



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, October 11, 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 1:30 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 Recognition of Retiring Human Resources Specialist Ofelia Leon**

**Ceremonial Item**

The Board will recognize Human Resources Specialist Ofelia Leon, who is retiring on October 13, 2023, after 20 years of service to the District.

**2.8 Recognition of Retiring Operations and Maintenance Program Supervisor John Carman**

**Ceremonial Item**

The Board will recognize Operations and Maintenance Program Supervisor John Carman, who is retiring on October 27, 2023, after 37 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 September 13, 2023.

**B. Groundwater Basin Status Reports**

**Information Item**

Receive and file Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District.

**C. Monthly Investment Reports for months ending July 31, 2023 and August 31, 2023**

**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)**

##### **Administrative Services Department – Brian Zahn and Josh Perez**

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

###### **Information Item**

Summary report and presentation 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**

##### **4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report**

###### **Information Item**

Summary report and presentation 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**

##### **4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report**

###### **Information Item**

Summary report and presentation 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.

**Operations and Maintenance Department – John Carman**

**4.4 Monthly Operation and Maintenance Department Report**

**Information Item**

Summary report and presentation 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**

**4.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report**

**Information Item**

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 – John Lindquist**

**4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report**

**Information Item**

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) including monthly activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Mound Basin GSA, Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA, and the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency), for which the District serves as a member director, and the Santa Paula basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee (including formation of groundwater sustainability agencies in the District's basins, stakeholder and basin user groups, joint powers or governance agreements, development of water markets, and potential basin boundary changes).



**5. MOTION ITEMS (By Department)**

**Engineering Department – Maryam Bral**

**5.1 Resolution 2023-15 Adopting the Revised Owner Dam Safety Program dated October 2023**

**Motion**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2023-15, approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program, revision 9.0, dated October 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, November 8, 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)** October 5, 2023

**(time)** 9:00a.m.

**(attest)** *Tracy Oehler*

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

**Posted: (date)** October 5, 2023

**(time)** 9:15a.m.

**(attest)** *Tracy Oehler*

**At: [www.unitedwater.org](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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
- G. State of California – Department of Transportation v. Pegh Investments, LLC, United Water Conservation District, et al., Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, Case no. 2023CUEI02785; Complaint in Eminent Domain (Parcels 81215-1, 81215-2, 81215-3).



**Staff Report UWCD**

**To:** Board of Directors

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

**From:** Sofley, Clerk of the Board

**Date:** September 29, 2023 (October 11, 2023 Meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 2.5 Board Members' Activities Reports  
**Information Item**

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**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** September **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month

Director: Berger

<b>1. UWCD Board Meetings</b> Regular, special or emergency meetings.			<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
			9/13	20	✓
<b>2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings</b> Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.		<b>Committee Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
		Finance	9/5	20	✓
		Executive	9/11	20	✓
<b>3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)</b>	<b>W/ GM or LC</b>	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>4. Conferences/Trainings.</b> Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.		<b>Event Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards.</b> 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.		<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
		AWA Board	9/7	20	✓
		Reagan Event	9/14	44	✓
		AWA Water Issues	9/19	-	✓
<b>6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM.</b> Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.		<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.		<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters</b> Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.		<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	



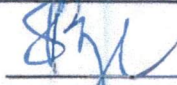
9. Meetings with state or federal legislators or officials or representatives from other entities.  At the request of the BoD, BP or GM.	Official Name/Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage

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 \$260 per meeting	\$ 1560.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	124	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 81.22
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ 1,691.22</b>

Director Signature



Date:

9-24-23

General Manager Signature



Date:

10/3

**Definitions**

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager

Board of Directors  
Activities and Expenses for Month September Year 2023

Due on last day of month

Director: Bruce Dandy

<b>1. UWCD Board Meetings</b> Regular, special or emergency meetings.			Date	Mileage	✓
			9/13	8	
<b>2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings</b> Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.		Committee Name & Location	Date	Mileage	✓
		Exec Comm	9/11	8	
<b>3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)</b>	W/ GM or LC	Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	
<b>4. Conferences/Trainings.</b> Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.		Event Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
<b>5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards.</b> 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	9/26	8	
<b>6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM.</b> Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.		Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	
<b>7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.		Entity Name & Location	Date	Mileage	✓
		AWAVC	9/14	64	
<b>8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters</b> Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.		Meeting Description & Location	Date	Mileage	

