



Board of Directors
Bruce E. Dandy, President
Sheldon G. Berger, Vice President
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Catherine P. Keeling
Gordon Kimball
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

AGENDA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 12:00 P.M.
Board Room, UWCD Headquarters
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

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.

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 Members' Activities Report

Information Item

The Board will receive and file information regarding meeting participation provided by each of the Board Members through Monthly Activities (aka per diem) Reports.

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.

2.7 2023 Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award

Motion

The Board will consider possible recipients for the Laubacher Award and conduct a vote to determine the 2023 recipient. Staff will present nominees for the award at the Board Meeting

2.8 Recognition of Retiring Environmental Services Department Manager Linda Purpus

Ceremonial Item

The Board will recognize Environmental Services Department Manager Linda Purpus, who retires on April 27, 2023, after nearly 20 years of service 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 8, 2023 and the Emergency Board Meeting of March 16, 2023.

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. PRESENTATIONS AND MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS (By Department)

Operations and Maintenance Department – Brian Collins

4.1 Monthly Operation and Maintenance Department Report

Information Item

Presentation and summary report on monthly activities of the Operations and Maintenance Department, including but not limited to the District's facilities (Santa Felicia Dam and hydroplant; the Piru Groundwater Recharge facility; the Freeman Diversion; the Saticoy and El Rio Groundwater Recharge facilities; the Pleasant Valley and Pumping Trough Pipeline systems; and the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline system), encompassing operating plans, the quantity and quality of water diverted and delivered, fish ladder operations, major maintenance problems and repairs, status of Operations and Maintenance projects and safety and training issues.

Park and Recreation Department – Clayton Strahan

4.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

Information Item

Presentation and summary report on monthly activities of the Park and Recreation Department, including but not limited to the Lake Piru Recreation Area, encompassing 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 – Dan Detmer

4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report

Information Item

Presentation and summary report on the monthly activities of the Water Resources Department including but 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; and various user groups (including but not limited to Oxnard Plain and Pumping Trough Pipeline groups) and the activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) – 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 the Santa Paula basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee

Administrative Services Department – Brian Zahn and Josh Perez

4.4 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report – Josh Perez and Brian Zahn

Information Item

Presentation and summary report on the monthly activities of the Administrative Services Department including but not limited to 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, 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 – Dr. Maryam Bral

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report

Information Item

Presentation and summary report on the monthly activities of the Engineering Department, including but not limited to water resources, planning efforts and department programs impacting the District, such as project design and construction; dam safety; FERC license compliance; Freeman Diversion; recycled water; pipeline operations and various engineering analysis.

Environmental Services Department – Marissa Caringella

4.6 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report

Information Item

Presentation and summary report on the monthly activities of the Environmental Services Department, including but not limited to environmental and regulatory issues of note to the District, 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, and any interactions with Rancho Temescal and Rancho Camulos.

5. MOTION ITEMS (By Department)

Administrative Services Department – Brian Zahn and Josh Perez

**5.1 Approving the Appointment of Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP
Motion**

The Board will consider approval of the appointment of Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP (LSL) and authorizing the General Manager to execute a three-year auditing services contract with LSL in an amount not-to-exceed \$139,896 to the full Board of Directors.

Engineering Department – Dr. Maryam Bral

**5.2 OH Well Replacement Program – El Rio Water Well No. 20 Construction
Contract in the Amount of \$849,283
Motion**

The Board will consider approving the motion that considers authorizing the General Manager to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Bakersfield Well & Pump Company, in the amount of \$849,283 for the construction of the Oxnard Hueneme (OH) Well Replacement Program – El Rio Water Well No. 20 Construction project.

Water Resources Department – Dan Detmer

5.3 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 April 4, 2023 and has been available for public review and comment. This hearing will be opened and continued to the regular May 17, 2023 and June 14, 2023 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 14, 2023 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 17, 2023, and again to Wednesday, June 14, 2023. No Board decisions will be made until the final hearing on June 14, 2023.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS READING FILE

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

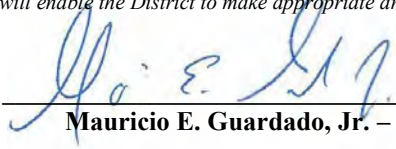
8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the **Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023** 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 6, 2023

(time) 4:30p.m.

(attest) *Kris Sofley*

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

Posted: (date) April 6, 2023

(time) 4:45p.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. 19CV06168, pending before the Court of Appeal of the State of California, Second Appellate District, Division 6, Court of Appeal No. B312471.
- B. 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).
- C. OPV Coalition v Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, Case No. 56-2021-00555357-CU-PT-VTA; Complaint for Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication of the Oxnard Groundwater Subbasin (No. 4-004.02) and Pleasant Valley Subbasin (No. 4-006) Pursuant to Sections 830, *Et Seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure; Declaratory Relief; Quiet Title; and Petition for Writs of Mandate.
- D. United Water Conservation District v United States, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 22-542L; Complaint for Just Compensation under the 5th Amendment.
- E. United Water Conservation District v. California Fish and Game Commission, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 2STCP02661; Petition for Writ of Mandate (CESA)
- F. State of California-Department of Transportation v. United Water Conservation District and Southern California Edison, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, Case No. 56-2023-00575593-CU-EI-VTA; Complaint in Eminent Domain (parcels 81216-1 and 81216-2)



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board

Date: April 5, 2023 (April 12, 2023 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.5 Board Members' Activities Reports
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file information regarding meeting participation provided by each of the Board of Directors through Monthly Activities (aka per diem) Reports.

Discussion:

This item is provided on the agenda of each regular District Board of Directors meeting in order to allow Directors to report on non-agenda activities such as:

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. Possible conflicts that Directors might have with respect to issues on the Agenda.

Attachments: A – Directors' Monthly Activities Reports (per diem)
B - 2023 Calendar of District's Standing Committee and Outside Agency meetings
C - 2023 AWA VC Calendar of Meetings and Events

Board of Directors
Activities and Expenses for Month March **Year** _____

Due on last day of month

Director: Berger

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.		Date	Mileage	NA
		3/8	20	
		3/16		
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
	AWA Board	3/2	20	
	AWA Waterwise	3/16	20	
	AWA Water Issues	3/21	20	
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
	Supervisor Parvan	3/6	20	
	Grand Jury Tour	3/29	20	
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	

Board of Directors
Per Diem and Expenses for Month March **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities. At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	6	x \$248	\$ 1,488.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,480. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	120	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 78.60
Total other expenses			\$
TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES			\$ 1,616.60

Director Signature

Date: 4-3-23

General Manager Signature

Date: 4/4/23

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager

Board of Directors
Activities and Expenses for Month March Year 2023

Due on last day of month

Director: Bruce Dandy

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.		Date	Mileage
		3/8	Not counted
		3/16	8
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date
	GM	Camarillo	3/15
	GM	@ United	3/30
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	FCGMA Prep	3/20	8
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Freeman Tour Supv.	3/6	8
	Freeman Tour Supv	3/7	8
	Santa Clarita WD	3/8	36
	Piru Tour	3/29	8
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Chamber Bus. Adv. Comm	3/13	0
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Board of Directors
Per Diem and Expenses for Month March Year 2023

Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities. At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	9	x \$248	\$ 2,232.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,480. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	101	x \$0.656/mile	\$ 66.26
Total other expenses			\$
TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES			\$ 2,348.26

Director Signature

Bruce Dandy

Date: 3/31/23

General Manager Signature

[Signature]

Date: 4/4/23

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

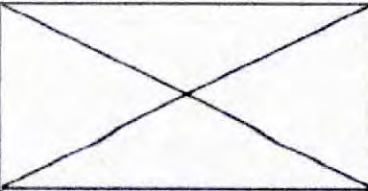
BP: Board President

GM: General Manager

Board of Directors
Activities and Expenses for Month 3 **Year** 23

Due on last day of month

Director: Mohammed Hasan, P.E.

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.			Date	Mileage
			3-8	12
			3-16	12
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.		Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.		Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.		Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
		AWA water issues	3-21	
		LAFCO	3-15	2
		WVCBA Expo	3-30	12
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.		Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.		Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.		Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
		UWCD Facility tour	3-29	12

NA

Board of Directors
Per Diem and Expenses for Month 3 **Year** 23

Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities. At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	\$	x \$248	\$ 1,240.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,480. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	38	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 24.89
Total other expenses			\$
TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES			\$ 1,314.89

Director Signature

Mohammed Haseeb Date: 4-1-23

General Manager Signature

[Signature] Date: 4/4/23

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager

Board of Directors
Activities and Expenses for Month March **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month

Director: Catherine P. Keeling

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.		Date	Mileage
		03/08/23	24
		03/16/23	24
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Engineering Committee/ United HQ	03/02/23	24
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date
	GM	Prep for tours/United HQ	03/08/23
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Mound Basin GSA	03/21/23	28
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Board of Directors
Per Diem and Expenses for Month March **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month

9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities. At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	NA
	Freeman Tour w Supervisor Lopez	03/16/23	0	
	UWCD Facilities Tour w Stakeholders	03/29/23	24	

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc. *	\$

* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	6	x \$248	\$ 1,488.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,480. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	148	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 96.94
Total other expenses			\$
TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES			\$ 1,634.94

Director Signature

Calvin P. Keeling

Date: 03/31/2023

General Manager Signature

[Signature]

Date: 4/4/23

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager

Board of Directors
Activities and Expenses for Month March **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month

Director: Daniel C. Naumann

1. UWCD Board Meetings Regular, special or emergency meetings.		Date	Mileage
		8	12
		16	12
2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Engineering and Operations Committee	2	12
3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date
	GM	dinner meeting with President Dandy and GM	14
			17.4
4. Conferences/Trainings. Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage
5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA and GSA. Or preparatory meetings with GM regarding above meetings.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	PVCWD Board Meeting	8	
	AWA VC WaterWise	16	
	AWA Watre Issues Committee	21	12
6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM. Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies. Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage
	Meeting w/TVujovich, JBouchard PVCWD	9	16
8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage
	Crisalada Berries Tour of Freeman Div	27	24
	Saticoy Foods Tour of Freeman Div	28	24
	Grand Jury Tour of Freeman Div	29	12

NA
NA

Board of Directors
Per Diem and Expenses for Month March **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month


9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities. At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

Other Expenses	Total
Days of out of town travel	
Lodging*	\$
Meals*	\$
Transportation*	\$
Misc.*	\$

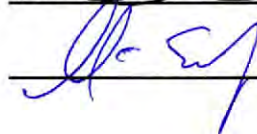
* attach all receipts

This section to be completed by Finance Department only			
Phone Allowance			\$50.00
Total # of meetings**	9	x \$248	\$ 2,232.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,480. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	141.4	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 92.62
Total other expenses			\$
TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES			\$ 2,374.62

Director Signature

 Date: 4-3-2023

General Manager Signature

 Date: 4/4/23

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager



United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 UWCD Standing Committee and Outside Agencies Meeting Dates

JANUARY 02- Finance and Audit (canceled)

03- Water Resources (canceled)
04- Recreation (canceled)
05- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:03am)
11- Board Meeting (12noon-2:55pm)
18- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
19 - Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
23- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)
24 – Special Board Meeting (11:30am-11:35am)
26- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
30- Finance and Audit – Feb (canceled)
31 – Water Resources – Feb (9am-)

FEBRUARY: 01- Recreation (1pm-)

02- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:09am)
08- Board Meeting (12noon-4:02pm)
09- Special Board Meeting-Board Norms Workshop (12noon-4pm)
15- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
16-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
23- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
27- Finance and Audit - March (9am-10am)
Mound Basin GSA (canceled)
28- Water Resources - March (canceled)

MARCH: 01- Recreation (canceled)

02- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:41am)
08- Board Meeting (12noon-2:50p.m.)
16- Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (canceled)
21- Mound Basin GSA (10am)
CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)

22- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

APRIL: 03- Finance and Audit (9am-10:29am)

04- Water Resources (9am-10:15am)
05- Recreation (9am-10:16am)
06- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:04am)
12- Board Meeting (12noon -)
19- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
20-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
24- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)
26- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

MAY: 01- Finance and Audit ()

02 - Water Resources ()
03- Recreation ()
04- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:04)
17- Board Meeting ()
CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
18- Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
22- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)
24- Special Board Meeting – Budget Workshop ()
24- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

JUNE: 01- Engineering and Operations ()

05- Finance and Audit ()
06– Water Resources ()
07- Recreation ()
14- Board Meeting (12noon)
15-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
21- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)

26- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)

28- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

JULY: 03- Finance and Audit ()

05- Water Resources ()
05- Recreation ()
06 - Engineering and Operations ()
12- Board Meeting ()
19- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
20-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
24- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)
26- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
31- Finance and Audit August ()
AUGUST – 01- Water Resources ()

02- Recreation ()
03 - Engineering and Operations ()
09- Board Meeting ()
16- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
17-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
23- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
28- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)

SEPTEMBER: 05- Water Resources ()

05- Finance and Audit ()
06- Recreation ()
07- Engineering and Operations ()
13- Board Meeting ()
20- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
21-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
25- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)
27- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

OCTOBER: 02- Finance and Audit ()

03- Water Resources ()
04- Recreation ()
05- Engineering and Operations ()
11- Board Meeting ()
18- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
19-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
23- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)
25- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
30- Finance and Audit November ()
31 - Water Resources- November ()

NOVEMBER: 01- Recreation ()

02- Engineering and Operations ()
08- Board Meeting ()
15- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
16- Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
27-17- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)

DECEMBER: 04- Finance and Audit ()

05 – Water Resources ()
06- Recreation ()
07- Engineering and Operations ()
08- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)
13- Board Meeting ()
20- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)
21-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)
?? -Mound Basin GSA (3pm)



2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Meeting/Event notices with all details will be sent via email prior to each occurrence. Contact AWA for more information

JANUARY	5	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	17	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	19	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	25	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
FEBRUARY	2	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	21	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	22	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
MARCH	2	Board Meeting (Annual Meeting-Elections)	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	WaterWise Program (Installation/Directors)	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	21	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	22	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
APRIL	6	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	20	Annual Water Symposium & Exposition (Hybrid)	8:00am–2:00pm, Thurs.	Courtyard Marriott Oxnard
	20	Operators Tech Workshop & Exposition	8:00 am-3:30pm, Thurs.	Courtyard Marriott Oxnard
MAY	4	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	18	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	24	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
	—	Math Workshop: Water Distribution Exam Review	8:30am–Noon	(Virtual?)
JUNE	1	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	15	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	20	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	28	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
JULY	6	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	18	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	20	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	26	Channel Counties/Water Systems	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
AUGUST		DARK		
SEPTEMBER	7	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	*14	Reception for Members/Elected Officials	4:00 pm, Thursday	(In-Person Members/Guests)
	19	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	27	Channel Counties/Water Systems Luncheon	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
	—	VCFD/AWA Confined Space Training	8:00 am - Noon	(VCFD / In-Person)
	—	Math Workshop: Water Treatment Exam Review	8:30am–Noon	(Virtual?)
OCTOBER	5	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	17	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	19	WaterWise Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	25	Channel Counties/Water Systems Luncheon	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
NOVEMBER	2	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	WaterWise Breakfast Program	8:00 am, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	21	Water Issues Committee	7:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	29	Channel Counties/Water Systems Lunch	8:00 am, Wednesday	(Virtual)
DECEMBER	7	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm,	(Hybrid)
	7	Holiday Mixer/Corporate Night	5:00 pm, Tuesday	(Members/Guests In-Person)

* Indicates change from typical event date



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

Date: April 5, 2023 (April 12, 2023 meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.6 General Manager's Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The General Manager will present information on his activities 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 staff 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.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board

Date: March 22, 2023 (April 12, 2023 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.7 2023 Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will consider possible recipients for the Laubacher Award and conduct a vote to determine the 2023 recipient. Staff will present nominees for the award at the Board Meeting.

Discussion:

The District established the Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award in 1997 to honor the memory of deceased Director Richard Laubacher. The award is to be presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated leadership and innovation in water conservation in agriculture, business or educational fields in Ventura County. It should be awarded in recognition of a body of work over a long period of time, taking particular note of the recipient's longevity in Ventura County water resources leadership. Additionally, consideration shall be given to a nominee's contributions specifically to the mission of United Water Conservation District. Finally, the award shall not be presented to a current staff member or Director of the District.

Previous recipients of the award are as follows:

1997 – Supervisor John Flynn	2010 - John Mathews
1998 - Calleguas Municipal Water District	2011 – Bill Hair
1999 – Lee Miller	2012 – Rob Roy
2000 – Port Hueneme Water Agency	2013 – Sam McIntyre
2001 – Thomas P. Vujovich	2014 – Watersheds Coalition of Ventura Cty
2002 – Kelle Pistone, AWA VC	2015 – Phil Drescher
2003 – Camrose Water District	2016 – City of Oxnard
2004 – Lynn Maulhardt, GMA	2017 – Calleguas Municipal Water District
2005 – Irv Wilde	2018 – Joe Gibson
2006 – Steve Bachman	2019 – CoLAB Ventura County
2007 – Ted Grandsen	2020 and 2021 – no award presented
2008 – Dana Weishart	2022 – Eugene West, Fox Canyon GMA
2009 - Kathy Long	

**2.7 2023 Richard V. Laubacher Water Conservation Award
Motion**

If the Board decides to present an award at the 2023 Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Symposium on April 20, 2023, a decision must be made at the April 12, 2023 UWCD Board meeting in order to prepare the award and to ensure attendance of the recipient.

As stated in the Board Policies and Procedures, a list of three nominees will be presented to all Directors present at the Board meeting. A vote on the 2023 Laubacher Award recipient or that there not be a recipient this year, will be conducted by having a Director make a motion by referencing to the letter in front of the nominee's name on the list provided to the Directors in their blue folders. This is done to try to prevent the award recipient from learning about the award until the day of the AWA Symposium. However, any member of the public wishing to receive a copy of the list of nominees will be provided with one upon request.

Fiscal Impact

There are sufficient funds in the budget to cover the cost of the plaque that will be presented to the award winner.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Josh Perez, Human Resources Manager

Date: March 27, 2023 (April 12, 2023 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 2.8 Recognition of Retiring Environmental Services Department Manager
Linda Purpus
Ceremonial Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will recognize Environmental Services Department Manager Linda Purpus, who is retiring on April 27, 2023, after nearly 20 years of service to the District.

Background:

Linda Purpus started with United Water Conservation District in September 2003. In her 20 years with the District, she has played a critical role in improving the District's water resources goals and helping it to comply with regulatory oversight and environmental laws surrounding it operations.

Linda began her illustrious career working in the Operations and Maintenance Department as an Environmental Coordinator, assisting the department with permitting and regulatory compliance. In 2004, she was transferred to the Groundwater Department, where she worked for several years on the District's grant-funded study of runoff water quality, while still handling environmental compliance issues for the District.

In February 2004, Linda was promoted to environmental scientist. In 2007, Linda was assigned to the Water Resources Department, where she worked on a wide range of water resource issues, including recycled water, increased importation of State Water Project water, and sanitary surveys of the watershed, while still handling the environmental compliance issues. In 2011, Linda was reassigned to the new Environmental Services Department, where she focused primarily on environmental compliance issues.

In 2013, Linda was once again promoted to senior environmental scientist. In 2020, she was promoted to environmental services manager at a critical juncture in the District's development of its Habitat Conservation Plan and other various projects that had regulatory deadlines associated with their completion.

2.8 Recognition of Retiring Environmental Services Department Manager Linda Purpus

Linda has served as United's primary point person on compliance with the FERC license for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement projects and other District permitting efforts. Linda's awareness of the critical importance of reliable water resources to the District's customers, her extensive knowledge of water resources and environmental compliance laws and regulations.

On behalf of everyone here at the District as well as the Board of Directors, thank you Linda, for all your hard work over the last twenty years. You will be missed here at the District, but we all gather here today to wish you a wonderful retirement. As a token of appreciation, the District will present a gift to Linda for all of her efforts as she embarks on her retirement from the United Water Conservation District.



Board of Directors
Bruce E. Dandy, President
Sheldon G. Berger, Vice President
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Catherine P. Keeling
Gordon Kimball
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 12:00 P.M.
Board Room, UWCD Headquarters
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE

Bruce E. Dandy, Board president
Sheldon G. Berger, Board vice president
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board secretary/treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan, director
Catherine P. Keeling, director
Gordon Kimball, director (arrived at 1:30p.m.)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Daniel C. Naumann, director

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
Suparna Jain, legal counsel
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Marissa Caringella, environmental services manager
John Carman, operations and maintenance program supervisor
Brian Collins, chief operations officer
Dan Detmer, water resources manager
Bobby Diaz, accountant II
Marylou Fulton, receptionist
Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum, associate environmental scientist
Tony Huynh, risk and safety manager
Michael Kaminski, water treatment operator III
Tessa Lenz, environmental scientist/regulatory affairs
Randall McInvale, principal environmental scientist
Craig Morgan, engineering manager
Josh Perez, chief human resource officer
Linda Purpus, environmental services manager
Ed Reese, technology systems specialist
Daryl Smith, controller
Kris Sofley, executive assistant/clerk of the Board
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger
Ambry Tibay, senior accountant
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Betsy Cooper, City of Ventura
Rachel, Laenen, Kimball Ranches

Joe Marcinko, Oxnard Public Works

Steve Nash, Oxnard resident

Phil White

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

President Dandy called the meeting to order at 12noon. He asked the District's Legal Counsel, Ms. Suparna Jain, to summarize the items that would be discussed by the Board in Executive (Closed) session.

Ms. Jain stated that, pursuant to government code section 54956.9(d)(2), one case of anticipated litigation would be discussed, and, pursuant to government code section 54956.9(d)(1), six cases of existing litigation would be discussed, including City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District; Wishtoyo Foundation v. United Water Conservation District; OPV Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency; United Water Conservation District v. United States; United Water Conservation District v. California Fish and Game Commission; and State of California – Department of Transportation v. United Water Conservation District and Southern California Edison.

1.1 Public Comments

Information Item

President Dandy asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

1.2 EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION 12:04 P.M.

President Dandy adjourned the meeting to Executive (Closed) session at 12:04p.m.

2. SECOND OPEN SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER 1:12 P.M.

President Dandy called the second open session to order at 1:12p.m.

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Dandy asked Director Hasan to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.2 Public Comment

Information Item

President Dandy asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

2.3 Approval of Agenda

Motion

President Dandy asked if there were any changes to the agenda. General Manager Mr. Mauricio Guardado stated that motion item 5.3 had been removed from the agenda.

President Dandy asked for a motion. Motion to approve the agenda as amended, Director Hasan; second, Director Maulhardt. Voice vote: five ayes (Berger, Hasan,

Keeling, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; two absent (Kimball, Naumann). The agenda is approved unanimously 5/0/2.

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

President Dandy asked Ms. Jain to report any Board actions taken during Executive (Closed) session. Ms. Jain reported that in Executive session, Director Hasan moved to approve or authorize legal counsel to respond to the pleading in the case of (1.2 F.) State of California - Department of Transportation v. United Water Conservation District and Southern California Edison. The motion was seconded by Director Maulhardt. Roll call vote: five ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; two absent (Kimball, Naumann). Motion was approved unanimously 5/0/2.

**2.5 Board Members' Activities Report
Information Item**

President Dandy asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the Board Members' Monthly Activities (aka per diem) Reports. None were offered.

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

Mr. Guardado reported that his recent trip to Washington, D.C., yielded numerous positive outcomes for the District, including support for appropriations, regulatory issues and more. He also attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2023 DC event while he was in the Capitol and participated in several programs covering implementation of the infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; introductions to members of the 118th Congress; updates on the Biden Administration's actions on the ongoing drought; and also met several members of California's Congressional Delegation and networked with other GMs, attorneys and advocates for the water industry. Overall, Mr. Guardado said it was a very positive week and yielded great outcomes as there were a lot of people there working on behalf of Ventura County.

Mr. Guardado then introduced new District staff to the Board, including environmental services manager Marissa Caringella, who is working closely with Linda Purpus over the next couple of months as Ms. Purpus prepares for retirement. New Accountant II Bobby Diaz, who will be handling accounts payable for the District and the two GSAs (Mound Basin and Fillmore and Piru Basins), and the District's new receptionist Marylou Fulton.

Mr. Guardado also reported the District's outreach effort to Ventura County Supervisors, inviting the Supervisors and their staff to tour the Freeman Diversion. Supervisor Janice Parvin and her team with the first to tour the Freeman with him, President Dandy, and Vice President Berger, as well as Murray McEachron, who provided a brief presentation before the actual tour. Supervisor Matt LaVere and his staff went on a tour with President Dandy and Secretary/Treasurer Maulhardt along with Chief Ranger Strahan, who has been working with LaVere's staff to

address the homeless situation in the Santa Clara River watershed area. The tour provided a new level of awareness for all.

Lastly, Mr. Guardado reported that he provided a 90-minute presentation on the District's history, current operations and water sustainability projects to the Ventura County Grand Jury, including the economic benefits of the Freeman Diversion on Ventura County. The group will be scheduling a tour of the Freeman Diversion later in the month, and the District has offered to provide a full tour of its facilities, including Lake Piru and El Rio, to the jurors.

President Dandy asked if there were any questions or comments regarding Mr. Guardado's report. None were offered.

2.7 May 2023 Board Meeting Date Change

Motion

President Dandy explained that, due to the Board's participation at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Spring Conference May 9 through 11, in Monterey, CA, the Board will consider authorizing a change of date for the District's regular May 2023 Board meeting from Wednesday, May 10, to Wednesday, May 17, 2023, and asked for a motion.

Motion to move the District's regular May 2023 Board meeting from Wednesday, May 10, to Wednesday, May 13, 2023, Director Hasan; second, Director Keeling. Voice vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed, one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

2.8 Ordinance No. 27 - Consideration to Increase the Compensation of the Board of Directors

Motion

President Dandy reminded the Board of a Public Hearing which was held as part of the Regular UWCD Board meeting on February 8, 2023. No public comments on the proposed Ordinance No. 27 were offered at that time. The Public Hearing was closed and President Dandy asked the Board for a motion to agendize consideration of adoption of Ordinance 27, approving an increase in the Board of Director's per diem from \$248 to \$260 per day at its March 8 Board meeting. The motion passed with six Directors voting in favor of agendizing Ordinance 27 and one Director voting not to agendize Ordinance 27. President Dandy asked if there was a motion to approve Ordinance 27.

President Dandy asked if there were any questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 27, increasing Board members' per diem activity reimbursement rate from \$248 to \$260 per day, Director Berger; second, Director Keeling. Roll call vote: five ayes (Berger, Hasan, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); one opposed (Keeling); one absent (Naumann). Motion is approved 5/1/1 and the increase in the Director's per diem will take effect in 60 days (May 8, 2023).

- 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)**

President Dandy asked for item 3.D of the Consent Calendar to be pulled for clarification and separate consideration. He then asked if there was a motion for Consent Calendar items 3.A through 3.C.

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 2023, and the Special Board Meeting – Board Norms Workshop of February 9, 2023.

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.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar items 3.A, 3.B and 3.C, Director Maulhardt; second, Director Hasan. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

President Dandy asked for clarification specifically on the motion for modifications to the FY 2022-23 budget. Chief Financial Officer Brian Zahn explained that the modification to the FY 2022-23 budget was \$328,000 in budget transfers that were reviewed by the Board at the February 8, 2023 UWCD Board meeting. President Dandy asked if there were any further questions or comments. None were offered.

D. FY 2023-23 Second Quarter Financial Report and Request of Budget Modifications

Motion

The Board will receive and review the FY 2022-23 Second Quarter Financial Report for the period of July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, and consider approving the motion for modifications to the FY 2022-23 budget.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar item 3.D, approving the modification of the FY 2022-23 budget, Director Maulhardt; second, Director Kimball. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger,

Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

4. PRESENTATIONS AND MONTHLY STAFF REPORTS (By Department)

Administrative Services Department – Brian Zahn and Josh Perez

4.1 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report – Josh Perez and Brian Zahn

Information Item

The Board received a summary report and presentations from Chief Human Resources Office Josh Perez (see slides attached), highlighting current negotiations with labor unions on a new long-term contract and budget planning for personnel for FY 23/24. Mr. Perez referred to UWCD as an “employer of choice.” He also provided some updates on the District’s actions regarding FEMA Disaster Relief funding.

Director Berger asked in the District were planning on having a display booth at the AWA Symposium in April. Clerk of the Board replied that the District was once again planning on being a “title sponsor” for the event and would have an exhibit in the hallway outside the general meeting room.

Director Maulhardt stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed the second quarter’s financials and had asked Chief Financial Officer Brian Zahn to review the information with the Board (see slides attached) quickly. Mr. Zahn mentioned plans for a financial bond proposal for FY 2024-25, which included hiring J Welling to provide polling of the general public regarding UWCD awareness and understanding of operations, benefits of service and more. Mr. Zahn also stated that staff would have a solid budget by the end of the month and would be reporting back to both the Finance Committee and Board with those figures.

Director Maulhardt asked why insurance was so high and Mr. Perez stated that insurance premiums were increasing significantly, as well as consultant costs and human resources. Director Hasan asked if professional fees included anything more than consultants, human resources and insurance. Mr. Perez said other professional fees, such as legal, were separate line-item expenses.

President Dandy asked if there were any other questions or comments. None were offered.

Engineering Department – Dr. Maryam Bral

4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report

Information Item

Engineering Manager Craig Morgan provided a summary report on the monthly activities of the Engineering Department and a presentation (see slides attached). Mr. Morgan stated that, to clarify item 11 in the monthly staff report, the location was at the Moss Screen. Director Maulhardt asked if the injection process referenced would kill quagga mussels prior to entering the Moss Screen.

Chief Operations Officer Brian Collins responded to Director Maulhardt, stating that prior to adding chlorine, staff must remove weeds and organics. Director Maulhardt said that this effort was the last defense for dealing with quagga. He then asked what process staff were using, sampling process upstream and down stream as well as inside and outside the moss screens. Mr. Guardado said that staff was doing preventative maintenance and that the Engineering and Operations Committee were included in discussions when decision are made regarding the design and flow process and the Committee would refer recommendations to the full Board. Director Maulhardt stated that he wanted the public to understand the complexity of the problem and that the District is dealing with it.

Mr. Morgan then discussed the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement project, stating that FERC, DWR, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and NMFS were all reviewing the latest report on the project and that the project's Board of Consultants would be meeting in June. Mr. Morgan also reported that the Santa Felicia Functional Exercises, a real-time enactment of an emergency at the dam and how staff and outside agencies respond. An analysis of the exercise is a way to learn new strengths and weaknesses of the wide swath of agencies that are involved.

Mr. Morgan also reported that the pavement maintenance project at Lake Piru Recreation Area is in the stripping phase and should be completed soon. The iron and manganese project is incurring delays due to supply chain issues, but in-house staff is demonstrating efficiencies that are helping the project to stay close to the project timeline. PTP metering project now has engaged 41 of 60 meter turnouts and has completed 20 of 40 utility easements. Mr. Morgan reported that District and US Navy staff held a two day charrette, permit planning discussion, progressing on various CEQA and NEPA activities.

President Dandy asked if there were any questions or comments. None were offered.

Environmental Services Department – Linda Purpus

4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report

Information Item

Environmental Services Manager Linda Purpus presented a summary report on the monthly activities of the Environmental Services Department along with a slide presentation (see slides attached). She updated the Board on the District's Castaic release flood flows and stated that once the release began, field crew and Water Resources would be monitoring the data, ensuring and justifying obligations are met under the current Court order and NMFS. She spoke of the District's successful application to the California Natural Resources Agency, requesting a suspension of permitting requirements associated with CEQA, based on the Governor's Executive Order. The District received approval of that suspension request. Working in collaboration with the State Water Board and Department of Water Resources, The District received a variance from the Water Quality Certification, allowing for delivery of up to 25,000 acre feet. A similar variance from FERC is pending.

Director Kimball congratulated Ms. Purpus and the Environmental Services team on securing the variance. He said that building relationships, the timing, and hard work of staff made all this possible and that he recognizes that this is “a very big deal” and convinces other agencies that they too can work with United. Ms. Purpus said this was the second time in her career that a request for a variance was approved and when she first saw the notice she let out a big yelp!

President Dandy asked if there were any other questions or comments. None were offered.

Operations and Maintenance Department – Brian Collins

4.4 Monthly Operation and Maintenance Department Report

Information Item

Chief Operations Officer Brian Collins presented a summary report on monthly activities of the Operations and Maintenance Department along with a presentation (see slides attached). At the beginning of his presentation to the Board, Mr. Collins said he wanted to correct an error in the monthly report, which stated 3,924 AF of water was diverted to the Saticoy recharge basins in February (metered plus unmetered) and that figure should have been 2,347 AF, and that figure has been doubled checked with Bram Sercu. Mr. Collins continued his report to the Board, stating that the District initiated flood flow releases of 400 cfs, with some of that showing up at the Freeman, which is currently diverting 375 cfs. Staff collaborated with Oxnard on replacing the flow meter for the Ocean View turnout on the OH; OH well No. 12 required emergency repairs, which led to a discussion of the benefits of ready service spares. Director Hasan asked with the proper lead time, and budgets permitting, are spare parts and equipment available. Mr. Collins replied that the staff has included significant requests in the new budget.

Director Kimball expressed his appreciation to the Operations and Maintenance staff, stating that when he drives past basins off Highway 118, watching clear water come into the ponds, or watching muddy water come down the river now, dealing with the sediment and the velocity shift from the old days, he knows that staff is putting in a lot more work and he just wanted to express how impressed he is with the entire operation.

President Dandy asked if there were any other questions or comments. None were offered.

Park and Recreation Department – Clayton Strahan

4.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

Information Item

Chief Park Ranger Clayton Strahan delivered a summary report on the activities of the Park and Recreation Department, and pointed out a clerical error in the report, which shows a chart comparison labeled 2021-2022, which is actually a comparison of figures from 2022 with to-date figures from 2023. Chief Strahan then provided a brief update on FEMA efforts, including asking Congresswoman Brownley to

extend the deadline for FEMA reimbursement as Ventura County didn't experience the brunt of the storm impact until weeks after the emergency situation was declared. District staff advised Ventura County Office of Emergency Services of the shortened deadline for Ventura County and ask Patrick Maynard to work with the Supervisors to also garner support for extending the deadline for submitting reimbursement reports to FEMA.

District's Risk and Safety Manager Tony Huynh also provided more information to the Board on the District's FEMA efforts and activities. He reported that the District's request for assistance was confirmed by both CalOES and FEMA and a point of contact has been assigned to the District. The O&M team is supporting the effort with photo and video coverage of the debris and damages incurred by the District. Staff have also formally notified FERC of the debris issues at Lake Piru/Santa Felicia Dam. District has issued an Request for Proposal to help with the clean-up, design and rebuilding/repairs, and now that FEMA is reimbursing for staff time, the District is also looking at submitting request for reimbursement of some \$56,000 in staff overtime due to the storm emergency event.

Director Maulhardt asked the total cost of FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Huynh said that approximately \$2.8 million, with \$1.8 million being just the clean-up effort, but that the numbers are being updated continuously as the District gets new estimates and invoices for work related to storm clean-up, repair and replacement. Director Maulhardt asked if that figure includes road repair due to debris flows and mudslides. Chief Strahan replied that \$2.8 million included floating debris on the water and the surface road to Juan Fernandez. This opened a discussion as to what the Forest Service was responsible for regarding road maintenance and repair, if the Recreation Area would be open for Easter weekend and when boating could safely resume on the lake. Chief Strahan added that the federal government has so many other obligations at this time that Lake Piru Recreation Area is a low priority at the moment.

President Dandy asked if there were any other questions or comments. None were offered.

Water Resources Department – Dan Detmer

4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report

Information Item

Water Resources Manager Dan Detmer delivered a summary report on the monthly activities of the Water Resources Department to the Board. Mr. Detmer reported that nearly 15,000 acre feet has been diverted to date, with half being used for recharge at Saticoy. He reported some 96,000 acre feet of storage in the forebay, and the impact on the coastal basins have been modest. He also said that additional recharge optimization of the spreading ponds was being explored and that Bram Sercu was making sure the District isn't leaving any water behind. Mr. Detmer added that the potential for the Lake to spill in the coming weeks, especially with warm storm events, is very likely.

President Dandy asked if there were any other questions or comments. None were offered.

5. MOTION ITEMS (By Department)

Administrative Services Department – Brian Zahn and Josh Perez

5.1 January 2023 Storm Damage Cleanup, Contracts with McNabb Construction Inc. and Summer Construction Inc. for Debris Removal at the Lake Piru Recreation Area

Motion

Mr. Zahn and Mr. Perez stated that they expect to be fully reimbursed for the clean-up expenses relating to the January 2023 storm damage by FEMA within 18 to 24 months. Director Hasan said that the money is good for this purpose. Mr. Zahn replied that once the FEMA funds were received by the District, the money would go right back into the reserve funds.

President Dandy asked if there were any more questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to approve the District's use of the \$6,184,000 Replacement, Capital Improvement and Environmental Project reserves to fund the clean-up efforts at the Lake Piru Recreation Area, Director Hasan; second, Director Berger. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

5.2 Agreement with Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency for Coordinated Delivery of State Water Project Water Supplies

Motion

President Dandy commented that this collaborative outreach effort was first entered into as a trial in 2018 and this agreement memorializes the successful collaboration of the two agencies. Director Hasan congratulated staff and especially Mauricio Guardado on the agreement. Mr. Guardado thanked President Dandy, Vice President Berger and Director Naumann for taking the time to meet with Santa Clarita Valley Water to secure the agreement.

President Dandy asked if there were any more questions or comments. None were offered.

Motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency for coordinated deliveries of State Water Project water supplies, Director Hasan; second, Director Kimball. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

[Motion item 5.3 removed from agenda at the request of Finance staff]

Engineering Department – Dr. Maryam Bral

5.4 Authorize Approval of the Draft Agreement between the City of San Buenaventura, United Water Conservation District, and Calleguas Municipal Water District for Construction and Operation of an Interconnection to Convey Water between the Water Systems; and Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Final Agreement.

Motion

Director Maulhardt reported that the Engineering and Operations Committee was recommending the Board's approval of this motion. Director Hasan added that this was the District's responsibility; and Director Kimball added that this is really good work on a technical level, an operational level and while the politics can't be easy, it helps United's relationships with Ventura and Casitas. Director Maulhardt stated that the issue was driven by Ventura and Calleguas to deliver State Water to Ventura and it's logical that a second turnout should be included as an opportunity for the future. He added that this was a win for all the parties involved and was a good community project. Mr. Guardado thanked Ventura's Betsy Cooper, who was in the audience, for doing the heavy lifting. Ms. Cooper stated that Ventura Water appreciates the District's support.

President Dandy asked if there were any more comments or questions. None were offered.

Motion to approve the draft agreement between the City of San Buenaventura, United Water Conservation District, and Calleguas Municipal Water District for the Construction and Operation of an Interconnection to convey water between the water systems; and authorize the General Manager to execute the final agreement upon District's legal counsel review and approval of the final language, should any changes be made by any of the participating agencies, Director Hasan; second, Director Maulhardt. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

5.5 Contract Amendment to the Engineering Design Support Contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the Vertical Slot Fish Passage Alternative

Motion

President Dandy asked if there were any comments or questions. None were offered.

Motion to authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the professional consulting services agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) in the amount of \$91,756 to provide continued engineering design support of the Vertical Slot as a Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Facility alternative, Director Mulhardt, second, Director Hasan. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan,

Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

Environmental Services Department – Linda Purpus

5.6 Resolution 2023-05 Determining that Emergency Work at Reasoner Creek is Exempt from the Provision of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving Emergency Work at Reasoner Creek

Motion

Ms. Purpus introduced the District's Associate Environmental Scientist Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum to present the Resolution 2023-05 motion. Ms. Garcia-Wickstrum explained the urgency of the Reasoner Creek project and asked for the Board's consideration in approving the resolution. Director Maulhardt reported that the Engineering and Operations Committee had discussed the motion during its latest meeting and was recommending the Board approve the resolution.

President Dandy asked if there were any comments or questions. None were offered.

Motion to approve Resolution 2023-05, determining that Emergency Work at Reasoner Creek ("project") is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), approving the project and directing staff to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA, Director Maulhardt; second, Director Hasan. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Kimball, Maulhardt, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 6/0/1.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS READING FILE

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Dandy asked if there were any future agenda items for consideration. None were offered.

8. ADJOURNMENT 2:50 P.M.

President Dandy adjourned the meeting at 2:50p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023**, 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 8, 2023.

ATTEST: _____
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

UWCD Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES

March 8, 2023

Page 13

Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board



Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

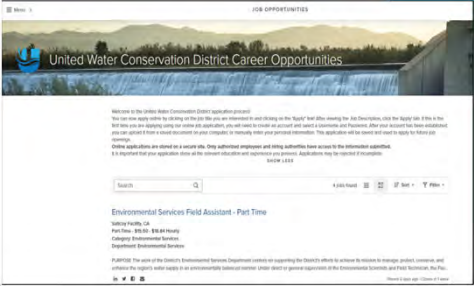

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 12noon

The signing or registering of your name on this sign-up form is not required but is voluntary. All persons may attend the meetings of the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District without signing or registering their names on this form.

