

AGENDA
ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

CALL TO ORDER – OPEN SESSION 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members Roll Call

1. Public Comment

The public may comment on any matter not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Committee. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

2. Approval of Minutes (Proposed Time: 5 minutes)

Motion

The Committee will review and consider approving the Minutes from the July 6, 2023, Engineering and Operations Committee meeting.

3. October 11, 2023, Board Meeting Agenda Motion Items

Motions

3.1 Resolution 2023-15 Approving Adoption of the Revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program (ODSP) dated October 2023

The Committee will consider recommending approval to the full Board the adoption of Resolution 2022-15, approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program, dated October 2023.

(Engineering Department, Dr. Maryam Bral) (Proposed Time: 5 minutes)

4. Monthly Department Updates (Proposed Time: 15 minutes per update)

Information Item

The Committee will receive and review the monthly reports from the Engineering, Environmental Services, and Operations and Maintenance Departments as well as receive a verbal presentation of its highlights.

4.1 Engineering Department Update (Dr. Maryam Bral) (Proposed Time: 15 minutes)

4.2 Environmental Services Department Update (Marissa Caringella) (Proposed Time: 10 minutes)

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update (John Carman) (Proposed Time: 15 minutes)



5. Future Agenda Items

The Committee will suggest topics or issues for discussion on future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

Directors:

Chair Lynn E. Maulhardt
Daniel C. Naumann
Bruce E. Dandy (substituting
for Catherine P. Keeling)

Staff:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.	Anthony Emmert	Dr. Maryam Bral
Marissa Caringella	John Carman	Craig Morgan
Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum	Michel Kadah	Evan Lashly
Tessa Lenz	Randall McInvale	Adrian Quiroz
Robert Richardson	Vanessa Vasquez	Nathan Summerville

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 material in an alternative format, please contact the District's offices 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


Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer


Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

Posted: (date) September 28, 2023

(time) 9:00 a.m.

(attest) Vanessa Vasquez

At: www.unitedwater.org

Posted: (date) September 28, 2023

(time) 9:15 a.m.

(attest) Vanessa Vasquez

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



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

ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn E. Maulhardt, chair
Bruce E. Dandy, director (substituting for Director Catherine P. Keeling)
Daniel C. Naumann, director

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Marissa Caringella, environmental services manager
John Carman, operations and maintenance program supervisor
Randy Castaneda, chief water treatment operator
Hannah Garcia-Wickstrum, associate environmental scientist
John Lindquist, water resources supervisor
Josh Perez, chief human resources officer
Michel Kadah, engineer
Randall McNvale, principal environmental scientist
Craig Morgan, engineering manager
Zachary Plummer, technology systems manager
Adriana Stovall, environmental scientist
Vanessa Vasquez, clerk of the committee
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

No members of the public were in attendance.

Call to Order – Open Session

Director Naumann called the committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The clerk of the Committee called roll. All Committee members were present (Naumann, Maulhardt, and Dandy (substituting for Keeling)).

1. Public Comments

Information Item

Director Naumann asked for public comment. None were offered.



2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion to approve the Minutes from the June 1, 2023, Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, Director Naumann; Second, Maulhardt. Voice vote: two ayes (Naumann and Maulhardt); none opposed; one abstained (Dandy). Motion carries 2/0/1.

3. July 12, 2023, Board Meeting Motion Agenda Items

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following motion items to formulate recommendations to the full Board at its July 12, 2023, meeting.

3.1 Authorize Approval of a Contract with MKN & Associates, Inc. to Develop the Final Design of Phase 1 of the Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP) Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project (CIP 8043)

Chief Engineer Dr. Maryam Bral presented background on motion item 3.1 (presentation attached).

During her presentation, Dr. Bral explained that a contract with MKN & Associates, Inc. would provide the 60 and 100% design of the PTP Recycled Water Connection pipeline and the 30% design of the proposed booster pump. Director Naumann asked about the full capacity of the booster. Dr. Bral responded that at full capacity, 6000-acre feet (AF) of water would be conveyed although a substantial amount of water could be conveyed without the booster pump, but having the booster would result in the pipeline operating at an optimal level.

No further comments or questions were offered. The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this item to the full Board.

3.2 Authorize Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Contract with Catalyst Environmental Solutions related to the 60 percent design of the New Release Channel of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (CIP 8002)

Dr. Maryam Bral presented background on motion item 3.2 (presentation attached).

Dr. Bral discussed Catalyst coordinating design efforts per National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) requirements. General Manager Mauricio Guardado emphasized that a number of resources have been spent on meeting such requirements.

No further comments or questions were offered. The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this item to the full Board.

3.3 Authorize Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Contract with Ascent Environmental for services related to Freeman Diversion California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance in the not to exceed amount of \$451, 608.



Randall McInvale, principal environmental scientist presented on motion item 3.3 (presentation attached).

No comments or questions were offered. The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this item to the full Board.

4. Monthly Department Updates

Information Item

The Committee received and reviewed the monthly reports from the Engineering, Environmental Services and Operations and Maintenance Departments as well as receiving verbal presentations of highlights (presentations are attached).