Board of Directors  
Per Diem and Expenses for Month Sept 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**	4	x \$260	\$ 1,040.00
**not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	88	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 57.64
Total other expenses			\$
<b>TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ 1,147.64</b>

Director Signature

*Bruce Dandy*

Date: 10/1/23

General Manager Signature

*[Signature]*

Date: 10/3

Definitions

BoD: Board of Directors

BP: Board President

GM: General Manager



**Board of Directors**  
**Activities and Expenses for Month** 9 **Year** 2023

Due on last day of month

Director: Mohammed Hasan, P.E.

<b>1. UWCD Board Meetings</b> Regular, special or emergency meetings.		<b>Date</b> 9-13	<b>Mileage</b> 12	✓
<b>2. UWCD Committee/Advisory Body Meetings</b> Environmental, Executive, Finance/Audit, Groundwater, Operations, Planning, Recreation and RiverPark JPA Committees.	<b>Committee Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>3. Meeting with GM or District Legal Counsel (LC)</b>	<b>W/ GM or LC</b>	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
<b>4. Conferences/Trainings.</b> Includes conferences or educational activities organized by ACWA, AWAVC & CSDA.	<b>Event Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>5. Appointed representative to meetings of other entities' Boards.</b> 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.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	✓
	AWA VC elected officials	9-15	60	✓
	AWA VC water issues	9-19	-	
<b>6. Meetings of other government entities at request of BoD, BP or GM.</b> Such as PVCWD, FCGMA or Oxnard City Council.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	
<b>7. Meetings with board members or executive management of other agencies.</b> Includes FCGMA, LAFCO, RiverPark JPA, AWAVC BoD, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, ACWA, CSDA, GSA.	<b>Entity Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	✓
	Mound Basin	9-25	-	✓
	CoLAB WHEEL	9-27	-	
<b>8. Public meetings hosted by District regarding District matters</b> Such as Section 10 HCP, Vern Freeman Fish Panel.	<b>Meeting Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	



Board of Directors  
Per Diem and Expenses for Month 9 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**	5	x \$260	\$1,300.00
§*not to exceed 10 meetings and \$2,600. per month or 1 meeting per day			
Total days of travel		x \$100.00/day	
Total # of miles	72	x \$0.655/mile	\$ 47.16
Total other expenses			\$
TOTAL MILEAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES			\$ 1,397.16

Director Signature Mohammed Hasan Date: 10/1/23

General Manager Signature [Signature] Date: 10/3

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)  
17- Board Meeting (12noon – 2:42pm)  
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 (9am-9:28am)

02 - Water Resources (9am-10:27am)  
03- Recreation (canceled)  
Executive (8:30am-9:30am)  
04- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:26)  
17- Board Meeting (12noon-2:35pm)  
CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)  
18- Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)  
22- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)  
24- Special Board Meeting – Budget Workshop (9am-10:32am)  
24- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)  
**JUNE:** 01- Engineering and Operations (9am-10:25am)  
05- Finance and Audit (9am-10:01am)  
06– Water Resources (canceled)  
06 – Executive (8am-9:20am)  
07- Recreation (9am -10:33am)  
14- Board (12pm-3:34pm)

15-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)

21- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)  
26- Mound Basin GSA (1pm-1:42pm)  
29- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

#### **JULY:** 03- Finance and Audit (9am-9:35am)

05- Water Resources (9:00am-10:29am)  
05- Recreation (canceled)  
06 - Engineering and Operations (9am-10:36am)  
12- Board Meeting (12noon-3:22pm)  
19- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)  
20-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)  
26- Mound Basin GSA (1pm)  
26- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)