Suparna Jain	At Oxtail / MKK
Joe MacInnis	Oxtail
Phil White	
Steve Nash	OX resident
Betsy Cooper	City of Ventura
RACHAEL LAENEN	KIMBAU RANCHES



1



- Finalizing the 2023 SDRMA Annual Renewal Questionnaire.
- Worked with SDRMA to coordinate claim for Marina damages related to recent storm event in January.
- Posted the OSHA Form 300A and Regulatory Compliance Poster at all District facilities.
- Developed and completed personnel and budget requests for FY23-24.
- Begin brown bag sessions starting February 16 (Topic: Budget Preparation and Overview).
- Successfully onboarded four following personnel:
 - Receptionist (Marylou Fulton)
 - Accountant II (Bobby Diaz selected and will start February 27)
 - Environmental Services Manager (Marissa Caringella selected and will start March 6)
 - Park Ranger Cadet (Macy Petula selected and scheduled to start on March 6)
- Hired two Park Ranger staff members and began efforts to interview and select Seasonal Park Ranger Assistant staff members to join the Lake Piru Recreation Area team.

2

CURRENT EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENTS

O&M Recharge
Worker I/II


Job posted -
closes tonight

Environmental
Scientist –
Regulatory Affairs

Selection made -
pending GM
approval


Engineering and
Water Resources


Postings
forthcoming
pending
consultation with
GM




3


- Co-led Disaster Response Coordination efforts and submitted applications to FEMA and CalOES for disaster recovery relief grant funding.
- Responded to COVID-19 case notifications.
- Led monthly safety meeting and collaborated with Chief Water Treatment Operator on Confined Space Refresher training.
- Conducted respiratory fit testing for Lake Piru Recreation Area staff.
- Supported Engineering Department’s SFD Functional Exercise, including participating as a member of the exercise planning team and evaluating the PIO role.
- Coordinated with IT and vendor on security systems enhancements.
- Supported Lake Piru Recreation Area staff with Park Ranger Cadet physical agility test evaluations.









4





- Upgraded SFD Maintenance Facilities network which included installation of upgraded network switches and rewiring SFD Shop network infrastructure to improve efficiency.
- Worked collaborative to support security gate network-based communications to the gate and intercom systems for greater efficiency.
- Outfitted SFD Shop with new computer to be utilized to interact with the camera and access control system. System replacing previous generation camera systems.
- Responded to and resolved a hard disk failure to a district’s subsystem. Worked with vendors for warranty repair and post incident and triage support. District IT staff exercised backup and recovery procedures to expedite system availability.
- UWCD HQ Multi-Purpose Board Room - Recent guests included the Farm Bureau of Ventura, the California Avocado Society, and the American Water Association of Ventura County.
- Initiated a travel kit conference and presentation system to enable online capabilities on the go.


5



Questions?


United Water Conservation District
“Conserving water since 1927”

6



United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT




SECOND QUARTER FY2022-2023 FINANCIAL REVIEW
AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATE

March 8, 2023

7

HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE UNFAVORABLE TO BUDGET AND WHILE OPERATING EXPENSES ARE FAVORABLE TO BUDGET



REVENUE

➤ Total operating revenue is \$2.0M or 14% unfavorable to budget

- Pipeline revenues are unfavorable to budget by \$1.3M or 17%
- Groundwater revenues are favorable to budget by \$132K
- Taxes are favorable to budget by \$191K or 7%
- Other Operating revenue was unfavorable to budget by \$104K or 23% due to Recreation being under budget
- Non-Operating revenue was unfavorable to budget by \$927K or 24% primarily due to Federal Grants coming in under budget

EXPENDITURES

➤ Total expenditures are \$8.9M or 39% favorable to budget

➤ Personnel expenses are below budget \$491K or 8.0% due to salaries and benefits coming in favorable

➤ Professional and legal fees are below budget \$3.4M or 71% due to underspending across all departments


➤ Operations expenses are below budget \$2.7M or 47% with Depreciation \$1.0M, Maintenance \$524, and Capital \$337K favorable to budget

8

4

OVERVIEW

PIPELINE VOLUME AND RECREATION REVENUE DRIVES REVENUE DOWNSIDE



in \$000's	Q2 FY22-23 Actual	Q2 FY22-23 Budget	Q2 FY21-22 Actual
Taxes	2,940	2,748	3,438
Water Delivery/Fixed Cost	6,393	7,696	6,011
Groundwater	132	-	(61)
Other Operating Revenue	354	457	582
Non-Operating Revenue	2,959	3,886	1,138
Total Revenue	\$ 12,777	\$ 14,788	\$ 11,108
Personnel Expense	5,937	6,429	4,078
Professional Fees	1,366	4,715	1,368
Operating Expense*	2,989	5,638	2,709
Allocated Overhead	2,318	3,372	2,118
Debt Service	83	1,269	294
Other	1,020	1,196	1,193
Total Expenditure	\$ 13,714	\$ 22,619	\$ 11,760

REVENUE


- Revenue is less than budget \$2.0M
 - Pipeline unfavorable \$1.3M
 - Taxes favorable \$191K
 - Other Rev unfavorable \$104K
 - Non-Op Rev unfavorable \$927K

EXPENDITURE

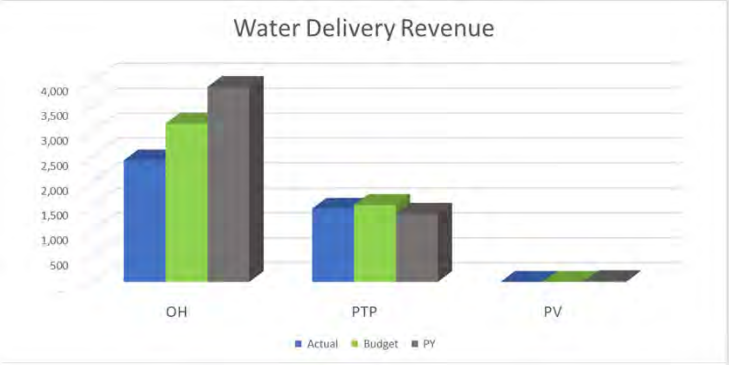
- Total expenditures are \$8.9M better than budget
 - Professional and Legal Fees are \$3.3M below budget
 - Operating Expense (w/depreciation) was \$2.7M favorable to budget

PIPELINE REVENUE

EXCLUDING IN-LIEU OF PUMPING CHARGES

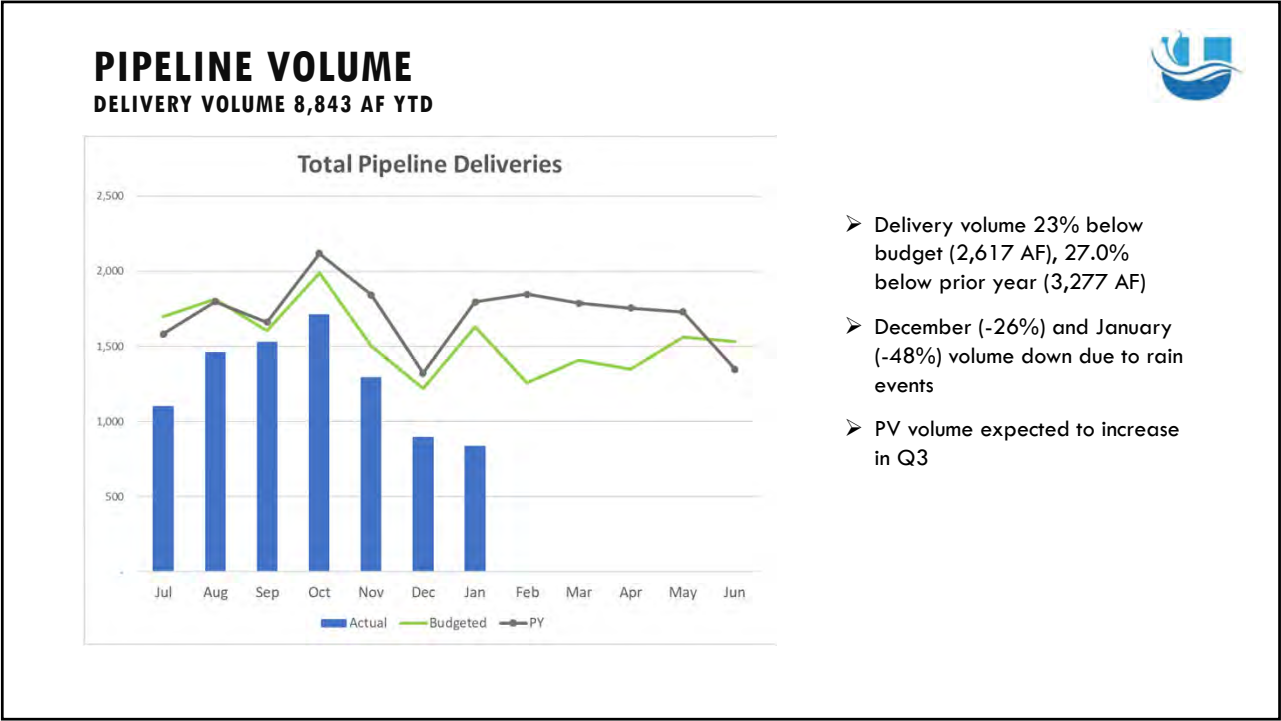


Water Delivery Revenue



- Pipeline revenue down 17% from budget
- OH down 23% vs. budget
- PTP up 5% vs. budget
- PV volume forecasted to increase in Q3 2022-23

Pipeline	Actual	Budget	PY	vs Budget	vs PY	% var Budget	% var PY
OH	2,432	3,170	3,904	(738)	(1,472)	-23%	-38%
PTP	1,466	1,540	1,365	(74)	101	-5%	7%
PV	-	-	15	-	(15)	0%	0%
	\$ 3,898	\$ 4,710	\$ 5,284	\$ (812)	\$ (1,387)	-17%	-26%



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PERSONNEL EXPENSES

\$000's	Q2 2022-23 23 Actual	Q2 2022- Budget	PY Actual	Var to Budget	% Var to Budget	Var to PY	% Var to PY
Regular Salary	3,451	3,674	2,202	-223	-6%	1,249	57%
Over-time Salary	81	106	55	-25	-23%	26	47%
Part-time	153	225	104	-72	-32%	49	47%
Salaries	\$ 3,684	\$ 4,004	\$ 2,361	-320	-8%	\$ 1,323	56%
Retirement- Classic	349	1,361	1,114	-1,013	-74%	-765	-69%
Retirement - PEPPRA	1,096	126	71	971	772%	1,025	1444%
Soc Sec/457b Expense	191	223	143	-32	-14%	48	34%
Medicare Expense	53	58	34	-5	-8%	19	56%
SUI Expense	1	9	1	-7	-85%	0	30%
Medical Ins Exp	381	489	249	-108	-22%	132	53%
LTD	10	11	1	-1	-6%	9	943%
Life Insurance	10	13	7	-3	-23%	3	43%
Worker's Comp Expens	93	108	97	-15	-14%	-4	-5%
401(a)	38	12	-			38	#DIV/0!
OPEB	31	15		16	105%	31	100%
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,253	\$ 2,424	\$ 1,717	-171	-7%	\$ 536	31%
Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,937	\$ 6,429	\$ 4,078	-491	-8%	\$ 1,859	46%

- Salaries are favorable to budget 8%
- Employee Benefits are favorable to budget 7% primarily due to:
 - Lower actuals in Medical Insurance Expense
 - Lower workers' Comp Insurance
 - Lower salaries are driving the majority of the savings

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OPERATING EXPENSES

PROFESSIONAL AND LEGAL FEES DRIVE BUDGET FAVORABILITY

	Q2 2022-23	Q2 2022-23	PY	Var to	% Var to	Var to	% Var to
\$000's	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	PY	PY
Profess Fees - Engineering	134	254	41	(120)	-47%	93	226%
Prof. Fees - Environmental	244	1,168	168	(924)	-79%	76	45%
Prof. Fees - IT consulting	10	120	1	(110)	-92%	9	900%
Prof. Fees - GW Consulting	8	64	26	(56)	-88%	(18)	-71%
Prof. Fees - Other	252	830	154	(579)	-70%	98	64%
Professional Fees	\$ 647	\$ 2,437	\$ 390	\$ (1,790)	-73%	\$ 257	66%
Legal Fees	\$ 719	\$ 2,277	\$ 121	\$ (1,559)	-68%	\$ 598	495%
Utilities	797	990	604	(193)	-20%	193	32%
Maintenance	583	1,108	735	(525)	-47%	(152)	-21%
Field Supplies	23	31	151	(8)	-26%	(128)	-84%
Insurance	696	179	555	517	289%	141	25%
Office Expenses	84	169	50	(86)	-51%	34	67%
Miscellaneous	516	516	1,174	-	0%	(658)	-56%
Travel, Trainings and Meetings	35	140	26	(105)	-75%	9	36%
Gasoline, Diesel, Fuel	94	102	94	(8)	-8%	(0)	0%
Fox Canyon GMA	(81)	314	(176)	(396)	-126%	95	-54%
Safety, supplies, clothing	73	68	31	5	8%	42	100%
Telephone	33	42	3	(9)	-21%	30	998%
General Operating Expenses	\$ 2,853	\$ 3,659	\$ 3,247	\$ (806)	-22%	\$ (394)	-12%
State Water Import Costs	\$ 572	\$ 745	\$ 489	\$ (173)	-23%	\$ 83	100%
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 4,791	\$ 9,118	\$ 4,247	\$ (4,327)	-47%	\$ 544	13%

➤ Professional Fees are favorable to budget by \$1.8M

➤ Legal fees are favorable to budget by \$1.6M

➤ Operating expenses \$806K favorable primarily driven by Maintenance \$525K, Utilities \$193K and Fox Canyon GMA \$396K off-set by and over-run in Insurance \$517K

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SUPPLEMENTAL WATER PURCHASE FUND

STATUS UPDATE

	Revenue (\$000'S)
Beginning Balance - July 1, 2021	\$2,740
REVENUES	
Surcharge Revenue	\$1
Water Delivery	\$94
LAIF Interest	\$1
EXPENDITURES	
Water Purchase	\$0
Ending Balance December 31, 2022	\$2,835

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BOARD MOTION ITEMS with FISCAL IMPACT




Motion Number	Sponsor	Description/Summary	Budget Y/N	Funding Source	Cash Impact of Approval	Other Financial Impact
5.1	Finance	January 2023 Storm Damage Cleanup, Contracts with McNabb Construction Inc. and Summer Construction Inc. for Debris Removal at the Lake Piru Recreation Area	N	\$1,254,400 of Designated funds being Undesignated by the Board in the 050 (General Water Conservation Fund)	\$1,254,400*	N/A
5.3	Engineering	Request for additional fund for the Freeman Diversion Expansion project	N	\$517,698.76 transfer from CIP 8042 plus \$1,000,000 loan from 050 (General Water Conservation Fund)	\$1,517,699	N/A
TOTAL					\$2,772,099	

*The expense will happen this year, but the reimbursement from FEMA/CalOES will most likely occur in the following financial year.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT



- Finance is exploring a potential 2024-2025 General Obligation Bond initiative in the amount of \$250M-\$350M to fund Capital projects. Initial steps will be taken in March to poll district residents to determine their responsiveness to water issues, the drought, water concerns and willingness to support a GO Bond initiative. Polling will be conducted through J. Wallin.
- Met with Department managers to review their FY 2023-24 Budget templates and preliminary requests. Staff is working to combine requests into a FY 2023-24 draft budget. A preliminary Budget meeting with the General Manager and Assistant General Manager is scheduled for March 6, 2023.
- Working with Human Resources reviewing FY 2023-24 Personnel requests, ensuring all Department requests are in line with the planned District's Organizational Structure.



Questions?

United Water Conservation District
"Conserving water since 1927"

17

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**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY UPDATE**

March 8, 2023



18



Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- Jan 27 - Meeting with FERC to discuss IDF and L2RA for the Project
- Feb 9 - Second coordination workshop with DWR and LADWP
 - Next meeting on May 4
- Feb 21 - NMFS review comments on draft BA
 - UWCD response due in April
- HMGP sub-application in support of SFD Outlet Works Improvement Project is on FEMA's waiting list

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SFD Functional Exercise

- A two-day event held at UWCD District headquarters related to the SFD EAP Functional Exercise
 - Feb 22, Day One
 - SFD EAP review and tour of SFD
 - Feb 23, Day Two
 - Functional Exercise
- Stakeholders and community representatives in participation ranged from 40 to 54.




2023 SFD Functional Exercise - Day One on Feb 22

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Lake Piru Recreation Area 2022 Pavement Maintenance Program



2/18/2023

Asphalt and Shoulder Backing Repair



2/22/2023

Sealcoating Repair Area

22

Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility



Filter Drain Pump Station Installation



Water Service Installation for Fire Suppression and Utility Water



Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility



Cleaning Inside Filter Vessel in Preparation of a Soak Test



Filter Vessel Face Piping Slab Complete



Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility



2/21/2023

20" OF Rip-Rap Apron



2/22/2023

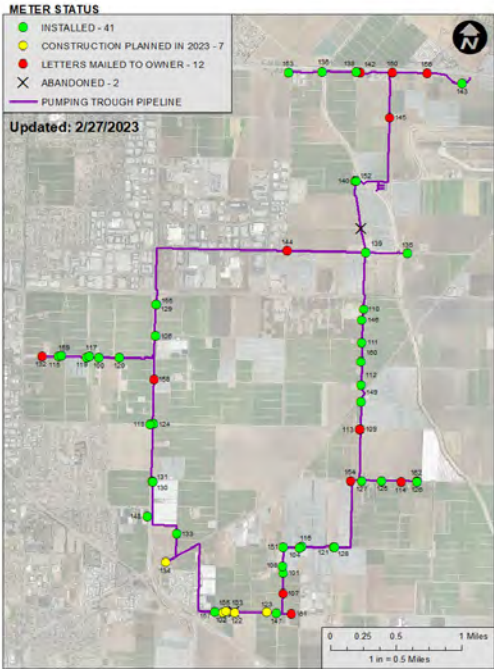
United States

Backfill of Piping near Tank




PTP Metering System Improvement

- 41 out of 60 meters installed (68.3%)
 - Four (4) more meter installations by Summer 2023
- 24 of 40 easements acquisitions (60%)
 - Four (4) more easement deeds pending execution and recording
- TO #122 was removed and abandoned in place per owner's request



Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- ✓ Phase 1 A License Agreement (Feb 21, 2023 – Feb 20, 2024) allows for:
 - Ingress/Egress
 - Land Surveying
 - Geotechnical Exploration
 - Environmental Surveying
- ✓ Two-Day Permitting Charrette with the US Navy Staff and Counsel
- ✓ First Draft of Discharge Alternatives Evaluation Matrix
- ✓ Additional groundwater sampling data scheduled for Mar 2023



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Public Outreach

Feb 16 and 17 – Dr. Maryam Bral and Robert Richardson attended the 2023 CalDesal Annual Conference in Sacramento





QUESTIONS



29

Middle Piru Creek – February 7, 2023



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY UPDATE

March 8, 2023



United Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Department
Summary Updates

• Storm Damage Assessment
Upstream of Lake Piru


- > 40 full debris blockages
- >\$100K loss of equipment middle Piru Creek

• Castaic Flood Flows

- Discharge measurements

• Santa Felicia Dam Migration
Release


• CEQA Suspension SSWP
(Pyramid) - Approved



Solar panels for upper PIT antenna array – Feb 2023



Fyke trap louvre panels found ~1 mile downstream of trap site – Feb 2023




31

QUESTIONS



North end of Lake Piru – February 14, 2023



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16



2-28-23

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATE

March 8, 2023



Santa Felicia Dam

Storm Cleanup / SFD 5-Year EAP Functional Exercise



2-7-23 SFD Treatment Plant



FEMA \$
1996 Tracking

2-13-23 Penstock cleanup



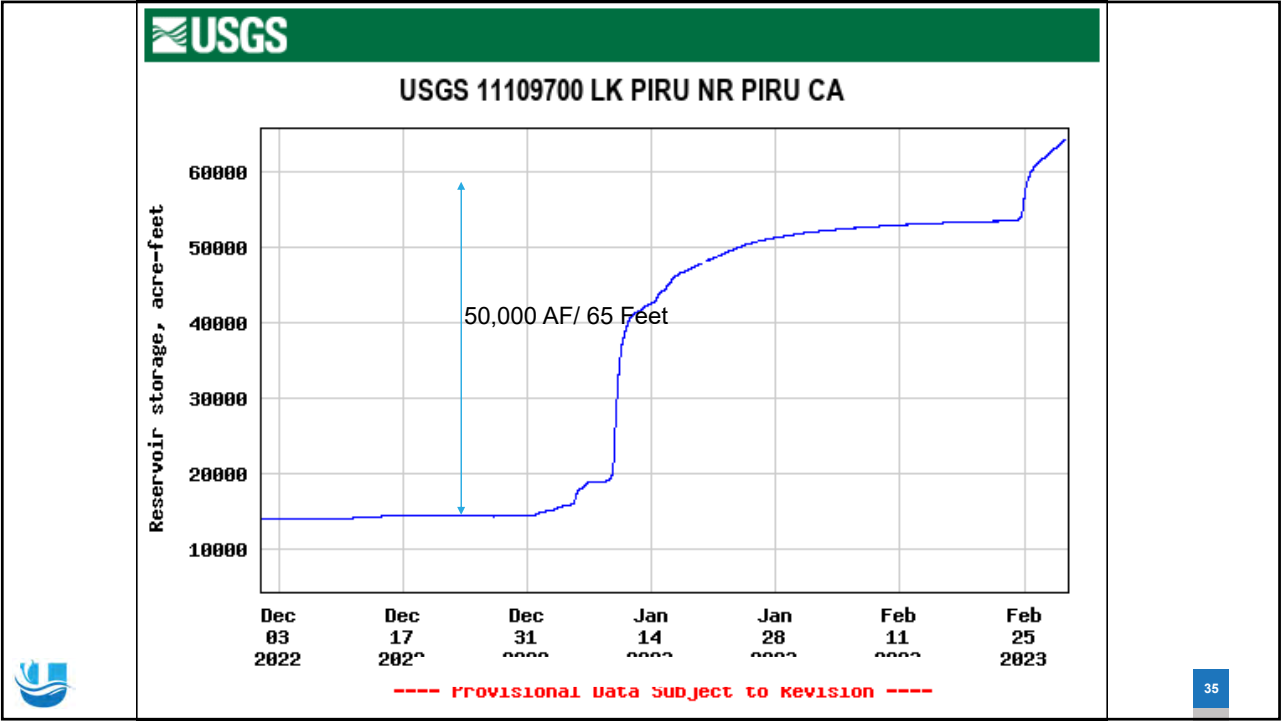
1-12-23 Tunnel access



2-22-23 EAP exercise



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35

Freeman Diversion

Castaic Release and Water Harvesting





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OH Delivery

Oceanview Meter Upgrade – Iron and Manganese Basin Drains- OH 12



2-7-23 Oceanview Meter



2-7-23 Oceanview Meter



2-7-23 Oceanview Meter



2-15-23 FeMn Drain Riprap



3-3-23 OH Well 12 emergency repairs




2-27-23 OH Booster Plant Analyzers



37


PTP

PTP Meter Project





2-2-23

Turnout 106 Rice Road



2-2-23

Turnout 159 Wooley Road




38

Instrumentation

High Voltage Preventive Maintenance – VFD Repairs



2-14-23 OH Wellfield



2-14-23 OH Wellfield



2-21-23 OH Wellfield

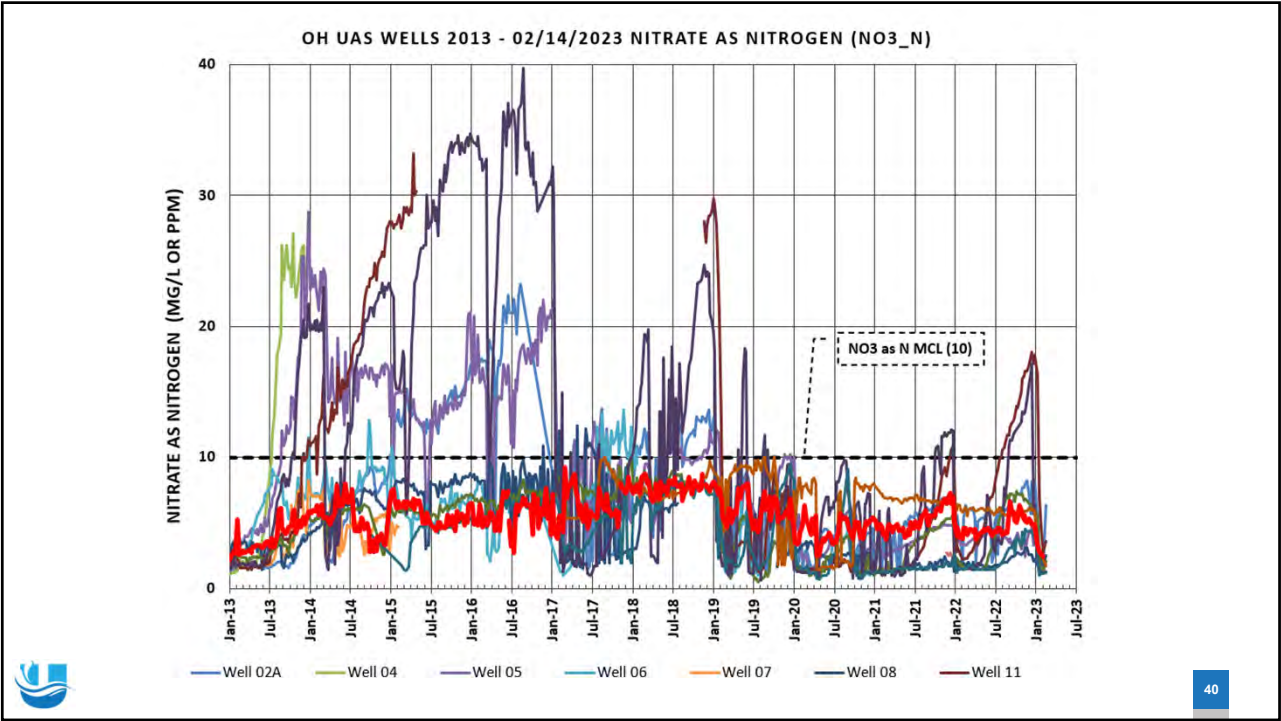


2-27-23 PTP Reservoir VFD



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40

Questions?



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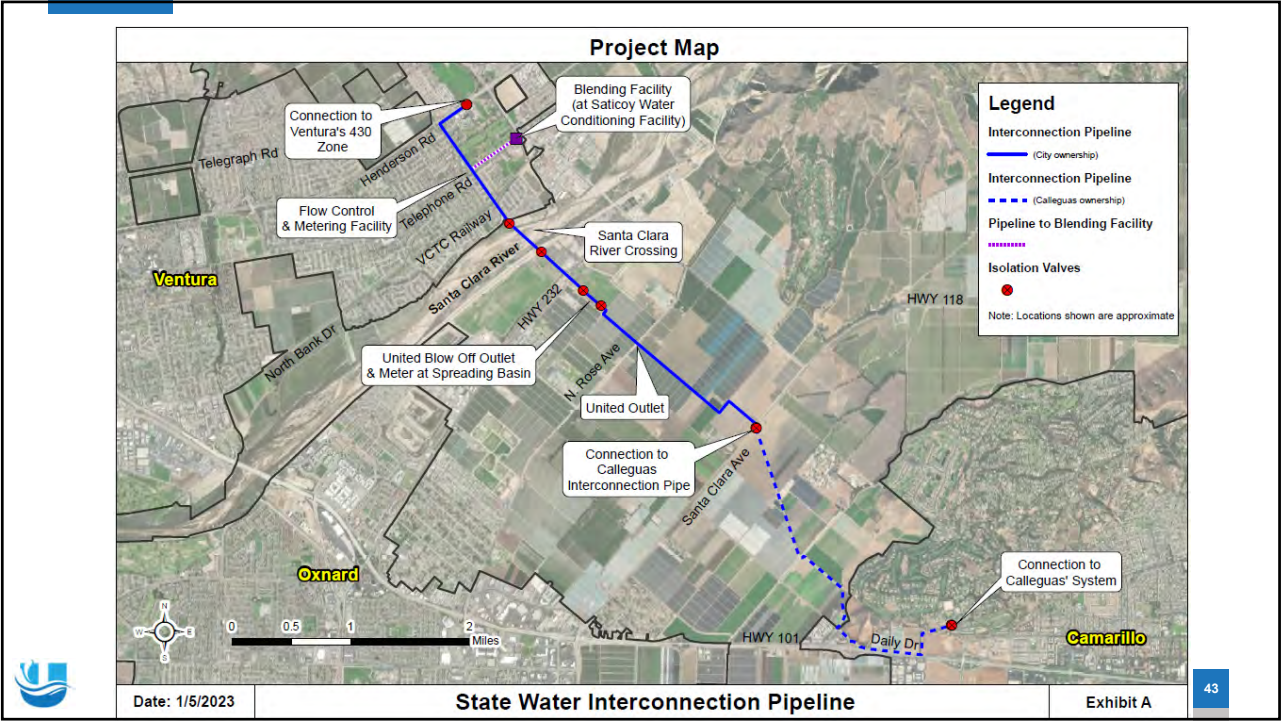
Motion 5.4



Authorize Approval of the Draft Agreement between the *City of San Buenaventura, United Water Conservation District, and Calleguas Municipal Water District* for Construction and Operation of an Interconnection to Convey Water between the Water Systems; and Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Final Agreement

42

42




43

Three-Party Joint Agency Agreement


- Pipeline Capacity
- Water Delivery
- Pipeline Design and Construction (approx. seven (7) miles)
- Pipeline Size and Materials
- Water Delivery Priorities
- Easements
- Turnout Installations
- Treatment Approval
- Interconnection Use Charges
- Wheeling Agreements

44

44



Questions?



45



Motion 5.5

**Contract Amendment to the Engineering Design Support
Contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the
Vertical Slot Fish Passage Alternative**

- Request Committee recommendation to the Board
authorizing the General Manager to execute an
amendment in the amount of \$91,756
- Amendment to provide continued engineering design
support of the Vertical Slot as a Freeman Diversion Fish
Passage Facility alternative



46

Motion 5.6

Resolution 2023-05 Determining that Emergency Work at Reasoner Creek is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving Emergency Work at Reasoner Creek

- CEQA Guideline Section 15269(a) – *Emergency Project*
- Storm damage from 2023 storms at Reasoner Creek





Board of Directors
Bruce E. Dandy, President
Sheldon G. Berger, Vice President
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Catherine P. Keeling
Gordon Kimball
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

MINUTES
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 16, 2023, 9:00 A.M.
UWCD Headquarters' Boardroom
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030
Santa Felicia Dam Shop
3838 Piru Canyon Road, Piru CA 93040

Directors in Attendance

Bruce E. Dandy, president
Sheldon G. Berger, vice president
Lynn Maulhardt, secretary/treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan, director
Catherine P. Keeling, director
Daniel C. Naumann, director

Directors Absent

Gordon Kimball, director

Staff in Attendance

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
David Boyer, legal counsel
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
John Carman, operations and maintenance program supervisor
Brian Collins, chief operations office
Craig Morgan, engineering manager
Kris Sofley, clerk of the Board
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 9:06 A.M.

President Dandy called the Emergency Board meeting to order at 9:06a.m. President Dandy asked the District's Legal Counsel to summarize the items being discussed by the Board during Executive (Closed) Session.

District's Legal Counsel David Boyer stated that, pursuant to government code Section 54956.9 (d)(1), the Board would discuss one case of existing litigation, specifically Wishtoyo Foundation, et al, v. United Water Conservation District.

1.1 Public Comment
Information Item

President Dandy asked if there were any public comments or questions. None were offered.

2. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION 9:10A.M.

President Dandy adjourned the meeting into Executive (Closed) session at 9:10a.m.

3. SECOND OPEN SESSION 9:30A.M.

President Dandy opened the second open session of the Emergency Board meeting at 9:30a.m. He asked District legal counsel to report the Board's actions during Executive session.

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

Mr. Boyer reported that the Board took no action in Executive Session that is reportable under the Brown Act.

President Dandy adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m. to provide travel time from UWCD headquarters in Oxnard to the Santa Felicia Dam in Piru, CA.

4. TRAVEL TO SANTA FELICICA DAM

President Dandy and Directors Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt and Naumann arrived at the Santa Felicia Dam at approximately 10:30 a.m.

**4.1 REPORT AND OBSERVATION OF SANTA FELICIA DAM SPILL
Information Item**

General Manager Mauricio Guardado provided the Board with an update regarding water levels of the Lake Piru Reservoir and predictions regarding the volume and duration of the spill from the Santa Felicia Dam spillway. The Board members and staff moved to the Overlook (memorial) adjacent to the spillway of the Santa Felicia Dam to witness the beginning of the spill. Then the Board and staff moved to the Lake Piru marina area to witness the ongoing debris removal operation and see the impact on the recreation area due to sediment and debris flows as well as mudslides.

5. ADJOURNMENT 11:30a.m.

President Dandy adjourned the meeting at 11:30a.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023**, 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 Emergency meeting of March 16, 2023.

ATTEST: _____
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
John Lindquist, Supervising Hydrogeologist

From: Kathleen Kuepper, Hydrogeologist
Bram Sercu, Senior Hydrologist

Date: April 4, 2023 (April 12, 2023 Meeting)

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

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file the Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District for the month of March 2023.

Summary:

Diversions, Recharge and Ag Pipeline Deliveries for Month of March 2023*

Activity	Amount (acre-feet)
Total Diversions at Freeman Diversion	15,517
Lloyd-Butler Mutual Water Company surface water use	NA
Recharge to Saticoy basins (metered + unmetered)	7,754
Recharge to Noble and Rose basins	2,806
Recharge to El Rio basin	4,751
Total Ag Pipeline Deliveries of water diverted at Freeman	206
Total Ag Pipeline Deliveries of water pumped from Saticoy Well Field	0
Recharge to Piru spreading grounds	0

*Provisional data. Final data are made available in the September Hydrologic Conditions Report of each water year.

Groundwater Basin Available Storage at End of Month of March 2023

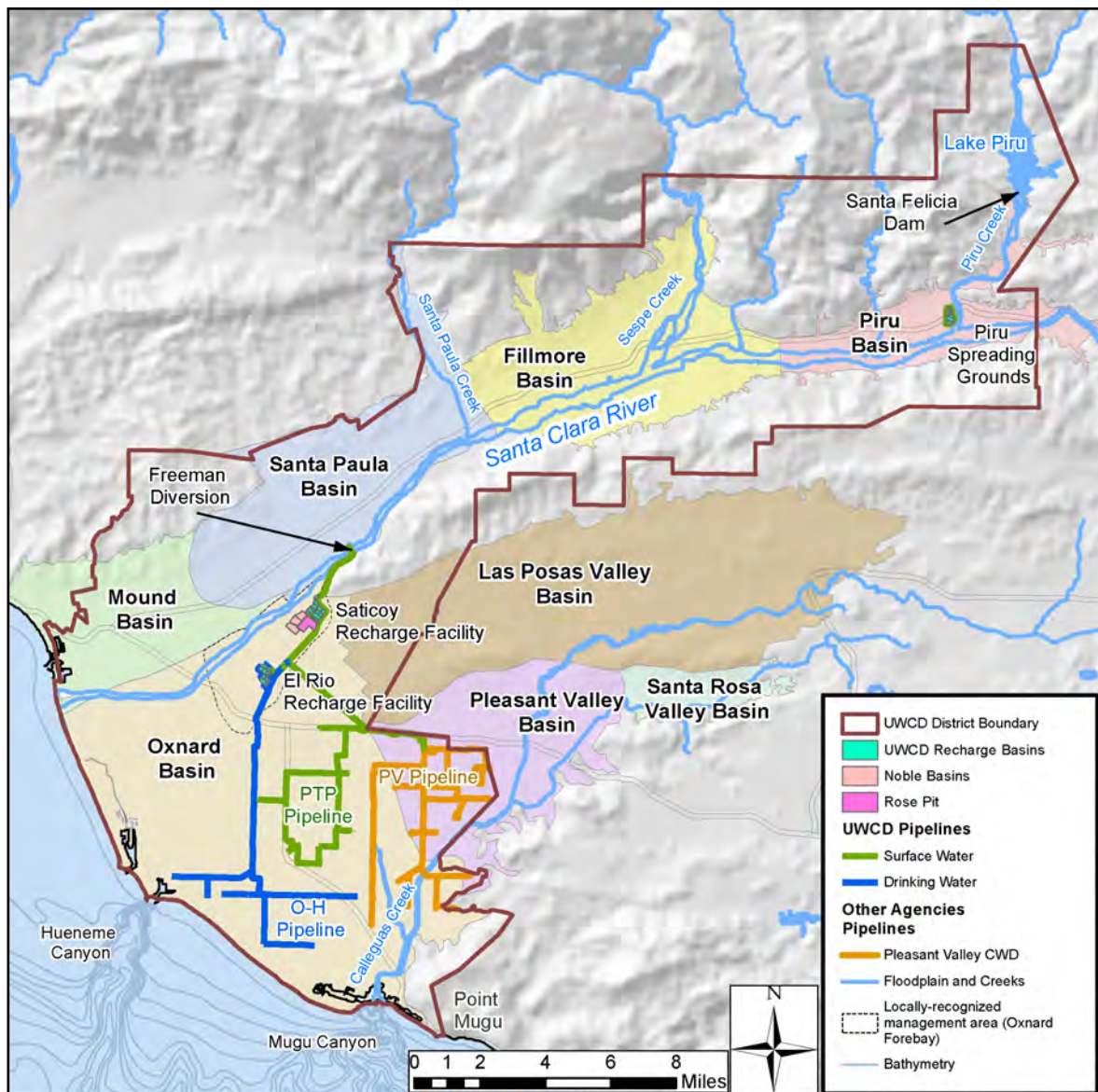
Basin	Available Storage (acre-feet)
Oxnard Forebay	63,800