4.1 Engineering Department Update

Dr. Bral presented department updates that covered status updates on the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project, Santa Felicia Dam safety related activities, Iron and Manganese Treatment facility, the PTP Meter Improvement project, the Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment project and public outreach (see attached slides).

During her presentation (slide 5, Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project) Dr. Bral stated that the Santa Felicia Dam Board of Consultants Meeting No. 7 was held at the headquarters with the purpose to review the 90% design of the outlet works improvement project. The meeting was attended by FERC, DSOD, GEI and Black & Veatch, the construction management for the project. This led to discussion on environmental compliance, such as NMFS request for a minimum of 60% design plans of the dam safety improvements and the environmental mitigation measure that could possibly delay construction for the project past the anticipated July 2024 construction date for the outlet works improvement project.

Director Naumann then asked if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was supporting the District's position on design plans. Dr. Bral stated that the District has the support of the division of dam safety and inspection, however, FERC division of hydropower administration and compliance seems to be supporting NMFS requests. The project environmental mitigation has been discussed with NMFS since 2017. District staff have reached out to FERC to schedule meetings to discuss the project in further detail, particularly with FERC employees that are less familiar with the history of the project. Director Naumann suggested that staff reach out to Congresswoman Julia Brownley's office. Mr. Guardado agreed.

Dr. Bral continued her presentation and went on to discuss the progress on the Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility project. Chair Maulhardt asked about the asphalt surrounding the new lab facility at the Iron and Manganese location. Dr. Bral confirmed the installation of the asphalt would take place before the September 13 ribbon cutting ceremony.

No further questions or comments were offered.



4.2 Environmental Services Department Update

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella presented Environmental department updates that included Freeman Diversion operations, quagga mussel management and key highlights.

During Ms. Caringella's presentation (slide 12, Freeman Diversion operations referencing photo on the top right) Chair Maulhardt asked the reason for the water downstream of the diversion structure shown in the photo. Engineering Manager Craig Morgan stated that water seeps through the structure, but this should not cause any concerns as the RCC has some cracks but the structural stability is not in question. Mr. Morgan explained that the concrete cap is in great condition considering its age and the amount of material that has passed over it but there are areas that could benefit from repairs. Chair Maulhardt and the Committee agreed that concrete cap might need to be replaced in the future.

Ms. Caringella continued her presentation and then turned it over to Principal Environmental Scientist Randall McInvale to present key highlights. Mr. McInvale began by discussing the temporary variance and how staff have been working on securing approval for increased State Water imports from Pyramid Lake to Lake Piru for the November 2023 - February 2024 delivery period. These efforts have led to coordination with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to pursue a temporary variance to the FERC license for Pyramid Lake. The temporary variance is currently in review by FERC and is pending approval. If approved, the temporary variance would allow United to increase State Water Project imports from 3,150 to 25,000 acre-feet in the upcoming November 2023 - February 2024 delivery period. Concurrently, staff is advancing efforts for in pursuit of a future permanent amendment to the FERC license for Pyramid Lake to remove the 3,150-acre-foot limitation. The specific components of the future permanent amendment will continue to be developed in coordination with DWR. Future internal discussions will take place between the General Manager and Environmental Services staff.

Chair Maulhardt then redirected the conversation to open suggestions on what should be presented to the Board. Director Naumann added that he would like to see an additional slide regarding the Iron and Manganese ribbon cutting (referencing Engineering Department Updates). He added he would like the temporary variance to be defined for public understanding and offered Mr. McInvale a job well done. Mr. Guardado also recognized staff's efforts on this topic.

No further questions or comments were offered.

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update

Operations and Maintenance Program Supervisor John Carman presented updates on the Operation and Maintenance department that covered Santa Felicia Dam, Freeman



Diversion and Saticoy, Oxnard Hueneme (OH) Pipeline delivery, and the Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP) system.

Director Naumann asked about whether the well pictured on slide 21 (PTP system) was a deep or shallow well and whether the meter reports are relayed to the District or Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA). Mr. Carman confirmed that the well is a shallow well and that the metering reports go to the District.

No further questions or comments were offered.

Mr. Guardado then led the Committee and staff in a happy birthday song in celebration of Director Bruce Dandy's birthday.

The Committee asked no further questions nor expressed any additional comments.

5. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items or comments offered.

ADJOURNMENT 10:36 a.m.

Chair Maulhardt adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting held on July 6, 2023.


ATTEST: _____
Chair Lynn E. Maulhardt

Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Motion 3.3

Authorize Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Contract with Ascent Environmental for Services Related to Freeman Diversion California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

- Committee will consider recommending approval of the motion to the full Board to authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the professional consulting services agreement with Ascent
- Contract is directly related to the Freeman Diversion Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- Amendment amount: \$451,608



3

3



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY UPDATE

July 6, 2023





4

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project



A group of approximately 15 people are seated around a large conference table in a modern meeting room with large windows. They are focused on reviewing documents and laptops. The room has a light wood floor and blue chairs.

 BOC Meeting No. 7 – Review of 90% design documents of the new outlet works 

5

Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility



An aerial view of an industrial water treatment facility. It features two large, horizontal, white cylindrical filter vessels connected by a complex network of white pipes and valves. The facility is situated on a concrete pad next to a body of water, with hills in the background.

