-inch diameter distribution pipeline necessary to convey recovered groundwater from the ASR wells to three existing water blending stations
 4. Blending station mechanical and electrical upgrades, piping modifications and pump replacements



Tatiana Arnaout

Wendy Leung is a staff writer for the Ventura County Star. Reach her at wendy.leung@vcstar.com or 805-437-0339. You can also find her on Twitter [@Leung_Wendy](https://twitter.com/Leung_Wendy).



Picturesque South Coast Trail Opens New Facilities For Hikers

By [Caroline Feraday](#) • Mar 5, 2021



KCLU's Caroline Feraday reports on the new trailhead facilities for hikers in Ventura County

If you're looking for a new place to hike this weekend, you might like to try a picturesque trail on the South Coast, which has just opened parking and restroom facilities for hikers.

The United Water Conservation District's [Pothole Trailhead](#) in Ventura County now has parking and a restroom for hikers who want to take the nearly 6 mile long picturesque hike near Lake Piru.

Chief Park Ranger Clayton Strahan says hikers may even get a view of California Condors in the area, as well as Golden Eagles.

"It's just a great view when you get to the top of the Pothole Trail," he told KCLU News.

"You can actually see both the Pacific Ocean, the Lake - and the Santa Clarita and Los Angeles basins.

"And as a result of this joint project with the United States Forest Service we've been able to restore public access to that section of the National Forest," he said.

The launch of the new facility gives direct access to the trailhead, thanks to the opening of the gate at the Juan Fernandez Boat Launch Area at Lake Piru by the U.S. Forest Service.

The new facility will save hikers a nearly 3-mile trek on Piru Canyon Road from the boat launch area to the trailhead.

Visitors should be aware that Lake Piru Recreation Area charges a Day Use fee of \$14 per vehicle and requires masks and social distancing, hikers receive a free pass to use the trail.

The hike is the end of a new 400 mile long set of recreational trails called the [Condor Trail](#).

Tags:

[lake piru](#)

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New Facilities For Hikers At Picturesque South Coast Trail

By CAROLINE FERADAY · MARCH 5, 2021



If you're looking for a new place to hike this weekend, you might like to try a picturesque trail on the South Coast, which has just opened parking and restroom facilities for hikers.

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Link to audio report: <https://www.kclu.org/news>