Precipitation for Month of March 2023

Location	Precipitation (inches)
Lake Piru	11.55
Santa Paula	10.45
El Rio	8.13

March 2023 Hydrologic Conditions Report 2022/23 Water Year

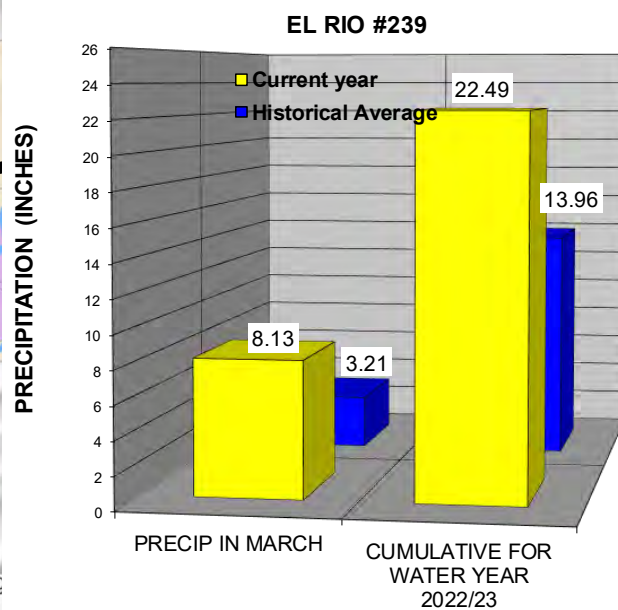
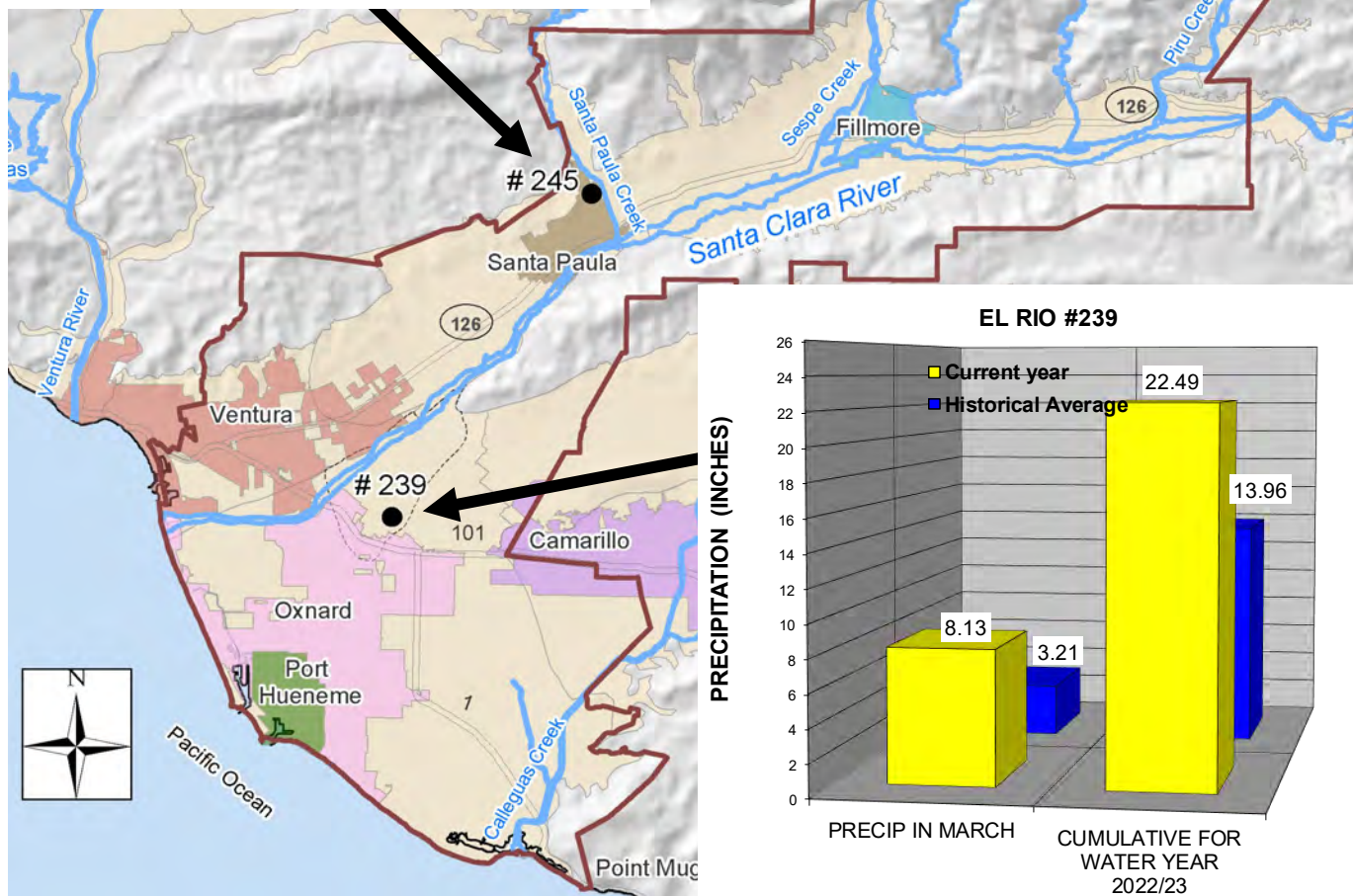
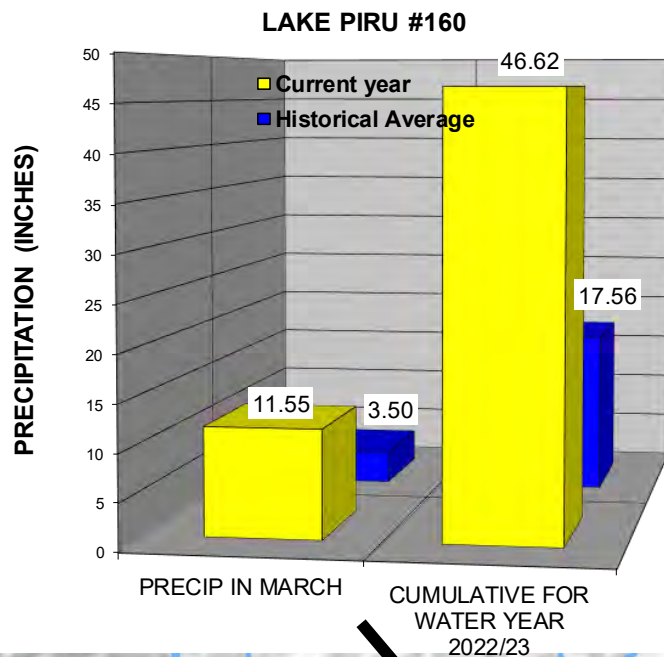
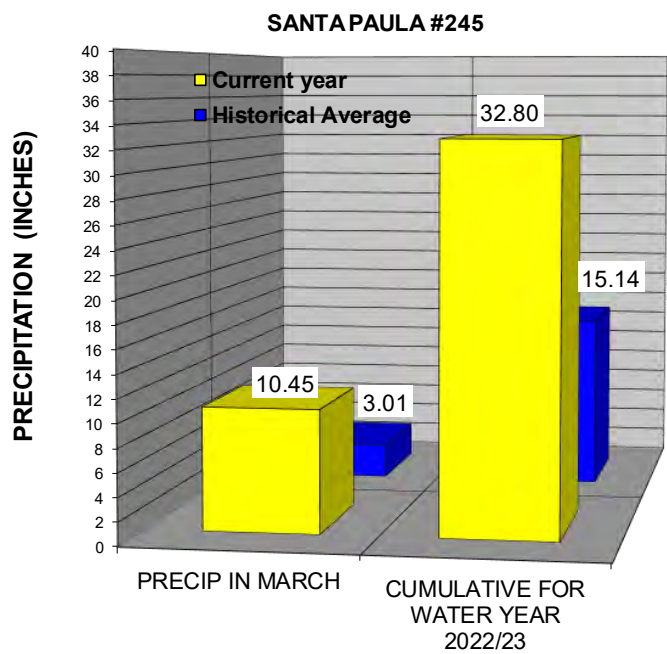
April 4, 2023



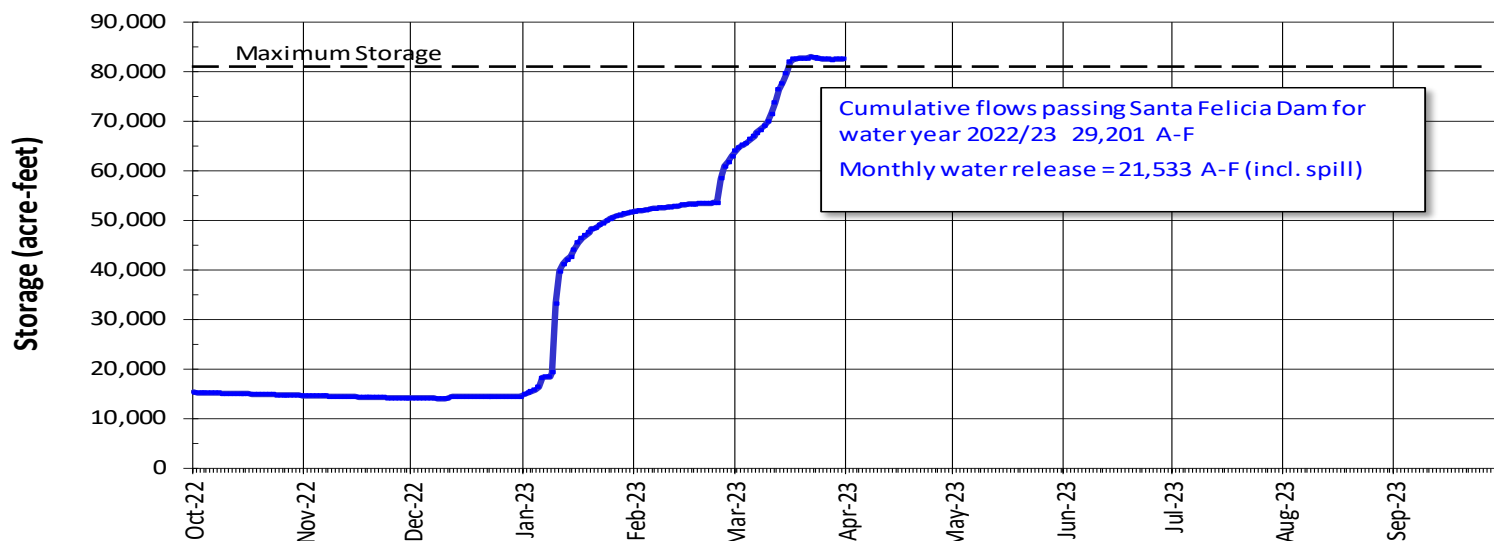
Note: This report may contain provisional data until final review at the end of the water year.

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Precipitation

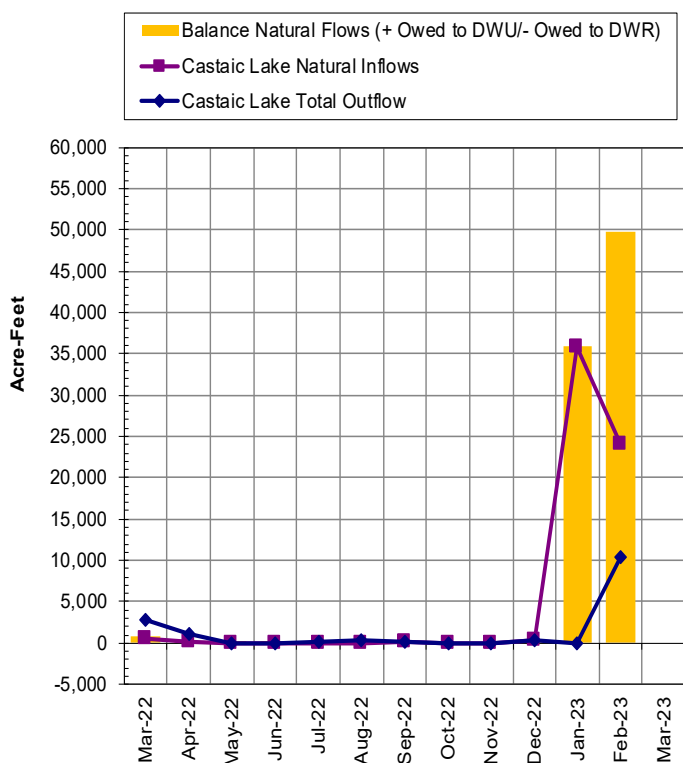


District-wide percent of normal precipitation = 218%

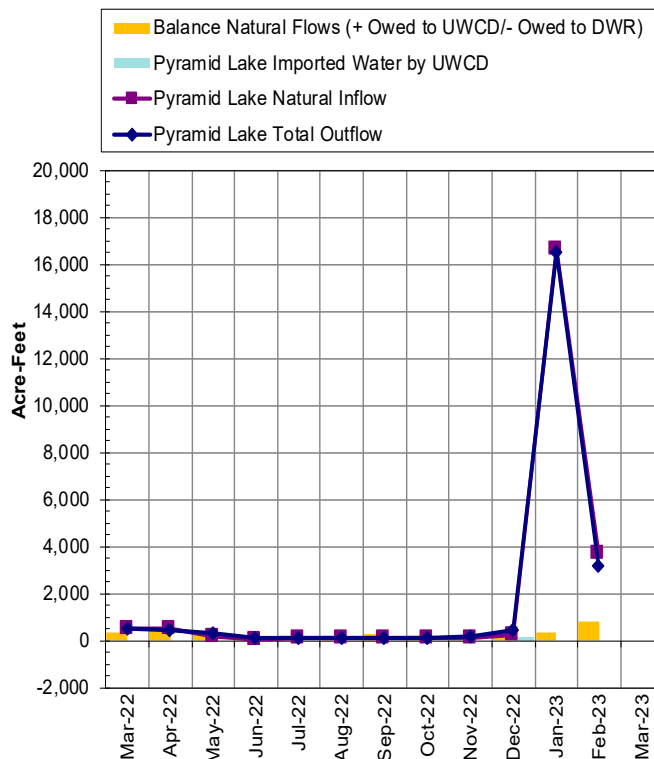


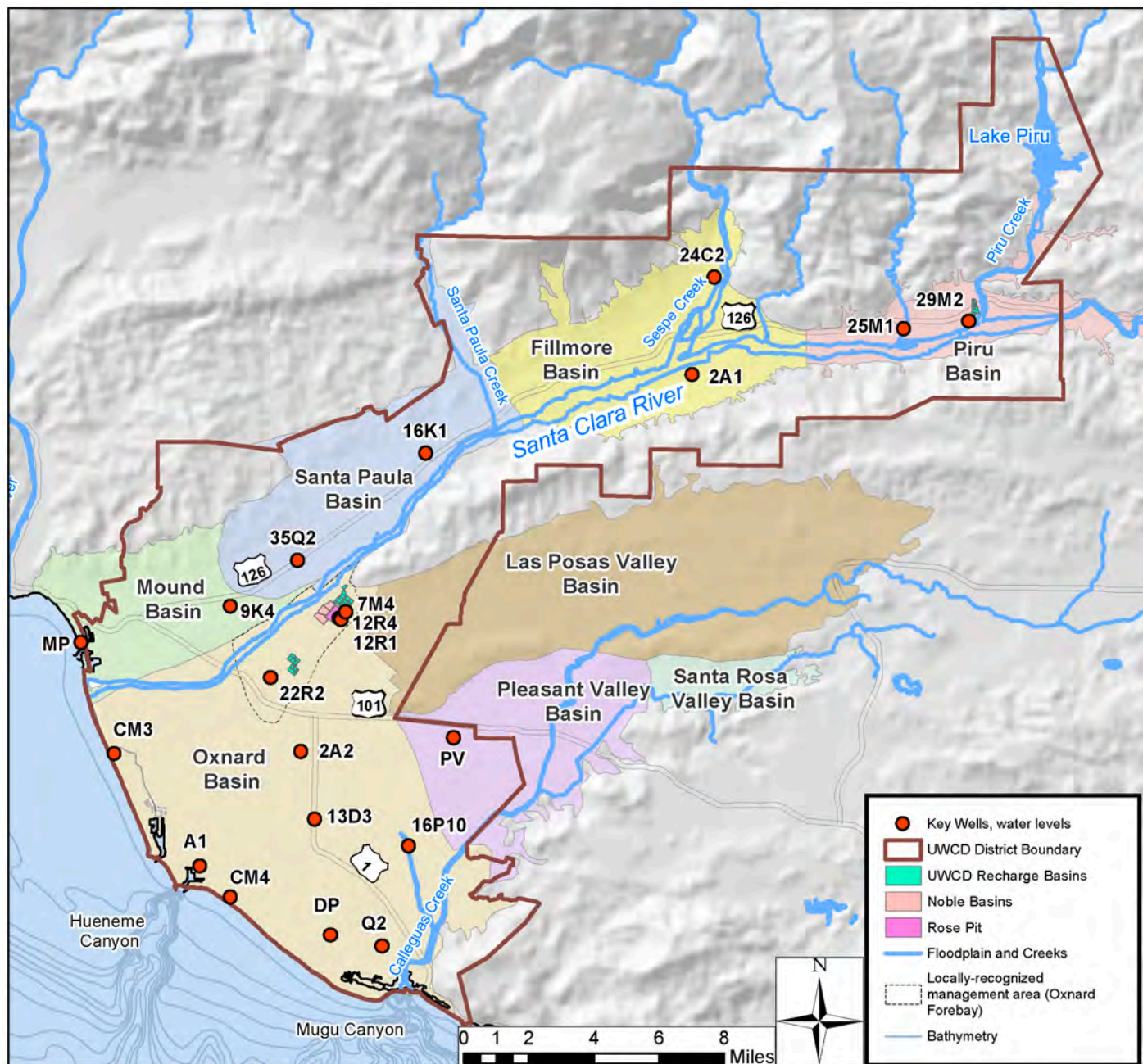
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Hydro Plant Outflow (Acre-Feet)	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Cumulative Hydro Plant Outflow (A-F)	0	0	0	0	0	0						

Castaic Lake releases to downstream water users (DWU)



Pyramid Lake releases to UWCD

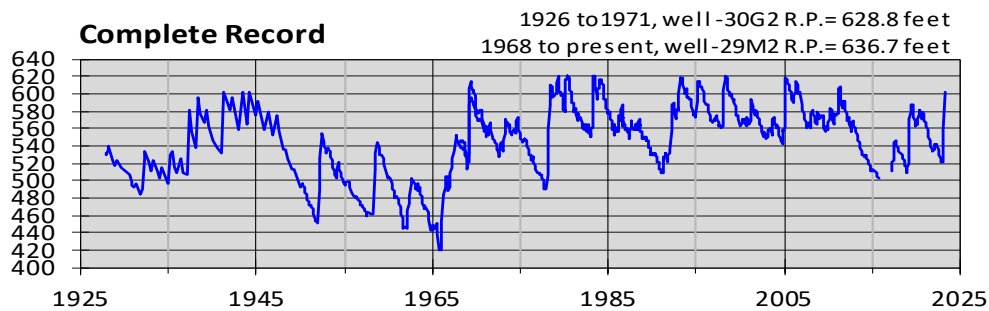
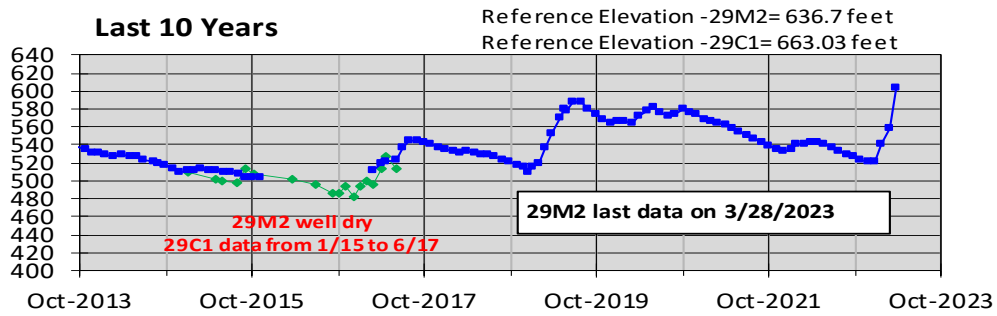




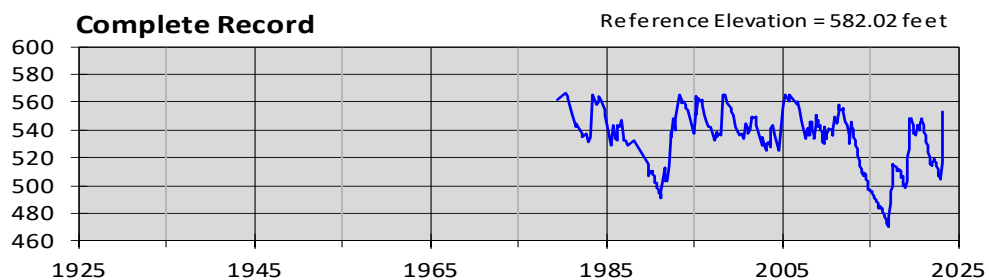
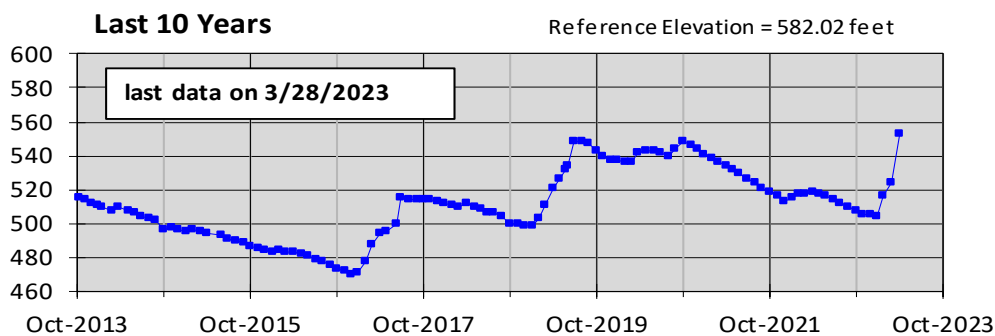
Locations of Key Wells, Monthly Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

Groundwater Elevation Records – Piru Basin

Well 04N18W29M02S (29M2)

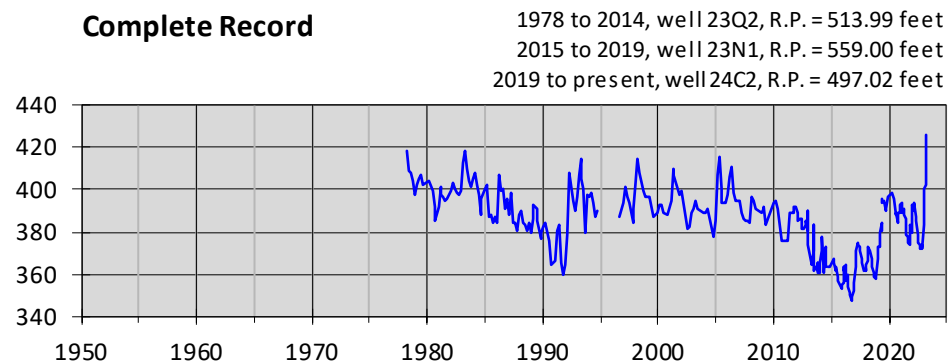
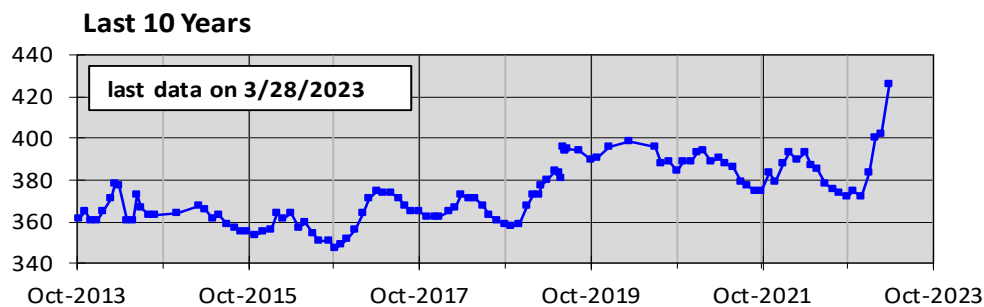


Well 04N19W25M01S (25M1)

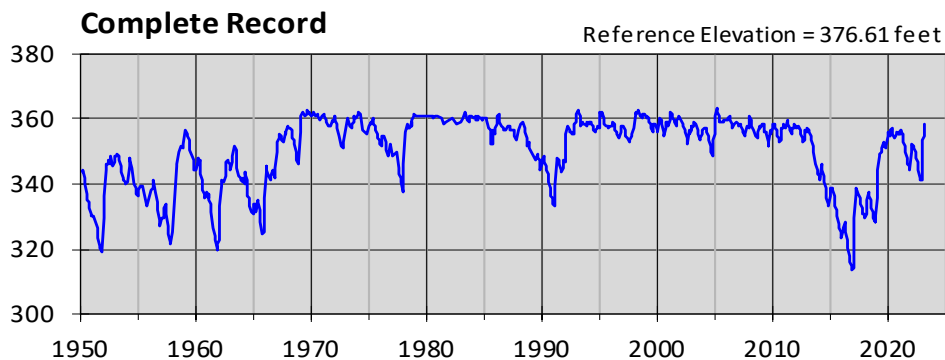
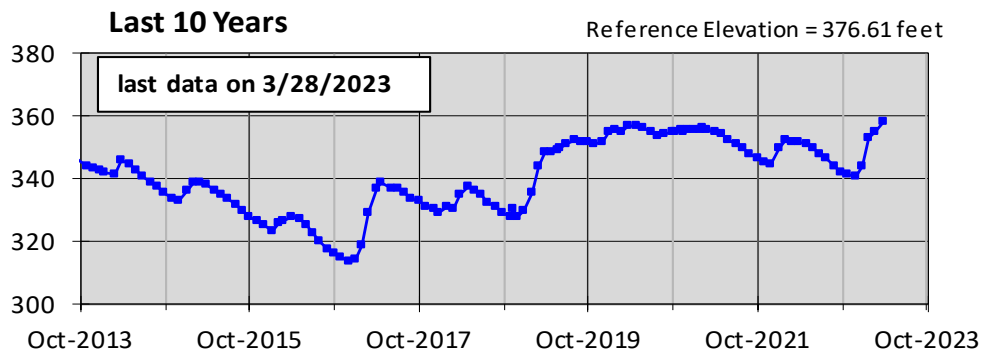


Groundwater Elevation Records – Fillmore Basin

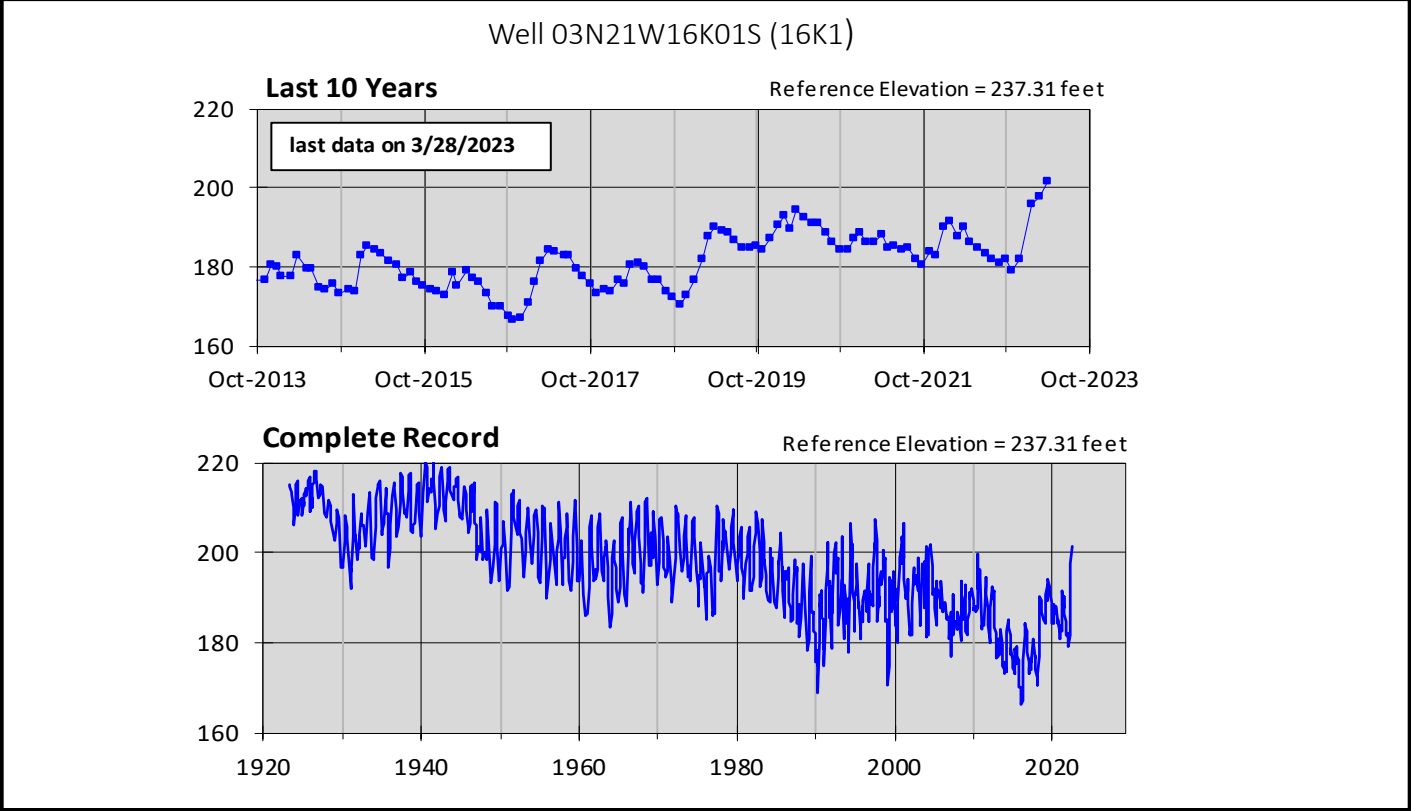
Well 04N20W24C02S (24C2)



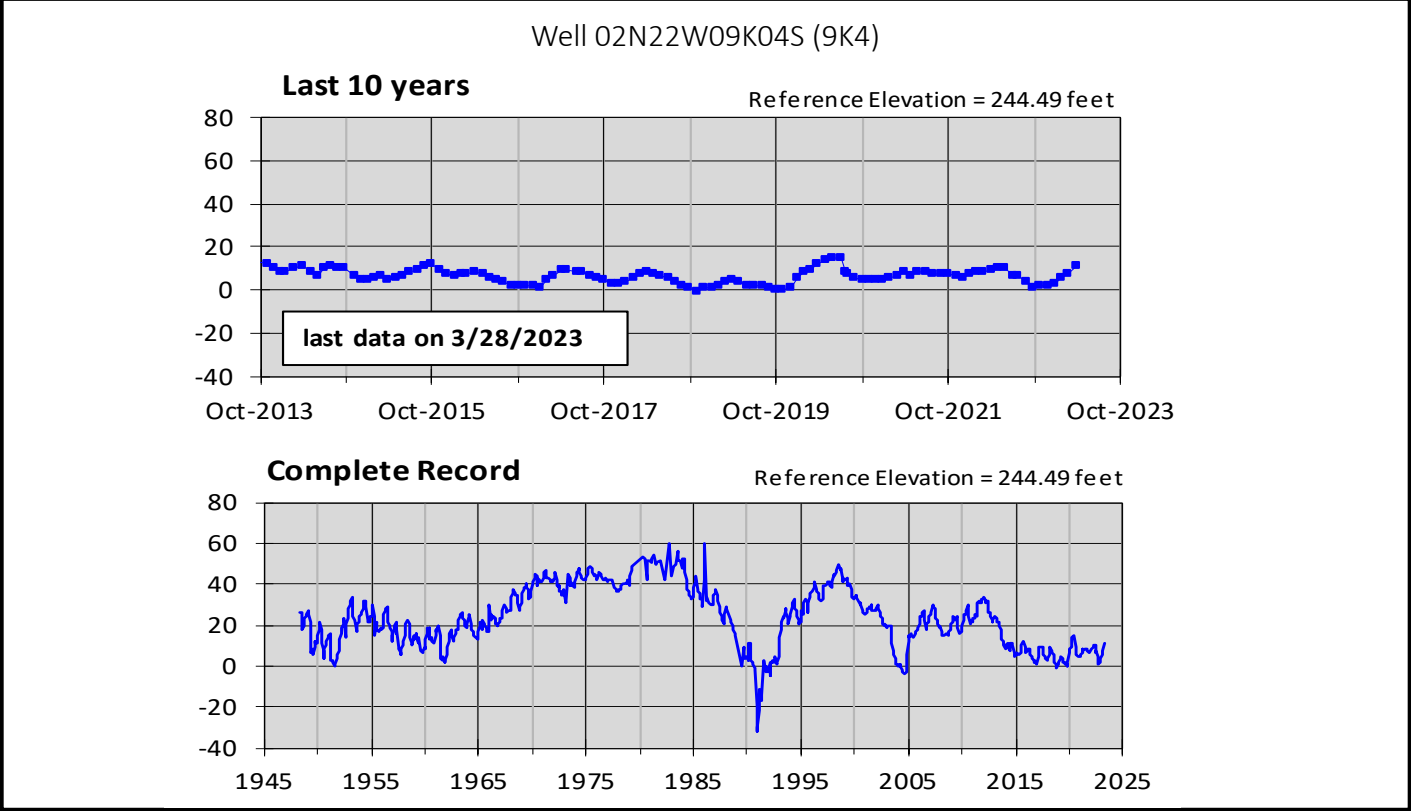
Well 03N20W02A01S (2A1)



Groundwater Elevation Records – Santa Paula Basin



Groundwater Elevation Records – Mound Basin

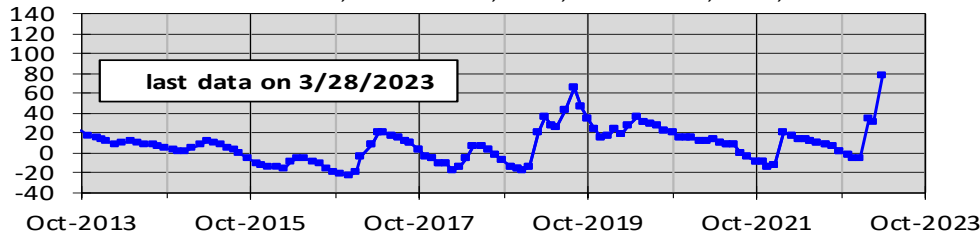


Groundwater Elevation Records – Oxnard Basin, Forebay

Wells 02N22W12R01S (12R1), 02N22W12R04S (12R4), and 02N21W07M04S (7M4)

Last 10 Years

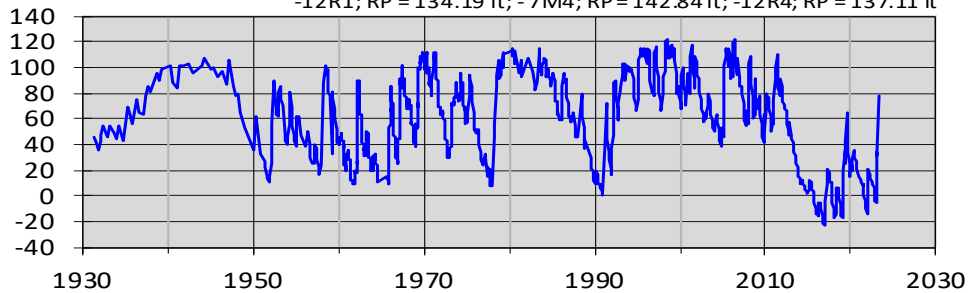
-12R1; RP = 134.19 ft; - 7M4; RP = 142.84 ft; -12R4; RP = 137.11 ft



Note: Well 12R1 was destroyed in 2014 and replaced with well 12R4. When well 12R4 goes dry at approximately 9 ft msl, well 7M4 is used to measure groundwater level.

Complete Record

-12R1; RP = 134.19 ft; - 7M4; RP = 142.84 ft; -12R4; RP = 137.11 ft

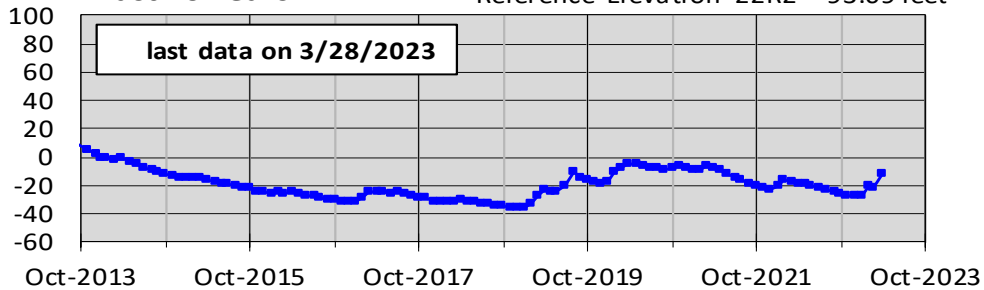


Note: Well 12R1 was destroyed in 2014 and replaced with well 12R4. When well 12R4 goes dry at approximately 9 ft msl, well 7M4 is used to measure groundwater level.

Well 02N22W22R02S (22R2)

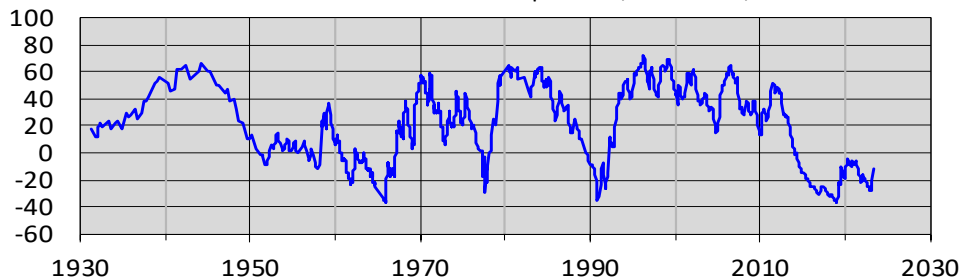
Last 10 Years

Reference Elevation -22R2 = 93.09 feet



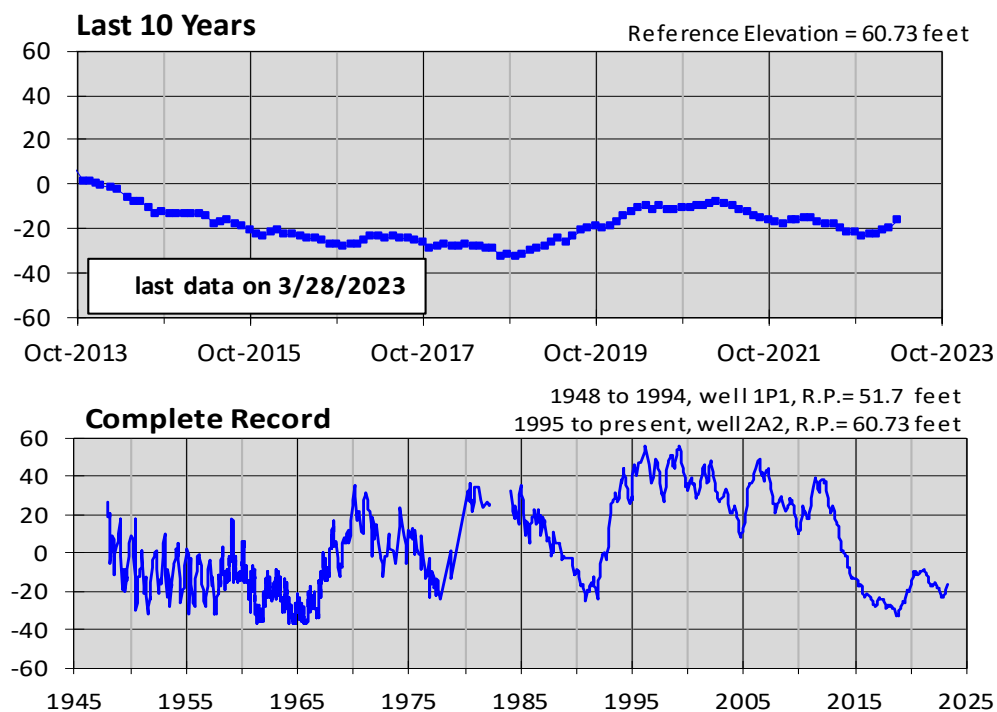
Complete Record

1931 to 2004, well -22R1, RP = 93.6 feet
2004 to present, well -22R2, RP = 93.09 feet

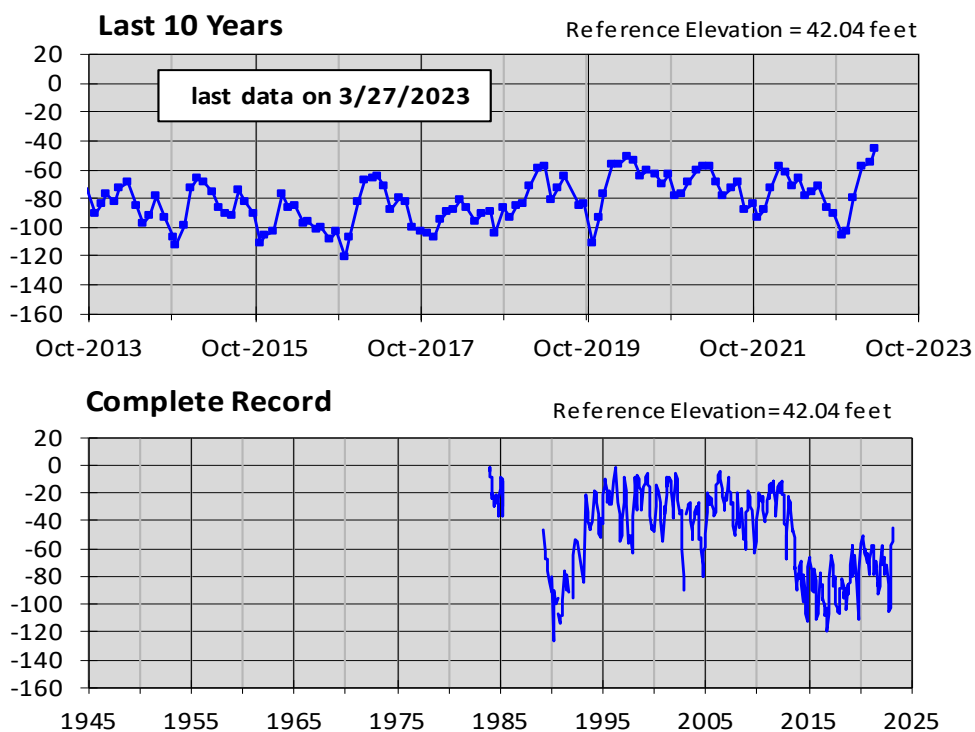


Groundwater Elevation Records – Oxnard Basin

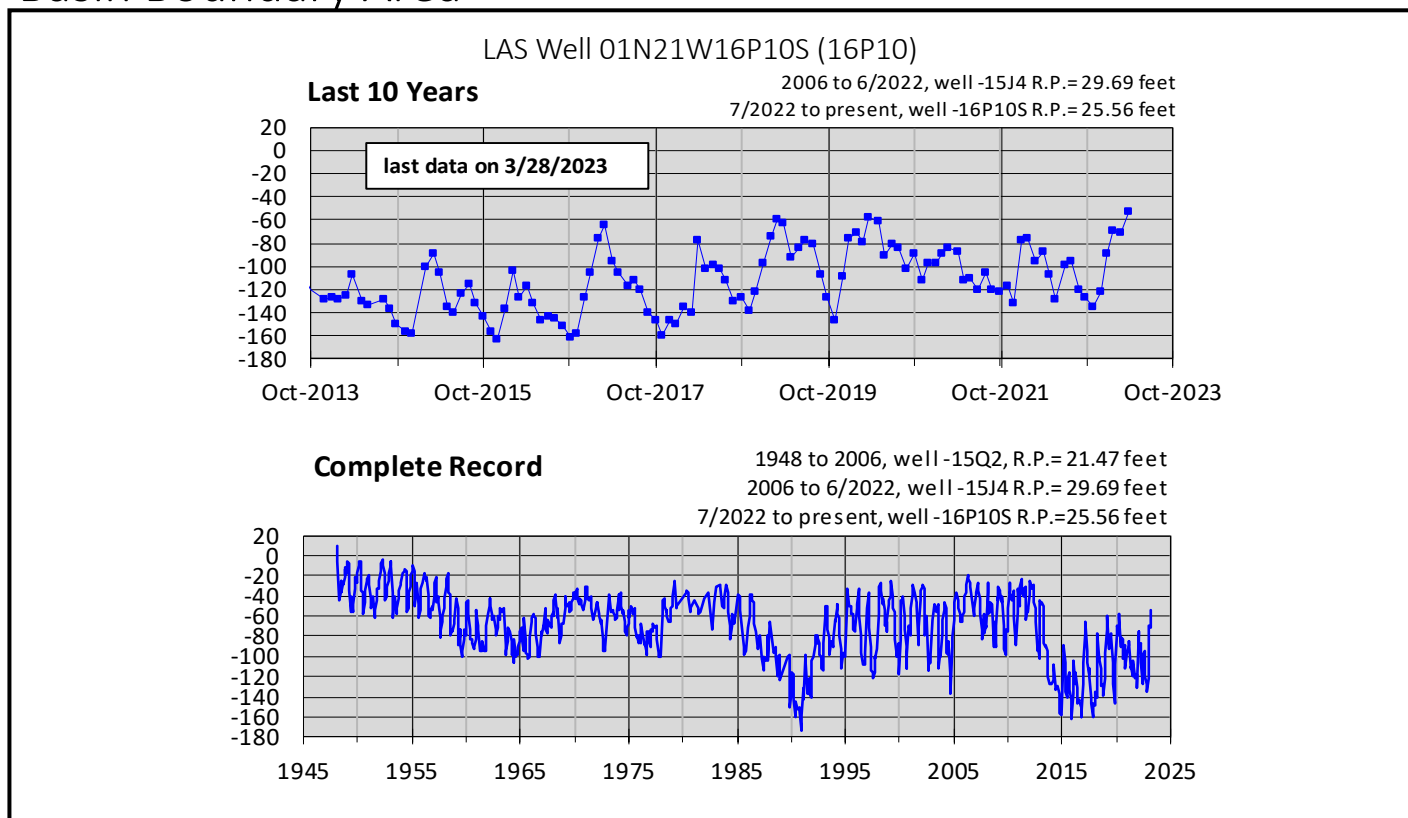
UAS Well 01N22W02A02S (2A2)