#### **AUGUST – UWCD DARK**

16- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)  
17-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)  
23- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)  
28- Mound Basin GSA (Canceled)

#### **SEPTEMBER:** 05- Water Resources (canceled)

05- Finance and Audit (9am-9:512am)  
06- Recreation (canceled)  
07- Engineering and Operations (canceled)  
11- Executive Committee (10:10am-11:30am)  
13- Board Meeting (8:30am-9:30am)  
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 (canceled)

03- Water Resources (9am)  
04- Recreation (9am)  
05- Engineering and Operations (9am)  
11- Board Meeting (12noon)  
18- CoLAB VC WHEEL (1pm)  
19-Fillmore and Piru Basin GSA (5pm)  
23- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)  
25- Fox Canyon GMA (1:30pm)  
26- Water Sustainability Summit IV (1pm)  
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- Mound Basin GSA (3pm)

#### **DECEMBER:** 04- Finance and Audit ()

05 – Water Resources ()  
06- Recreation ()  
07- Engineering and Operations ()  
08- 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	<b>WaterWise Program</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	25	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
FEBRUARY	2	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	<b>WaterWise Program</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	21	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	22	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
MARCH	2	Board Meeting (Annual Meeting-Elections)	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	<b>WaterWise Program (Installation/Directors)</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	21	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	22	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
APRIL	6	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	20	<b>Annual Water Symposium &amp; Exposition (Hybrid)</b>	<b>8:00am–2:00pm, Thurs.</b>	Courtyard Marriott Oxnard?
	20	<b>Operators Tech Workshop &amp; Exposition</b>	<b>8:00 am–3:30pm, Thurs.</b>	Courtyard Marriott Oxnard?
MAY	4	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	18	<b>WaterWise Program</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	24	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(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	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
JULY	6	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	18	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	20	<b>WaterWise Program</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	26	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
AUGUST		<b>DARK</b>		
SEPTEMBER	7	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	*14	<b>Reception for Members/Elected Officials</b>	<b>4:00 pm, Thursday</b>	(In-Person Members/Guests)
	19	Water Issues Committee	8:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	27	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems Luncheon</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(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	<b>WaterWise Program</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	25	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems Luncheon</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
NOVEMBER	2	Board Meeting	3:00 pm, Thursday	(Hybrid)
	16	<b>WaterWise Breakfast Program</b>	<b>8:00 am, Thursday</b>	(Hybrid)
	21	Water Issues Committee	7:00 am, Tuesday	(Hybrid/Members Only)
	29	<b>Channel Counties/Water Systems Lunch</b>	<b>8:00 am, Wednesday</b>	(Virtual)
DECEMBER	7	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm,	(Hybrid)
	7	<b>Holiday Mixer/Corporate Night</b>	<b>5:00 pm, Tuesday</b>	(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:** September 29, 2023 (October 11, 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:** Josh Perez, Chief Human Resources Officer

**Date:** September 27, 2023 (October 11, 2023 Meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 2.7 **Recognition of Retiring Human Resources Specialist Ofelia Leon**  
**Ceremonial Item**

---

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Board will recognize Human Resources Specialist Ofelia Leon, who is retiring on October 13, 2023, after 20 years of service to the District.

#### **Background:**

Ofelia Leon started with the District in August 2003 as an Administrative Assistant. In 2005, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant II, in 2006, to Administrative Assistant III, in 2013, to Executive Assistant, in 2017, to Human Resources Administrator, and, in 2020, to Human Resources Specialist.

Ofelia has had such a positive impact on the District throughout the years through her actions and demeanor on the job. She has been a consummate professional, onboarded hundreds of staff members, and always performed her job roles in an exceptional manner continually displaying a commitment to making Human Resources the best it can possibly be. Her efforts have led to dramatic improvements in the Human Resources Department here at United Water.

On behalf of everyone here at the District as well as the Board of Directors, thank you Ofelia, for all your hard work over the last 20 years. You will be missed, but we all gather here today to wish you a wonderful retirement. As a token of appreciation, the District will present a gift to Ofelia for all her efforts as she embarks on her retirement from the United Water Conservation District.