  Completion of Filter Vessels Exterior and Filter Facing Piping Coating 

6

Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility



Vertical turbine pumps installed after a long delay



Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility





Exterior View of the new Building



Fire Sprinkler and fire alarm service completed at new building




Public Outreach



Maryam Bral presents at the SAME – Oxnard Chapter Business Opportunities Forum at US Navy Seabee Museum, Port Hueneme

North Pleasant valley Desalter Visit



9

9





Thank You

10

10



Santa Clara River, view downstream from
Freeman Diversion – June 19, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JUNE UPDATE

July 6, 2023



11

Freeman Diversion Operations

Migration season over June 1

Bypass flow ramp down June 5 to 8

Stranding surveys from 101 bridge upstream to Freeman Diversion

Fish ladder shutdown complete June 7



Freeman Diversion – June 7, 2023



Stranding surveys – June 5, 2023

12

6

Quagga Mussel Management

Monitoring on Lake Piru, lower Piru Creek, and lower system

Technical Advisory Committee meeting June 15

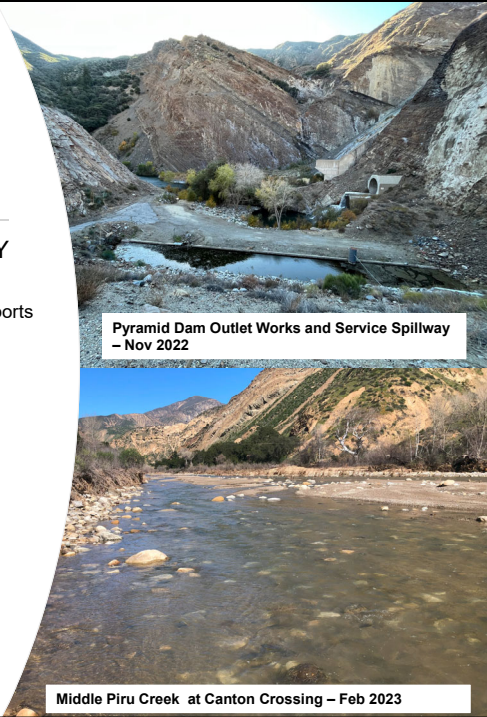


Lake Piru – June 2023

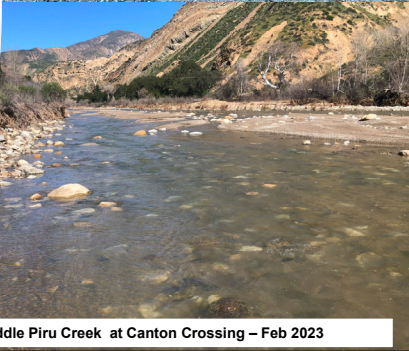
Quagga mussels on cobble

Key Highlight


- Temporary Variance for WY 2023-24
 - 25,000 acre feet of SWP imports to Lake Piru
 - Pending FERC approval
- Long-Term Solution
 - Technical studies underway
 - DWR engagement
 - CEQA



Pyramid Dam Outlet Works and Service Spillway – Nov 2022



Middle Piru Creek at Canton Crossing – Feb 2023






15




16

Santa Felicia Dam

SFD Lower Creek Crossing – Dam Crest Monuments







17

17

Freeman Diversion / Saticoy

Sediment / Water Management





18

18



19

OH Delivery

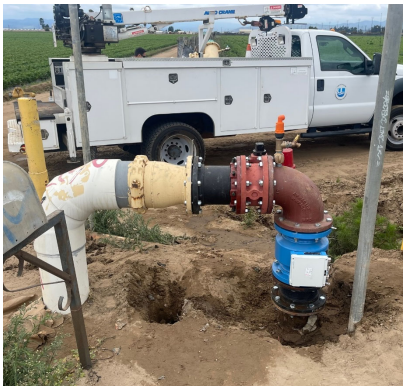
El Rio Recharge Basins – SCBA Training – OH Well #5

20


20

PTP System

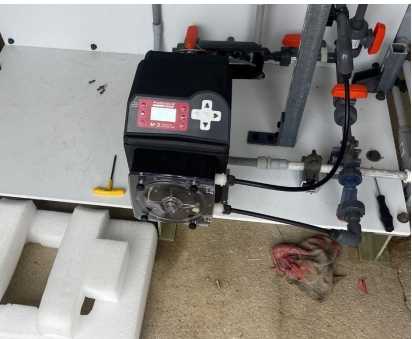
Meter Upgrade Project – PTP NaOCL Pump




Turnout #123
ETTING RD.
BEFORE



Turnout #158
RICE RD.
AFTER



NaOCL PUMP Replacement



21

Questions?



22



Staff Report

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Date: September 25, 2023 (October 05, 2023, Committee Meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.1 **Resolution 2023-15 Adopting the Revised Owner Dam Safety Program dated October 2023**
Board Motion

Staff Recommendation:

The Engineering and Operations Committee will consider recommending approval of Resolution 2023-15, approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Program, revision 9.0 dated October 2023, to the full Board.