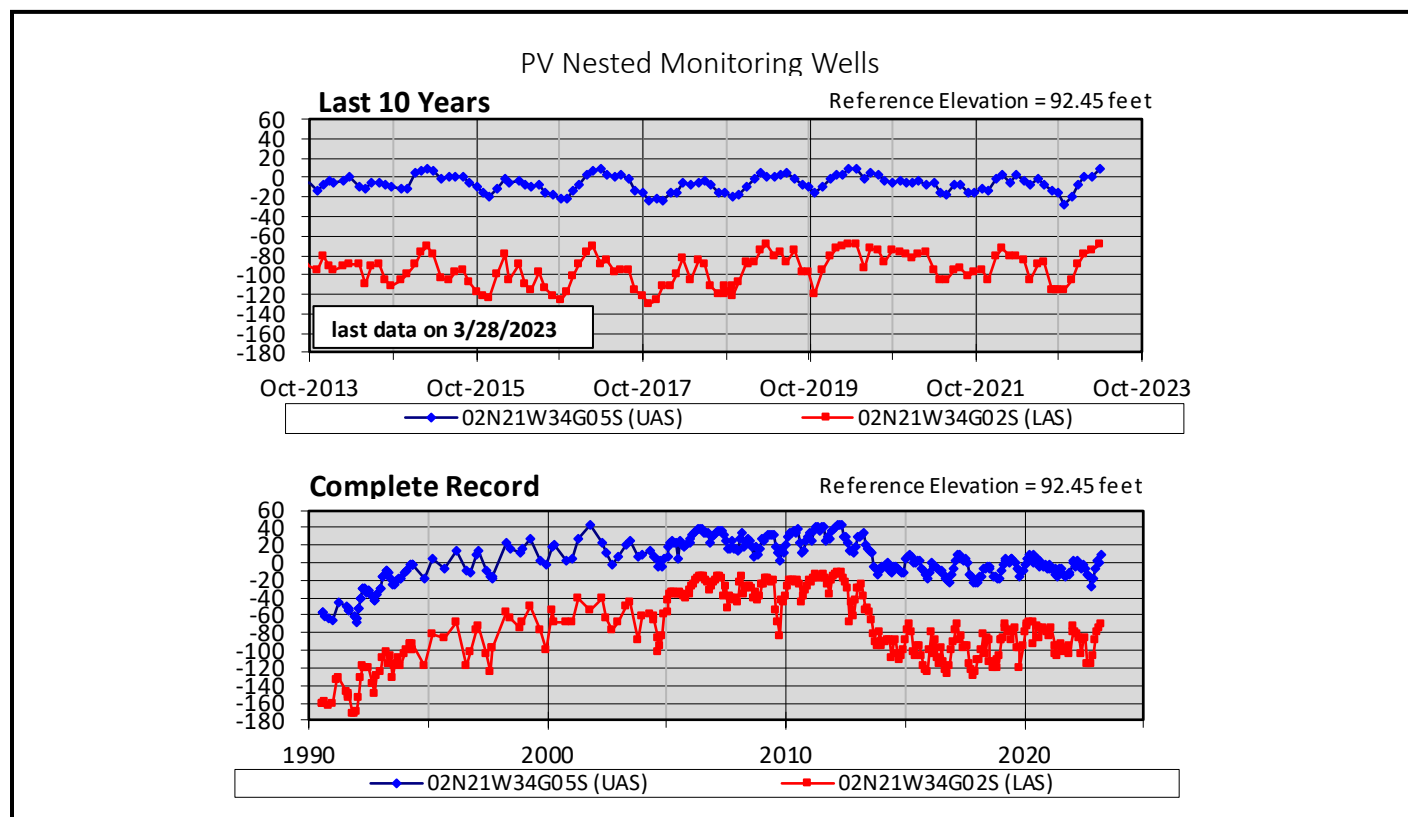
LAS well 01N22W13D03S (13D3)



Groundwater Elevation Records – eastern Oxnard/Pleasant Valley Basin Boundary Area

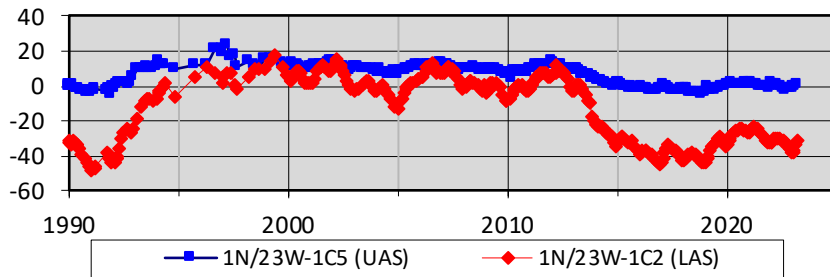


Groundwater Elevation Records – Pleasant Valley Basin

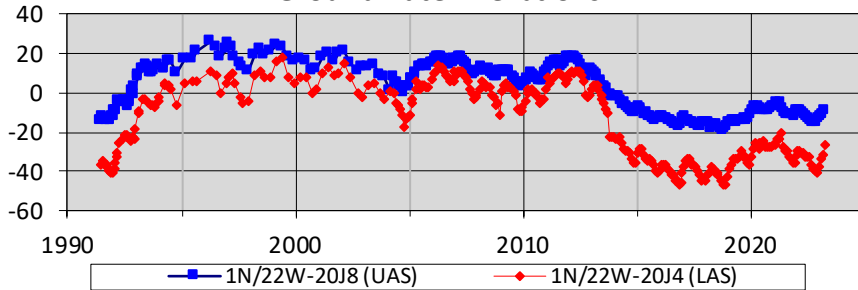


Groundwater Elevation Records – Coastal Nested Monitoring Wells

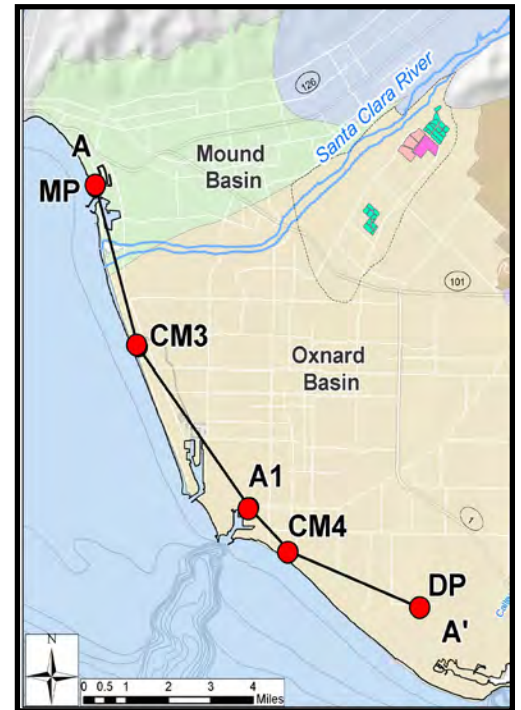
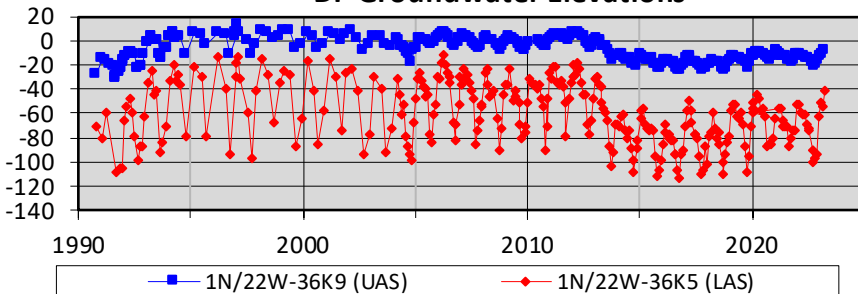
CM3 Groundwater Elevations



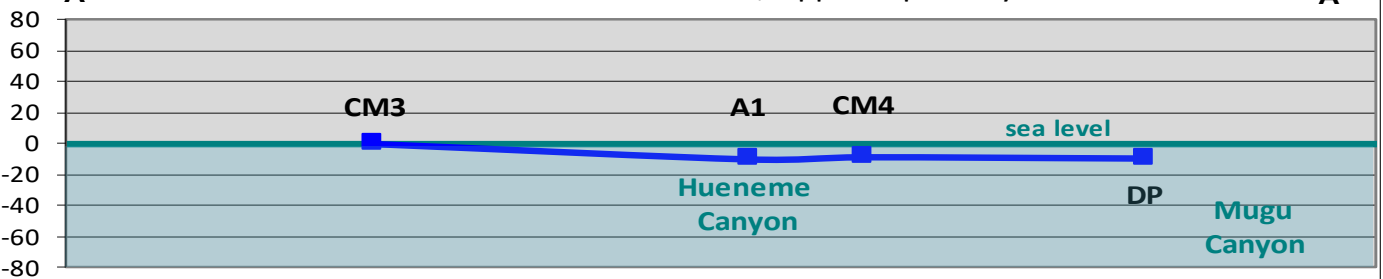
A1 Groundwater Elevations



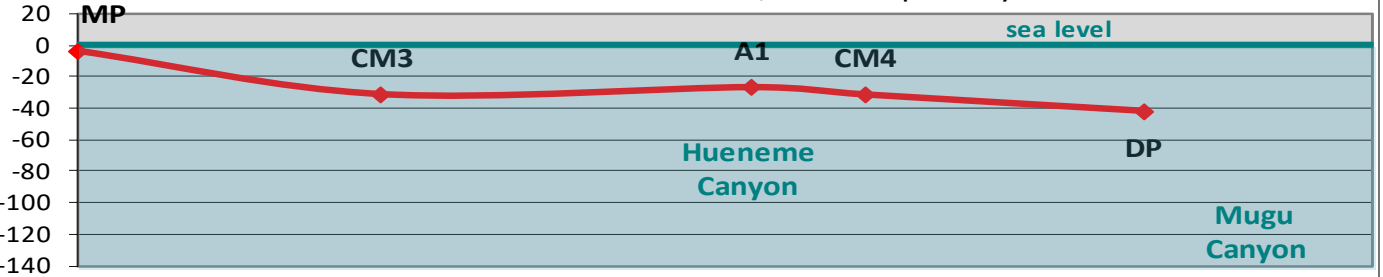
DP Groundwater Elevations



Coastal Groundwater Elevation Transect, Upper Aquifer System



Coastal Groundwater Elevation Transect, Lower Aquifer System



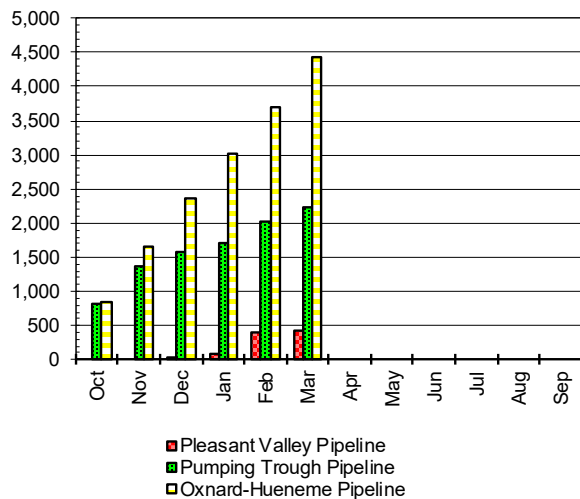
Monthly Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2022/23)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PV Pipeline (surface water)	0.0	0.0	7.9	84.3	312.8	18.9						
PV Pipeline (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total to Pleasant Valley Pipeline	0.0	0.0	7.9	84.3	312.8	18.9						
PTP (surface water)	0.0	0.0	64.5	143.7	207.7	186.7						
PTP (PTP 1-5)	706.9	500.4	145.6	0.0	117.3	9.1						
PTP (OH-12/13)	116.5	32.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total PTP	823.4	532.5	210.1	143.7	325.0	195.8						
C-customers (surface water)	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Saticoy Well Field (groundwater)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
O-H Pipeline (groundwater)	835.8	818.2	713.2	643.3	700.3	730.8						
Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP, PV, c-cust)	0.0	0.0	72.4	228.0	520.5	205.6						
Total Groundwater Delivery (PTP, OH, Sat)	1,659.2	1,350.7	858.8	643.3	817.6	739.9						
Total Delivery (surface water, groundwater)	1,659.2	1,350.7	931.2	871.3	1,338.1	945.5						

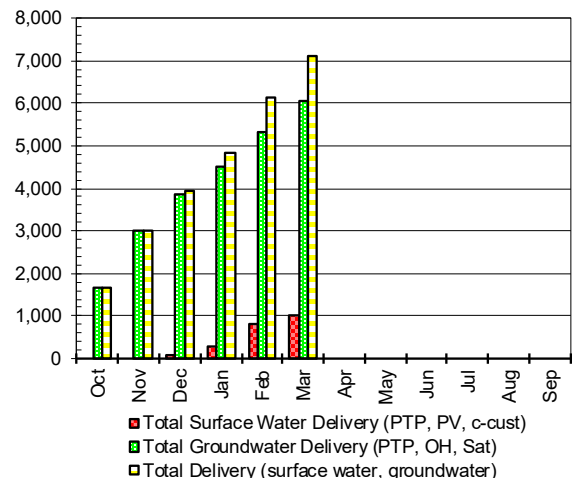
Cumulative Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2022/23)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PV Pipeline (surface water)	0.0	0.0	7.9	92.2	405.0	423.9						
PV Pipeline (saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total to Pleasant Valley Pipeline	0.0	0.0	7.9	92.2	405.0	423.9						
PTP (surface water)	0.0	0.0	64.5	208.2	415.9	602.6						
PTP (PTP 1-5)	706.9	1,207.3	1,352.9	1,352.9	1,470.2	1,479.3						
PTP (OH-12/13)	116.5	148.6	148.6	148.6	148.6	148.6						
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total PTP	823.4	1,355.9	1,566.0	1,709.7	2,034.7	2,230.5						
C-customers (surface water)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Saticoy Well Field (groundwater)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
O-H Pipeline (groundwater)	835.8	1,654.0	2,367.2	3,010.5	3,710.8	4,441.6						
Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP, PV, c-cust)	0.0	0.0	72.4	300.4	820.9	1,026.5						
Total Groundwater Delivery (PTP, OH, Sat)	1,659.2	3,009.9	3,868.7	4,512.0	5,329.6	6,069.5						
Total Delivery (surface water, groundwater)	1,659.2	3,009.9	3,941.1	4,812.4	6,150.5	7,096.0						

Cumulative deliveries by system



Cumulative deliveries by source/type



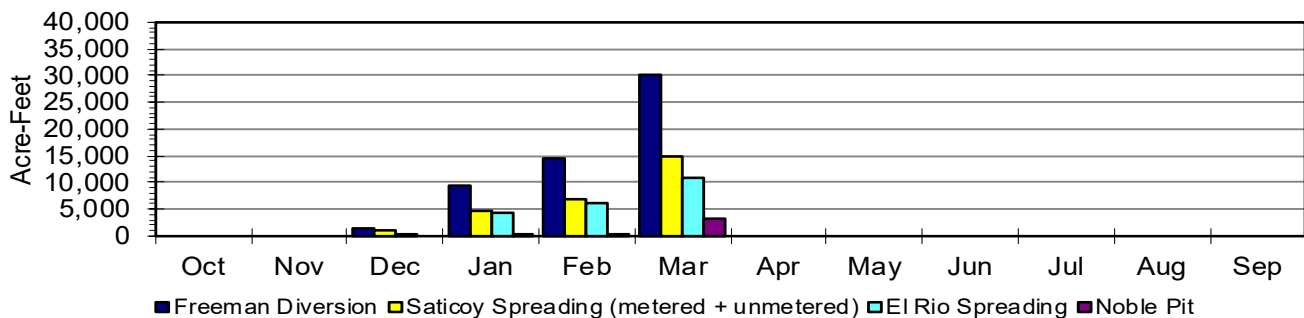
Monthly diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2022/23, in acre-feet

Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading (metered + unmetered)	El Rio Spreading	Rose and Noble Pits	LBMWC Water Use
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	1,360	900	387	0	1
Jan	0	7,937	3,775	3,751	183	NA
Feb	0	5,268	2,347	2,127	274	NA
Mar	0	15,517	7,754	4,751	2,806	NA
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						

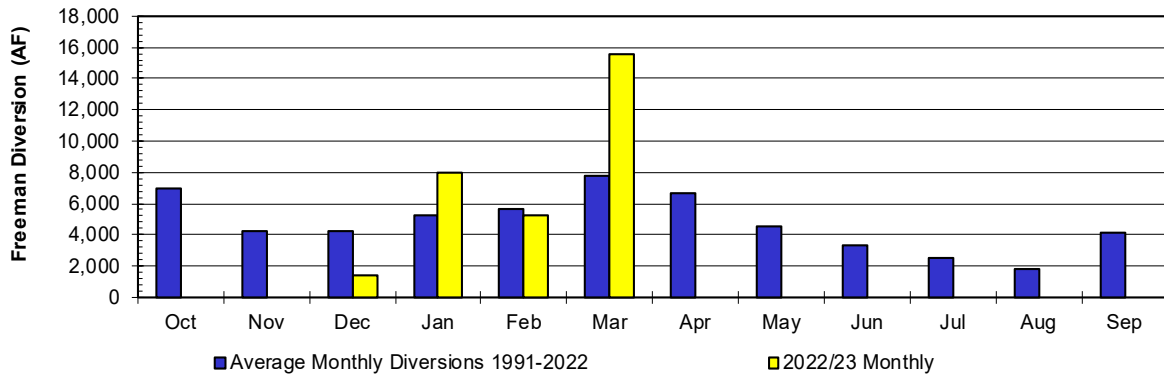
Cumulative diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2022/23, in acre-feet

Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading (metered + unmetered)	El Rio Spreading	Rose and Noble Pits	LBMWC Water Use
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	1,360	900	387	0	1
Jan	0	9,297	4,675	4,138	183	NA
Feb	0	14,565	7,022	6,265	457	NA
Mar	0	30,082	14,776	11,016	3,263	NA
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						

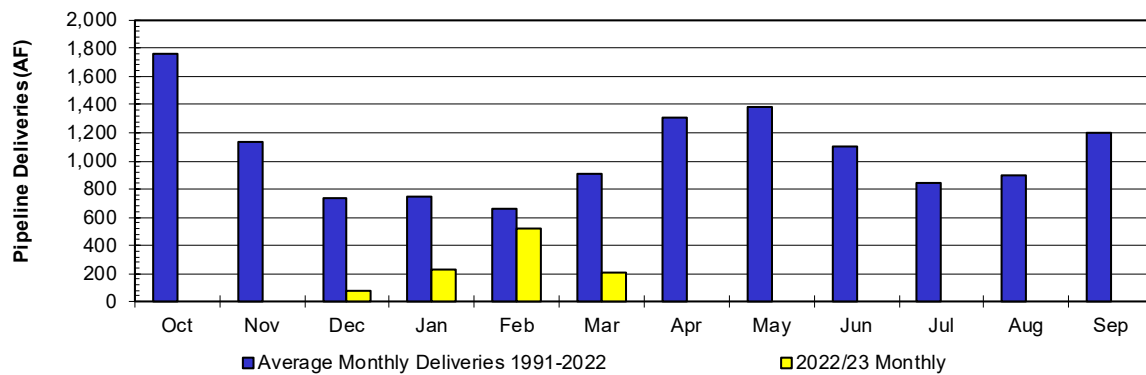
Cumulative diversion at Freeman, and distribution to recharge facilities



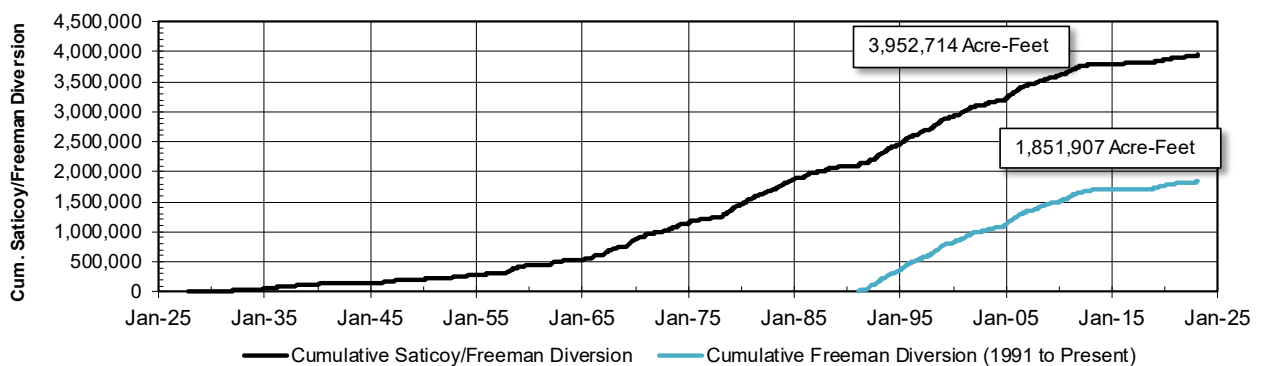
Monthly 2022/23 diversion at Freeman, compared to average monthly diversions (1991-2022)



Monthly 2022/23 pipeline deliveries (surface water deliveries), compared to average monthly pipeline deliveries (1991-2022)

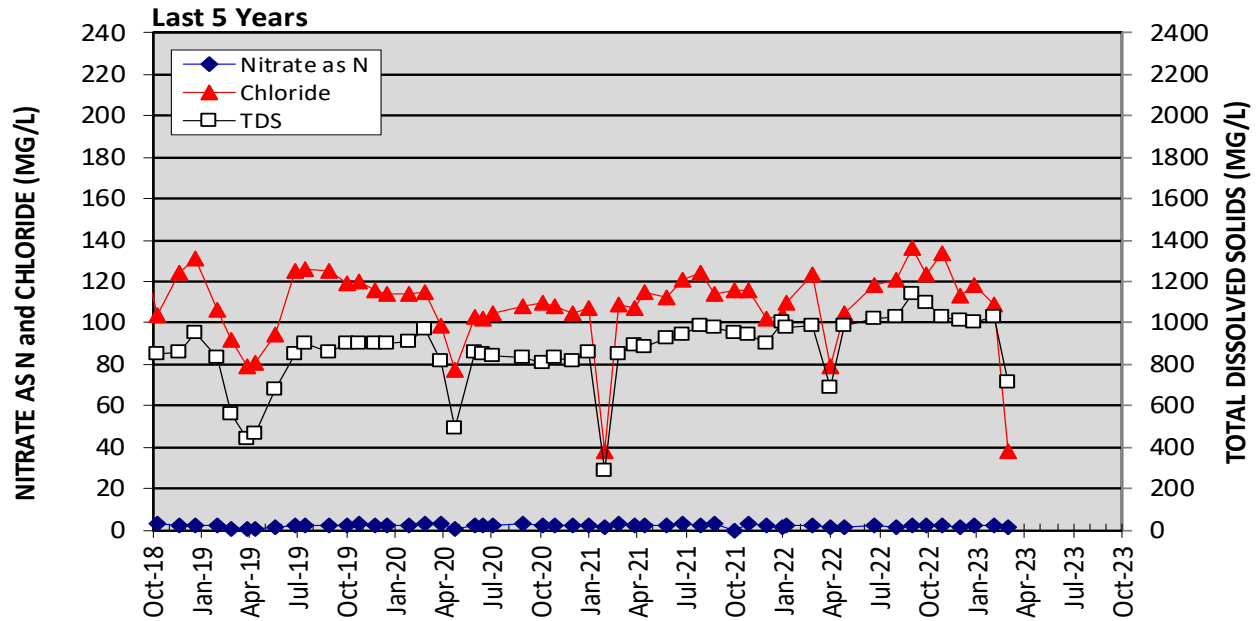


Cumulative diversion at Saticoy and Freeman Diversion, in acre-feet

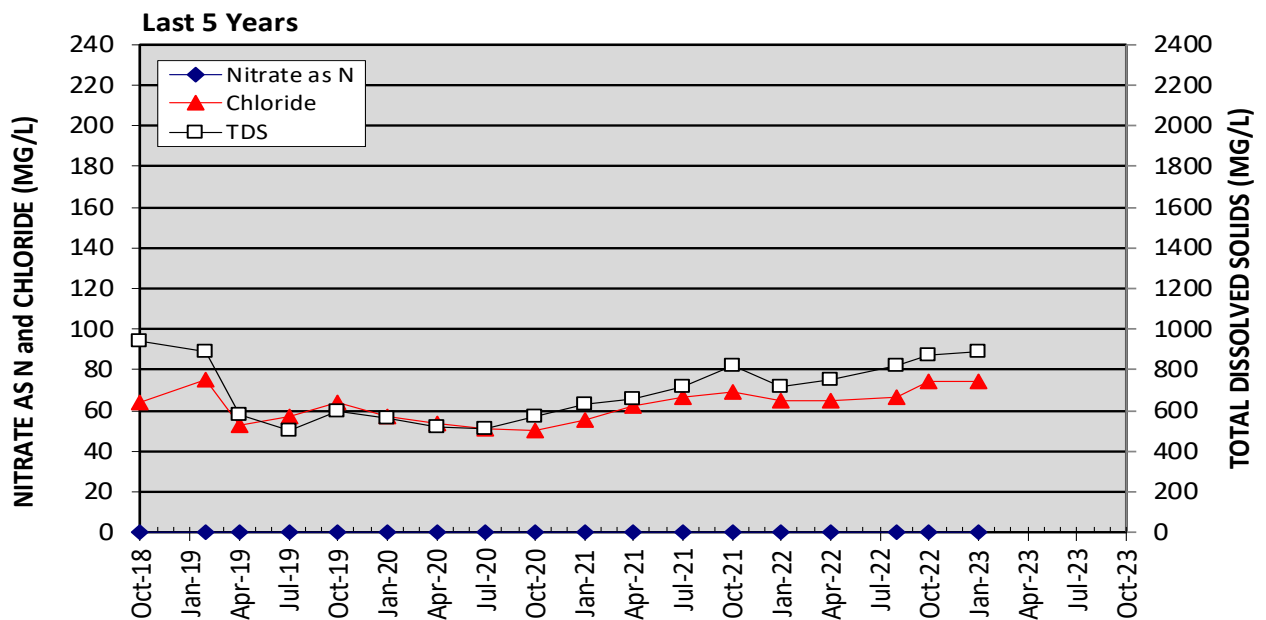


Water Quality

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

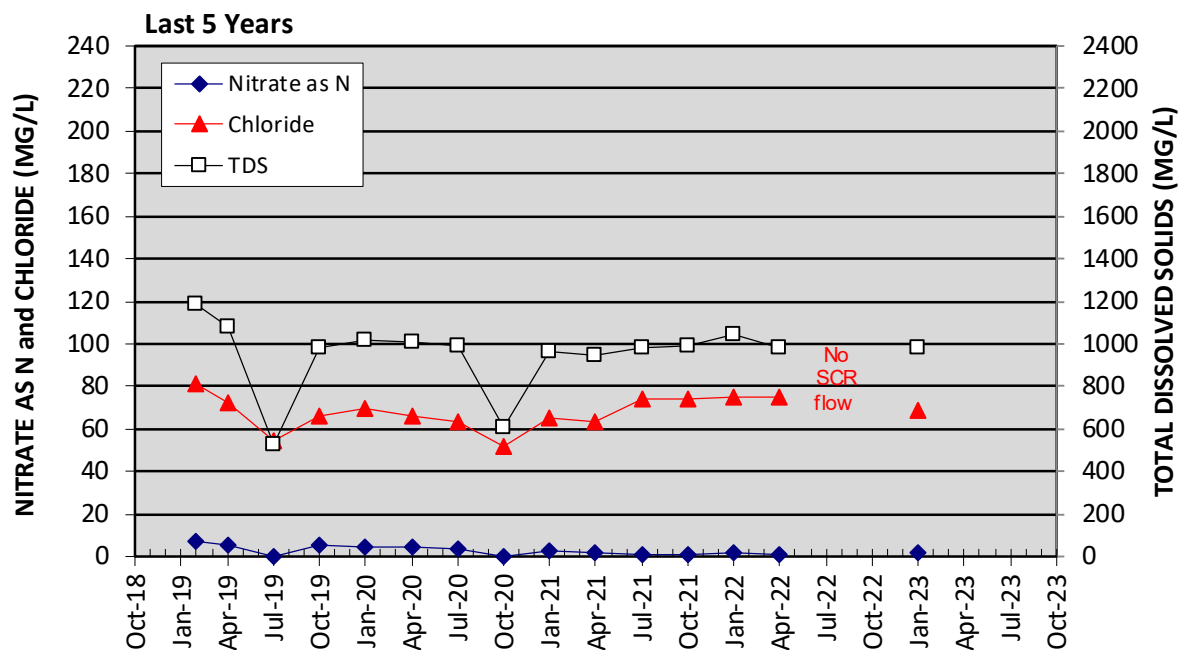


Piru Creek water quality below Santa Felicia Dam

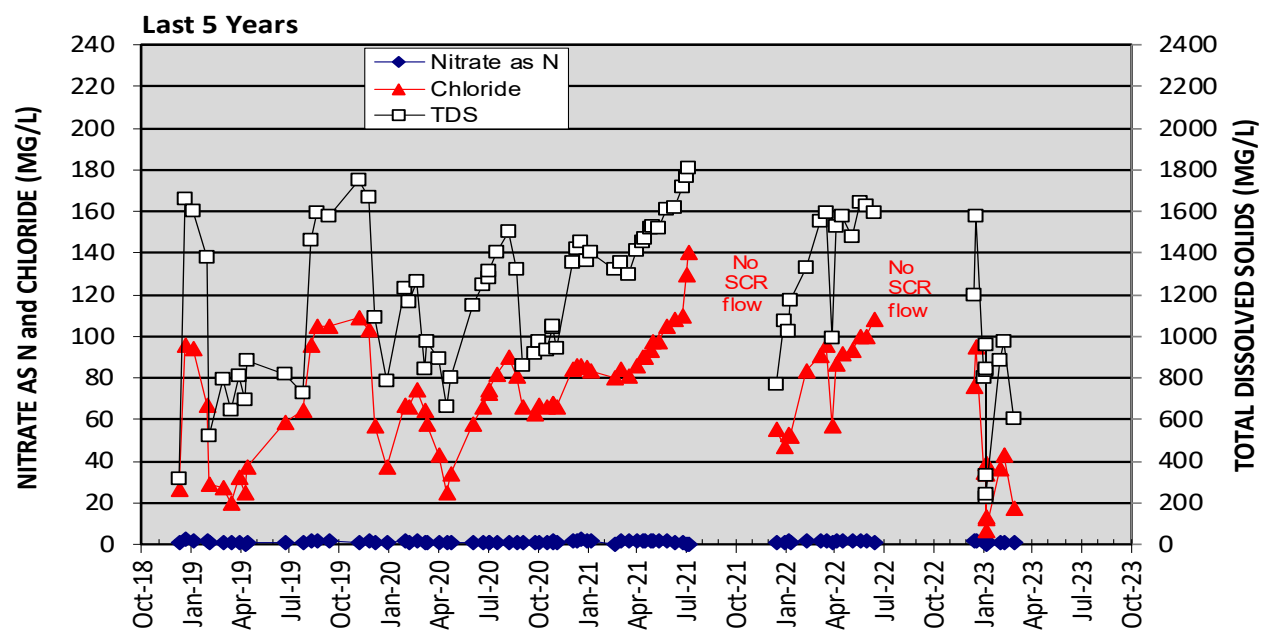


Water Quality

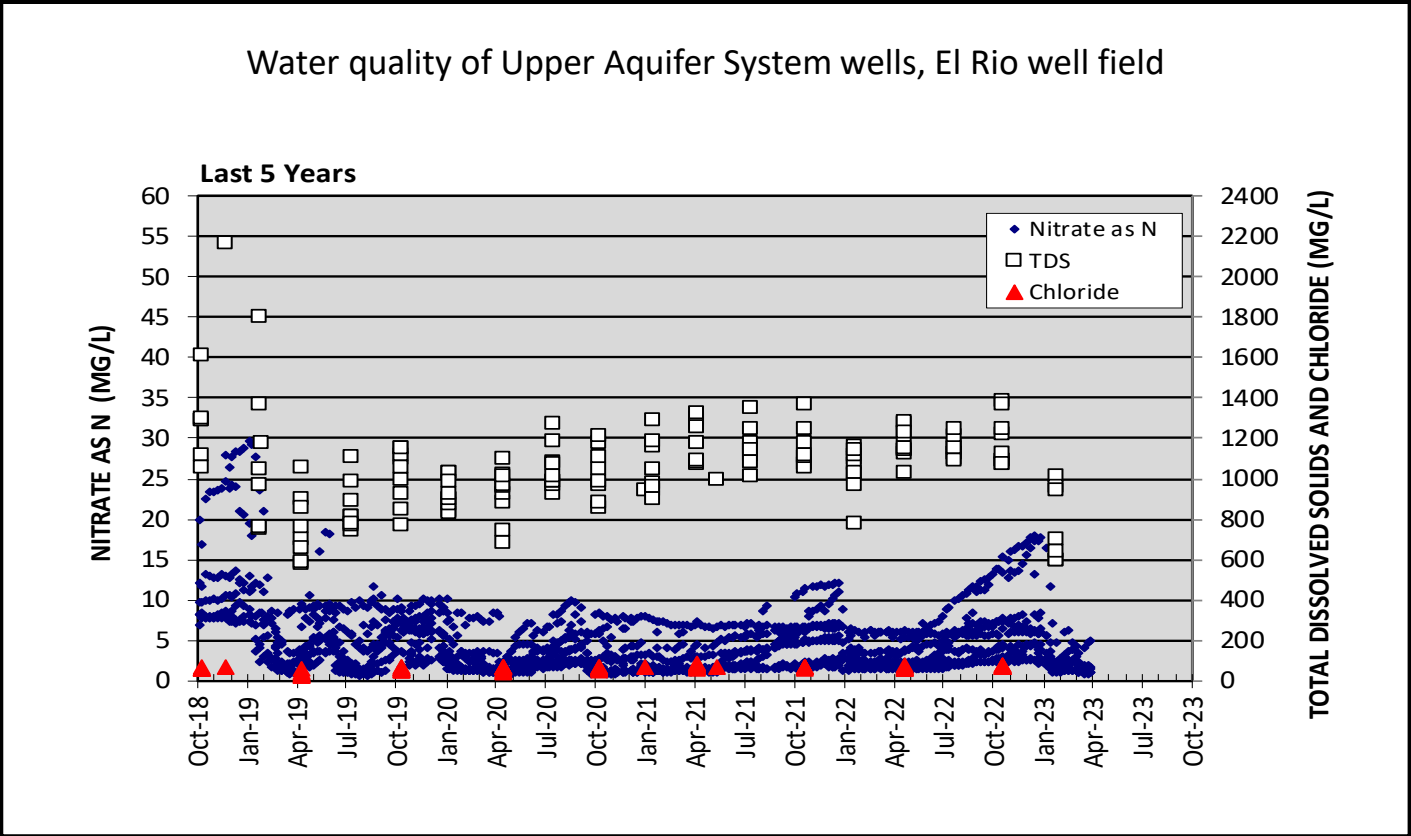
Santa Clara River water quality near Fillmore Fish Hatchery