### **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

**Date:** September 27, 2023 (October 11, 2023 Meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 2.8 Recognition of Retiring Operations and Maintenance Program  
Supervisor John Carman  
**Ceremonial Item**

---

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Board will recognize Operations and Maintenance Program Supervisor John Carman, who is retiring on October 27, 2023, after 37 years of service to the District.

#### **Background:**

John Carman began his career with United Water Conservation District as an Operations and Maintenance Worker I in March 1986. In 1991, he was promoted to Operations and Maintenance Worker II, and in 1996, to Operations and Maintenance Worker III. In January of 1999, John resigned to go work for another agency, and, after a short six months, quickly realized he wanted to return to United, which he did.

During this period, John took the time to earn his grade 4 certification. In July 2005, he was promoted to Lead Operations and Maintenance Worker, in 2007, to Senior Water Treatment Operator, and in 2011, to Chief Water Treatment Operator. His last promotion with the District occurred in 2020, when he was promoted to Operations and Maintenance Program Supervisor.

Over the past 37 years of service, John has been a shining example of the type of employees United has on staff. John has always promoted a positive and healthy work culture and there is never a task too complex or too menial for John to perform.

John has also had a positive impact on the work force while being a union steward, mentoring staff, and has created an indelible legacy here at United by always being in attendance at the District's most significant events with camera in hand. Thanks to John, the majority of photos and videos commemorating milestone events as well as new hires, retirees and every "all staff" celebration and facility tour in between are part of the District's physical scrapbook as well as social media posts.

John truly exemplifies the best of United and its work culture. It is with a fondness for his lifelong contributions that we say farewell to him. His legacy is cemented here at United as one of its longest serving and best employees in its history.

On behalf of everyone here at the District as well as the Board of Directors, thank you John, for all your hard work and dedication over the last 37 years. You will be missed, of that there is no doubt, but we all gather here today to wish you a wonderful retirement. As a token of appreciation, the District will present a gift to John for all his efforts as he embarks on his 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, September 13, 2022, 8:30 A.M.**  
**UWCD's El Rio Facility**  
**3561 N. Rose Avenue, Oxnard CA 93036**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Gordon Kimball, director

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mauricio Guardado, general manager  
David Boyer, District legal counsel  
Robert Barone, control systems supervisor  
Maryam Bral, chief engineer  
John Carman, operations and maintenance program supervisor  
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager  
Sara Guzman, senior accountant  
Tony Huynh, risk and safety manager  
John Lindquist, water resources supervisor  
Craig Morgan, engineering manager  
Josh Perez, chief human resource officer  
Zachary Plummer, technology systems manager  
Adrian Quiroz, associate engineer  
Ed Reese, technology systems specialist  
Robert Richardson, senior engineer  
Kris Sofley, executive assistant/clerk of the Board  
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger  
Kaili Taniguchi, engineer  
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

**1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 8:30 A.M.**

President Dandy called the meeting to order at 8:30a.m.



**1.1 Public Comments**

**Information Item**

President Dandy asked if there were any public comments or questions for the Members of the Board. None were offered.

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Dandy invited everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.3 Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Naumann; second, Director Hasan. Voice Vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

**1.4 Board Members' Activities Report**

**Information Item**

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

**1.5 General Manager's Report**

**Information Item**

President Dandy asked General Manager Mauricio Guardado if he had any updates for the Board. Mr. Guardado responded that he did not have any updates at this time.

**1.6 ACWA Board Officers Election and Region 5 Member Agency Board Chair, Vice Chair and Board Members for the 2024-2025 Term**

**Motion**

President Dandy explained to the Board that they were considering candidates for **ACWA Board Officers' Election** for President and Vice President for the 2024-2025 Term, with current Vice President Cathy Green running unopposed for ACWA President and two gentlemen running for Vice President – Mr. Ernie Avila and Dr. Michael Saunders. President Dandy also explained that there was an endorsed slate of candidates for the 2024-2025 ACWA Region 5 Chair, Vice Chair and Board Members, who will represent and serve the members of Region 5 (The District is assigned to Region 5).