Discussion:

The Board of Directors first adopted Resolution 2012-15 on October 10, 2012, adopting the Santa Felicia Owner Dam Safety Program (ODSP) as a policy of the District to demonstrate its continued commitment to dam safety. The ODSP was prepared in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Engineering Guidelines and formalized existing practices into a District policy. The FERC considers the ODSP a “living document” that must be continuously updated.

The updates to the ODSP reflect revisions made to key components, including but not limited to the most recent organizational changes in personnel, staff training and succession planning, program assessments, organizational accountability, and staffing. These modifications are implemented to ensure that the ODSP is up to date and meets the current Engineering Guidelines. A strikeout draft of the revised ODSP has been provided as Attachment B.

Fiscal Impact:

No additional fiscal impacts at this time. The ODSP is an integral part of the District’s overall dam safety program.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution 2023-15 - A resolution of the Board of Directors of the United Water Conservation District adopting the revised Owner’s Dam Safety Program

Attachment B – Santa Felicia Dam, Owner Dam Safety Program (October 2023) Rev. 9.0 (*Critical/Confidential document, committee members will be provided hard copies*)

Agenda Item: 4.4 Resolution 2018-13 Adopting the Revised Owner Dam Safety Program dated October 2018 and Designation of the Chief Dam Safety Engineer
Motion

RESOLUTION 2023-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ADOPTING THE REVISED OWNER’S DAM SAFETY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the United Water Conservation District (“District”) owns and operates Santa Felicia Dam; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2012, the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District adopted Resolution 2012-15, a formal declaration of the District’s commitment to Dam Safety as policy; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned Resolution 2012-15 included the adoption of the Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program, a living document that must be continuously updated; and

WHEREAS, training, succession planning, program assessments, corporate accountability, and staff are some of the key elements of the Santa Felicia Owner Dam Safety Program; and

WHEREAS, recent organizational changes in District personnel warrant modification to the Santa Felicia Owner Dam Safety Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The District Board of Directors hereby adopts the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program, dated October, 2023, as a policy of the District.
2. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF October, 2023

ATTEST: _____
Board President Bruce E. Dandy

ATTEST: _____
Board Secretary Lynn E. Maulhardt



Staff Report

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado Jr., General Manager

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

Date: September 27, 2023 (October 5, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will receive this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for the month of September 2023.

Discussion:

1. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- Spillway Improvement Project
 - Staff reviewed and commented on GEI's 60% design Technical Memorandums (TM).
- Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - Engineering and Water Resources staff attended coordination meeting number 5 with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to discuss coordination efforts needed with Pyramid Dam during the construction of the SFD outlet works improvement project. Topics discussed included UWCD analysis and plan for reservoir operation and hydrological risk assessment for Lake Piru prior and during the construction of the new outlet and to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements regarding the releases. DWR will review and evaluate any operational changes needed and will meet with Staff on October 9.
 - Staff received and reviewed the Construction Manager (Black & Veatch [BV]) 90% Constructability Quality Assurance Report, 90% Owners Engineer Quality Assurance Report and comment tracking spreadsheets for the 90% specification, drawings and

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- technical memoranda. Staff participated in several meetings with BV to discuss construction sequencing, schedule, and construction bid strategies.
- Staff scheduled the 90% Outlet Works and 60% Spillway Design Potential Failure Mode Analysis for January 22-25, 2024. This will be a four-day workshop which will be facilitated by BV and will likely include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), GEI, California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), various subject matter experts, and District staff.
 - Staff reviewed and submitted comments to Catalyst Environmental Solutions (Catalyst) on the draft Drilling Program Plan for geotechnical boring investigations which is required to support the new release channel design.
 - Staff further reviewed and evaluated the proposed intake facility in relation to the historical discharges and reservoir levels, additional environmental constraints, and recommendations from the previous Board of Consultants (BOC) meeting. As a result, additional design changes are anticipated to be included in the final design.
- FERC License Amendment Application, NEPA Documentation and Section 7 Consultation
 - Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.
 - Loan and Grant Applications
 - Cal OES advised Staff that a request for \$63M grant to support the outlet works improvement project may not be approved by FEMA due to the significantly reduced funding of \$500 million obligated for the 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC).
 - Staff worked with Cal OES and their contractor Hagerty Consulting to explore the Flood Mitigation Assistant (FMA) grant program. Staff was advised that due to the limited number of properties (only 17 properties) that currently hold the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in the vicinity of Santa Felicia Dam inundation zone, the FMA grant program may not be a viable grant funding option for the Outlet Works Improvement Project.
2. Condor Point Improvement Project
- MNS Engineers submitted the 100% Design Package for the Condor Point Swim Beach. The deadline to construct the beach per FERC order is May 04, 2024.
3. Freeman Diversion Expansion
- NHC delivered the updated Hardened Ramp Fish Passage Facility Design Development Report to NMFS and CDFW.
 - Staff, consultants, special advisors, NMFS, CDFW and Wishtoyo participate in bi-weekly Operational Work Group meetings. These meetings will help to provide more information
-

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

to the agencies concerning the operations of the Hardened Ramp flushing channel and desander.

4. Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- The ribbon cutting ceremony marking the substantial completion of the construction phase took place of September 13, 2023.
- Meetings:
 - Daily start-up and testing coordination meetings between GSE, Taft, RoviSys, HDR, and O&M staff.
 - Weekly coordination meetings between Staff and HDR.
 - Weekly construction progress meetings hosted by HDR and attended by GSE Construction (GSE), Taft Electric, Kennedy Jenks Consultants (KJ) and Staff.
- GSE has submitted approximately 384 out of a total of 409 submittal packages anticipated for the project. HDR and KJ have provided responses on approximately 375 submittal packages including a requirement to comply with the Buy American Act (BAA).
- GSE has submitted approximately 144 RFIs to date. HDR, KJ and the District have been providing responses.
- Thirty-eight (38) Change Orders (COs) have been fully executed to date amounting to a net total of \$1,437,652.08. This represents approximately 15.4% of the original contract amount (\$9,342,900). 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 \$774,741.90 or 8.3% of the original contract amount is related to all other COs that have resulted in additions or modifications to the original scope of work.
- GSE continued construction of the following:
 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Integration
 - Filter media installation (Photo 1)
 - Asphalt Paving of new Fe/Mn Plant and El Rio Site (Photo 2)
- The facility's construction is expected to be substantially completed by October 31, 2023. The facility startup and testing activities will continue in the next three months to comply with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) requirements for demonstrating full treatment efficacy.

5. PTP Metering Improvement Project

- Total number of meters installed: 46 of 60 or 77% complete.
- Additional seven (7) meter installations are planned by late-2023 (Turnout Nos. 102, 109, 114, 132, 134, 161, 162).
- Easement acquisition completion: 33 of 40 obtained or 82.5% complete.
- Received additional owner-signatures on easement deed for Turnout No. 120. There are over 20 signatories to the easement deed.
- Received recorded easement deeds for Turnout Nos. 147 and 161 on Sep 13th.

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- Litigation at the property that is served by Turnout No. 107 has been completed. There is a new property owner that can now execute a utility easement deed. Hamner Jewell and Associates (HJA) is working with the new owner's attorney.
- Staff met with the property owner for Turnout Nos. 145, 150 and 156 who requested a site meeting to discuss the project before signing the utility easement deeds. There were no concerns over installation of the new metering equipment. A repair was requested for a gate that was installed by the District near Turnout No. 143.
- The property owners at Turnout Nos. 142, 144 and 154 have been non-responsive or non-cooperative and District staff will review options for proceeding forward.

6. PTP Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project

- On September 7, Staff met with the landowners of the property north of Laguna Road to discuss the proposed pipeline easement within their property. The landowners were interested and will consider granting easement to the District and expressed interest to be granted a turnout off of the proposed new recycled water pipeline.
- The 60% design effort continued during the month of September. Staff attended progress meetings, discussed hydraulic model concerns, and prepared and submitted the requested data related to the PTP system (standard plans, equipment preference list, etc.) to MKN.
- Rincon Consultants prepared the AB 52 tribal consultation package for the project. On September 9, Environmental Service Department staff prepared and submitted letters to all individuals identified on the AB 52 list. A 30-day response time is available to the interested parties who need further consultation from the date of receipt of the letter. The requests should be submitted to the District in writing.

7. Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project and Impact on PTP

- A joint stipulation was reached between United and CalTrans on the ingress and egress around the PTP 4 Well site.

8. State Water Project (SWP) Interconnection Pipeline Project

- Staff met with the City of Ventura on August 3 to discuss the 60% design plans. Staff provided feedback on the plan details associated with the proposed turnout and blow off facilities. The City is requesting temporary construction and permanent easements from the District. The City provided Staff with two utility easement deed templates (The City's Easement Deed for water lines and United's utility easement deed templates) to choose from. The legal counsel reviewed the two templates and provided comments and recommended revisions to be included in the City's easement deed template that appears to be more appropriate for this request. Staff provided comments to the City for their consideration and inclusion in the City's easement template. Staff requested the City to prepare two separate easement deeds; one for the permanent easement and a separate one for the temporary construction easement.

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

9. Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade - Freeman to Ferro

- NHC completed the 90% design for the Three Barrel Culvert upgrade in August. Staff have reinitiated the permit process with Ventura County Watershed Protection.
- Staff met with HDR to discuss project requirements for the Noble to Ferro connection beneath Vinyard Ave. HDR is expected to provide a proposal for a Preliminary Design Report with alternatives by the end of September.

10. Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- 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 which is expected to be done by late-2023.
- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between UWCD and the Navy to develop roles and responsibilities for the Phase 1 project is currently with the Navy's Admiral Rosen for signature before it will be delivered to the District's General Manager for signature and presented to the Board of Directors as an informational item in late-2023.
- The seventh version of the draft Letter of Request (LOR) initiating the Navy's real estate process for an outgrant easement for the Phase 1 project was prepared and submitted to the Navy for review and comment on September 22, 2023. This includes revisions to one extraction well site relocation (EBB2).
- The District is currently working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff in development of a grant agreement for the \$8,449,062 grant that was approved on March 6, 2023, for the Phase 1 project. Execution of the grant agreement is anticipated by December 2023.
- The District received a notice of non-award on August 8, 2023 for its grant application submitted on June 23 requesting \$20 million in Federal funding assistance under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) provided by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. A debrief meeting has been scheduled to review the application with the OLDCC on October 31, 2023.
- Meetings:
 - Held weekly internal meetings between Engineering, Environmental, and Water Resources staff to discuss progress on agreements with the Navy (MOA, Outgrant Easement), grants (SGM, GWGP, DCIP), CEQA/NEPA documentation preparation, permitting agency engagement, discharge, and pipeline alternatives evaluation, well site suitability analysis, coastal water quality sampling and groundwater flow modeling.
 - The NEPA/CEQA "Drumbeat" meetings were held with District, ESA Consultants and Navy NEPA staff and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).
 - District staff held three progress meetings with the Phase 1 project design team, KJ.
 - District staff held three progress meetings with the Phase 1 project CEQA and permitting team, ESA Consultants.
- Sep 28, held a monthly progress meeting with Navy staff to discuss priority items including finalization of the MOA, LOR for an Outgrant Easement, monitoring well design and installation progress, finalization of the Discharge Alternatives TM, draft Pipeline