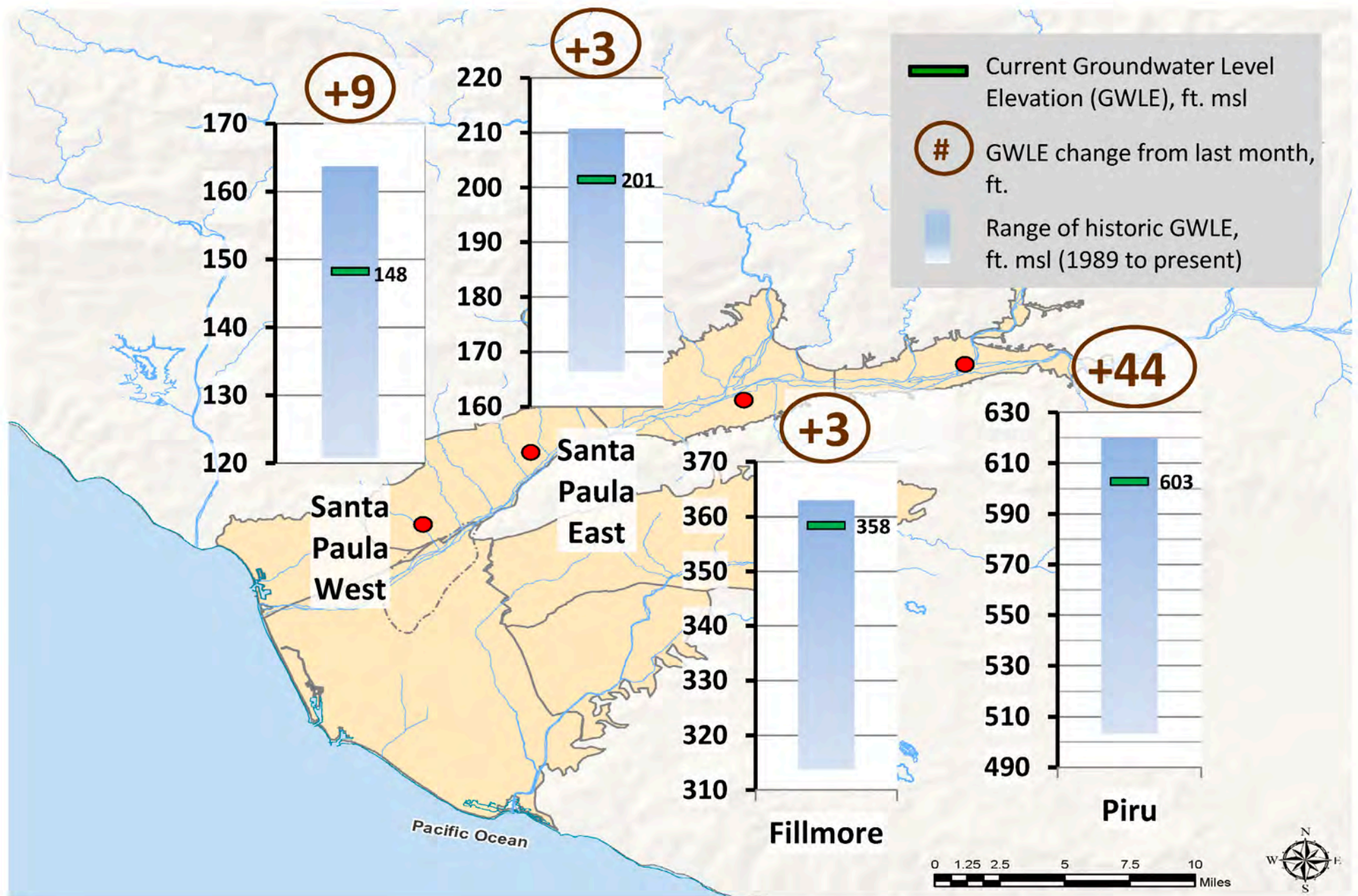


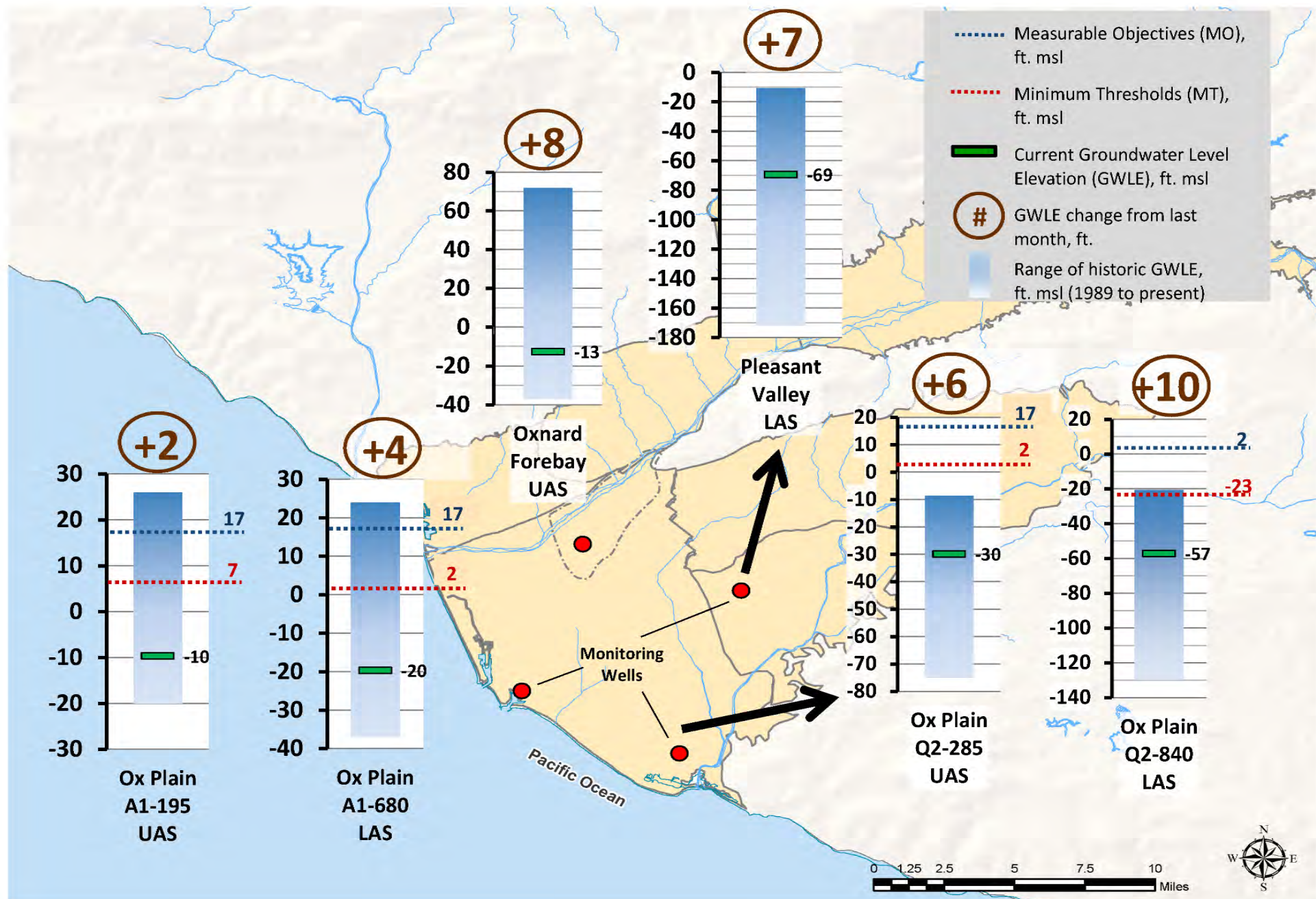
Santa Clara River water quality at Freeman Diversion



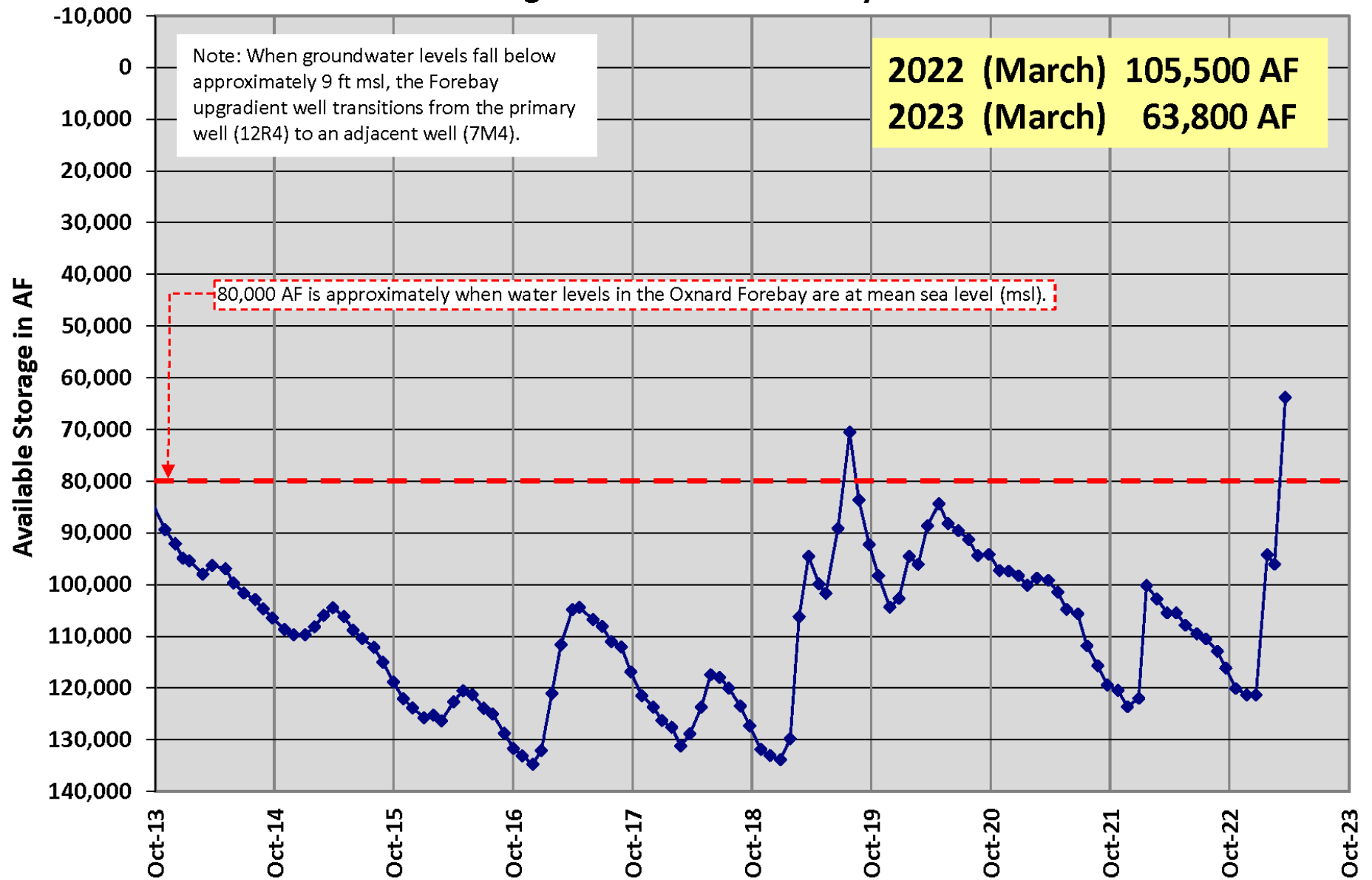
Water Quality

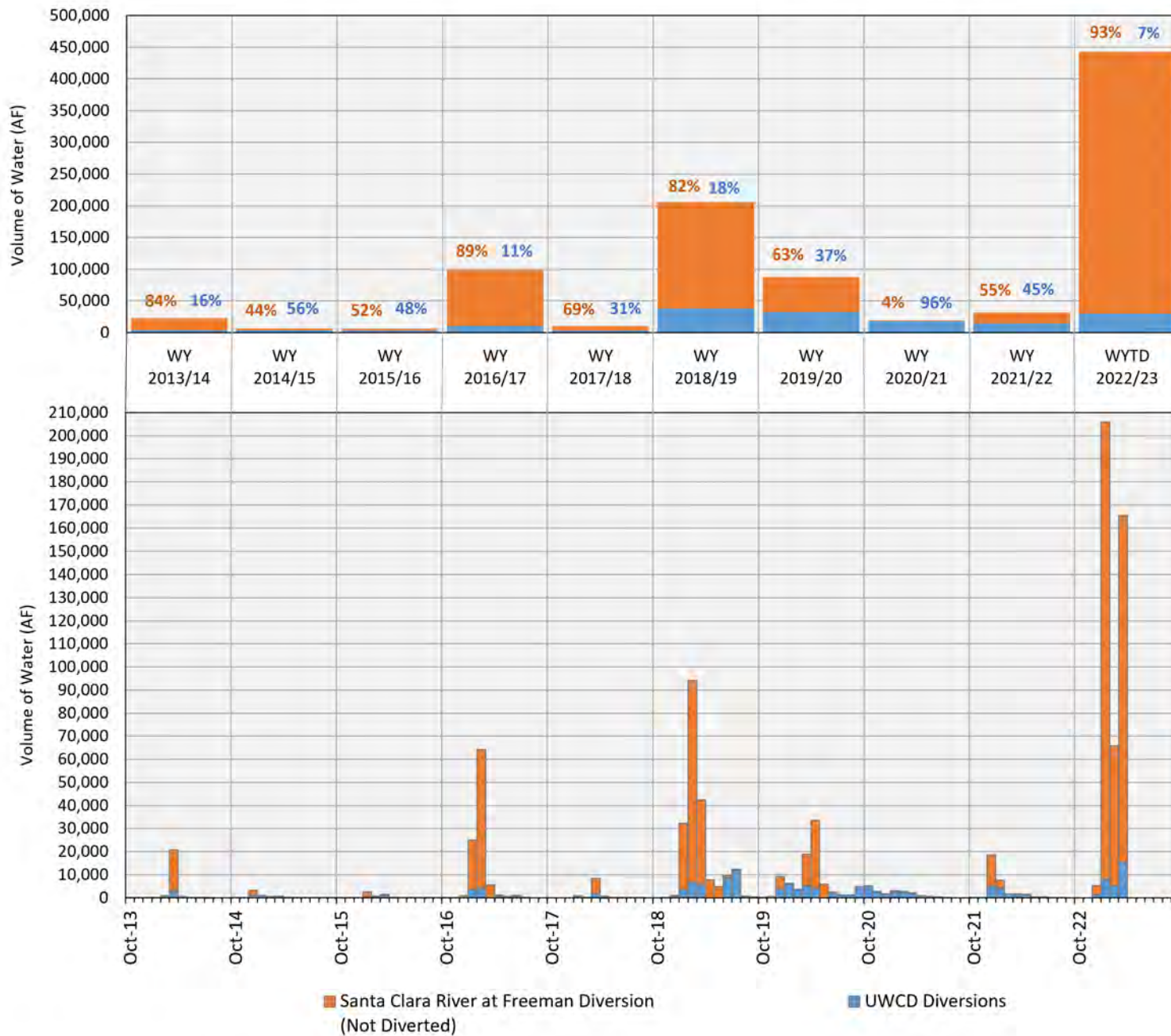






Available Storage in the Oxnard Forebay - Last 10 Years





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



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer
Daryl Smith, Controller

Date: March 30, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.C Monthly Investment Report (February 28, 2023)
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will review and discuss the most current investment report for February 28, 2023, that is enclosed.

Discussion:

Informational purposes.

Fiscal Impact:

As shown.

Attachment:

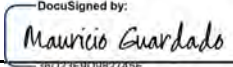
Combined Investment Report

United Water Conservation District
Monthly Investment Report
February 28, 2023

<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	2,024,392	1	3.89%
Citizens Business Bank	4,520,468	1	8.68%
US Bank - 2020 COP Bond Balance	10,268,330	1	19.72%
Petty Cash	4,400	1	0.01%
County Treasury	1,712	1	0.00%
LAIF Investments	35,241,746	1	67.68%
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Securities	52,061,048		100.00%
 Investment Portfolio w/o Trustee Held Funds	 52,061,048		
Trustee Held Funds	-		
Total Funds	52,061,048		

Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)	Beginning Balance	Deposits (Disbursements)	Ending Balance
	30,241,747	5,000,000	35,241,747
	Interest	Interest	
	Earned YTD	Received YTD	Qtrly Yield
	266,445	323,826	2.07%

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:

 38023F1D082743E
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

3/30/2023

Date Certified

DocuSigned by:

 70D9ECFCF0B048E
Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

3/27/2023

Date Certified

DocuSigned by:

 38023F1D082743E
Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer

3/27/2023

Date Certified

<i>United Water Conservation District</i>			
<i>Cash Position</i>			
February 28, 2023			
Fund	Total	Composition	Restrictions/Designations
General/Water Conservation Fund:			Revenue collected for district operations
General/Water Conservation	16,060,251	1,499,248	Includes General, Rec & Ranger, Water Conservation
		4,962,000	Reserved for legal expenditures
		6,184,000	Designated for replacement, capital improvements, and environmental projects
		3,415,003	Supplemental Water Purchase Fund
General CIP Funds	10,904,979	10,904,979	Appropriated for capital projects
2020 COP Bond Funds	6,397,065	6,397,065	Reserved for CIP Projects
Special Revenue Funds:			Revenue collected for a special purpose
State Water Project Funds	7,032,584	7,032,584	Procurement of water/rights from state water project
Enterprise Funds:			Restricted to fund usage
Freeman Fund	1,567,527	1,567,527	Operations, Debt Service and Capital Projects
		-	Designated for replacement and capital improvements
		-	Reserved for legal expenditures
Freeman CIP Fund	1,851,247	1,851,247	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Fund	7,397,879	7,397,879	Delivery of water to OH customers
OH CIP Fund	(2,545,905)	(2,545,905)	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Well Replacement Fund	600,706	600,706	Well replacement fund
PV Pipeline Fund	575,109	575,109	Delivery of water to PV customers
PV CIP Fund	243,578	243,578	Appropriated for capital projects
PT Pipeline Fund	971,741	971,741	Delivery of water to PTP customers
PT CIP Fund	1,004,287	1,004,287	Appropriated for capital projects
Total District Cash & Investments	52,061,048	52,061,048	



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: March 30, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this staff report from the Operations and Maintenance department regarding its activities for the month of March.

1. Water Releases, Diversions

- Lake Piru rose 16.1 feet in March to 82,456 acre-feet (AF) of storage.
- 15,517 AF of water was diverted by the Freeman Diversion facility in March.
- 7754 AF of water was diverted to the Saticoy recharge basins in March (metered plus unmetered).
- 4751 AF of surface water was delivered to the El Rio recharge basins in March.
- 186.7 AF of surface water was delivered to the PTP system in March.
- 18.9 AF of surface water was delivered to Pleasant Valley County Water District in March.

2. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
 - On April 1, 2023, the lake level was 1055 and spilling via the spillway.
 - Habitat and migration water releases from Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) were maintained between 20-200 cubic feet per second (cfs), for the month of March, as per the Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan for Lower Piru Creek.
 - District staff continues cleanup efforts associated with January 9, 2023 storm activities.
 - Lake Piru reached 100% capacity and began spilling on March 16, 2023, staff is continually monitoring flows and potential safety concerns.
-

Agenda Item: 4.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

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

- Flows at the Freeman Diversion averaged 253 cfs for the month of March, with 365 cfs of surface water being diverted on April 1, 2023.
- Local storm activities produced 8.1 inches of rain (El Rio rain gauge) in March. District staff operated the Freeman Diversion throughout the month including many nights of labor intensive operations, harvesting runoff, recharging basins, and delivering surface water to PTP and PV pipelines.
- Tom's Mobile Welding repaired and replaced Freeman fish wiper gearbox's.
- March 29-31, 2023, staff mobilized a crane, skid-steer, and vacuum truck removing excessive sediment within Freeman facilities.
- Static water levels (distance of water from the well pad to the water table):

	2023	2022	2021
Saticoy	23'	101'	119'
El Rio	99.5'	132.2'	117.7'
PTP	82'-105'	113'- 152'	100'-132'

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

- March 24, 2023, staff removed and installed a new exhaust fan for the OH Booster Plant Disinfection facility.
- March 30, 2023, Contractor Bloise Construction removed cement lining and installed replacement coating for OH Booster Plant Gas Engine #4 leaking manifold.
- State Water Resource Control Board Annual Consumer Confidence report was completed.

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

- PVCWD received United's surface water supply, surface supply from Conejo Creek Project and received some highly treated recycled water from the City of Oxnard's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF).
- Staff delivered the Randall spray rig to PV Reservoir and applied herbicide.

- **Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)**

- During the month of March, the PTP system demand was met with both PTP wells and surface water.

Agenda Item: 4.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

- **Instrumentation**

- Staff upgraded the Dos Diego well programable logic controller, radio/antenna, and manifold flush valve.
- Staff programmed and configured the Freeman Diversion upgraded Panel View.
- Instrumentation staff replaced two recessed lighting fixtures at Lombard headquarters.

- **Lake Piru Water System**

- All chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the drinking water system were within proper ranges for the month of March.
- The Piru Water Treatment Filtration plant is in service, lake turbidity levels remain at acceptable range for potable water production despite substantial rainfall runoff, and lake debris removal efforts.
- 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

- The Iron and Manganese grant funded project is progressing well at El Rio Booster Plant, projected completion date June 30, 2023.

4. Other Operations and Maintenance Activities

- The Santa Felicia Dam Emergency Action Plan sirens located in Piru were exercised on March 3, 2023.
 - Facilitated tours at Santa Felicia Dam, Freeman Diversion, and Iron and Manganese facilities.
 - OH Well #2 and Saticoy Well #2 removed and delivered to Demaria Electric for motor reconditioning.
 - 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.
-

Agenda Item: 4.1 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

- Weed abatement continued throughout the District.

5. Safety and Training

- During the month of March, approximately 3100 hours of O & M department work were performed with no reportable accidents.
- The online Target Safety assignment for March was “Water Industry Back Injury Prevention.” One Safety Meeting was conducted at the District’s Headquarters, covering Valley Fever. Three Safety Videos were shown, entitled *Study shows Valley Fever could spike in California* by ABC 30 Action News, *What is Valley Fever? Cases Increase on the Central Coast* by KSBW Action News 8, and *‘The Last of Us’ Deadly Fungal Infection ‘Valley Fever’ Kills 1 in 100* by The Daily Mail. The training provided a refresher on the potential exposure to Valley Fever along with preventative and mitigation measures as the County of Ventura was identified as an endemic region by the State of California.
- *Back Injury Prevention* was also briefed to staff at the safety meeting. 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.

Attachment: Operations Log for March

OPERATIONS LOG v 10/7/21

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	Cl2
	Ft.	A/F	Acres	Inches	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Kw	Inches	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	Misc CFSI	Weir CFS	Av. CFS	Av. CFS	A/F	A/F	A/F	%	A/F	A/F	A/F	Lbs.
A/F*		62949			55,964	7,668		35.07	277,525	14,565	8,906	24,079		6,265	7516		274	0.0	782	426	376		0.0	0	3,858	31,366
3/1/23	1039.23	64023	1077.00	0.075	749	204.99	0	1.15	3100	252	88.6	386.6	2373	81.26	9	161.15	44.28	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	21.7	217
3/2/23	1039.89	64736	1083.00	0.083	566	204.33	0	0.02	1654	355	90.1	0	1209.1	76.99	66	208.35	19.15	0.0	6.8	6.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	20.9	180
3/3/23	1040.31	65191	1087.00	0.091	436	204.44	0	0.00	1342	360	89.3	0	892.1	85.73	46	222.14	0.19	0.0	13.3	12.9	0.4	0.00	0.0	0.0	20.5	170
3/4/23	1040.72	65637	1090.00	0.076	341	114	0	0.03	1259	360	88.8	0	810.9	88.97	42	224.53	0.05	0.0	8.7	8.7	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	20.3	169
3/5/23	1041.38	66359	1096.00	0.050	424	58	0	0.04	1167	358	88.2	0	721.5	91.2	40	226.6	21.87	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	20.2	179
3/6/23	1041.85	66875	1100.00	0.049	290	28	0	0.16	1134	360	87.7	0	687	88.34	40	226.66	21.67	0.0	8.9	9.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	23.6	196
3/7/23	1042.47	67588	1105.00	0.069	384	22.51	0	0.00	1058	362	88.7	0	607.8	91.2	42	225.17	31.78	0.0	6.8	7.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	22.9	207
3/8/23	1043.11	68268	1111.00	0.076	368	22.51	0	0.00	1011	364	91.5	0	555.6	90.39	33	231.78	139	0.0	18.1	17.8	0.3	0.00	0.0	0.0	22.0	190
3/9/23	1043.78	69014	1116.00	0.068	401	22.55	0	0.00	971	364	91.5	0	515.8	88.83	26	234.73	129.99	0.0	28.1	10.0	18.1	0.03	0.0	0.0	22.6	197
3/10/23	1044.51	69842	1122.00	0.094	443	22.61	0	0.34	2387	213	90.2	895.1	1188.6	101.02	-71	182.39	88.9	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	17.8	130
3/11/23	1045.94	71444	1134.00	0.044	833	22.53	0	1.08	3690	153	90.3	1191.8	2255.2	47.41	63	41.76	3.46	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.00	0.0	0.0	20.7	206
3/12/23	1047.92	73704	1150.00	0.036	1165	22.67	0	0.06	2339	344	91.3	40	1863.8	85.33	37	220.58	85.75	0.0	1.6	1.5	0.1	0.00	0.0	0.0	19.5	169
3/13/23	1050.13	76267	1161.00	0.069	1364	68	0	0.00	1608	360	90.4	0	1158.1	97.21	36	225.16	87.74	0.0	2.2	2.0	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.0	21.5	197
3/14/23	1051.29	77628	1178.00	0.064	894	205.11	0	0.02	2756	197	76.9	908	1573.6	95.2	-48	149.74	57.48	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	21.7	161
3/15/23	1052.90	79538	1193.00	0.033	1173	207.22	0	3.45	8043	29	75.6	1693.9	6243.8	19.05	10	0	0	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	21.3	216
3/16/23	1054.65	81946	1212.00	0.069	1425	207.44	0	0.15	4587	306	90.9	103.8	4086.7	84.61	62	157.13	56.13	0.0	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	22.4	187
3/17/23	1055.35	82493	1217.00	0.071	859	581.15	0	0.00	3015	196	84.7	658.6	2074.9	80.48	-8	120.31	42.68	0.0	7.7	8.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	22.7	183
3/18/23	1055.39	82542	1218.00	0.103	608	580.99	0	0.00	2346	345	90.4	0	1911.1	94.67	48	197.48	69.98	0.0	8.5	9.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	25.6	199
3/19/23	1055.42	82578	1218.00	0.085	600	579.23	0	0.03	2341	341	89.8	0	1910.1	105.1	23	211.24	72.05	0.0	3.6	3.9	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	22.2	190
3/20/23	1055.46	82627	1219.00	0.043	757	730.75	0	0.14	2195	334	88.6	0	1772.3	101.78	21	209.55	71.07	0.0	4.8	5.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	23.1	188
3/21/23	1055.48	82651	1219.00	0.087	746	732.11	0	0.90	3966	53	84	1682.4	2147	58.88	-71	64.74	22.59	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	23.4	171
3/22/23	1055.76	82993	1222.00	0.044	1456	1282.52	0	1.64	5995	1	82.4	1956.9	3954.8	10.63	-10	0	0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.06	0.0	0.0	23.3	167
3/23/23	1055.60	82798	1220.00	0.044	802	899.35	0	0.78	5644	276	87.7	0	5280.7	82.32	85	106.49	27.83	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	25.4	203
3/24/23	1055.44	82603	1218.00	0.055	483	580.15	0	0.15	4614	281	88.5	118.7	4125.9	95.04	28	152.45	40.44	0.0	10.1	10.5	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	26.9	199
3/25/23	1055.41	82566	1218.00	0.081	564	580.93	0	0.00	3968	315	89.4	0	3563.9	99.04	24	186.4	65.14	0.0	11.8	11.6	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.0	23.4	181
3/26/23	1055.33	82469	1217.00	0.161	404	448.84	0	0.00	3088	321	89.5	0	2677.5	91.82	25	201.45	76.5	0.0	5.9	6.1	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	25.9	213
3/27/23	1055.30	82432	1217.00	0.163	434	448.38	0	0.00	2590	335	89.4	0	2166	92.16	38	198.99	72.51	0.0	11.9	12.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	29.0	218
3/28/23	1055.26	82383	1216.00	0.161	428	448.69	0	0.00	2055	304	89.8	0	1660.5	106.21	3	187.47	62.79	0.0	13.9	13.7	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.0	30.4	231
3/29/23	1055.32	82456	1217.00	0.061	488	449.11	0	0.83	3617	1	87.7	1589.2	1939.3	64.44	-81	14.22	6.06	0.0	6.5	6.6	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	30.3	226
3/30/23	1055.32	82456	1217.00	0.055	449	447.78	0	0.46	3216	0	89.7	2100	1025.9	4.17	-6	0	0	0.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	29.9	222
3/31/23	1055.32	82456	1217.00	0.062	450	448.25	0	0.12	2989	0	89.5	2100	799.7	0	-2	0	0	0.0	3.3	4.2	0.0	0%	0.0	0.0	29.7	242
TOTAL CFS					20785	10875		11.55	89745	7837	2731	15425	63752	2399	549	4789	1417	0.0								
AVERAGE CFS					670	351			2895	253	88	498	2057	77	18	154	46	0.0								
TOTAL A/F					41153	21533			177695	15517	5408	30542	126229	4751	1088	9482	2806	0.0	197	182	20		0	0.0	731	6004
MONTHLY REVENUE TO DATE (approx.)								\$0	K																	
AVERAGE A/F					1328	695			5732	501	174	985	4072	153	35	306	91	0.0	6	6	1	0%	0	0.0	24	194
WATER YEAR TOTALS A/F					97,117	29,201		46.62	455,220	30,082	14,314	54,621	126,229	11,016	18,085		3,080	0.0	979	608	396		0	0	4,589	37,370
* Input total A/F previous month																										
** Daily averages imported from Ranch Systems																										
*** Fish facility flows include Denil fishladder, aux pipe and smolt bypass pipe																										
I 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 25, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this staff report from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding its activities for the month of March 2023.

Discussion:

During the month of March, the recreation area received 10.14 inches of rain. With more than 43 inches of rainfall received this winter, Lake Piru has now risen over 80 vertical feet and received more than 69,000 AF of runoff. As a result of this significant inflow, on March 16 the lake began to spill. As of the time of this report approximately 500 cubic feet per second (CFS) was going over the spillway at Santa Felicia Dam, marking the first time the reservoir has spilled since 2006. In addition to the momentous occasion of the spilling, the significant rainfall has created a host of operational challenges for the park and for staff. Since February 21, 2023 two contractors have been onsite working to clean up debris and performing emergency repairs. While contractors have focused on the larger storm cleanup efforts, staff have been working on offseason maintenance tasks, FEMA grant funding in response to the storm and offseason training. Listed below is a summary of the many activities and highlights of the department.

1. Staff Tasks and Activity Highlights

- **March 1:** Staff provided the General Manager with the necessary draft documents to execute a five (5) year contract extension with the districts boating concessions Service Tommy's Boats LLC.
 - **March 1-31:** Staff began effort to perform the annual fire ring and barbeque pit rehabilitation project. This long and arduous effort includes sanding and repainting the metal structures with high heat paint. This is done annually to prolong the life of the units.
 - **March 1-31:** Sumer Construction Inc. (SCI) and McNabb Construction LLC. (MCL), whom are the two contractors tasked with performing cleanup work associated with the January 9 storm event, continue to perform efforts associated with debris removal. MCL has removed 2,481 cubic yards of debris from the surface of the reservoir equating to 546 tons. SCI has removed 5,851 cubic yards of material from roadways and park spaces
-

and has estimated they will ultimately remove a total of 47,549 tons of sediment and debris from within the park.

- **March 4, 10, 11, 16, 17, 25 and 28:** Staff spent numerous days working on moving anchors, replacing cables, and repositioning the badly damaged marina. This process took a significant amount of time, as the marina was more than 1,000 feet from shore. It involved the use of divers, a work barge and replacing four anchors all weighing between 500 and 1,000 pounds.
- **March 19-31:** Staff have been conducting daily flights with the recreation divisions skydio drone as part of an effort to capture daily footage of the spill and to assist engineering in providing detailed photos of the spillway for inspection purposes.
- **March 26:** Installed the interpretive signage at the newly renovated Condor Point picnic area.

2. Staff Training/Meetings/Events

- **March 6-10:** Newly hired Park Ranger Cadet Matt Lundberg attended PC-832 arrest and control training/certification as required by the state of California.
- **March 7:** Participated in the United States Forest Service (USFS) annual consultation meeting to discuss District activities with implications to the USFS.
- **March 13-15:** Staff initiated and participated in an eternal activation of the district Emergency Operations Center as storms hit the lake and the reservoir neared spill. It was a great exercise for staff and highlighted the importance of communication.
- **March 13:** Assisted Operations staff in attending a job walk for contracted discing work associated with discing the Saticoy spreading grounds as part of the spreading activities currently taking place.
- **March 19:** Staff attended and completed the part 107 drone pilot certification course.
- **March 22:** Attended a meeting on behalf of the General Manager with representative Julia Brownley's Deputy District Director to discuss District needs activities.
- **March 23:** Completed online training as a staff associated with the proper use of newly purchased Aon body cameras for the park Ranger program.
- **March 28 – Apr. 1:** Staff attend the Fred Hall Boat and RV show as part of the district's ongoing marketing efforts to increase visitation at Lake Piru.
- **March 30:** FEMA request for public assistance grant funding scoping meeting

3. Revenue and Visitation Recap

2023 Day Use/Other Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2023 Day Use/Other Revenue (Jan. 1 – Mar. 25)	\$14,599.00
2022 Day Use/Other Revenue (Jan. 1 – Mar. 25)	\$31,423.00
Total Revenue Increase from Prior Year	\$-16,824.00
Annual Increase in %	-54%
2023 Camping Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2023 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1 – Mar. 25)	\$77,216.00
2022 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1 – Mar. 25)	\$115,959.00
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	-33%

4.2 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

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Current and Previous Year Comparison (2023 vs. 2022)	
2023 Combined Revenue (Jan. 1 – Feb. 31)	\$108,241.00
2022 Combined Revenue (Jan. 1 – Feb. 31)	\$170,135.00
Annual Increase in %	-36%

****It should be noted that the above figures have not been verified by the district's finance department and are field summary totals.*

2023 Total Visitation Figures					
Month	# Nights	# People	# Vehicles	# Vessels	Pets
January	877	598	414	16	10
February	840	1,698	366	0	3
March	1,151	3,475	1,036	0	3
Total	2,868	2,314	1,198	16	16

4. Incidents/Arrests/Medicals

Rangers did not respond to any significant incidents during the month of March, given that the park has remained closed to boating and given that 50% of the parks day use facilities have remained closed since the January 09, 2023, storm disaster.

5. Citations/Enforcement Summary

Throughout March, only one (1) citation(s) was/were issued for violations of Ordinance 15 for the month. Additionally, it should be noted that the Ranger staff did issue several warnings for various violations. The one citation issued was for the district's firearm violation, when a 37-year-old male and two companions were stopped for shooting a high-powered pellet pistol at targets in the Oak Lane campground area. The violator was compliant, and a citation was issued a citation for violating Ordinance 15 section 5.6(i).

6. Grants

There was a lot of activity associated with grants that occurred during the month of March. Staff attended several grant funding workshops in an effort to determine and evaluate funding opportunities available to the district. The workshops included evaluations of both storm mitigation grant funding and recreational facilities funding workshops. A list of the funding opportunities staff attended are listed below:

- **March 1:** California Parks Recreational Trails Grant Application Workshop (non motorized).
 - **March 15:** CalOES DR-4683 severe storms state match funding opportunity.
 - **March 16:** FEMA storm mitigation request for public assistance grant exploratory call.
 - **March 30:** FEMA storm mitigation request for public assistance grant scoping meeting.
-



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Dan Detmer, Water Resources Manager

Date: March 23, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive a summary report on various Water Resources Department activities for the month of March 2023, including a summary of the monthly activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA, and Mound Basin GSA), for which District board members serve as member directors, and the Santa Paula basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee, for which District staff serve as members. Staff may also report on state-wide issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014.

Discussion:

Staff Activities

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

- United's hydrologists are actively monitoring gaging locations to assess flow conditions along the Santa Clara River and major tributaries, and to update rating curves in response to changing channel conditions and morphology.
 - United's hydrologists are assisting other District staff with operational decisions at Freeman Diversion in order to manage problems with sediment accumulation near the intake structure, maximize diversions, and comply with regulative requirements to provide opportunity for fish migration and passage.
-

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
Information Item

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- United's hydrologists are assisting other District staff to assess and comply with *O. mykiss* migration release requirements at Santa Felicia Dam and bypass flows at Freeman Diversion.
- United's hydrologists are coordinating the release to captured stormwater from Castaic Lake to the Downstream Users.
- Staff is coordinating with recharge operators at Saticoy to measure percolation rates in individual basins and then dry and disc the basins when necessary to maintain optimum percolation rates for the facility.
- Staff conducted the "spring high" groundwater elevation monitoring run in mid-March, in support of the GSAs and statewide measurements of water levels as requested by DWR.
- Groundwater Modeling:
 - Staff continue to develop a break-out Perched Aquifer Model (PAM) for groundwater flow in the unconfined Semi-perched aquifer in the Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project study area. The break-out model will allow higher resolution (both horizontally and vertically) forecasting of groundwater flow in the study area. The model will allow simulation of solute transport in the unconfined perched aquifer, including the inland extent of the natural seawater density wedge at the base of the aquifer near the coastline.
 - Staff continued to apply MODFLOW's "Subsidence package" to the District's existing groundwater flow model of the OPV basins to forecast potential occurrence and magnitude of land subsidence during the model calibration period (1985-2019) and under future assumed pumping scenarios and basin conditions.
 - Staff have begun engaging with Larry Walker Associates, the consultant who is developing the updated salt and nutrient management plan (SNMP) for Pleasant Valley basin, in anticipation of conducting limited groundwater modeling in support of SNMP preparation.
 - Staff have assisted the City of Ventura and their consultant in modeling travel times and areas of influence for their proposed indirect potable reuse project located near their Golf Course wells in the NW portion of the Oxnard basin.
- Staff are assisting the Environmental Services and Engineering Departments in evaluating fish passage design modifications under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), including assisting with planning of physical modeling efforts at the Bureau of Reclamation's facility in Denver and at the University of Iowa.
- Staff are working with the Environmental Services and Engineering Departments to kick off and schedule work and deliverables with the consultants selected to conduct the environmental permitting and engineering design efforts for Phase 1 of United's EBB Water project. Staff participated in a permitting charette on February 28 and March 1 with Navy representatives and our consultants.
 - Staff continue to support selection of site locations and design specifications for extraction wells to be included as Phase 1 of the EBB Water project.

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item

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- Staff continue to plan for installation of EBB Water project Phase 1 groundwater monitoring wells and are managing the SGM Grant activities associated with this project. A request for qualifications and proposals (RFP/Q) was released on March 10 for a consultant to assist with construction oversight of the monitoring wells; statements of qualifications and proposals are due to be submitted by April 24, 2023.
- Staff are developing a monitoring plan for Phase 1 of EBB Water (extraction of brackish water and discharge without treatment), to measure and evaluate potential effects on groundwater elevations, hydraulic gradients, and groundwater quality in the project area. The information collected will be used to adjust operations of Phase 1 (if necessary) and provide data to support optimization of design of Phase 2.
- Staff received a March 6, 2023 award letter for a Prop 1, Round 3 implementation grant from CA Water Boards Department of Financial Assistance (DFA) for development of Phase 1B of the EBB Water project. The grant supports the design and construction of extraction wells and control systems, discharge pipes and related design, permitting, sampling, and reporting to build the initial phase of the EBB Water project before additional investments are made for water treatment and distribution. United's grant proposal estimated the Phase 1B project cost to be \$18.6 million, and the requested funding of \$8.45 million was 46% of the estimated project cost. In the coming weeks United expects to schedule a kick off meeting with DFA staff and begin work on a formal grant agreement.
- Staff are assisting the Engineering Department in evaluating the feasibility and water resources impacts of releasing water from Lake Piru and operating at lower reservoir levels as an Interim Risk Reduction Measure prior to and during the construction of the new outlet works. During construction, unprecedented low reservoir levels in the range of elevations 940-945 are needed to be able to build the new multi-port slopping intake and a tunnel as part of the outlet works improvement project.
- Staff continue to assist with planning and coordination for the purchase and release of Table A water and supplemental State Water Project (SWP) water acquired from other SWP contractors. Staff are also working to determine what modifications to United's water right permits and licenses might be required to increase the instantaneous diversion rate at Freeman Diversion.
- Staff assisted the Engineering Department with development of specifications for planned OH replacement well #20.
- Staff are assisting the Finance Department in preparing reports required by the FCGMA for surface water (from the Santa Clara River) use by the PTP and by PVCWD, deliveries of groundwater to the OH pipeline for M&I use, and deliveries of groundwater and surface water to the PTP for agricultural use. These reports cover water years 2021 and 2022. These are new reports required under the FCGMA's OPV allocation ordinance.

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item

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Outreach and Educational Activities

- Staff led a tour of Freeman Diversion and United's recharge facilities for local water users on March 23.

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 basins. United staff continue to meet periodically with FCGMA staff and other stakeholders to develop analyses of benefits and impacts of water-supply projects and different variations of those projects in support of developing a sustainable, resilient water-supply portfolio for the service areas of both agencies. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to, FCGMA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

Board of Directors meetings – The FCGMA Board held a regular meeting on March 22. Notable topics included:

- The Board approved (as an item in the Consent Agenda) submittal to DWR of the Water Year 2022 Annual Reports for the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley basins, prepared by FCGMA's consultant, Dudek.
- The Board retained the Chair (West), Vice-Chair (Borchard), and committee members (no changes from last year).
- The Board approved the revised mission statement proposed by their Executive Committee.
- The Board received a presentation on the general terms of the Las Posas Valley Basin Adjudication Phase 3 Settlement Agreement and preliminary planning for implementation should it be adopted, in whole or in part, as part of the Las Posas Valley Basin Adjudication judgment.
- The Board approved waiving surcharges incurred by those owners/operators in the Las Posas Valley (LPV) Basin with pending variance applications for Water Year 2021/22 (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022).
- The Board authorized their Executive Officer to continue temporary variances for the current water year for those agricultural operators in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins ("OPV Basins") with pending variances up to the amount of extractions which did not incur surcharges in Crop Year 2017/18. The Board also authorized their Executive Officer to approve temporary variances for the current water year for those M&I and domestic operators in the OPV Basins with pending variances up to the amount of extractions that did not incur surcharges in calendar year 2018.
- Received a presentation from Agency staff regarding the Operations Committee's recommendations for process and criteria for ranking and prioritizing water-supply projects for funding and inclusion in Groundwater Sustainability Plans. The Board directed the

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item

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Operations Committee to consider modifying the draft criteria in response to comments received.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Operations Committee meetings – None were held last month. There is an Operations Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for April 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Executive Committee meetings – None were held last month.

Fiscal Committee meetings – None were held last month.

OPV Variance Review Committee meeting – None were held last month.

Ad Hoc OPV Projects Committee meetings – None were held last month.

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 regular FPBGSA Board meeting scheduled for March 16 was canceled, and the next regular Board meeting will be on April 20 at 4:00 p.m.

GSP implementation – None this month, following assistance with the grant application for SGM implementation Round 2 funding in December 2022.

Data Resources - 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 remains available on the agency website, as are numerous technical references relating to the basins and development of the GSPs. Staff recently shared fall water level records with agency consultant DBS&A for formatting and upload to the agency website and to DWR.

Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)

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

Board of Directors meetings – The MBGSA held a regular Board meeting on March 21. Notable topics included:

- The Board accepted United's appointment of Catherine P. Keeling as United's member Director to the Mound Basin GSA Board of Directors to fulfill the remainder of the two-year term through June 13, 2024. The Board also appointed the following officers to serve during calendar year 2023:
 - Chair: Catherine Keeling
 - Vice Chair/Secretary: Betsy Cooper
 - Treasurer: Arne Anselm.
- The Board authorized Mound Basin GSA's participation in the Small Groundwater Sustainability Agency Coalition.

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item

Page 6

- The Board approved the Water Year 2021/2022 Annual Report for submittal to DWR.

GSP implementation – Staff provide the MBGSA’s Executive Director and consultants various groundwater level and quality data periodically, as requested. Staff are also monitoring pressure transducers to monitor groundwater levels at selected wells in support of data collection efforts being conducted in support of the Mound Basin GSP.

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 worked with the TAC to finalize the 2021 Annual Report of groundwater conditions within the Santa Paula Basin adjudicated area. The report was submitted electronically using DWR’s website for adjudicated basins, and forwarded to Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, for filing with the Superior Court of the State of California for Ventura County.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Josh Perez, Chief Human Resources Officer
Brian Zahn, Chief Financial Officer
Zachary Plummer, Technology Systems Manager
Tony Huynh, Risk and Safety Manager
Kris Sofley, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Date: March 31, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.4 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive this staff report and attached presentation from the Administrative Services Department regarding its activities for the month March 2023.

Discussion:

Finance

- Met with the General Manager, Assistant General Manager, and Department Managers to discuss FY 2023-24 Preliminary Budget.
- Continue to work on FY 2023-24 Budget and Rate Development process. FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget should be ready for the Finance Committee to review on May 1, 2023.
- Working with Auditors to complete FY 2022-23 Single Audits for Federal Grants received. Target completion date March 31, 2023.
- Filed annual State Controller's Compensation Report on January 31, 2023.
- New Accountant II continued training on Accounts Payables and Purchase Order processes.

Administrative Services

- Assisted Engineering department in preparing for and coordinating the joint UWCD/USNBV two-day Permitting charrette for the Extraction Barrier Brackish Water (EBB Water) Treatment project.
 - Provided administrative assistance for drafting, finalizing, and distributing/posting materials for the UWCD Finance and Audit (2/27), and Engineering and Operations (3/2), Committee meetings as well as the regular UWCD Board meeting (3/8) and an Emergency UWCD Board Meeting (3/16) regarding the Santa Felicia Dam spill event.
-

4.4 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report

Information Item

- Provided administrative assistance for drafting, finalizing, and distributing/posting materials for the Mound Basin GSA Regular Board meeting (3/21).
- Provided administrative assistance and support for the AWA VC Water Issues Committee meeting (3/21) and the hybrid (in-person/virtual) AWA Canadian Consulate Water Innovative Roadshow (3/23) utilizing UWCD's Boardroom and technical support.
- Provided administrative assistance, coordination, and technical support in organizing tours of the Freeman Diversion for VC Supervisor Janice Parvin and staff; VC Supervisor Matt LaVere and staff; VC Supervisor Vianey Lopez and staff; Driscoll Farms, St. Augustine Academy student tour; and Ventura County Grand Jury.
- Provided administrative assistance in developing UWCD Open House/Facilities Tour including distributing invitation via emails to elected officials, municipal public works departments, water agencies, organizations/associations and stakeholders and confirming participation; distribution of facility tour waivers for each participant; securing shuttle buses to transport the group (and confirming weight of vehicles for safe SFD bridge passage), organizing lunch for tour participants and providing special transportation for a few of the tour participants that have to depart the tour after the Freeman Diversion tour.

Human Resources

- Participated in Labor Negotiations with Local SEIU 721
 - Held first Brownbag Session on February 16 (Topic: Budget Preparation and Overview)
 - Successfully onboarded the following personnel:
 - Environmental Scientist – Regulatory Affairs (Adriana Stovall selected and will start May 15)
 - Accountant II (Jeanessa Lopez selected and will start April 17)
 - Recharge O&M Worker I (Thomas Gonzalez selected and will start April 17)
 - Working on recruitments for the following positions:
 - Environmental Services Field Technician - Interviews held March 2, 6, 7, 8, final selection pending.
 - Accounting Technician, application close date March 27
 - Hydrologist, application close date March 27
 - Park Ranger Cadet, application close date March 23
 - Promotions:
 - Promoted Recharge O&M Worker I JD Smallwood to Recharge O&M Worker II
 - Promoted Accounting Technician Nyvee De Leon to Senior Accounting Technician
 - Interviewed and onboarded four Seasonal Park Ranger Assistant staff members for the Lake Piru Recreation Area team (Raegan Mang, Gustavo Salgado, Cameron Bigelow, Michael Johnson).
 - Collaborated with IT/Risk and Safety for planning of deployment of First Net Devices.
 - Attended the AALRR 2023 Employment Law Conference.
 - Advertised Canvass of interest for vacancy at Saticoy Housing.
-

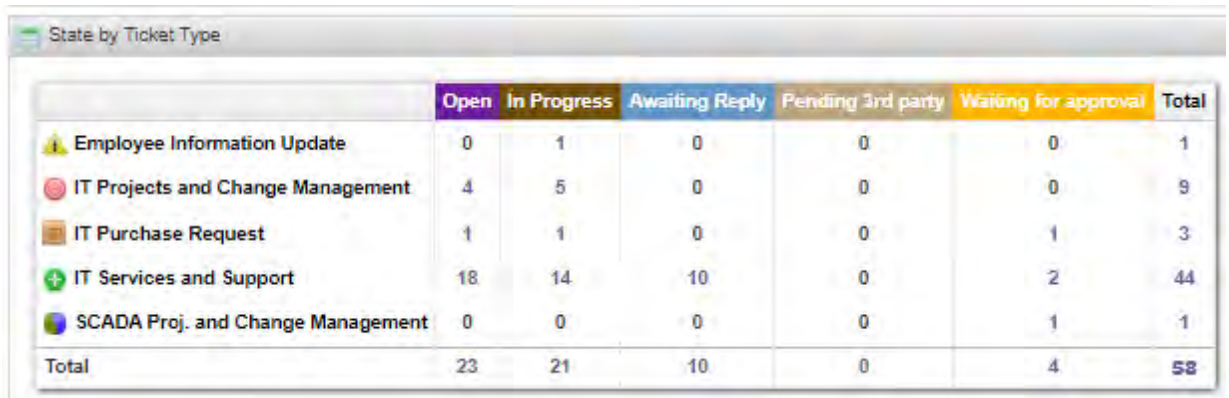
4.4 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report Information Item

Safety and Risk Management

- Attended SDRMA Education Day, resulting in cost-savings of two CIP credits to Property/Liability Premium and two CIP credits to Worker's Comp Premium, resulting in a total cost-savings of \$8,904.
- Participated in Exploratory Call with FEMA on disaster recovery grant funding efforts and continued coordination of District's disaster recovery efforts.
- Coordinated EOC Activation for March storm event and potential spill and served as duty officer.
- Met with City of Fillmore Police Chief and Sergeant in preparation for the March storm event.
- Partnered with IT in implementation of new body-worn cameras for Park Ranger staff.
- Collaborated with IT on security gate intercom system installation and implementation.
- Provided Valley Fever training to staff at monthly safety meeting.
- Conducted exit hearing test for departing O&M staff.
- Coordinated the annual recalibration of respirator fit testing device.

Technology Systems

- Onboarded seven new employees in cooperation with HR.
- Upgraded the Microsoft Exchange Server.
- Successfully tested and deployed our new travel conference system.
- Completed the SFD Genetec upper and lower gate deployment and troubleshooting.
- Deployed SFD Genetec monitoring station.
- Technology Systems supported Virtual Meeting Support for the following meetings in the month of March:
 - AWA
 - Water Wise Breakfast Program
 - AWA Water Issues Committee
 - AWA Canadian Consulate Water Innovative Roadshow
 - Permitting Charrette with Environmental, engineering and United States Navy
 - Offsite/(Hybrid Zoom) - Regular Mound Basin GSA Meeting
 - Used UWCD Mobile Hybrid Meeting Kit



The screenshot shows a web application titled "State by Ticket Type". It displays a table with ticket counts categorized by type and status. The ticket types listed are Employee Information Update, IT Projects and Change Management, IT Purchase Request, IT Services and Support, and SCADA Proj. and Change Management. The statuses are Open, In Progress, Awaiting Reply, Pending 3rd party, and Waiting for approval. A Total row is at the bottom.

	Open	In Progress	Awaiting Reply	Pending 3rd party	Waiting for approval	Total
Employee Information Update	0	1	0	0	0	1
IT Projects and Change Management	4	5	0	0	0	9
IT Purchase Request	1	1	0	0	1	3
IT Services and Support	18	14	10	0	2	44
SCADA Proj. and Change Management	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	23	21	10	0	4	58

4.4 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report Information Item

Monthly ticket type overview - 2023														
Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
⚠ Employee Information Update	0	2	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2	
🔄 IT Projects and Change Management	0	1	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1	
📄 IT Purchase Request	0	1	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1	
+ IT Services and Support	20	27	24	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	71	
📶 Network Port patching	0	1	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1	
⚠ New employee	0	3	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3	
👤 Offboarding Disable Account	0	2	0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2	
Total	20	37	24	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	81	



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado Jr., General Manager

From: Maryam A. Bral, Chief Engineer
Craig A. Morgan, Engineering Manager
Robert J. Richardson, Senior Engineer
Michel Kadah, Engineer
Adrian Quiroz, Associate Engineer

Date: March 29, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for the month of March 2023.

Discussion:

1. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Projects

- Spillway Improvement Project
 - Staff conducted bi-weekly progress meetings with GEI Consultants (GEI) to review and discuss the current design status.
 - Staff coordinated monitoring of the current spill with Park Rangers and OPS staff. Staff prepared a spillway spill monitoring matrix and documented the recordings and observations of the spill that include drone video and photos, piezometer readings, and inflows and outflows. Santa Felicia Dam has been spilling since March 16 to date.
 - Staff coordinated the dates of two Board of Consultants (BOC) meetings, No. 7, and No. 8. At the BOC meeting No. 8, tentatively scheduled for November 15-16, 2023, the BOC, FERC, DSOD, GEI and District will meet to review the 60% design documents for the spillway improvement project.
 - Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - The BOC meeting No. 7 scheduled for June 21-22, 2023, will be held to review the 90% design documents for the outlet works improvement project. The final (100%) design of the outlet works improvement project will be reviewed at the BOC meeting No. 8. Both BOC meetings will be held at the District's Headquarters.
-

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- Staff are planning and preparing for the construction phase of the outlet works improvement project that is planned to start in July 2024.
 - On March 13, Staff released a Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/Q) for construction management and inspection services during construction of the new outlet works. On March 23, Staff conducted a site visit at Santa Felicia Dam for the prospective proposers. Representatives from nine (9) companies attended the site visit (see **Figure 1**). The proposals are due on April 17, 2023.
 - On March 17, Staff conducted an internal meeting in preparation of the third interagency coordination workshop meeting with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The purpose of the workshops is to coordinate our efforts with the two agencies during the construction of the new outlet works. Staff has been discussing Pyramid's capabilities for diverting and storing outflows to Santa Felicia Dam to reduce risk prior to and during the construction. The workshops allow the agencies to discuss constraints related to diversion, storage and releases of outflows to Santa Felicia Dam. The next workshop will be held on May 4, 2023, at the District's Headquarters.
 - On March 20, Staff completed their review of the draft Reservoir Operation Plan (ROP) during construction and the draft Fish Screen Baffle Analysis TM and provided comments to GEI.
 - FERC License Amendment Application, NEPA Documentation and Section 7 Consultation
 - Engineering and Environmental Services Staff attended the bi-weekly permitting progress meetings with Catalyst Environmental Solutions (Catalyst) on March 3, 17, and 31.
 - Staff reviewed NMFS comments on the draft Biological Assessment (BA) and began preparation of draft responses in coordination with Environmental Services Staff, GEI, and Catalyst.
 - As requested by FERC, Staff, FERC and NMFS will be meeting on April 5 to discuss NMFS comments of the draft BA that were provided to the District on February 21.
 - Loan and Grant Applications
 - 2021 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
No updates for this reporting period.
 - High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD)
No updates for this reporting period.
 - Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation and Act (WIFIA) Loan
Staff and the Finance Department meet with the EPA WIFIA Loan Administrative Staff on a biweekly basis. the EPA WIFIA Loan Administrative Staff is currently developing a master agreement and a WIFIA loan agreement. The documents are expected to be ready for the District's review in April.
-

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- Santa Felicia Dam Safety
 - On January 30, 2023, Staff e-filed the 2022 Santa Felicia Dam Part 12D Inspection – Consultant’s Safety Inspection Report with FERC which includes sixteen recommendations for improving the SFD Supporting Technical Information Document (STID). Staff will e-file a plan and schedule to satisfy these recommendations by March 31, 2023.
 - On March 22, 2023, Engineering and Water Resources Staff met with FERC to discuss their January 20, 2023, comments on the District’s October 28, 2022, submittal of the Lake Piru Reservoir Drawdown Contingency Plan (Contingency Plan) and Interim Risk Reduction Measure for Santa Felicia Dam. The Contingency Plan will be resubmitted to FERC by October 2023 and will address the January 20 FERC comments.

2. Condor Point Improvement Project

- The interpretive signage panels for the Condor Point Improvement Project were delivered on March 3, 2023. Recreation Staff installed the signs on March 26, 2023. See **Figure 2** for final installation.

3. Freeman Diversion Expansion

- Staff, USBR, the University of Iowa, Stantec and NHC participate in rotating weekly calls with NMFS and CDFW to provide updates on operational and stress testing of the physical model.

4. Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- Meetings:
 - Weekly coordination meetings between staff and the District’s construction manager (HDR, Inc.)
 - Weekly construction progress meetings hosted by HDR and attended by GSE Construction, Taft Electric, Kennedy Jenks Consultants (KJ) and staff.
 - GSE Construction has submitted approximately 363 out of a total of 395 submittal packages anticipated for the project. HDR and design engineer (KJ) have provided responses on approximately 358 submittal packages including a requirement to comply with the Buy American Act (BAA).
 - GSE Construction has submitted approximately 127 Requests for Information (RFIs) to date. HDR, KJ and the District have been providing responses.
 - Thirty-one (31) Change Orders (COs) have been partially or fully executed to date amounting to a net total of \$1,155,205.72. This represents approximately 12.4% of the original contract amount (\$9,342,900.00). Four (4) of these COs amounting to \$662,910.19 or 7.1% of the original contract amount are directly related to compliance with the BAA which is a federal grant requirement (the project was not originally bid with this requirement in place) and \$492,295.50 or 5.3% of the original contract amount is related to all other COs that have resulted in additions or modifications to the original scope of work.
-

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- District O&M Staff completed the construction of the 20" OF and 8" OF rip-rap aprons on February 22, 2023.
- Final Draft Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP): document is under review by Staff and will be finalized and submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) by March 2023 before commencement of start-up and testing operations.
- GSE Construction continued construction of the following (See Figures 3 and 4)
 - 20" Spent Wash Water (SWW)
 - 24" Raw Water Pipeline (RAW)
 - 24" Raw Water (RAW) – flushing and disinfection
 - 24" Filtered Water (FW) Connection – pressure testing and corrections
 - Various underground sample lines
 - Various underground electrical conduits
 - Various work around Filter Drain Pump Station
 - Filter face piping encasement and concrete slab construction
 - Filter vessel platform handrails
 - Filter vessel cleaning and internals
 - Laboratory/Electrical/Blower Building
 - i. Exterior grouting and weather sealing
 - ii. Drywall
 - iii. Interior electrical
 - iv. Fire line risers and backwash service
- The tentative date for construction completion and implementation is June 21, 2023, (per CO No. 31 which was fully executed on March 21, 2023). A total of thirteen (13) inclement weather days have been counted. GSE's latest monthly schedule update on March 14, 2023, indicated that construction will be completed by July 18, 2023.

5. PTP Metering Improvement Project

- Total number of meters installed: 41 of 60 or 68.3% complete.
- An additional eight (8) meter installations are planned by mid-2023 (Turnout Nos. 102, 103, 105, 109, 123, 134, 158, 162).
- Easement acquisition completion: 24 of 40 obtained or 60% complete.
- An additional four (4) utility easement deeds have been signed by the property owner (Turnout Nos. 102, 103, 105, 123) pending execution by the General Manager and recording by the County of Ventura.
- Battery and solar panel thefts are on the rise at some locations. Staff are taking measures to secure this equipment.
- The owner of the property that is served by Turnout No. 154 previously declined in a letter to sign the easement deed, has agreed to an on-site meeting with the District and their tenant.
- The owner of the properties served by Turnout Nos. 113 and 114 have agreed to sign the easement deeds.

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- The owner of the property served by Turnout 144 was contacted by District staff and has tentatively agreed to sign the easement deed following review by their legal counsel.
6. PTP Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project
- On March 7, Staff met with Rincon Consultants, Inc. and discussed the project scope and environmental permit requirements. Rincon prepared and submitted a proposal for environmental investigations and the Initial Study as part of the CEQA analysis.
 - On March 9, Staff met with Kennedy Jenks (KJ) to discuss the next design phase. KJ is in the process of preparing a proposal for the development of the 60% design documents.
 - PVCWD is currently reviewing the outlines of a draft Agreement that was prepared by Staff.
7. Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project and Impact on PTP
- CalTrans has filed an eminent domain action against the District.
8. State Water Project (SWP) Interconnection Pipeline Project
- The draft copy of the 3-Party Interagency Agreement (Agreement) was presented as a motion item to the Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting on March 2 and the Board of Directors approving the Agreement and authorization of the General Manager to execute the final copy of the Agreement on March 8.
 - Ventura Water Commission Staff is planning to present the Agreement to their City Council on April 10 requesting the City Council adopt the Agreement.
9. Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project
- Meetings:
 - Held weekly internal meetings between Engineering, Environmental, and Water Resources staff to discuss progress on agreements with the Navy, grants, CEQA/NEPA/permitting documentation preparation, preliminary design report preparation, coastal water quality sampling and groundwater flow modeling.
 - March 13, First NEPA/CEQA “Drumbeat” Meeting with District, ESA Consultants and Navy NEPA staff and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). The project schedule was discussed, and the Navy informed United, the information request developed at the permitting charrette meeting in February, will be formally responded to in written format.
 - March 15, The District’s General Manager provided a presentation of the project to the Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) whose governing body authorized staff to prepare a letter of support for the project in concept.
 - March 15 and 22, The District and Navy staff held meetings to develop the draft Memorandum of Agreement to establish a UWCD-Navy partnership for the Phase 1B project.
 - March 16, Held progress meeting with the Phase 1B project design team, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants.
 - March 6 and 20, Held progress meetings with the Phase 1B project CEQA and permitting team, ESA Consultants.
-

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- March 23, Engineering, Environmental, Water Resources and Operations and Maintenance staff participated in a tour of the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant in Santa Barbara, CA (see **Figures 5 and 6**).
- Agreements/Grants:
 - Phase 1A License Agreement: This license agreement will enable ingress/egress at NBVC Point Mugu for the District's staff and consultants to conduct preliminary investigations related to design, CEQA and permitting documentation. The agreement was fully executed on February 21, 2023, and expires February 20, 2024.
 - New Monitoring Wells: An amendment is needed to an existing license agreement that covers access, maintenance, operation and data collection for existing monitoring wells (22, A1, A-2, CM-1, CM-2, CM-1A, CM-6 and Q2). This amendment is pending site approval by the Navy.
 - The draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been prepared between UWCD and the Navy to develop a partnership for the Phase 1B project.
 - The draft Letter of Request (LOR) initiating the Navy's real estate process for an outgrant easement has been prepared for the Phase 1B project.
 - On March 6, 2023, the District received written notice from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) that a grant award of \$8,449,062 was approved for the Phase 1B project.
- Design:
 - On March 17, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants submitted the draft Technical Memorandum (TM) No. 1 entitled "Discharge Options Evaluation." This included input from ESA consultants on environmental and regulatory considerations. The TM is currently under review by District and Navy staff.
 - Kennedy/Jenks Consultants has provided a draft scope of work for surveying and geotechnical needs to be performed by one of the District's on-call consultants.
- CEQA/NEPA/Permits:
 - ESA Consultants reviewed water quality data related to the Mugu Lagoon and reviewed general NPDES permit requirements. ESA Consultants is currently determining the appropriate permitting path for the proposed discharge options and developing a scope of work for data collection as required.
- Geotech/Hydrogeology:
 - Proposals will be received by April 24 in response to the RFQ/P for "Planning, Design, Construction Oversight, and Related Support Services for up to Twenty (20) Phase 1 Groundwater Monitoring Wells as Part of Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project at Naval Base Ventura County-Point Mugu."

10. Asset Management/ CMMS System

- No updates to report.

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

11. Lake Piru Recreation Area – 2022 Pavement Maintenance Program

- On March 9, Staff notified the asphalt contractor (Horizon) that a new asphalt depression area was developed within Phase 3 area of the project. Horizon complied with the request and agreed to repair this area once the rain subsides.
- The Notice of Completion for this project will be executed after the repairs are complete.

12. Other Topics, Meetings and Training

- On March 15, Maryam Bral and Clayton Strahan met with the Piru Neighborhood Council to discuss the spill from Santa Felicia Dam and what it means for the Town of Piru.
- On March 23, Maryam Bral, Dan Detmer, Robert Richardson, Randy Castaneda, Adrian Quiroz and Tessa Lenz participated in a tour of the Charles E Meyer Desalination Plant in Santa Barbara, CA.
- On March 29, Maryam Bral attended and presented on SFD SIP for the Open House and Facilities Tour held at district headquarters. Maryam Bral joined the group on a tour of SFD and Lake Piru Recreation Area.



Figure 1 - SFDSIP Construction Management Services Pre-Bid Site Visit (March 23)

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item



Figure 2 – Completed Interpretive Signage at Condor Point



Figure 3 – Iron and Manganese Treatment Project Construction – March 21, 2023

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item



Figure 4 – Iron and Manganese Treatment Project Construction on March 21, 2023



Figure 5 – Tessa Lenz, Dan Detmer and Adrian Quiroz Observing Standby Seawater Intake Pump at the Charles E Meyer Desalination Plant in Santa Barbara (23-Mar-2023)

4.5 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item



Figure 6 – Maryam Bral and Robert Richardson Observing Reverse Osmosis Trains at the Charles E Meyer Desalination Plant in Santa Barbara (23-Mar-2023)



Figure 7- District Open House and Facilities Tour guests at Lake Piru Recreation Area (29-Mar-2023)



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

cc: Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

From: Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager
Linda Purpus, Environmental Services Manager (pro-tem)

Date: March 29, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.6 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive and file this staff report from the Environmental Services Department regarding its activities for the month of March 2023.

Discussion:

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

- Water Release Plan and Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan

Under the Water Release Plan and FERC license for the Santa Felicia Project, United Water Conservation District (United) is required to make certain water releases from the 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. 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 seven cubic feet per second (cfs). The measured cumulative rainfall (to date) for the current water year has exceeded all triggers for enhanced habitat water releases through October 1, 2023. The minimum required habitat water release for the month of April is 20 cfs.

4.6 **Monthly Environmental Services Department Report**
Information Item

Habitat water release trigger date	Trigger criteria (total cumulative precipitation on trigger date)	Minimum required water release if trigger is met	2023 Measured cumulative precipitation	Actual minimum required habitat water release for month
January 1	4.80 inches	15 cfs	7.03 inches	15 cfs
February 1	8.10 inches	20 cfs	28.18 inches	20 cfs
March 1	12.00 inches	20 cfs	35.07 inches	20 cfs
April 1	14.90 inches	20 cfs	45.21 inches**	20 cfs
May 1	16.30 inches	10 cfs	TBD	10 cfs
June 1	17.50 inches	9 cfs*	TBD	9 cfs

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

**Provisional data as of March 28, 2023.

- **Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Plan**

On March 31, 2023, Environmental Services staff filed an annual report with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in accordance with the Santa Felicia Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Plan (DOMP). The DOMP was prepared in compliance with Condition 2 of the Water Quality Certification issued to United by the State Water Board on March 4, 2014, for operational changes at the Santa Felicia Project. The annual report details the results of monitoring activities conducted during the 2022 calendar year. United is required to file the annual report with FERC within 30 days of receipt of comments from SWRCB. The submittal to FERC will include a record of consultation associated with the annual report and will include any comments received from the State Water Board as well as United's responses to such comments.

- **Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan**

On March 31, 2023, Environmental Services staff filed the 2022 Annual Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan Report with FERC. The annual report outlines activities conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2022, 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.

- **Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan**

On March 29, 2023, Environmental Services staff held a consultation meeting with agency staff to discuss findings presented in the 2022 annual report. In accordance with United's Revised Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan for the Santa Felicia Project (P-2153), United submitted the combined annual report to participating agencies and FERC on December 20, 2022.

4.6 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

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

On March 7, 2023, Environmental Services, Recreation, and Engineering staff met with the Los Padres National Forest Service District Ranger, Biologist, and Botanist for the annual consultation in accordance with the FERC license 4(e) terms and conditions. Staff provided updates on activities conducted during 2022 and discussed United's upcoming projects that have the potential to affect Forest Service lands or have special interest for the Forest Service. On March 31, 2023, United filed a record of consultation with FERC detailing the meeting.

- Santa Felicia Fish Passage Pre-Implementation Studies

As previously reported, Environmental Services staff conducted a reconnaissance of conditions on Piru Canyon Road and middle Piru Creek on February 7, 2023, that resulted in the identification of over 40 full road blockages due to debris slides on Piru Canyon Road between the Juan Fernandez launch ramp and the decommissioned Blue Point Campground. In March 2023, Cramer Fish Sciences technicians conducted additional reconnaissance of Piru Canyon Road. The technicians reported that road conditions have deteriorated since the prior reconnaissance (as a result of additional storm events).

- United Water Conservation District v. FERC, Court Case in Abeyance

On September 29, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals granted United a motion to hold the court case "United Water Conservation District v. FERC" in abeyance and directed United to file status reports every 60-days. United filed the court case to challenge the biological opinion issued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on FERC's issuance of a license for the Santa Felicia Project. On March 23, 2023, the seventy-fifth status update was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit.

2. Clean Water Act (CWA) Permits for General Maintenance Activities at the Lake Piru Recreation Area and Santa Felicia Project

On March 28, 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Regional General Permit under Article 404 of the CWA authorizing general maintenance activities at Lake Piru Recreation Area and Santa Felicia Project. As is standard, the USACE established an original reasonable period of time (RPOT) for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to issue the companion Water Quality Certification (WQ Certification) under Article 401 of the CWA for the project on December 18, 2022. The RWQCB requested two separate 30-day extensions, postponing the RPOT to February 18, 2023. On March 20, 2023, Environmental Services staff requested that the USACE waive the requirement for the WQ Certification due to the extended delay of permit issuance. In response, the USACE notified RWQCB that the requirement for a WQ Certification would be waived if the certification was not issued by close of business on March 23, 2023. The RWQCB did not meet that timeline and the USACE waived the requirement. As a result, the District is not obligated to pay fees associated with issuance of the WQ Certification.

4.6 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

3. CWA Permits for Emergency Activities at Lake Piru

On March 7, 2023, Environmental Services staff submitted notifications to USACE and RWQCB requesting authorization to conduct emergency work in Reasoner Creek adjacent to the Lake Piru Recreation Area Day-Use Area. The emergency work is in response to storm damage that created hazardous conditions that pose a threat to public safety and District facilities. The work is intended to restore the creek to prior conditions. United was authorized to initiate emergency work 48 hours after notifying the SWRCB and RWQCB. In support of this effort, on March 27, 2023, Environmental Services staff conducted a training with construction crews to review the environmental compliance measures and agency authorizations to conduct the emergency work in Reasoner Creek. Work was initiated on March 28, 2023.

4. Freeman Diversion Operations

- Freeman Diversion Sediment Management

On February 28, 2023, the District received approval from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the placement of a cowbird trap to satisfy mitigation requirements associated with the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) for the Freeman Diversion, Phase 1 Sediment Management Project. The cowbird trap, located on District property approximately 0.7 miles downstream of the Freeman Diversion on the south bank of the Santa Clara River, is planned to be operated seasonally between April 1 – June 30 for a period of three years. The specific trap location may change based on trapping results, subject to approval from CDFW. Griffith Wildlife Biology will construct and operate the trap on behalf of the District.

- Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Facility

The Freeman Diversion fish ladder and associated surveillance system have remained in operation since January 1, 2023. No fish have been detected traversing the fish ladder during this period. During the month of March, two notifications were issued to NMFS, NMFS-Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and CDFW staff regarding Freeman Diversion operations. On March 14, 2023, a notification was issued regarding the planned cessation of fish ladder and water diversion operations to prevent debris and sediment resulting from a powerful atmospheric river storm system from entering the facility. On March 17, 2023, a notification was issued regarding necessary maintenance to remove accumulated gravels from below the fish screens. In these instances, Environmental Services staff provided field support in conducting surveys of dewatered areas, and on-site biological monitoring. No fish were observed during either activity.

On March 16, 2023, Environmental Services and Water Resources staff provided a tour of the Freeman Diversion and Santa Felica Dam to NMFS and NMFS-OLE staff.

5. Increased Importation of State Water Project (SWP) Water from Pyramid Lake to Lake Piru

On February 15, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), on behalf of United, submitted a request to FERC for a temporary variance to Article 52 of the South State Water Project FERC license (P-2426) to allow for an increase in State Water Project (SWP) water imports from a

4.6 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

maximum of 3,150 acre-feet (AF) per year to 25,000 AF via Pyramid Dam to Lake Piru during the 2023-2024 water year. On March 13, 2023, FERC posted a public notice of the application for a variance to the license, opening a 30-day comment period. The deadline for comments is April 12, 2023. Pending receipt of comments, the FERC license variance is anticipated to be issued ahead of the SWP water delivery window of November 2023 – February 2024.

6. Quagga Mussel Management

On March 31, 2023, Environmental Services staff submitted the Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan 2022 Annual Report to CDFW. Staff requested an annual consultation meeting with CDFW, which will be scheduled in April 2023.

During the month of March, Environmental Services staff were able to successfully conduct quagga monitoring activities on Lake Piru and lower Piru Creek. All quagga monitoring activities were completed with the exception of artificial substrate sampling on Lake Piru. Artificial substrate sampling plates on Lake Piru were lost during the January storms. On March 1, 2023, sampling plates were redeployed in Lake Piru. Staff reviewed lower system quagga mussel veliger monitoring protocols to plan for implementation following the spill at Santa Felicia Dam.

7. Miscellaneous

- On March 6, 2023, Marissa Caringella joined the District in the role of Environmental Services Manager.
- During the week of March 6, 2023, interviews were conducted for the full-time Field Technician position. A follow-up round of interviews is being conducted with top-ranked candidates.
- Throughout the month of March, staff participated with Water Resources staff in performing discharge monitoring measurements throughout the mainstem of the Santa Clara River for the Castaic flood flow releases.
- On March 23, 2023, staff attended a National Park Service & Partners Stream Team meeting. The meeting included participants from; National Park Service, United States Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California State Parks, UC Los Angeles, Pepperdine University, Santa Barbara Zoo, and Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District. The meeting focused on monitoring methods and results for non-fish species and exotic species removal in the Santa Monica Mountains.
- On March 27, 2023, staff attended an orientation and training session hosted by the USFWS regarding the 2023 least Bell's vireo watershed wide point count survey protocol. During the 2023 bird nesting season, field staff will participate in the USFWS led multi-year effort to evaluate least Bell's vireo occupancy across the Santa Clara River watershed by conducting point-count surveys in multiple locations on the Santa Clara River near the Freeman Diversion and downstream.

4.6 **Monthly Environmental Services Department Report** **Information Item**

- On March 16, 2023, staff attended the FEMA Exploratory Call, and on March 30, 2023, Environmental Services staff attended the FEMA Recovery Scoping Meeting.
- On March 31, 2023, United submitted an Interim Programmatic Report for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant. United partnered with Griffith Wildlife Biology on the Bird Surveys, Habitat Mapping, and Non-native Cowbird Removal in Los Padres National Forest Project, funded by NFWF grant fund. The report detailed field activities from the 2022 field season. This year, 2023, will be the third and final year of data collection and grant reporting.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 28, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.1 Approving the Appointment of Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP
Motion

Recommendation:

The Board will consider approval of the appointment of Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP (LSL) and authorizing the General Manager to execute a three-year auditing services contract with LSL in an amount not-to-exceed \$139,896 to the full Board of Directors. This transition will provide the District with a financial audit firm for the next three years, with an option to extend it an additional two years.

Background:

The District is required to have an independent annual review of its financial records. The District's auditor rotation policy requires that a competitive bid process be undertaken to select auditors every five years, at a minimum. The policy is intended to preserve auditor independence and provide the District a fresh perspective.

On January 13, 2023, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Auditing Services. The RFP was posted on the CSDA along with the CSMFO website, and it was for a three-year contract, with an option to extend two additional years for a total of five. The RFP is attached in Appendix "B."

The District received a total of five (5) proposals by the RFP closing date of February 13, 2023. The proposals ranged in price from \$32,465 to \$62,000 for the first year's financial statement audit. The firms that responded are listed below along with their costs:

5.1 Approving the appointment of Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP Motion

Name	Years					Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	3 Year	5 Year
Badawi and Associates	\$ 36,985	\$ 38,115	\$ 39,295	\$ 39,295	\$ 39,295	\$ 114,395	\$ 192,985
Harshwall and Company LLP	\$ 35,000	\$ 36,750	\$ 38,588	\$ 40,517	\$ 42,541	\$ 110,338	\$ 193,396
Lance, Soll and Lunghard LLP	\$ 45,260	\$ 46,619	\$ 48,017	\$ 49,458	\$ 50,942	\$ 139,896	\$ 240,296
Moss Levy and Hartzheim LLP	\$ 32,465	\$ 32,465	\$ 32,465	\$ 32,465	\$ 32,465	\$ 97,395	\$ 162,325
Vasquez Company	\$ 62,000	\$ 65,138	\$ 68,364	\$ 71,738	\$ 75,324	\$ 195,502	\$ 342,564

The Districts' chief financial officer (CFO) developed a matrix of evaluation criteria, and each proposal was independently evaluated by the CFO, controller, and accounting supervisor to rank each proposal. Pricing was also incorporated into the evaluation. The scale used to evaluate each criteria was 1 - being best, 5 - being worst, and 0 - being not applicable. So, the lowest score was the preferred candidate. The actual Matrix, including scoring, is included in Appendix "A."

After completing the independent evaluations, the top two firms were invited to be interviewed. The top two firms were LSL with a score of 77.5 and Moss, Levy and Harthem LLP with a score of 87.

During the interviews, the firms were evaluated based on the criteria specified in the RFP. The interview questions were designed to assess each firm's experience and expertise, as well as management and work style, and their approach in providing audit services. District staff identified the following strengths of LSL's proposal that led to our recommendation:

- **Technology**: The firm strikes the right balance between people and technology using Data Analytics and AI to support their team in audit engagements. Additionally, they use the most up-to-date portal and document management tools to support client file transfers. The firm also uses technology so that they can provide onsite as well as remote audit capabilities to support the client's needs.
- **Experience with Water Districts and Public Utilities**: The team that would work on the District audit specializes in the audits of government agencies, water districts and public utilities and has over 100 municipal clients. Their experience ranges from large organizations, such as the Yorba Linda Water District to smaller agencies such as San Bernadino Municipal Water Department.
- **Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Reviewer on Staff**: The partner on the engagement is a reviewer for the GFOA Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, which will allow the District to ensure it meets all the requirements to continue to receive the Certificate in future years.

5.1 **Approving the appointment of Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP**

Motion

- **Education**: The firm is a strong believer in continuing education for its employees and provides continuing education for its clients via webinars, e-mail bulletins and GFOA seminars.
- **Supplemental Services**: The review team felt very confident in LSL's abilities to support the District in non-audit financial services such as a review of financial/accounting processes and assisting in the implementation of new accounting software.

While pricing for services was not a significant determining factor in determining the most qualified firm, LSL's pricing of \$45,260 for the financial statement audit was on the high-end. Their first-year price is \$12,795 higher than the lowest proposal, but \$16,740 less than the highest proposal. Their pricing includes one single audit. If an additional program is needed, the cost would increase \$2,000 per program, which is \$4,250 lower than our current auditors.

Staff conducted reference checks by contacting various LSL clients. The feedback received was consistent with the qualities perceived during the interview. LSL was described as great communicators, and very responsive. Clients mentioned that their use of technology and their ability to seamlessly work remotely to conduct audits. They were outstanding at scheduling and managing audit variables to keep the schedule on track. Their partner was able to present the complex financial information to the board of directors in a way that it was easily understood.

Based on the LSL's extensive audit experience and favorable feedback from their clients, staff recommends award of a three-year auditing services contract to Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP.

Fiscal Impact:

The proposed fees for the first year represent a \$5,345 increase in fees the District will pay for audit services compared to prior year. If approved, the proposed budget for FY 2023-24 will include allocations to cover these costs.

Attachments:

Appendix A - Evaluation Criteria Matrix
Appendix B – RFP Professional Audit Services

United Water Audit Proposal Evaluation Matrix

Step 1: Grade the various criteria outlined in the proposal.
Assign points based on the range recommended.

Proposal Criteria		Points	Vasquez CPA Firm A			LSL CPA Firm B			Badawi CPA Firm C			Moss Levy CPA Firm D			Harshwal CPA Firm E			Comments
Use scale of 0-5 with 0=N/A, 1=Best, and 5=Worst			DS	AT	BZ	DS	AT	BZ	DS	AT	BZ	DS	AT	BZ	DS	AT	BZ	
1	Location (are they local to the District)	0-5	2	0	3	2	0	5	5	0	5	3.5	0	3	4	0	5	
2	The proposal addresses all items requested by us whether verbally or in the RFP	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	
3	The firms has experience with Water Districts.	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	4	0	4	
4	The proposal outlines an audit approach that is tailored based on obtaining an understanding of the Dostrect activities and special needs.	0-5	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	
5	The firm can audit remotely.	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	
6	The proposal outlines the firm's processes for ensuring an efficient and effective audit process.	0-5	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	
7	The proposal showcases the firm's commitment to providing quality audit services by voluntarily adhering to higher standards of audit quality. This is evidenced by sharing their current unqualified peer review report resulting from the American Institute of CPAs external peer review process.	0-5	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
8	The firms audit schedule meets the requirement of the District.	0-5	4	1	2	2.5	1	1	3	5	1	2.5	1	1	2.5	1	1	
9	The proposal outlines qualifications, industry experience, licenses and strengths for all partners.	0-5	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	5	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	
10	The proposal specifies the strengths of assigned team members as well as their years of prior experience in the particular industry and type of engagement.	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	
11	The proposal identifies how the firm will comply with applicable industry reporting regulations, if applicable	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
12	The proposal provides the firm's background, client base, licensing information and years in business.	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	
13	If the firm does not have relevant experience in your particular industry, the proposal specifies that the firm has identified a firm with the applicable expertise/specialty to affiliate with to assist with this engagement and provides the affiliate firm's qualifications, background and experience.	0-5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	2	
14	The proposal conveys a positive and confident feeling derived from the firm's business beliefs, communication practices and unique qualifications of which lays the foundation for a trusted relationship.	0-5	2	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	5	3	
15	The proposal provides a listing of additional value added services the firm provides beyond the audit engagement. (e.g. proactively monitor and communicate topics relevant to your financial and business operations all year long that may impact your future success)	0-5	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	
16	It is evident that the firm understands the District and our challenges.	0-5	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	3	3	4	3	3	
17	The proposal clearly provides a framework for the scope, timing, steps and resources to complete the engagement.	0-5	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	
18	The proposal specifies the price for the engagement and how it will be billed.	0-5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	

Proposal Criteria		Points	CPA Firm A			CPA Firm B			CPA Firm C			CPA Firm D			CPA Firm E			Comments
19	The proposal specifies fees to be paid to specialists for the engagement (if any).	0-5	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	
20	The proposed fee is reasonable based on the experience, unique value and knowledge the firm brings to the engagement.	0-5	5	3	5	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Total Points			32	24	32	30.5	23	24	36	37	27	34	26	27	41.5	39	34	
21	Cost - rank costs 1-5 with 1+ lowest price and 5= highest price	0-5	5			4			3			1			2			
21	Cost - \$\$\$		\$ 62,000			\$ 42,260			\$ 36,985			\$ 32,465			\$ 35,000			
Total Points			88			77.5			100			87			114.5			
22	Hour to conduct audit		496			220			400			435			220			
23	Additional Single Audit Cost		\$ 6,250			\$ 2,000			?			\$ 2,500			?			
24	Inflations rate		5%			3%			3%			?			5%			

United Water Conservation District
Request for Proposals
For
Professional Audit Services



United Water Conservation District
1701 N. Lombard Street, Suite 200,
Oxnard, California 93030
(805) 525-4431

RFP Posting Date
January 13, 2023

RFP Due Date
February 13, 2023
At 5:00 p.m.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES
January 13, 2023

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Purpose

The United Water Conservation District (the District) is requesting proposals from qualified Certified Public Accounting firms (herein “auditor”) to perform an audit and issue opinions on the District’s financial statements for three (3) years beginning with the calendar year ending June 30, 2023, with the option of extending the contract for two (2) additional one-year periods, at the District’s sole discretion. The agreement may be terminated if the District determines the audit services to be unsatisfactory.

