

Maximize State Water Project (SWP) Imports



Location:

SWP water is received by United at Lake Piru Reservoir and Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) or Castaic Lake, then conveyed to downstream basins via the Santa Clara River (SCR) and diverted at Freeman Diversion for conjunctive-use pipelines and or groundwater recharge at the Forebay. In the future, additional smaller amounts of SWP water may be received from the SWP Interconnection Project at the Noble recharge facility for groundwater recharge or delivered directly to the Oxnard Hueneme (OH) Pipeline. This new supply will include flushed water and, potentially, treated SWP water purchased from Calleguas Municipal Water District.

Project Description:

When available at an acceptable cost, United obtains (i.e., purchases, transfers, or exchanges) SWP Article 21 and Table A water in addition to its existing annual entitlement. SWP water can recharge the basins along the SCR and can be diverted to Saticoy and El Rio recharge facilities to replenish local aquifers. Alternatively, diverted SWP water can be directly delivered to the Pumping Trough Pipeline and Pleasant Valley Pipeline for irrigation purposes, in lieu of groundwater extraction from the overdrafted Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) basins.



CURRENT STATUS

United's facilities are capable of storing and conveying increased quantities of SWP water during most years. With financial assistance from the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA), United has successfully imported 44,385 acre-feet (AF) of SWP water since 2016. In 2019, United implemented a surcharge fee to its pump charges to fund future purchases of additional SWP water. Design of SFD Safety Improvement Project is underway. Project implementation will mitigate for potential dam failure.



BENEFITS/YIELD

- United and other regional partners could potentially purchase additional SWP water for delivery to OPV basins. As much as 6,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) on average and up to 30,000 AFY could be delivered at Freeman Diversion.
- Availability of Article 21 water could dramatically change depending on weather conditions.
- Imported SWP water could benefit the local basins primarily during “wet years” when costs of SWP transfers are typically lower and more Article 21 water are available.
- Storage of imported SWP water in the groundwater basins provides a “buffer” supply that would help resilience of regional water supplies during future drought, improve groundwater quality, especially in small water systems and disadvantaged communities that primarily rely on groundwater, and reduce irrigation demands as the need for salt flushing irrigation is expected to be less.



United Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

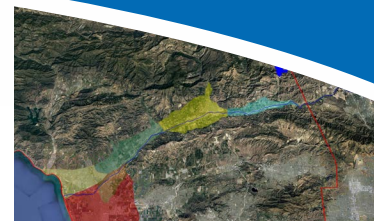
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Estimated Cost:

The purchase cost of additional SWP water is anticipated to range between \$575 - \$1,000 per AF. The estimated design and construction cost for the SFD Safety Improvement Project is \$126 million (2021 dollars), excluding environmental and other permitting costs. The goal is to apply for grants to assist with the design and construction costs.



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Current/Potential Partners:

Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, SCV Water, City of Ventura, Casitas Municipal Water District, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Palmdale Water District

Current/Potential Funding Sources:

- United water purchase surcharges, Fox Canyon Groundwater replenishment fee.
- 2021 EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). United applied for nearly \$51 million to cover approximately 50% of the SFD Safety Improvement Project construction costs.

Ask from United to Regulators, Legislators, Local Agencies, and Stakeholders:

Need permitting support from U.S. and California Fish and Wildlife agencies to transfer large quantities of SWP water to United's service area. Need federal and state grant support to complete the SFD Safety Improvement Project.