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

Alternatives TM, Well Suitability TM, and progress of environmental surveys within the Mugu Lagoon.

- Design:
 - Oct 3, staff conducted an extraction well site reconnaissance field visit with KJ and ESA to for further development of the Preliminary Design Report (PDR) and permits needed during construction.
- CEQA/NEPA/Permits:
 - Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.
- Geotech/Hydrogeology:
 - Water Resources staff conducted various modeling simulations wherein one or more extraction well sites are removed, and pumping rates are increased at each remaining extraction well site. More simulations are needed to ensure 3,500 AFY can be maintained if any extraction well site is removed from the scope of work.
 - District staff received two (2) proposals from geotechnical consulting firms (Earth Systems and Ninyo & Moore) to conduct geotechnical exploration activities and prepare a geotech report along the proposed pipeline alignments and extraction well sites. Staff is currently reviewing the proposals and negotiating with the selected proposer.

11. Asset Management/ CMMS System

- No updates to report.

12. OH Water Well No.20

- The installation of OH Water Well No. 20 by Bakersfield Well & Pump was substantially completed.
- Notice of Award for the OH Water Well No.20 Pump and Motor was issued to the General Pump Company.

13. Lake Piru Recreation Area – Pavement Maintenance Program

- J&H Engineering completed the pavement repair for the Lake Piru Recreation Area Dry Storage parking lot on August 31. On September 12, the Notice of Completion (NOC) for the Lake Piru 2023 Pavement Management Program was filed with the Ventura County Recorder's Office.

14. Other Topics, Meetings and Training

N/A

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item



Photo 1 – Filter Media (Greensand Plus) Loading in Filter Vessel No. 2 on Sep 22



Photo 2 – New Asphalt Paving at the El Rio Water Treatment and Groundwater Recharge Facility



Staff Report

To: UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

Date: September 26, 2023 (October 5, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Engineering and Operations Committee Members will receive this summary report from the Environmental Services Department regarding its activities for the month of September 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. The measured cumulative rainfall for the current water year has exceeded all triggers for enhanced habitat water releases through October 1, 2023. The minimum required habitat water release starting June 1 through October 1 is nine cubic feet per second.

- Santa Felicia Fish Passage Pre-Implementation Studies

In September, Environmental Services (ES) staff continued implementation planning of compliance actions consistent with the Fish Passage Feasibility Assessment Study Plan. Specifically, United and Cramer Fish Sciences are preparing to conduct the third final phase of study activities in middle Piru Creek. United has received approval for Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement to replace and reinstall instream monitoring equipment (fyke trap, rotary screw trap, PIT antennas) that was lost, damaged, or displaced during the

4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report

Information Item

January 2023 storms. United has coordinated with subcontractors to begin fabrication of the needed equipment. Cramer Fish Sciences and United staff will conduct sampling via backpack electrofishing in middle Piru Creek and Agua Blanca in mid to late October 2023. Fish trap and PIT antenna reinstallation is planned to occur in late October or November 2023. The fish traps are planned to be operated throughout the 2023-24 winter and spring. On September 22, 2023, United received approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct project activities and for ES staff to serve as “designated biologist” to conduct survey and monitoring activities outlined within the project permits. On September 26, 2023, United received a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service to conduct project activities.

- Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)

On September 29, 2023, ES staff filed with FERC and provided the HPMP annual report to stakeholders (State Historic Preservation Office, the Los Padres National Forest, the Angeles National Forest, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the local Chumash Indian community). The annual report documents all work conducted under the HPMP within the reporting period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, including built environment property findings, activity specific cultural resource surveys, a summary of conducted screened activities, and a summary of exempt work activities conducted utilizing cultural resource avoidance and mitigation measures.

- Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (SFDSIP)

On August 29, 2023, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) filed with FERC a late Motion to Intervene on the SFDSIP. In response, on September 13, 2023, United filed an Opposition to NMFS’ late Motion to Intervene. In addition, on September 12, 2023, United filed two separate letters with FERC regarding the SFDSIP. The first was a request for non-federal designation from FERC to conduct Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation with NMFS for the SFDSIP. The second letter clarified certain factual and legal understandings of the proper environmental baseline for the SFDSIP under the ESA and of the May 5, 2008, final Biological Opinion for the issuance of a new FERC license to United for operation of the Santa Felicia Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2153). On September 15, 2023, United received NMFS’ letter filed with FERC in response to United’s May 24, 2023, response to comments on the draft Biological Assessment. Staff are currently reviewing the letter.