There is no expressed or implied obligation for the District to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request. Materials submitted by respondents are subject to public inspection under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sec. 6250 et. seq.) unless exempt. Additionally, the District reserves the right to reject any proposals submitted.

The District will review all submittals and recommend based on the established evaluation criteria. After evaluating the proposals, the highest-ranked firm or consultant may be interviewed. All firms or consultants submitting a bid will be notified about their selection process status in writing.

Proposals submitted will be evaluated on behalf of the District by the Evaluation Team, which will consist of District Staff. During the evaluation process, the District reserves the right, where it may serve the District’s best interest, to request additional information and clarifications from proposers or to allow corrections of errors or omissions. Interviews may be scheduled by the District for the week of March 06, 2023, at the District’s discretion of any one or more firms. It is anticipated that the recommendation of the auditing firm selected will be presented to the Board of Directors at its April regularly scheduled meeting in 2023. Following notification of the selected firm, it is expected that a contract will be executed between both parties by April 30, 2023, effective May 1, 2023.

II. DISTRICT PROFILE

A. Background Information

United Water Conservation District (UWCD) is a legislatively established Water Conservation Districts in the State of California. The District’s principal act is the Water Conservation District Law of 1931 (Water Code Section 74000 et seq.). An essential responsibility of the District is to protect and augment groundwater supplies necessary for the public health, welfare and safety of the people of the State of California. The responsibility directly arises from Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution, which among other things provides that the general welfare requires the water resources of the State to be put to beneficial use to the fullest capable extent possible, that waste or unreasonable use of water be prevented, and that conservation of waters is to be exercised recognizing reasonable and beneficial use in the interest of the people of the State for the public welfare. UWCD is not a Municipal Water District, Wholesaler/Retail Water purveyor, or a general government service provider.

The fundamental mission of the District has not changed since the District was reformed under the Water Conservation Article Law of 1931, although the funding model for its water conservation efforts was legislatively amended in 1979 in recognition of its critical responsibilities.

The District covers approximately 214,000 acres in central Ventura County, California. The District administers a "basin management" program for the sub-basins that make up the Santa Clara River Valley Basin, utilizing the Santa Clara River and its tributaries for replenishment of groundwater. The District's facilities include the Santa Felicia Dam, Lake Piru and Lake Piru Recreation Area, Saticoy, El Rio and Piru groundwater recharge facilities, the Freeman Diversion, the Saticoy Well Field, the Pleasant Valley, Oxnard-Hueneme and Pumping Trough delivery systems (pipelines) that include wells, treatment facilities, reservoirs and booster pumping stations. Funds are used for each of these activities to account for revenue and expenditures.

The District's mission is to *manage, protect, conserve and enhance* the water resources of the District and produce a reliable and sustainable supply of groundwater for the reasonable and beneficial use of all users. This mission statement is the foundation of the District's Strategic Plan Framework which provides the overall policy direction for District staff to manage and prioritize its programs and activities.

Because of its status as a water conservation district and funding authorities, financial reporting is unique as the District attempts to comply and distinguish its water conservation authority mandate, as provided for in the California Water Code, and the District's governmental status that requires it to comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The Board adopts the District's annual operating and capital improvement budget by no later than June 30th for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). The budget is prepared by staff on a fund, department, account and project basis in order to proportionally allocate costs to the District's primary cost centers (funds) and submitted to the Board in a fund-account presentation with a detailed discussion of the proposed budget, which is reviewed and deliberated on from approximately May 1 until the meeting of the Board of Directors in June at which time the spending plan is adopted.

B. Prior Auditor

Vasquez & Company., LLP has been the District auditor for three (3) years.

III. NATURE OF SERVICES REQUIRED — SCOPE OF WORK

A. Scope of Work to be Performed

The District desires the auditor to express an opinion on the fair presentation of its general-purpose financial statements in conformity with generally accepted governmental accounting principles (GAAP). The scope of work relative to this request for proposals shall include the following tasks:

1. A pre-audit conference (teleconference is acceptable) is required to provide a clear understanding of any conditions to be met by District staff and the auditor's responsibilities so that the audit can be conducted on a timely basis and concluded following predetermined schedules.
2. Auditor shall perform an audit of all funds and financial statements of the District. The audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller of the United States.

3. Auditor shall prepare the combined financial statements, footnotes, and required supplementary information. The District's personnel must review any results prepared by the auditor which alter the District's books.
4. Auditor shall assist District personnel in applying GAAP and provide the support necessary to maintain sound financial management procedures. Auditor shall give financial advice and counsel on proper accounting practices and significant matters occurring throughout the year that would affect the annual reports.
5. Auditor shall express an opinion on the fair presentation of its financial statements in conformity with GAAP. The auditor shall also be responsible for performing specific limited procedures involving preparing supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and mandated by generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS). Review other supplementary information and statistical sections to ensure they are consistent with financial statement information.
6. Auditor shall evaluate the adequacy of the internal control system and, where weaknesses are noted, make appropriate recommendations for improvements.
7. Auditor shall prepare a report for the Board of Directors and management, which identifies control deficiencies, significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, and recommendations for improvements in accounting and administrative controls.
8. The auditor shall be required to make an immediate written report of all irregularities and illegal acts they become aware of to the Board of Directors and General Manager.
9. The Partner of the audit shall attend the board meeting to present the audit to the Board and answer any questions the board may have. The agency may request a representative to participate in discussions with the Chief Financial Officer and the General Manager if clarification of audit findings is necessary.
10. Management Letter - The audit examination shall evaluate the District's accounting system, internal control structure, data processing methods, and financial records. This evaluation shall be comprehensive enough in scope to provide for an appropriate report thereon to the District. The auditor shall prepare a separate management letter on the internal control structure based upon the auditor's understanding of the control structure and assessment of control risk. This report shall be submitted to District and outline the auditor observations and recommendations for enhancement, including any reportable conditions found during the audit.
11. Audit procedures shall include a review of the Investment Policy to provide assurances of strong internal controls by reviewing compliance with established policies and procedures. The result of this review Shall be included in the annual audit report to the Board of Directors. The auditing firm shall submit a draft of the financial statements to the management no later than November 6, 2023.
12. The District has been subject to the single audit requirements for multiple projects. The audit firm will perform a single audit on the expenditures of federal grants following the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Grant Guidance/Super Circular. The auditor shall interpret the relevant audit reports of Internal Control over Financial Reporting based on the audit of the District's basic financial statements following Government Auditing Standards and the relevant information on compliance with Requirements Applicable to each Major Program, Internal Control over Compliance and on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards. The single audit report will include an appropriate schedule of expenditures of federal awards, footnotes, findings, and questioned costs, including reportable conditions,

materials, and weaknesses, and follow- up on prior audit findings where required.

B. Additional Work

If it should become necessary for the District to request the auditor to render any additional services to either supplement the services requested in this RFP or perform other work due to the specific recommendations included in any report on this engagement. Extra requested work shall be performed as described in an addendum to the contract between the District and the firm. Any additional work agreed to between the District, rates outlined in the schedule of fees and expenses included in the Proposal Data Sheet, and the contents of the Technical Proposal shall remain.

C. Working Paper Retention

All working papers and reports must be retained at the auditor's expense for a minimum of seven (7) years unless the firm is notified in writing by the District of the need to extend the retention period. The auditor will be required to make working papers available to the District. In addition, the firm shall respond to the reasonable inquiries of successor auditors and allow successor auditors to review working papers relating to matters of continuing accounting significance.

IV. TIMING AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- A.** We have made every effort to include sufficient information within this Request for Proposal (RFP) for firms to prepare as responsive, comprehensive, and competitive a proposal as possible.

The timing of the proposal process is as follows:

1. Distribution of RFP: January 13, 2023.
2. Proposal Submission

Proposal shall be submitted bearing the caption: Proposal for Professional Auditing Services and addressed to:

Brian H. Zahn United Water Conservation District
brianz@unitedwater.org
1701 North Lombard Street Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

Proposers may submit one (1) printed copy via mail or in-person to Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer.

Printed copies must be delivered via mail or delivery to the above office on or before 5:00 p.m. P.T. on Monday, February 13, 2023. (Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered).

3. Questions Regarding this RFP

Inquiries regarding this RFP are due by email on or before 5:00 p.m. P.T. on January 27, 2023. All inquiries must include a contact person, address, and email address. All known respondents will receive responses to questions by February 03, 2023. Questions can be addressed to:

Brian H. Zahn United Water Conservation District
brianz@unitedwater.org
1701 North Lombard Street Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

To ensure that your firm receives responses to inquiries, please send an email to Brian H. Zahn CFO and include questions and contact information. An electronic RFP submittal instead of following submittal protocol will disqualify your RFP submittal.

4. Amendments to Proposals

Revisions to proposals are allowed. Submit electronic corrections to Brian H. Zahn, (brianz@unitedwater.org) before the Closing date and time. The modification must indicate the change in the proposal price if any.

5. Addenda to this RFP

Suppose the District deems it necessary to clarify or make any changes to this RFP. In that case, these changes shall be made in the form of a written addendum authorized and issued by Brian H. Zahn or the authorized designee. Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of any supplements in the Transmittal Letter.

6. Proposal Review: Our review committee will evaluate each proposal submitted. The review process is anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2023.
7. Interviews, as needed: Any finalists selected for an oral presentation will be notified. Interviews will take place at United District Offices or virtually the week of February 27, 2023.
8. Notification to all bidders: We anticipate sending written notice to all proposers regarding the outcome of the review process by April 30, 2023. We will provide an electronic copy of the finalist proposal(s) upon written request.
9. Notification to finalists: The review committee will forward its recommendation to the District's Board of Directors for approval at the April regularly scheduled meeting of 2023. All finalists will be notified of the final decision by April 30, 2023.
10. Contract Term: The Audit Services contract will become effective on the execution of the agreement for three (3) calendar years ending June 30, 2023, 2024, and 2025 with the option to extend the contract for two (2) additional one-year periods, at the District's sole discretion.

We will try to administer the proposal process following the terms and dates discussed in this RFP. However, we reserve the right to modify the proposal process and dates as deemed necessary and not to award a contract. The District assumes no obligation for any costs incurred by any proposer in preparing the response to this request, attending an interview or any other activity before award of the contract to the selected proposer.

B. Project Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit (Year ending June 30)

1. The auditor shall be prepared to perform Interim Field work the week of May 8th.
2. The auditor shall provide the District with a detailed Audit Plan, and a list of all schedules to be prepared by the District no later than July 1 of each respective year following the year under audit.
3. The District expects to have all records, prepared by client lists, and schedules ready for the audit fieldwork before September 8th of each respective year following the year under audit and would expect field work to commence no later than the beginning to the middle of September of each year for the prior the year under audit.
4. The auditor shall complete their work concerning the financial statements in time to furnish the District with their letter of opinion no later than November 13, of each respective year following the year under audit.
5. Should the District exercise the option for the selected auditor to perform subsequent work, the time mentioned above schedule shall be applicable. The auditor's failure to strictly adhere to the schedule may result in the assessment of damages against the auditor for the delay. Notwithstanding the preceding, the auditor shall not be responsible for delays due to causes beyond the auditor's reasonable control.
6. A draft of the management letter shall also be provided by November 6 of each respective year for the prior year under audit. District Staff shall have the opportunity to discuss and comment upon any findings and recommendations before issuance.

C. Assistance Provided to the Auditor

Finance Department staff will be available during interim and audit fieldwork to assist the firm by providing access and direction to information and documentation and explaining all inquiries. Staff will provide clerical assistance to prepare confirmations and other routine correspondence.

The District will provide the auditors with a good workspace, phone, wireless internet, and copy machine access.

D. Payment

Progress payments will be made on work completed during the engagement. Interim billings shall cover not less than a calendar month.

V. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A.** This RFP does not commit the District to enter into a contract. The District expressly reserves the right to reject all proposals at its sole discretion and option without indicating any reason(s) for such rejection. If all bids are rejected, the District may or may not request additional proposals. The District may withdraw this RFP at any time without advance notice.
- B.** The District reserves the right to postpone the RFP process for its own convenience, should negotiations with the selected company be terminated, negotiate with another company, or cancel any section of this RFP. The District also reserves the right to apportion the award among more than one company.

- C. Any agreement resulting from this RFP will be executed after successfully negotiating contract terms and conditions, and all applicable procedural requirements have been met.
- D. The District reserves the right to remedy technical errors in the RFP process or waive proposal informalities and irregularities. Proposals should be verified before submission. The District is not responsible for errors or omissions on the part of the respondent in the preparation of a proposal. The District will not return any proposals.
- E. The District may investigate the qualifications of any Proposer under consideration, require confirmation of information furnished by the proposer, and require additional evidence or qualifications to perform the Services described in this RFP.
- F. The District reserves the right to expand or diminish the scope of services subject to negotiation with the successful proposer.
- G. The District is not required to select the proposal that may indicate the lowest price or costs.
- H. The District will not be liable for any costs incurred by responding firms related to the preparation and submittal of proposals, making of initial presentation to the District, negotiating a contract for services, or any other expense incurred by the proposer before the date of an executed contract. In addition, no Proposer shall include any such expenses as part of the price proposed to conduct the scope of services for this project.
- I. Proposer may withdraw a proposal before the expiration time in this RFP by delivering to Brian H. Zahn or the authorized designee an emailed or written request for withdrawal signed by, or on behalf of, the proposer.

VI. PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Proposals submitted under this request must contain the following information:

A. Format of Technical Proposal

- 1. Cover Page
 - a) The RFP subject
 - b) The proposing firm's name
 - c) Contact person's name, local address, telephone number, and email address. If the firm has more than one office, state which office will be responsible for providing services to the District, and;
 - d) The date of submission
- 2. Table of Contents
 - a) Identification of material submitted by section and page number
 - b) Cross references to section and page number of RFP would be helpful
- 3. Transmittal Letter

- a) A general introduction stating the proposer's understanding of services;
- b) A commitment to perform the service within the timeperiod;
- c) A statement why the firm believes itself to be best qualified to perform the engagement;
- d) A statement of how long you have been in business and how many financial audits were performed by your firm for public agencies during the past five (5) years;
- e) A statement that the proposal is a final and irrevocable offer for sixty (60) calendar days from the submitted date;
- f) A statement that the Auditor has no conflict of interest of the work performed;
- g) A statement that the audit firm is independent and licensed to practice in the State of California;
- h) Name(s) of person(s) authorized to represent the proposer, title, address, telephone number, email address, and;
- i) Signature.

4. Detailed proposal Following the Order outlined in Section A

B. Contents of Technical Proposal

The purpose of the Technical Proposal is to demonstrate the qualifications, competence, and capacity of the firms seeking to undertake an independent audit of the District in conformity with the requirements of this RFP. The Technical Proposal should demonstrate the firm's qualifications and the staff assigned to this engagement. It should also specify an audit approach that will meet the RFP requirements.

The Technical Proposal should address all the points in the order outlined in the RFP (exclude any cost information, which should only be included in the cost proposal section). The proposal should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the proposer's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP.

While additional data may be presented, the areas detailed below must be included.

1. License to Practice in California

An affirmative statement that the firm and all assigned key professional staff are licensed to practice in California.

2. Independence

The firm should provide affirmative statement that it is independent of the District as defined by GAAS and the U.S. General Accounting Office's Government Auditing Standards.

The firm should also list and describe the firm's professional relationships involving the District for the past five (5) years, with a statement explaining why such relationships do not constitute a conflict of interest relative to performing the proposed audit.

In addition, the firm shall give the District written notice of any professional relationships entered into during this agreement period.

3. Insurance Requirements

The chosen firm/consultant will be required to maintain insurance coverage throughout the Professional Services Agreement (PSA). It shall provide United with evidence of said coverage as outlined in the PSA. According to a review by the District's legal counsel, the requirement is subject to change and modification. Please review contract language and insurance requirements before submitting a proposal and note any proposed exceptions to the PSA tenets in your proposal.

4. Firm Qualification and Experience

To qualify, the firm must have extensive experience in audits of local governments as well as experience with the preparation of basic financial statements in compliance with GAAP, Minimum Audit Requirements and Reporting Guidelines for Special Districts as required by the State Controller's Office, and GASB requirements.

The proposal should briefly introduce your firm, indicating whether your firm is local, regional, national, or international. State the size of the firm, including the size of the firm's governmental audit staff. Include the location of the office to perform RFP services and the number of full-time and part-time employees specific to this RFP. Indicate the name of the person authorized to answer questions and bind the firm, the person's title, address, email, and telephone number.

The proposer should not be a joint venture or consortium.

If your firm participates in a peer review or quality review program, provide the year and month and the results of the most recent review. Submit a copy of the report on the firm's most recent external quality control (peer) review, with a statement whether that quality control review included a review of specific government engagements (required by Government Audit Standards).

Please provide information on the results of any federal or State desk reviews or field reviews of its audits during the past three (3) years. In addition, provide information on the circumstances and status of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the firm during the past three (3) years with state regulatory bodies or professional organizations.

5. Engagement Partner, Manager/Supervisor, and Staff Qualifications and Experience

Identify the senior-level staff, including the engagement partner and manager/supervisor, assigned to this engagement on an ongoing basis. Indicate whether these individuals have CPA licenses to practice in California. Please provide information on the governmental auditing experience of these individuals, including information on relevant continuing professional education for the past three (3) years and membership in professional organizations pertinent to the performance of this audit, as well as engagements performed (including years). The District reserves the right to approve or reject any replacements in the senior-level staff participating in the District's audit.

Identify junior-level staff assigned to this engagement. How stable is this team of individuals in relationship to being assigned to this engagement annually? Please indicate their experience as outlined above for senior-level staff. How will the quality of the junior-level team be assured over the agreement? Indicate whether these individuals have CPA licenses to practice in California. Please provide information on the governmental auditing experience of these individuals, including information on relevant continuing professional education for the past three (3) years and membership in

professional organizations pertinent to the performance of this audit, as well as engagements performed (including years). The District reserves the right to approve or reject any replacements in the junior-level staff participating in the District's audit.

Include resumes of those individuals supervising the audit.

6. Prior Engagements with the District

List all engagements within the last five (5) years separately, ranked based on total staff hours, for the District by type of engagement (i.e., audit, the management or advisory services, other). Indicate the scope of work, date, engagement partners, total hours, the location of the firm's office from which the engagement was performed, and the name and telephone number of the principal client contact.

7. Specific Audit Approach

The proposal should set forth a work plan, including an explanation of the audit methodology to be followed to perform the services required in Section III of this RFP.

a) Proposed segmentation of the audit work:

- i. What will be accomplished during the interim, and what at year-end?
- ii. What other contact can the District expect during the year related to the audit engagement?

b) Expectations of District Staff:

- i. What documents and working papers are expected to be provided by District Staff during interim and year-end work? Please provide sample Prepared by Client (PBC) lists and schedules for each section of the audit fieldwork.

c) The proposed time frame for each segment of auditwork:

- i. What is the anticipated length of fieldwork for interim and year-endwork?
- ii. What is the standard turnaround time from the end of fieldwork to senior level review, to final draft, to partner review, to audit reportissuance?

8. Planned number of hours on the engagement for each level of auditing staff.

a) Sample size and the extent to which statistical sampling used for the engagement.

9. Type and extent of use of software in the engagement.

10. Type and extent of analytical procedures used in the engagement.

11. The approach taken to gain and document an understanding of the District's internal control structure.

12. The approach to determining laws and regulations is subject to audit test work.

13. The approach to be taken in drawing audit samples for tests of compliance.

14. Identification of Anticipated Potential Audit Problems

15. The proposer should identify and describe any anticipated potential audit problems, the firm's approach to resolving these problems, and any special assistance required by the

District.

16. References

Please provide the name of all cities, counties, and special districts for which the firm has audited basic financial statements during the past three (3) years. These engagements should be ranked first for special districts based on total staff hours, followed by all cities and counties ranked based on total staff hours. Indicate the scope of work, date, engagement partner, total hours.

Please include reference contact information for at least three (3) of these special districts, including the principal client contact's name, telephone number, and email address. The District reserves the right to contact any or all of the listed references.

17. Proposal Data Sheet

In addition to your formal response, all firms must enclose a data sheet. Refer to the attached form.

18. Additional Information Required

What additional information would you require from the District if you were selected to provide audit services before you accepted the engagement?

19. Delegation or subcontract responsibilities

The proposer will not delegate or subcontract its responsibilities without the prior written consent of the District.

C. Price

In a separate sealed envelope or email attachment, provide a not-to-exceed cost estimate for the 2023 engagement and each of the following two (2) years. Indicate how additional fees are calculated if the contract is extended beyond three (3) years. The cost estimate should be itemized by task and include a list of charge-out rates related to the names of key personnel to be used by the organization during this project. Include time, materials, travel, and other expenses, which may be associated with the duties and obligations under this Request for Proposal. All costs must be identified. This process is not considered a bid, nor will cost alone decide who is selected. Please note that the District relies heavily on the not to exceed amount and is reluctant to grant further increases unless there are substantial reasons for overage. Please provide a list of fees for additional services that may be requested in relation to this audit.

All proposals shall contain provisions if extraordinary circumstances warrant intensive and detailed services beyond those in the contractual agreement. The firm shall provide in writing and in advance, reasons for the additional service, the firm's estimate of costs, and a statement that no work will be performed without advance approval by the District. Any additional work as agreed in advance by the District shall be compensated for at the same rate quoted in the schedule submitted in the proposal.

VII. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Proposals will be evaluated using three (3) sets of criteria. Firms meeting the mandatory criteria will have their proposal evaluated and scored for both technical qualifications and price. The following represents the principal selection criteria, which will be considered during the evaluation process:

A. Mandatory Elements:

1. The audit firm is independent, insured and licensed to practice in California.
2. The firm has no conflict of interest with regard to any other work to be performed for the District.
3. The firm adhered to the instructions in the RFP.
4. The firm submits a copy of its last external quality control review report, and the firm has record of quality audit work.

B. Technical Quality:

1. Expertise and Experience

- a) The firm's substantial past experience in performing the required audits on government agencies comparable to the District.
- b) The quality and stability of the firm's professional staff to be assigned to the engagement and the quality of the firm's management support personnel to be available for technical consultation is acceptable to the District.

2. Audit Approach:

- a) The firm provided proposed plans for the various segments of the engagement which are acceptable to the District.
- b) The firm presented a thorough understanding of the objectives, scope and issues for this type of engagement.
- c) Adequacy of proposed staffing plan.
- d) Adequacy of sampling techniques.
- e) Adequacy of analytical procedures.
- f) The firm is committed to the timeliness in the conduct and completion of the audit.

C. Price:

Evaluation of the maximum fee to conduct the audit.

D. Interviews

During the evaluation process, committee staff may, at its discretion, request any one or more firms to make interviews. Such presentations will provide firms with an opportunity to answer any questions the committee may have on a firm's proposal. Not all firms may be asked to make such oral presentations.

E. Final Decision

It is anticipated that the Board of Directors will approve the selected firm at the April Board meeting. Following notification to the firm selected, it is expected a contract will be executed between both parties by April 30, 2023.

VIII. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The chosen consultant will be required to maintain insurance coverage throughout the course of the Professional Services Agreement and shall provide the District with evidence of said coverage as set forth in the Professional Services Agreement. The requirement is subject to change and modification pursuant to review by the District Attorney. Please review contract language and insurance requirements prior to submitting proposal.

Attachment A

**UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES
PROPOSAL DATA SHEET**

I. FIRM NAME:

DATE:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

II. QUALIFICATIONS:

(Briefly state your firm's qualifications)

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III. PAST GOVERNMENTAL CLIENTS/CONTACT PERSON (List three):

<u>Client</u>	<u>Date Most Recent Audit</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>

IV. AUDITING PERSONNEL PROVIDED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Years Experience</u>	<u>Certificate/Degree</u>	<u>Last Public Audit</u>
	Partner			
	Manager			
	Sr. Acct.			
	Accountant			

*Please remember to include resumes with your RFP response.

V. HOURLY RATES OF AUDITING PERSONNEL:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Standard Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Quoted Hourly Rate</u>
	Partner	\$ per hour	\$ per hour
	Manager	\$ per hour	\$ per hour
	Sr. Acct.	\$ per hour	\$ per hour
	Accountant	\$ per hour	\$ per hour

VI. FEES:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Anticipated Hours</u>	<u>Fees Y/E 06/30/23</u>	<u>Fees Y/E 06/30/24</u>	<u>Fees Y/E 06/30/25</u>	<u>Fees Y/E 06/30/26</u>	<u>Fees Y/E 06/30/27</u>
<u>Audit with financial statements</u>						
<u>Management Letter</u>						
<u>Article XIII B</u>						
<u>SCO Reporting</u>						
<u>Other per RFP</u>						
<u>Total</u>						

VII. QUALIFICATIONS REGARDING FEES:

(Please state succinctly any qualifications you need to make regarding your proposed fee (e.g., out of pocket expenses, fee increases, extraordinary services, etc.)

VIII. BILLING SEQUENCES:

(Please state the firm's normal billing practice, as it will be applied to this engagement.)

It is understood that this information must be complete and submitted by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2023 to the United Water Conservation District, Attn: Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer, 1701 North Lombard Street Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93030

Print Name

Signature of Individual Submitting Proposal
Authorized on Behalf of Firm

Date



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Craig Morgan, Engineering Manager
Adrian Quiroz, Associate Engineer

Date: March 27, 2023 (April 12, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.2 OH Well Replacement Program – El Rio Water Well No. 20
Construction Contract in the Amount of \$849,283
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will consider approving the motion that considers authorizing the General Manager to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Bakersfield Well & Pump Company, in the amount of \$849,283 for the construction of the Oxnard Hueneme (OH) Well Replacement Program – El Rio Water Well No. 20 Construction project.

Discussion:

The purpose of this project is to replace El Rio Water Well No. 5 with the new El Rio Water Well No. 20 as part of a multi-year effort to replace the original El Rio Wells, constructed in the mid-1950s. This project would complete the seventh and final well replacement under the program. Three bids were received on March 16, 2023. The lowest responsible bid was provided by Bakersfield Well & Pump Company. A summary of the bid results is listed below:

Bakersfield Well & Pump Company	\$ 849,283.00
Best Drilling and Pump, Inc.	\$ 953,000.00
Layne Christensen Company	\$1,144,670.08

Based on the information and references provided, staff has verified that Bakersfield Well & Pump Company has satisfactory experience to perform the work and has successfully completed other well drilling projects for the District in the past.

Staff recommends that the full Board authorize the General Manager to award the construction contract to Bakersfield Well & Pump Company for the construction of El Rio Water Well No. 20.

Fiscal Impact:

The Well Replacement Program is included in the FY 2022-23 Budget (CIP Project Account 452-400-81060-8000) and has \$1,107,271.14 available. No additional funding is requested.



Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: Dan Detmer, Water Resources Manager
Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Date: April 5, 2023 (April 12, 2023 Meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.3 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 April 4, 2023, 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 2023 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.

	2021-2022 (previous year)	Water Year 2022-2023 (current year)	2023-2024 (ensuing year)
Annual Overdraft*	61,000 AF	-69,000 AF (projected)	0 – 59,100 AF
Accumulated Overdraft	20,000 – 25,000 AF	20,000 – 25,000 AF	-
Total of Annual Overdrafts*	1,171,000 AF	-	-
Estimated Groundwater Pumping for Agriculture	-	-	132,000 AF

* The methodology for calculating Annual Overdraft and Total of Annual Overdrafts was updated in 2023, as described in Attachment A.

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

	2021-2022 (previous year)	Water Year 2022-2023 (current year)	2023-2024 (ensuing year)
Estimated Groundwater Pumping for M&I	-	-	42,000 AF
Estimated Surface Water Distribution	-	-	58,000 AF
Total Water Distribution	-	-	232,000 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 2023, is approximately 63,800 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 Wednesday, May 17, 2023. No Board decisions will be made until the final hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Attachment A: Annual 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 (2021-2022),
current water year (2022-2023), and ensuing water year (2023-2024)*

**Prepared by
Water Resources Department**

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 2023




Board of Directors
Bruce E. Dandy, President
Sheldon G. Berger, Vice President
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Secretary/Treasurer
Mohammed A. Hasan
Catherine P. Keeling
Gordon Kimball
Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

I, Lynn E. Maulhardt, 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 (2021-2022), current water year (2022-2023), and ensuring water year (2023-2024).*


Lynn E. Maulhardt


Date

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

**A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE
PREVIOUS WATER YEAR (2021-2022),
CURRENT WATER YEAR (2022-2023),
AND ENSUING WATER YEAR (2023-2024)**

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

Cover Photo: Santa Felicia Dam Spillway
Photo by John Carman, March 22, 2023

MARCH 30, 2023

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 extraction 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 modified Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model (UWCD, 2006; 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, though these calculated figures were informed by the older Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model, it 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 land 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 Valley 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.

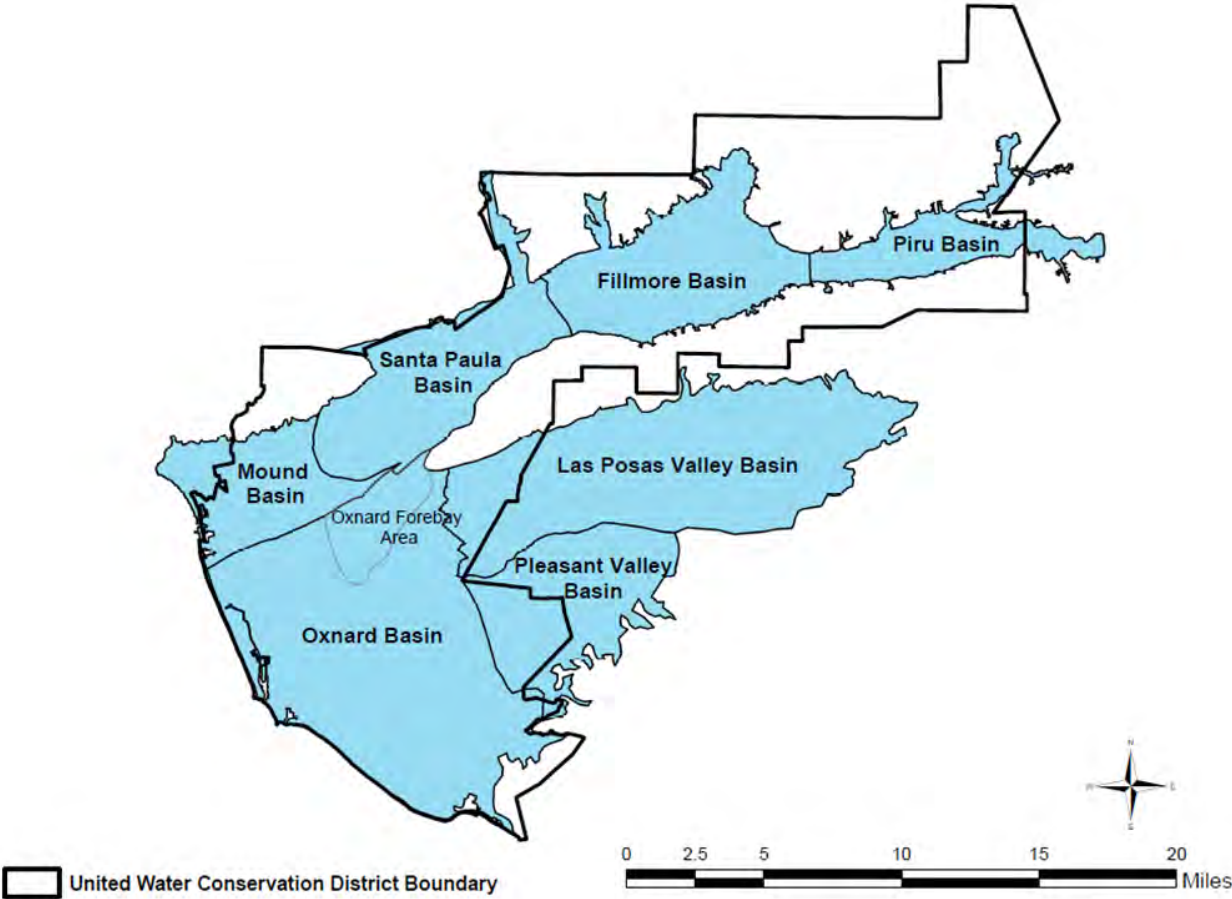


Figure 1. Groundwater basins of United Water Conservation District.

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 estimate “Annual Overdraft” have been modified for this annual report. The District has invested significant time and effort in developing and refining a number of modeling tools and methods in recent years, and these tools provide an opportunity to improve the calculations within this report. The overall methodology and approach remain similar; the updates are largely related to the calculation of basin recharge from surface water percolation for the upper Santa Clara River basins (UWCD, 2021c) and the Forebay Area of the Oxnard basin (R2 Resource Consultants, 2016). The 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. Appendix A includes details regarding the updated methodology.

Utilizing the modified Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model (UWCD, 2006; as adapted from the USGS RASA Model, [Hanson et. al, 2003]), Geographic Information System (GIS) and its extensive historic data bases of groundwater levels, groundwater extractions, artificial recharge and water chemistry, local water resource managers have 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 relies on that analysis to help

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

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 and others, 2007).

The methods used by the District to compute "Annual Overdraft" have been changed in previous reports. Prior to 1991 it was assumed that overdraft only occurred in the Oxnard 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 year's calculations maintain a similar approach, but the tools for estimating basin inflows and outflows have improved, and the improvements have been incorporated into the updated methodology (see Appendix A).

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 **59,100 acre-feet**.
- (b) The annual overdraft for the current water year is estimated to range up to **-69,000 acre-feet**. This **negative** number implies that replenishment will exceed extractions for the District, as a whole.
- (c) The annual overdraft for the ensuing water year is estimated to be between **0 and 59,100 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 **132,000 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 **42,000 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 **58,000 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 **936,000 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.

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

- (k) The total production of water from the groundwater supplies of the District during the preceding water year was approximately **173,300 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 **1,171,000 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 **59,100 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, water resources staff developed a regression curve fit that compares overdraft for previous years to rainfall through February for each of the years 1982-83 through 2021-2022 (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. Normal rainfall refers to the updated long-term average from 1890-1891 through the previous year (2021-2022). The prediction is considerably improved by weighting in the prior year precipitationⁱ. This regression methodology 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 (2022-2023), precipitation was approximately **187%** of normal. The previous year (2021-2022) precipitation was approximately **97%** of normal at the end of February. The overdraft for the current water year is predicted to be approximately **-69,000 acre-feet**. The **negative** number implies a net **surplus** to the aquifers. A review of overdraft data from 1982-1983 to 2021-2022 suggests that a net District-wide surplus of water will occur when the weighted precipitation, of the current year through February and the prior year, equals or exceeds approximately **109%** of normal. For the 2022-2023 water year the weighted precipitation is **157%**.

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

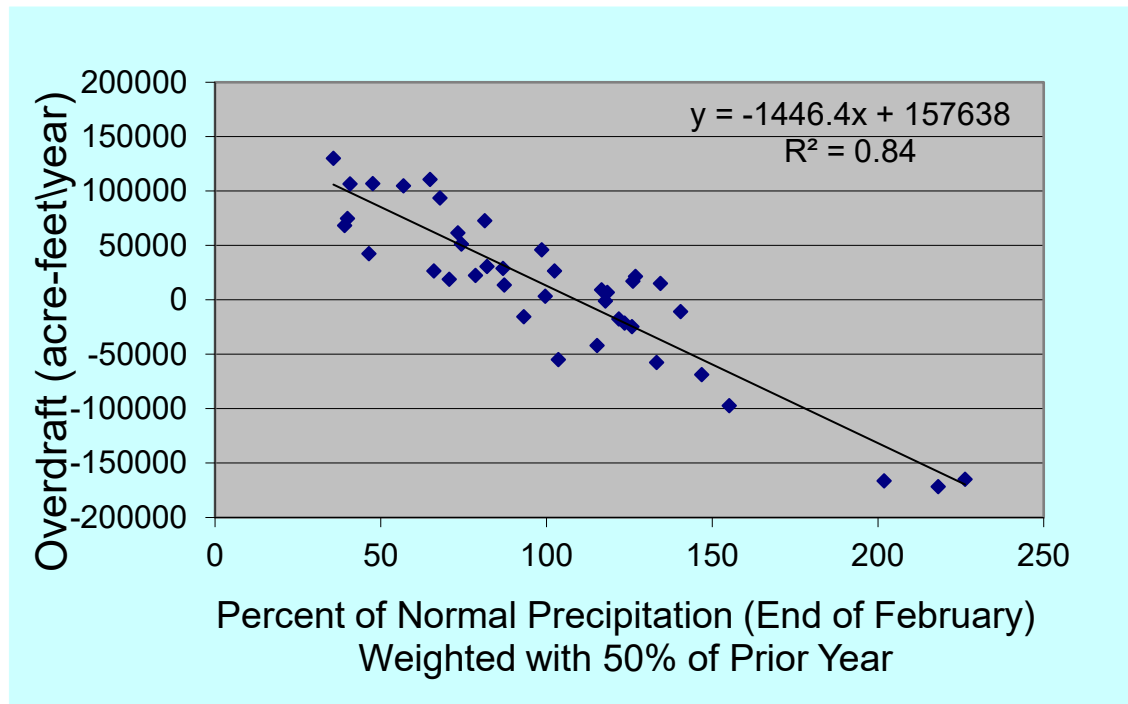


Figure 2. District-Wide Overdraft vs. Percent of Normal Precipitation.

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 eight months in the arrears. This calculated overdraft for the prior year is then used with the nine 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 **68,000 acre-feet** for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. After receiving data for the entire year, and updating the methodology, the actual annual overdraft was determined to be approximately **61,000 acre-feet**. Therefore, the projected annual overdraft was overestimated by approximately **7,000 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-feet and the ten-year average annual overdraft.

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

(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).

Past efforts to estimate long-term overdraft utilized the Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model and Best Management Objective (BMO) groundwater level goals to inform the calculation of “Accumulated Overdraft”. Groundwater modeling efforts for the 2007 Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) Management Plan update included simulating pumping reductions in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins. Modeling efforts included calculating the amount of pumping reduction in the South Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins required to raise groundwater levels so that on average over a complete hydrologic cycle (1944 to 1998) there was no net landward movement of seawater (FCGMA and others, 2007). This pumping reduction is the “Accumulated Overdraft” and was estimated to be 20,000 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 (FCGMA 2019a, 2019b, and 2019c). 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 online or unless there is a long-term change in pumping or climate.

(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 semi-annual groundwater extraction statements reported by well owners to the District’s Finance Department, where the water usage is reported as either agricultural or M&I and extraction fees are calculated.

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

(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 groundwater extraction statements.

(h) The long-term average diversion rate for the Freeman Diversion is approximately 58,000 acre-feet per year (January 1991 - June 2022).

(i) The total replenishment necessary for replenishment of groundwater supplies of the District comes from the equation: Total Replenishment = $0.80 \times$ Total Annual Overdrafts. The 80% factor comes from the USGS RASA groundwater flow model simulation results (Hanson et. al, 2003), which estimated that about 20% of the annual overdraft is water derived from the compaction and dewatering of fine-grained sediments (and subsequent subsidence). Water cannot be forced back into the sediments, the storage space lost forever, and thus should be subtracted from the total water needed to replenish the aquifer. However, thick deposits of fine-grained sediments are not common to all the basins within District boundaries, and this 20% factor likely is 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 groundwater extraction and pumping charges.

“Total of Annual Overdrafts” – this additional finding is a cumulative total of each years' 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 wetter-than-average years, there exists a District-wide overdraft and the total will increase, as discussed in (b). In 2022-2023, when the methodology used to calculate annual overdraft was revised for the period since 1993, the annual overdrafts and the “total of annual overdrafts” were recalculated for each year, and the “total of annual overdrafts” at the end of 2020-2021 was estimated to be 1,109,000 acre-feet.

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 elevations. The value reported as annual overdraft compares the natural and artificial annual recharge to annual groundwater 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 average and 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 in the Oxnard basin and dewatering of salt-rich clays surrounding the aquifers; this dewatering has resulted in saltwater moving from the clays to the aquifer and in compaction of the clays (UWCD, 2016). These conditions continue to persist in the coastal areas, with areas of increasing chloride concentrations in recent years (UWCD, 2021b). The majority of this saline ocean water is likely contained in the extensive offshore portions of the aquifers of the Oxnard basin. 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 saltwater or to prevent subsidence. This is an inherently important

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

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.

Two calculated values related to long-term overdraft are presented in this report: 1) the amount of water necessary for the replenishment of the groundwater supplies of the District, which is calculated from the total of annual overdrafts, with a value of **936,000 acre-feet** as of 2021-2022; 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 saltwater 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 or depressed for periods of several decades in the Oxnard 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 extraction rates in either of them. Thus, these basins are considered by the District to be in a condition of long-term overdraft.