On August 14, 2023, staff issued a Request for Qualifications for pre-construction environmental compliance plan development for the SFDSIP. United received proposals from three qualified consulting firms. ES staff reviewed the proposals and held follow-up meetings with each firm’s project manager. The interview panel selected Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for the work. A contract is being developed for execution by the General Manager.

- 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

4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report

Information Item

NMFS on FERC's issuance of a license for the Santa Felicia Project. On September 23, 2023, the seventy-eighth status update was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit.

2. Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement for Freeman Diversion Routine Maintenance

On September 18, 2023, ES staff submitted notifications to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to perform general maintenance activities at the Freeman Diversion during the week of September 25, 2023. Specifically, United staff intends to perform vegetation maintenance along the toe of the rip rap and restore the degraded access road just downstream of the Diversion.

3. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of September, Operations and Maintenance staff conducted flushing operations to minimize sediment deposition in the Freeman Diversion facility. ES staff supported operations and maintenance activities one or more times a week by providing field support, conducting surveys of dewatered areas, providing on-site biological monitoring, and issuing agency notifications when appropriate.

4. Freeman Diversion Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

On September 14, 2023, United issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as required under the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOP was distributed to the Freeman Diversion project mailing list, posted with the Ventura County Clerk and State Clearinghouse, as well as noticed in the Ventura County Star. The distribution of the NOP initiates a 30-day scoping and comment period which will conclude on October 13, 2023. United held public scoping meetings on September 28, 2023, and will continue to receive public and agency comments through the end of the scoping period. Under the terms of the Joint Stipulation in the *Wishtoyo et al. v. United* case, the draft EIR, as well as the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and regulatory applications must be submitted by February 9, 2024.

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

On September 25, 2023, FERC issued an Order approving the temporary variance to the Department of Water Resources' South State Water Project FERC license. The temporary variance will allow United to import up to 25,000 acre-feet of State Water Project water from Pyramid Dam to Lake Piru in the November 2023 through February 2024 delivery window.

On September 6, 2023, staff submitted a Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) application with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct fieldwork related to the middle Piru Creek Pulsed Flow Study, to supplement work conducted in 2021. Specifically, the fieldwork supports a study to test the hypothesis that a managed water release conducted as a high-volume pulse may displace exotic aquatic species to the benefit of endangered Arroyo Toad and other native species. United conducted such fieldwork in partnership with U.S. Geological Survey, USFWS, and

4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

University of California Los Angeles surrounding a State Water Project water delivery from Pyramid Dam in December 2021 with promising preliminary results. If approved, the SCP period will span three years, allowing United to conduct a multi-year study with the project partners.

6. Capital Improvement Projects

- PTP Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project

On September 8, 2023, ES staff initiated state tribal consultation, AB-52, for the Laguna Road Pipeline Project. Project notification letters were sent to the Native American Contact List received on August 7, 2023, from the Native American Heritage Commission. The tribal contacts have 30 days from the date of receipt of the letter to respond in writing if they are interested in further consultation.

7. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of September, ES staff continued conducting all quagga mussel monitoring activities on Lake Piru, lower Piru Creek, and the spillway pool according to the Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan.

ES staff continued weekly quagga mussel veliger (larva) sampling of United's lower system. United staff continues to meet regularly with Pleasant Valley County Water District to address veliger detections in the lower system and to discuss ongoing chemical treatments and future options.

8. Miscellaneous

- On September 12, 2023, ES staff attended a Conservation and Adaptation Resources Toolbox webinar, *Bullfrog removal to benefit the imperiled Northwestern pond turtle*.
- On September 13 and 14, 2023, Marissa Caringella and Tessa Lenz participated in California Special Districts Association's two-day leadership training, *Supervisory Skills for the Public Sector*.
- On September 19-21, 2023, ES staff completed a 16-hour Wilderness First Aid and an 8-hour Stream Rescue Training with Sierra Rescue International.
- On September 21, 2023, a Grant Procurement Task Force was initiated by the General Manager. The Task Force is comprised of three staff from the Environmental Services, Human Resources, and Finance departments.
- On September 19 and 21, 2023 ES staff attended all-staff lunch presentations from Murray McEachron on the history of United and from the General Manager on the future of United.
- On September 26-28, 2023, ES staff attended field training conducted by Stillwater Sciences on Habitat Criteria Mapping protocol and environmental DNA sampling techniques.

Staff Report

To: UWCD Board of Directors

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

From: John Carman, Programs Supervisor

Date: September 28, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Board will receive this summary report from the Operations and Maintenance department regarding its activities for the month of September 2023.

1. Water Releases, Diversions

- Lake Piru dropped * feet in September due to conservation release, to 0 acre-feet (AF) of storage.
- * AF of water was diverted by the Freeman Diversion facility in September.
- * AF of water was delivered to the Saticoy recharge basins in September (metered plus unmetered, including Noble and Rose Basins).
- * AF of surface water was delivered to the El Rio recharge basins in September.
- * AF of surface water was delivered to the PTP system in September.
- * AF of surface water was delivered to C customers in September.
- * AF of surface water was delivered to Pleasant Valley County Water District in September.

2. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
 - On October 1, 2023, the lake level was *.
 - Conservation releases from the Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) continued during the month of September, at a release rate of * cubic feet per second (cfs).
 - On August 20, 2023, due to a magnitude 5.0 earthquake near Ojai, staff conducted a first check inspection of Santa Felicia Dam.
 - On September 26, 2023, FERC conducted its annual inspection at Santa Felicia Dam.

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- **Information not available at press time. Please refer to 4.4 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report in the October 11, 2023 UWCD Board packet for correct information.**

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

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

- Diversion rate at the Freeman Diversion averaged * cfs for the month of September, with * cfs of surface water being diverted on October 1, 2023.
- District staff operated the Freeman Diversion throughout the month, harvesting Santa Felicia Dam release flows, recharging basins, and delivering surface water to El Rio, PTP and PV pipelines.
- In collaboration with Environmental Services, staff performed Freeman Diversion flushes and sediment removal every Monday throughout the month of September.
- Staff utilized the District's long reach excavator to remove sediment buildup from the canal and replaced fish wiper brushes during weekly flush cycles.
- Staff dried, disced, and rotated low percolation rate recharge basins in Saticoy.
- Noble and Rose basins are being operated at elevated levels to increase percolation effectiveness, in consultation with Hydrology.
- Static water levels (distance of water from the well pad to the water table):

	2023	2022	2021
Saticoy	14'	136'	142'
El Rio	60.6'	142.4'	135.7'
PTP	78'-106'	132'- 179'	125'-173'

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

- Filter media loaded and start-up testing of newly constructed Iron and Manganese in progress in preparation for upcoming 96 continuous hours test cycle.
- El Rio Booster plant parking lot and encompassing area asphalt removed and repaved.
- El Rio natural gas emergency booster pump #1 discharge manifold fabricated and installed by welding contractor.

- **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).
- District and PVCWD staff treated Reservoir #2 with 550 gallons of copper-based algaecide-molluscicide, additionally 12% sodium hypochlorite injection continues at Saticoy's Moss Screen facilities for quagga mussel control.

- **Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)**

- During the month of September, the PTP system demand was met primarily with surface water and supplemented with PTP wells.
 - Staff upgraded PTP Turnout meter #113 with Endress Hauser Electromagnetic meter.
 - September 28, 2023, staff replaced PTP Well #2 manifold check valve.
-

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

- **Instrumentation**

- Instrumentation staff troubleshoot and configured the upgraded OH Booster Plant emergency gas engine PLC's CompactLogix control system.
- Staff replaced moss screen spray nozzle pump.
- Continued support for Fe-Mn Treatment Project programming and start-up testing.
- Staff programed and commissioned Endress Hauser Electromagnetic flow meter at Turnout #113 off Laguna Road.
- On September 27, 2023, OH VFD #3 booster pump resumed operational status after being repaired by UWCD I&E staff in conjunction with Allen-Bradley Co. technician.

- **Lake Piru Water System**

- All chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the drinking water system were within proper ranges for the month of September.
- 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

- September 13, 2023, UWCD staff hosted ribbon cutting ceremony for newly constructed Iron and Manganese treatment facility.
- **Other Operations and Maintenance Activities**
 - The Santa Felicia Dam Emergency Action Plan sirens located in Piru were exercised on September 1, 2023.
 - Facilitated tours at Freeman Diversion facilities.
 - September 27, 2023, staff installed a new sign, with UWCD logo, above Booster Plant.
 - The monthly inspection of Santa Felicia Dam was performed.
 - Monthly bacteria samples were obtained for the PTP system.
 - Monthly meter readings were obtained for the OH, PTP, and PV pipelines.
 - Completed and electronically transmitted the monthly OH Pipeline report to the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.
 - Static water levels were obtained for all El Rio, Saticoy, and PTP wells.
 - Weed abatement continued throughout the District.
- **Safety and Training**
 - During the month of September, approximately 3,100 hours of work, within the O&M department, were performed with 1 reported accident.
 - The online Target Safety assignment September "Water Industry Fire Prevention Safety" and the safety meeting covered fire prevention, fire extinguisher use and selection, and hazardous materials. Four safety videos were shown and discussed with staff - *Terrifying moment man is engulfed in flames as he adds fuel to BBQ* by Daily Mail, *'Very, very toxic' / Biolab fire in Southwest Louisiana releases chlorine gas into*

Agenda Item: 4.3 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report
Information Item

atmosphere by WWL-TV, Woman Panics During Livestream When She Starts Kitchen Fire by Inside Edition, and Free Fire Extinguisher Training Video - OSHA by Ally Safety. The Risk and Safety Manager, with support from Saticoy O&M staff, organized hands-on fire extinguisher training for district staff. Staff also received a tailgate on Flammable and Combustible Liquids.

El Rio staff were also briefed on safe handling and storage. El Rio staff conducted quarterly SCBA training.

El Rio Operators completed annual HAZWOPER refresher courses.

- Tailgate safety meetings were conducted at all individual O&M field locations and the topic included refresher training on equipment used at the various O&M locations.