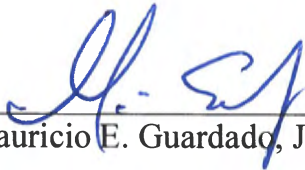
In the past, the Santa Paula basin had been considered in a state of potential overdraft. A basin yield study (UWCD, 2003) by experts for the City of Ventura, Santa Paula Basin Pumpers Association, and the District suggested that the yield of the basin is probably near the historic pumping amount. In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

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 Oxnard 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

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

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 (DWR, 2021). DWR has also confirmed that the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins remain subject to critical overdraft (DWR, 2021).



Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

4/4/23

Date



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

4/3/2023

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.

This year (2023), staff improved the methodology for determining the groundwater conditions within the District's boundaries. The new methodology determines annual hydrologic balance in a similar, and relatively simple, manner. However, the calculated components to the hydrologic balance have been improved. The balance incorporates precipitation, natural recharge, artificial recharge and extracted groundwater return flows as recharge components and groundwater extraction and phreatophyte consumptive use as discharge components.

The District has invested significant efforts in developing multiple models in recent years that have been used in water resource planning by both the District and other agencies and consultants. These models have been used in this methodology to inform recharge and discharge components of the hydrologic balance.

The calculated balance for each component is determined individually for each basin, where possible. 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); the calculated area of each basin has been updated in this report to reflect the more recent California Department of Water Resources (DWR) basin boundary modifications (2019).
- 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
- Modeled average phreatophyte consumptive use over 30-year period (1985-2015) (ac-ft).

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

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.

Area

The areas for the unconfined groundwater basins (Piru basin, Fillmore basin, Santa Paula basin, and the Forebay Area of the Oxnard basin) were calculated using a Geographic Information System and were based on recently updated (2019) DWR basin boundaries (DWR, 2021). The updated basin boundaries resulted in an increase in areal extent of approximately 33% for the unconfined basin, and this increase was largely due to the addition of outcrop areas of the production formations.

Surface Flows

Infiltration and percolation of surface flows was estimated using the Upper Basins Surface Water Model (UWCD, 2021c). This model, developed by United, calculates surface flows, recharge, and rising groundwater for the Santa Clara River reaches overlying the Piru, Fillmore, and Santa Paula basins. Model inputs include gaged flow in the Santa Clara River and its tributaries and historical available storage in the Piru and Fillmore basins; final data approved for publication are used when possible, but due to the timing of this report, some provisional data are included. The model also includes estimates for surface flow losses in Santa Paula basin. Available data suggest that water percolation rates from the Santa Clara River within the Santa Paula basin is limited and difficult to quantify (UWCD, 2013). For this report, 12% of estimated Santa Clara River losses within the Santa Paula basin were estimated as recharge (percolation) to groundwater, on an annual basis, based on the model outputs from the Upper Basins Surface Water Model. From 1992-1993 to 2021-2022, this method results in an average annual percolation total of approximately 2,180 acre-feet per year. Additionally, the streamflow percolation within the Oxnard Forebay area was updated to be estimated using the Hydrological Operations Simulations System (HOSS; R2 Resource Consultants, 2016), which leverages relationships between groundwater elevations in nearby monitoring wells with observed percolation rates within the portion of the Santa Clara River of the Oxnard Forebay area.

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

Artificial Recharge

The off-channel annual recharge to Piru (last used in 2008), 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).

Groundwater Extractions

The groundwater extractions for each basin within the District boundaries are tabulated through pumping reported to the District by well owners and operators.

Consumptive Use

A consumptive use factor is used for all the unconfined groundwater basins. Pressure basins have 0% return flow that effectively recharge the Upper Aquifer System (UAS). However, within the pressure groundwater basins, leakage from the Semi-perched aquifer to the UAS is considered using the previously estimated 1985-2015 average values (UWCD, 2021a), and adjusting for areal extent of the basin that is within the District boundaries.

The estimation of return flow from groundwater pumped in the unconfined basins is based on a representative three-year period as calculated by United (UWCD, 2013). This report accounts for “typical” return flows of over-application of water for salt-leaching requirements, as well as special-use cases by particular pumpers (i.e., recycled water percolation from Municipal and Industrial pumping) within the basins.

The three-year average (2010, 2011, and 2012) was chosen as a reasonable period of climatically wet and dry years. Climatic conditions in 2011 were slightly wetter than normal, 2012 was drier than normal, and 2010 is believed to be more representative of “normal climatic conditions” (UWCD, 2013). The average percentage of agricultural pumping as return flow was calculated as 40.8%, and the average of the percent of municipal and industrial pumping as return flow was calculated as 64.4% for the unconfined basins. Some pumped groundwater is exported from the Oxnard Forebay Area via pipeline to users in the confined Oxnard basin, and as such they are not included in estimates of return flows (i.e., they are considered in this report as 100% consumptive use).

Phreatophyte consumptive use is estimated in this report using the more recently updated Ventura Regional Groundwater Flow Model (UWCD, 2021a) modeled average riparian evapotranspiration over the period from calendar years 1985-2015, adjusted for the extent of the simulated riparian vegetation within the District boundaries. This period captures various climatic and riparian conditions, and the annual average evapotranspiration was used to estimate the District phreatophyte consumptive use.

Annual Groundwater Conditions Report

Groundwater Basin Water Balance

[(Total Percolated Rainfall + Percolated Surface Water + Artificial Recharge + Return Flow + Leakage)

- (Groundwater Extractions Consumptive Use + Phreatophyte Consumptive Use)] =

Basin Water Balance

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 Diversion

The Conejo Creek diversion, located near U.S Highway 101 and operated by Camrosa Water District, diverted approximately 8,400 acre-feet per year of water from Conejo Creek on average from 2002 – 2019. Over that same period, approximately 4,500 acre feet per year of water was delivered by Camrosa to Pleasant Valley County Water District, where it replaces groundwater pumping in the Pleasant Valley basin.

VENTURA COUNTY



California's water battles continue despite record rain and snow

Dan Walters

CalMatters Commentary

April 6, 2023

On Monday, California water officials slogged through deep snow 7,000 feet above sea level, west of Lake Tahoe, to affirm what everyone already knew: A series of Pacific storms has generated record-level amounts of precipitation, filling reservoirs, inundating low-lying towns and fields and threatening more disastrous flooding as the Sierra snowpack melts.

Its negative aspects aside, the immense amount of rain and snow is welcome relief from drought that has plagued the state for the past three years. But it also is a warning about California's boom-and-bust precipitation cycle, which is becoming more pronounced with climate change.

It's a warning that we must do a better job of capturing and conserving water when precipitation is plentiful, because the next drought is just around the corner. That means building more storage, such as the long-delayed Sites Reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, creating more sinking basins to replenish overdrafted underground aquifers and, most importantly, doing something about the chaotic way in which we manage water.

California has been a state for 173 years and its residents have been squabbling over water for its entire history, beginning with conflicts between gold miners and pioneer farmers. Battles have been waged in the Legislature, in the courts and in ballot measures, but they have succeeded mostly in making water management increasingly obtuse.

The managerial system — or, more accurately, non-system — now in place is a mishmash of federal, state, regional and local agencies which tend to respond to the conditions of the moment,

sometimes in conflict with one another, while dealing with laws and regulations that are beyond Byzantine in their complexity.

The California constitution declares that water is a public trust to be used for reasonable and beneficial purposes, but there have been countless political and legal duels over the interpretation of those broad terms, particularly over the legal standing of water use rights, some of which date to the Gold Rush era.

In its landmark 1983 decision involving damage to Mono Lake from water diversions by the city of Los Angeles, the state Supreme Court noted the conflict between water rights and the public trust doctrine, saying, “the two systems of legal thought have been on a collision course.” Fundamentally, the court declared that honoring the public trust doctrine, which includes environmental protection, is at least equal to water rights, and perhaps superior, when the two are in conflict.

However the decision did not stop the legal and political jousting. Most recently, the conflict has been played out in skirmishing over reductions in diversions from the beleaguered Colorado River and in jousting over management of the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

The state Water Resources Control Board has attempted for years to forge “voluntary agreements” to reduce agricultural diversions from the San Joaquin River system to enhance habitat for fish and other species. Meanwhile, environmental groups, citing the public trust doctrine, have pressed the board to increase natural flows by decreeing new water quality standards.

The conflict over the San Joaquin and other rivers may be resolved by the Legislature. Four bills have been introduced which, taken as a whole, would give the water board sharply increased powers to enforce the public trust doctrine, levy stiff fines for unauthorized diversions and force holders of water rights, even those dating back to the 19th century, to prove their validity.

Senate Bill 389, Assembly Bill 460, Assembly Bill 1337 and Assembly Bill 676 have a long way to go to become law. But their introduction indicates that water rights, the linchpin of any serious debate over water management, may be headed for a political showdown.

VENTURA COUNTY



STAR | **vcstar.com**

What's driving shakeup in Ventura's upper ranks? City stays mum



Wes Woods II

March 31, 2023



Ventura has gone through a lot of upper management changes in the past few months.

Turnover in city leadership began in November when the community development director resigned, followed by the city manager's exit in December. In January, the chief financial officer was placed on paid administrative leave.

Officials have not given details about the departures.

When the city manager was put on leave in November prior to his resignation, city officials said it was a "private personnel matter."

Questions about the finance chief's leave brought the same response: a private personnel matter.

No further detail has been provided about the community development director's resignation.

It may be an unusual amount of turnover for City Hall. But Mayor Joe Schroeder isn't concerned.

Schroeder believes the city has a "deep bench" and said he's satisfied with the accomplishments of leaders recently promoted to fill top posts.

"I've got confidence in our management team," Schroeder said Wednesday, declining to comment further on the managers who left.

Chief Financial Officer Michael Coon was put on administrative leave on Jan. 26, said Ventura spokeswoman Heather Sumagaysay, citing a private personnel matter.

The leave was not related to an audit of employee credit card and reimbursement activity finished earlier this month, said Akbar Alikhan, interim city manager. No further details were given.

A text and phone message left for Coon Wednesday were not returned.

Taking Coon's place is Greg Morley, a former assistant CFO who became the acting finance chief on Jan. 29, Sumagaysay said. Morley was named interim CFO on Feb. 28.

On Dec. 12, former City Manager Alex McIntyre resigned after controversies involving credit card use and a state open meeting law violation. He had been placed on administrative leave on Nov. 14 for what officials called a private personnel matter.

Alikhan, then an assistant city manager, was named acting city manager on Nov. 14 and interim city manager on Feb. 13.

In November, Ventura Community Development Director Peter Gilli submitted his resignation, citing family reasons. He is now the director of San Bruno's community and economic development administration.

McIntyre joined him there this week: On Tuesday, San Bruno hired McIntyre as interim city manager.

Neda Zayer, former assistant community development director for Ventura, was named acting community development director on Nov. 15. She became interim community development director around Feb. 28, Sumagaysay said.

"Acting and interim are interchangeable, as there is no technical difference," Sumagaysay said.

Resident Glenn Overley, who sought public records on credit card expenditures from the former city manager, said the public might have concerns about the turnover.

"I think people would be wondering if there's some issue with the city, obviously," Overley said.

Wes Woods II covers West County for the Ventura County Star. Reach him at wesley.woodsii@vcstar.com, 805-437-0262 or [@JournoWes](https://www.instagram.com/JournoWes).

March 24, 2023

California ends some water limits after storms ease drought

Associated Press

AD

0:04



DUNNIGAN, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom ended some of the state's water restrictions on Friday because a winter of relentless rain and snow has replenished the state's reservoirs and eased fears of a shortage after three years of severe drought.

Most of California is no longer in drought, according to an update by the U.S. Drought Monitor on Thursday. But water shortage concerns remain for some areas of the state,

including the Klamath River basin along the California-Oregon border and in Southern California, which relies on the struggling Colorado River system to help supply millions of people.

“Are we out of a drought? Mostly — but not completely,” Newsom said Friday from a farm northwest of Sacramento that has flooded its fields to help replenish groundwater.

Newsom on Friday stopped asking people to voluntarily cut their water use by 15%, a request he first made nearly two years ago while standing at the edge of a nearly dry Lopez Lake in the state’s Central Coast region — a lake that today is so full from recent storms it is almost spilling over. Californians never met Newsom’s call for that level of conservation — as of January the cumulative savings were just 6.2%.



The governor also said he would ease rules requiring local water agencies to impose restrictions on customers. That order will impact people in different ways depending on where they live. For most people, it means they won't be limited to watering their lawns on only certain days of the week or at certain times of the day. Other restrictions remain in place, including a ban on watering decorative grass for businesses.

Newsom could ease those restrictions in part because state officials said California's reservoirs are now so full that cities will get will more than double the amount of drinking

water this year compared to a previous allocation announced last month. Water districts that serve 27 million people will get at least 75% of the water they requested from state supplies. Last year, they only got 5% as California endured three of the driest years ever since modern recordkeeping began in 1896.

“I know that’s disappointing for some because it would be nice to have a governor say the drought is over,” Newsom said.

California and the western United States have been in an extended drought for about two decades, a period of abnormal dryness punctuated by occasional intense seasons of storms.

“Being the governor of a large, diverse state that has very diverse water supplies and water demands, it’s really tough for him to say a drought has started or a drought has ended. Everybody will interpret that a little differently,” said Jay Lund, vice director for the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

Lund said the drought is over from many perspectives in California, including urban water supply and reservoirs. But it’s not over for the state’s fragile ecosystems and the groundwater aquifers that were depleted during recent drought years.

“We might never recover them completely,” he said.

Three years of little rain or snow in California had depleted reservoirs to the point the state couldn’t generate electricity from hydroelectric power plants. It dried up wells in rural areas and state officials had to truck in water supplies for some communities. And it reduced the flow of the state’s major rivers and streams, killing off endangered species of fish and other species.

But since December, no less than 12 powerful storms have hit California, packing so much rain and snow that meteorologists call them “atmospheric rivers.” These storms have flooded homes, closed ski resorts and trapped people in mountain communities for days with no electricity, prompting emergency declarations from President Joe Biden.

Amid all that carnage, water has steadily poured into the state's reservoirs. Of California's 17 major reservoirs, 12 of them are either at or above their historical averages for this time of year.

And more water is coming. Statewide, the amount of snow piled up in the mountains is already 223% above the April 1 average — the date when the snowpack is typically at its peak. Most of that snow will melt in the coming months, flowing into reservoirs and posing more flooding threats downstream.

“This is a good news moment. Those storms have brought record amounts of water into our state in the form of rain and snow, and that means we are in much better condition with our water supply than we were in the fall,” said Wade Crowfoot, secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency.

California doesn't have enough room in its reservoirs to store all of the water from these storms. In fact, some reservoirs are having to release water to make room for new storms coming next week and snowmelt in the spring. That's why the Newsom administration has given farmers permission to take water out of the rivers and flood some of their fields, with the water seeping back under ground to refill groundwater basins.

Newsom made his drought announcement at one of those projects, a farm in the community of Dunnigan, off of Interstate 5 about 37 miles (60 kilometers) northwest of Sacramento. State officials hope projects like these will replenish some of the groundwater that was pumped out during the drought.

Los Angeles Times

[Opinion](#)

Opinion: Why California will still have a water shortage no matter how much it rains this year



A sunrise view of flooded fields in Yolo County in January, part of the state's efforts to recharge its groundwater basins. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

By Jay Famiglietti

March 23, 2023 3:07 AM PT

During a winter of blizzards, floods and drought-ending downpours, it's easy to forget that California suffers from [chronic water scarcity](#) — the long-term decline of the state's total available fresh water. This rainy season's inundation isn't going to change that.

How is this possible, given the unrelenting series of atmospheric river systems that have dumped [near-record snowfall over the Sierra](#) and replenished the state's reservoirs?

It's all about groundwater.

California uses more water each year — most of it for food production — than is supplied by renewable sources such as rain and snowfall, even in the wettest of winters like this one. The gap is filled by groundwater, which has for a century underpinned California's water resources — in particular, during drought, when it provides 60% or more of agriculture's irrigation water supply.

But groundwater can be renewed only slowly, to the extent it can be renewed at all.

It is the long-term disappearance of groundwater that is the major driver behind the state's steady decline in total available fresh water, which hydrologists define as snowpack, surface water, soil moisture and groundwater combined.

Although this winter will rival or exceed precipitation totals from the wettest winters on record (1968-69; 1982-83), like those winters, this one will do little to stem groundwater depletion. The gains made during wet years simply can't offset the over-pumping during the dry years in between. In fact, the state's groundwater deficit is now so large that it will never be fully replenished.

In November, measurements made with NASA satellites showed California total freshwater levels had reached a 20-year low, probably the lowest ever for the state. Since 1961, 93 million acre-feet of groundwater has disappeared in the Central Valley, equivalent to 3.4 times the volume of Lake Mead at capacity. Since the 1860s, [an estimated 142 million acre-feet has been depleted](#).

California dairy farmers are at the forefront of sustainable innovation, leading the nation in planet-smart agricultural practices that conserve precious resources while producing nutritious dairy products for their local communities and beyond....

In 2014, California finally passed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, its first-ever regulation governing groundwater pumping. [The law](#) offers the opportunity to define a pathway toward groundwater sustainability, if not recovery. However, its slow implementation and lack of quantitative goals threaten to undermine its potential.

Under the law, local groundwater sustainability agencies were formed to manage the state's depleted groundwater basins. Basin by basin, the agencies must develop and implement sustainability plans and get them evaluated by the California Department of Water Resources. The law sets 2042 as the target for achieving overall sustainability.

To date, however, the state has fully endorsed just 12 basin plans out of 94, and [just this month it found](#) the plans submitted for a large part of the San Joaquin Valley inadequate to deal with the region's "critical overdraft" of groundwater.

SGMA's halting pace calls into question whether California can realistically meet its objective of full compliance in two decades. In fact, the long timeline is already having profoundly negative consequences.

In December, my research team published a [report](#) that showed groundwater depletion in California's Central Valley accelerating during the megadrought years between 2019 and 2021, rather than slowing with the implementation of sustainability plans and rules. In those years, Central Valley groundwater disappeared at almost five times the long-term average depletion rate.

At first, the finding caught our research group off guard, but it was borne out by ground-based observations of water levels and by a [record number of drying groundwater wells](#). In hindsight, we shouldn't have been surprised. The specter of SGMA limits on groundwater use probably triggered a rush to [drill more agricultural wells](#), to [plant more thirsty nut trees](#) and of course, to pump more groundwater.

In the midst of this winter's atmospheric rivers, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered 600,000 acre-feet of the state's anomalously high river flows diverted to groundwater recharge and storage in the Central Valley. Along with other supply-side efforts, including Newsom's decision last year [to increase annual groundwater recharge by at least 500,000 acre-feet a year](#), that move could slow current rates of groundwater depletion by as much as 25%.

But such orders won't guarantee California's future water security. That depends squarely on the timely and successful implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

To speed groundwater sustainability, the state should devote additional resources to its evaluation and oversight effort.

Beyond that, California should supplement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in three ways.

First, it should mandate a comprehensive assessment of the volume of fresh water available in the state, how its quality and accessibility vary, what is renewable versus nonrenewable, and the environmental and human effects of pumping it. It's shocking that this fundamental information is not well-known today.

The state also must be more transparent about what underlies its standards for the sustainability plans and recharge projects. California should have specific targets for reducing and halting groundwater depletion, just as it has for [fossil fuel use](#) and [carbon dioxide emissions](#).

Is the current average depletion rate in the Central Valley — about 2 million acre-feet a year — the goal? To understand and plan for the future, Californians need to know what level of groundwater will be sustained, and how both recharge efforts and reduced pumping will be used to achieve that level.

Finally, industry — agriculture in particular — must account for its water use. The SGMA sustainability agencies are required to track overall water use; individual farms and ranches may not be. But California cannot achieve water security without a deep commitment to stewardship by industry, and stewardship requires that water use is routinely measured and reported.

Groundwater, even in its depleted state, is California's most valuable water asset, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is the state's only hope to protect it. Should the law fail, it would be catastrophic.

California must be committed to doing everything in its power to ensure its success.

Jay Famiglietti is a global futures professor at Arizona State University. He is the former senior water scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and a former member of the California Regional Water Boards in Santa Ana and Los Angeles.



Tulare Lake is reappearing: Sheriff says stay out of the water

March 22, 2023

John Houghton

KINGS COUNTY, Calif. (KSEE/KGPE) – As massive amounts of rainfall appear to be bringing back the long dried-up Tulare Lake, Kings County Sheriff Dave Robinson has warned residents not to try to take boats into the water.

“Some people know. Some people don’t. We have a lake bottom in Kings County. It used to be the largest lake west of the Mississippi,” says Robinson.

Robinson says after several dams were built, the lake dried up and was turned into farmland. Due to recent storms, some of the farmland that is in the area of Tulare Lake has flooded.

RELATED: Shaping up to be the ‘biggest water year in modern history’ on the Kings River

Several public roadways do go through the lake bottom. The Sheriff says the lake bottom is private property and people are showing up with boats and **kayaks thinking it’s a recreational lake.**

Robinson says they will be enforcing the area over the course of the next few months and asking everyone to stay out of the area.

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VENTURA COUNTY



STAR | **vcstar.com**

Rice Avenue bridge over railroad tracks expected to open in 2028, cost \$117M

By Tony Biasotti, Ventura County Star,
March 21, 2023



- Caltrans offered \$5,000 for a quarter-acre property owned by United Water Conservation District.
- Caltrans is acquiring property now for the project, and the city of Oxnard plans to hire a contractor to break ground next year.
- The budget has gone from \$70 million to \$117 million in the past five years.

Eight years after a deadly train crash in Oxnard, the city and Caltrans have the funding lined up for a \$117 million bridge over the tracks that would prevent any future collisions of trains and vehicles.

The Rice Avenue railroad crossing has long been known as one of Ventura County's most dangerous, even before a [2015 crash](#) between a truck and a Metrolink commuter train.

The bridge is set to be finished in 2028, but the city and Caltrans recently ran into a snag in acquiring some of the property they need.

Last month, the California Department of Transportation filed a lawsuit against the United Water Conservation District, a public agency that manages the Santa Clara River watershed, to take a small United Water property along Rice Avenue through eminent domain.

The city of Oxnard is overseeing the bridge project, but Caltrans is in charge of acquiring the property, because the project lies at the intersection of two state highways: Rice Avenue is Highway 1 in that area, and Fifth Street, which runs parallel to the railroad tracks, is Highway 34.

The United Water property is about a quarter of an acre, on the east side of Rice. Under it is a well that pumps water to farmers on the Oxnard Plain, when surface water from the river isn't available.

That well could co-exist with the new bridge, said Anthony Emmert, United Water's assistant general manager. But servicing the well during and after bridge construction would be tricky, and the agency wasn't able to reach an agreement with Caltrans to buy the property.

Eminent domain is the legal process through which a government agency can take property from an owner who doesn't want to sell. The agency taking the property still must pay for it, and the price is typically settled out of court or determined by a judge.

"Occasionally, you have to go in with equipment and a couple tractor-trailer rigs, and you need a footprint for that," Emmert said. "The portion they need is going to make it really tough to do that. ... We were hoping to negotiate with Caltrans so that when the project moves forward to

construction, we could have an access road and a little space to do that kind of work, and we were not able to get that approval."

Caltrans offered only \$5,000 for the property, Emmert said.

A Caltrans spokesperson refused to comment on the eminent domain lawsuit or confirm details about the price the agency offered.

"Caltrans is very sensitive over pesticide contamination on anything that used to be farmland or is close to farmland on the Oxnard Plain," he said. "According to their procurement rules, they can't offer more if there's any risk, even though we don't think there's a huge contamination risk there."

Plans move ahead

Debbie O'Leary, a transportation planner with the city of Oxnard, said she does not expect the eminent domain proceeding to slow down the project's overall timetable. The city is wrapping up the design phase now, she said. The state will probably release the construction funds in about a year, so the city plans to put the project out to bid then, with a four-year construction schedule.

The project involves moving Rice Avenue a little to the east, widening it and building a 416-foot, six-lane bridge so that the road passes over both Fifth Street and the railroad tracks.

"All those crossing arms will be removed. There will be no conflict anymore between drivers and trains at that location, and drivers won't have to stop and wait for the trains," O'Leary said.

The city won't know for sure whether there will be any road closures until the contractor is hired, she said. But long-term closures shouldn't be necessary, because the new bridge will be a little east of the current Rice Avenue, and the old stretch of road can stay open until the new one is finished.

An intersection where a road and railroad tracks cross is known as a "grade-level crossing." The arrangement is inherently dangerous, and the crossing at Rice has been identified as among the most dangerous in the state, with [a long history of collisions](#), a few of them fatal.

After the 2015 crash — which killed a Metrolink engineer and injured more than 30 passengers — local, state and federal officials began planning an overpass bridge. Funding finally came together [in 2018](#), through California's Proposition 1 ballot measure.

In the past five years, estimates of the project's cost have grown from \$70 million to \$117 million, but it remains fully funded, O'Leary said.

"A lot has changed since then," she said, including the costs of land, construction materials and labor.

Tony Biasotti is an investigative and watchdog reporter for the Ventura County Star. Reach him at tbiasotti@vcstar.com. This story was made possible by a grant from the Ventura County Community Foundation's Fund to Support Local Journalism.

'It's just quite a sight': Ventura County's Lake Piru spills for first time since 2006



Photo courtesy of John Carman/United Water Conservation District

[Cheri Carlson](#)

Ventura County Star
March 16, 2023

Lake Piru reached capacity Thursday, spilling for the first time in 17 years.

Over the last few months and a series of storms, the lake filled from just 14,000 acre feet – just under the minimum amount of water needed called "dead pool" – to 82,000 acre feet or nearly 27 billion gallons of water.

The water breached the Santa Felicia Dam's spillway around 5 a.m. Thursday, said Mauricio Guardado, general manager of the [United Water Conservation District](#). The district held a special board meeting near the dam a few hours later.

"Everybody's got smiles on their faces," Guardado said. "It is overflowing. It's just quite a sight."

The lake last spilled in 2006 when a relatively small amount of water came down the spillway. The last big spill was a year earlier, said Murray McEachron, United's principal hydrologist. Much more water spilled after [2005 storms](#).

On Thursday, flows reached about 900 cubic feet per second and may inch higher as runoff continues, according to Guardado. That is low enough that officials did not expect any flooding.

Drought takes a toll

United built the Santa Felicia Dam in the 1950s to capture runoff in the Lake Piru reservoir and use it to recharge groundwater basins downstream. At capacity, the lake holds enough water to help the area through multiple years if drought conditions return, Guardado said.

He expects the district will release water this fall. But it may be a smaller amount than other years since the region got a [soaking](#) from multiple storms. The river could be running for awhile, Guardado said. If that happens, it would mean "quite a bit more water left in the lake" to use down the road.

Once released, the lake water flows down creeks and the Santa Clara River past Fillmore and Santa Paula to United's Freeman Diversion off Los Angeles Avenue near Oxnard. From there, the water heads to pipelines as well as spreading ponds near Saticoy and El Rio.

United, which also gets deliveries of imported water, has released water several times in recent years despite the lake not reaching capacity. The last time it came close to full was in 2011. That year, it likely would have spilled but officials released water before it topped the

spillway **Forecast raises concerns**

A forecast for a storm earlier this week raised some concerns about possible flooding if the lake spilled.

Once at capacity, the [spillway reroutes](#) water so it doesn't go overtop the dam. Instead, water flows down a sort of concrete funnel into Piru Creek. Depending on how much water spills, high flows in the creek can cause flooding on Piru Canyon Road.

Authorities issued an evacuation warning along a stretch of the road as a precaution but later lifted it. The fast-moving storm dropped less rain than initially forecast and passed through before the lake reached capacity. United also released a small amount of water to help prevent any high flows over the spillway.



For the first time since 2006, water spilled from Lake Piru on March 16, 2023. Photo courtesy of John Carman/United Water Conservation District

Debris piles up

After years of drought, this year's storms washed a lot of debris down creeks and rivers. In the Piru area, a few recent wildfires added to the problem.

If debris in the lake makes it over the spillway, the brush and branches can create issues at low-lying creek crossings. McEachron said United had contractors working to remove debris from the lake and set up a buoy system to help prevent any from reaching the spillway.

Cheri Carlson covers the environment and county government for the Ventura County Star. Reach her at cheri.carlson@vcstar.com or 805-437-0260.

VENTURA COUNTY



Guest column: Innovating our way through a manufactured water crisis

Bruce E. Dandy

Your Turn

March 15, 2023

Reliable water supplies have long challenged those who call Ventura County home. From severe droughts that nearly obliterated early settlements more than a century ago to the extended dry periods of recent years, it is clear that new approaches to water management are needed to ensure sustainability.

For example, the district is currently cutting through bureaucratic red tape, delays and funding issues by partnering with the U.S. Navy on a project to minimize saltwater intrusion on the coast. The two organizations are developing a barrier to block the salt water and a treatment plant to remove salt from groundwater, a creative solution that will result in a “new” source of water that is enough to supply thousands of homes and acres of farmland.

Fortunately, United Water Conservation District (UWCD) provides the bold leadership needed to challenge the status quo and deliver the water that helps our communities thrive.

UWCD primarily protects groundwater resources utilized by more than 370,000 residents in Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula and Fillmore, as well as Naval Base Ventura County and several mutual water districts, farms and individual pumpers. The district also provides surface water for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

The responsibility for maintaining a lasting supply for these areas extends well beyond local neighborhoods. Local, state and federal partnerships are

necessary to maintain and grow local water storage. Whether it is here at home, in Sacramento or Washington, D.C., UWCD drives the conversation and provides a voice for Ventura County.

Relying on traditional methods is no longer enough to satisfy local water needs. Instead, out-of-the-box thinking allows UWCD to look beyond the ordinary and develop innovative solutions. A proven track record demonstrates the success of this approach.

The get-it-done attitude behind this type of advanced project has earned UWCD a reputation as a leader in California water. The organization leverages this role by collaborating on promising water sustainability projects across the region and beyond.

Expanding the ability to collect, store and transfer water across the state holds the potential to provide additional water for millions of households annually. UWCD advocates moving forward with infrastructure projects that utilize stormwater and improve sustainability.

The Freeman Diversion expansion project on the Santa Clara River will enhance the region's groundwater resources by expanding UWCD's capacity to capture an additional 9,000 acre-feet of stormwater annually. The stormwater will be used to recharge local aquifers, providing enough water to meet the needs of nearly 20,000 families in Ventura County.

The proposed Delta Conveyance Project, also known as the Delta Tunnel project, would move water from Northern California around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and directly into the State Water Project system. The project protects against future water supply losses from climate change, sea level rise and earthquakes.

Focusing on individual communities alone will not help overcome long-term water challenges. Water is too important for a zero-sum game with winners and

losers. Water providers, local leaders and stakeholders must work together so all can benefit from a more reliable water future.

UWCD is proud of its water stewardship in Ventura County and will maximize its leadership position, fresh ideas and partnerships to further advance the sustainability of our local water supplies.



Bruce E. Dandy is the Board President of United Water Conservation District in Ventura County, a wholesale water agency and State Water Contractor in Ventura County.

VENTURA COUNTY



Authorities issue evacuation warnings in Ventura County



Cheri Carlson

Ventura County Star

March 13, 2023

- A warning means people should be prepared to leave but the threat is not yet imminent.

Ventura County authorities issued evacuation warnings Monday, saying this week's storm could cause flooding and debris flows in some areas.

The brunt of this latest rain is expected to hit the county on Tuesday between noon and midnight. Rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches in coastal and valley areas and 3 to 6 inches in the foothills and mountains.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services issued evacuation warnings that start at 6 p.m. Monday. A warning means people should be prepared to leave but the threat is not yet imminent.

"We want to emphasize that if you have any kind of disability, access or functional need, it is always advisable to leave early," OES Director Patrick Maynard said. "Don't wait until there's an evacuation order issued."

For those able to leave quickly, keep an eye on what is happening, he said.

"These things escalate quickly, and we don't want people to wait to hear from us to evacuate if they see conditions become unsafe," Maynard said.

What areas are under evacuation warnings?

Warnings set to take effect at 6 p.m. Monday through 10 p.m. Tuesday:

- South Matilija Road, Matilija Springs area - Camino Cielo
- North Fork Springs Road
- Creek Road-Old Creek Road
- Camp Chaffee Road-Casitas Vista Road area
- Some homes in the area of the 700 block of Grada and Trueno avenues near Camarillo. The spot is affected because of a compromised storm drain in the area.

Warning set to take effect at 6 p.m. Monday through 10 a.m. Thursday:

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- Piru Canyon Road from north of Piru to Lake Piru

Warning set to effect from 6 a.m. Tuesday to 9 a.m. Wednesday:

- Ventura Beach RV Resort

A map of the affected areas is available at vcemergency.com. Some of the areas were hit hard by previous storms, leaving spots more vulnerable.

What happens if Lake Piru spills?

Water levels in Lake Piru also are approaching capacity. When that happens, water would breach the lake's spillway for the first time in years. Depending on how much water spills, high flows in the creek could cause flooding on Piru Canyon Road.

The lake was at 93.9% capacity on Monday afternoon. Officials expect the lake to spill sometime this week, but it is unclear exactly when that would happen. When it does, Maynard said residents should know that the facilities were designed to do this and the spillway is capable of handling the flows.

Debris or high flows could cause issues at downstream creek crossings. That could lead to flooding on Piru Canyon Road or in low-lying areas.

"It is something we need to watch and we want to give people a heads up on," Maynard said.

How to get emergency alerts

To sign up for emergency alerts in Ventura County, go to readyventuracounty.org/vc-alert. For information about the storm, evacuation warnings and potential road closures, go to vcemergency.com.

Cheri Carlson covers the environment and county government for the Ventura County Star. Reach her at cheri.carlson@vcstar.com or 805-437-0260.

Los Angeles Times

Flush with rain, California plans to replenish drought-depleted groundwater with floodwaters



The Delta-Mendota Canal, part of the federal Central Valley Project, runs along the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. California water officials have approved a plan to divert more than 600,000 acre-feet of floodwaters from the San Joaquin River to recharge groundwater and supply wildlife refuges.
(Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

BY [IAN JAMES](#) STAFF WRITER

MARCH 11, 2023 **UPDATED** 8:02 AM PT

With torrential rains drenching California, state water regulators have endorsed a plan to divert floodwaters from the San Joaquin River to replenish groundwater that has been depleted by heavy agricultural pumping during three years of record drought.

The State Water Resources Control Board approved a request by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to take more than 600,000 acre-feet from the river and send much of that water flowing to areas where it can spread out, soak into the ground and percolate down to the aquifer beneath the San Joaquin Valley.

The amount of water that's set to be rerouted under the plan is more than the annual supply for the city of Los Angeles. Some of the water will also be routed to wildlife refuges along the San Joaquin River starting next week, officials said.

The plan is intended to address potential flood risks, capitalize on California's [near-record snowpack](#) and capture some of the high flows from the latest [extreme storms](#) to store water underground.

“We are taking steps to maximize groundwater recharge in a way that the state of California has never really done before,” said Erik Ekdahl, deputy director of the State Water Board’s water rights division. “This is an immense opportunity to help recharge these depleted aquifers.”

State officials said their order allows the Bureau of Reclamation to manage flood flows from Friant Dam and change points where water is diverted along the San

Where water sinks into the ground and replenishes the aquifer, it could help address declines in water levels that have left families with [dry wells](#) in rural areas across the Central Valley. Stabilizing water levels could also help alleviate the widespread problem of [collapsing ground](#) triggered by overpumping, which has caused costly damage to canals and other infrastructure.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said after the three driest years in state history, “California is taking decisive action to capture and store water for when dry conditions return.”

Newsom has sought to prioritize capturing stormwater and recharging groundwater as central pieces of his administration’s strategy for [adapting to more intense water extremes](#) with climate change. On Friday, the governor’s office announced that he had signed an executive order enabling the capture of water from the latest round of storms.

The Bureau of Reclamation manages the dams, reservoirs and canals of the [Central Valley Project](#) and sends water to contractors including large agricultural irrigation districts and other agencies. The state order allows the federal government to deliver floodwater from the [Mendota Pool](#), a small reservoir on the San Joaquin River, to be used for replenishing groundwater.

The water, which would otherwise have flowed down the San Joaquin River, will be available for irrigation districts and other agencies to divert for replenishing groundwater for [more than four months](#). Under temporary contracts with the federal government, they will be able to send water through canals to areas with permeable soils that allow for groundwater recharge.

Some floodwaters will also pour into wildlife refuges, among them the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Mendota Wildlife Area and Los Banos Wildlife Area.

The State Water Board said in its [order](#) that the changes allow for capturing “high flows that would otherwise go unused,” easing pressures on flood-control infrastructure and helping to address chronic declines in groundwater levels.

Environmental groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Bay Institute objected to the plan, saying in a [letter](#) that the water diversions would allow for lower flows in the San Joaquin River than called for under a 2006 legal settlement, and would likely be harmful for Chinook salmon.

“While the order does not completely dry up the San Joaquin River, it will divert most of the water that was supposed to flow down the river under the court-approved settlement agreement, primarily to benefit corporate agribusinesses in the Westlands Water District,” said Doug Obegi, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. “Yet again, agribusinesses win while the environment gets less than its fair share of water.”

Amanda Fencl, a senior climate scientist for the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists, said the plan raises questions about who will benefit the most, especially since many water contracts in the area are held by [agricultural irrigation districts](#).

“It’s critical to recharge aquifers, especially when there’s an influx of rain,” Fencl said. “But there’s still an open question to me about whether other water users like households on domestic wells and community water systems will get to benefit.”

State officials disagreed with the objections raised by environmental groups, saying the water diversions won’t harm the environment and the flows left in the river will meet requirements.

“There’s still going to be a lot of water moving down the San Joaquin,” Ekdahl said. “The amount of water that will be rediverted here is still relatively low compared to how much water will be flowing in the system.”

The Newsom administration and the federal government drew criticism from environmental groups for [another decision](#) last month, when they petitioned the State Water Board to temporarily waive water-quality rules in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in an effort to store more water in reservoirs. The board ended that waiver on Thursday, saying the latest rains and snow make it no longer necessary.

Newsom set a goal last year, as part of his [water supply plan](#), to increase average annual groundwater recharge by about 500,000 acre-feet. The State Water Board said that since December it has signed off on diverting about 790,000 acre-feet of water for groundwater replenishment as well as supplies for wildlife refuges.

Most of the water pumped from wells in the Central Valley supplies farms that produce a wide variety of crops, from almonds to tangerines.

Scientists found in a recent [study](#) that the depletion of groundwater in the valley has [accelerated in recent years](#). They estimated that groundwater losses since 2003 have totaled about 36 million acre-feet, or about 1.3 times the full water-storing capacity of Lake Mead, the country's largest reservoir.

As state officials have increasingly prioritized aquifer recharge, they have pointed out that there is vast storage space available underground, and that replenishing groundwater is one of the simplest and most economical ways to take advantage of wet years.

Local water agencies have started to plan recharge projects as they begin to implement plans to curb excessive pumping, as required under the state's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

There has also been a growing focus among water management officials on finding ways to ease the permit process to use storm water for aquifer recharge, and to invest strategically in infrastructure to move water to areas where permeable soils make for [fast paths to the groundwater](#).

The State Water Board said the single request from the federal government cleared the way for large-scale recharge without the need for approving numerous smaller permits.

The water that's used to replenish the aquifer will help local agencies move toward goals of addressing overpumping under the groundwater law, said Thomas Harter, a professor of water resources at UC Davis.

Harter said 600,000 acre-feet is "a significant chunk, and it's certainly an important stepping stone toward future wet years and getting to these goals." He said the water stored underground can allow for eventual cutbacks in well-water use to be somewhat less severe than the reductions would otherwise need to be.

"To the degree we can increase the supply, and we can only do that by capturing these large flood flows and storing them, that's our main card in this game," Harter said. "It's not going to take away the need to reduce the demand, but it will lessen the need to do that."

Ann Willis, California regional director for the group American Rivers, said she thinks the newly approved plan is a good approach to recharge severely depleted groundwater.

"It expedites the regulatory process to take advantage of these higher flows when they're available," Willis said. "This is a positive thing that we're doing this, and I think we're going to learn a lot from it."

She said the minimum river flow required under the permit seems too low to support a healthy San Joaquin River, but flow gauges have recorded rising flows above that level.

“I think right now we have plenty of water to do both — both recharge and environmental flows,” Willis said. “But that isn’t always true. And we should be mindful about which one of those objectives we prioritize when there isn’t enough water to go around.”

While the state takes advantage of the storms to store water underground, efforts to rebuild depleted groundwater reserves will take time, said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. She said state officials are working with local agencies to expand these efforts and improve the permitting process for more recharge projects.

“We hope that over the course of these next series of storms, we can identify those projects and get those recharge systems activated,” Nemeth said. “We know drought conditions will return to California, and it’s really these moments that we have to capture, so that we can be resilient in the event of future dry conditions.”

Times staff writer Hayley Smith contributed to this report.