Mr. Guardado stated his support for Cathy Green, outlining her support of a number of issues that the District brought to the attention of ACWA and that working with current ACWA President Pam Tobin, Ms. Green has done a stellar job in her role as vice president. Mr. Guardado also stated that Mr. Avila was very active in the ACWA State Legislative Committee and was aligned with the District on a variety of issues.

Motion to elect Cathy Green as ACWA President, Ernie Avila as ACWA Vice President and support the slate of endorsed candidates for Region 5, Director

Naumann; Second, Director Hasan. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

2. **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 if there were any questions about any of the Consent Calendar items. None were offered. He also asked if there needed to be any discussion on any of the items on the Consent Calendar. Again, none were offered. With that, President Dandy requested a motion from the Board.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Hasan; Second, Director Maulhardt. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of July 12, 2023 and Special Board Meeting of August 24, 2023.

**B. Groundwater Basin Status Reports**

**Information Item**

Receive and file Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report for the District.

**C. Monthly Investment Report (June 30, 2023)**

**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.

**D. FY 2022-23 Third Quarter Financial Report (July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023)**

**Motion**

The Board will receive and review the FY 2022-23 Third Quarter Financial Report for the period of July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

**E. Request for Mid-Year Staffing Adjustment**

**Motion**

The Board will consider the creation of three positions to provide support to the Water Resource and Operations and Maintenance Department. As the positions have been budgeted, there is no additional cost to the District is this staffing adjustment is approved.

**F. Request to Modify Exempt Leave Provision**

**Motion**

The Board will consider modifying the current annual leave policy to allow exempt employees to accrue up to 1,328 hours per calendar year.

**G. Monthly Department Activities Reports**

**Information Item**

The Board will receive and file the monthly departmental activities reports from:

- 1.) Administrative Services, including Finance, Human Resources, Safety and Risk Management and Technical Systems
- 2.) Engineering
- 3.) Environmental Services
- 4.) Operations and Maintenance
- 5.) Park and Recreation
- 6.) Water Resources

**3. MOTION ITEMS**

**Administrative Services Department - Anthony Emmert**

**3.1 State Water Project Water Transfer from Palmdale Water District**

**Motion**

Assistant General Manager Anthony Emmert addressed the Board, explaining that he was bringing two separate but similar motions to the board, both dealing with transfers of State Water Project water.

For the agreement between UWCD and Palmdale Water District, the contract is for the transfer of 2,000 acre-feet of Table A State Water Project water from Palmdale to UWCD at a cost of \$982,600 and the motion approves that agreement and authorizes the General Manager to execute the agreement and associated documents.

Director Maulhardt said the Finance Committee reviewed the agreement and was recommending the Board's full support.

Motion to approve the agreement between UWCD and Palmdale Water District for the transfer of 2,000 acre-feet of Table A State Water Project water via Pyramid by December 31, 2023, Director Maulhardt; Second, Director Hasan: Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

**3.2 State Water Project Water Transfer from Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency**

**Motion**

Mr. Emmert again addressed the Board, clarifying that the water transfer agreement between UWCD and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) was for the transfer of between 2,000 acre-feet up to 10,000 acre-feet of Table A State Water Project water from SVCWA to UWCD, with the cost ranging from \$840,000 to \$4.2 million depending on the amount of water transferred.

Director Maulhardt again stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the agreement and was recommending full Board approval.

Motion to authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement and associated documents with Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) for the transfer of between 2,000 acre-feet to 10,000 acre-feet State Water Project Table A water from SCVWA to UWCD, Director Maulhardt; Second, Director Naumann. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

Mr. Guardado stated that it was just a few years ago that the District had no agreements for State Water Transfers, and now, thanks to the Board's decision and direction to create a fund for State Water purchases, the District has four such State Water Transfer agreements in place.

Director Maulhardt added that this was validation of the commitment of the Board, staff and the community to bring in new sources of water. He said that by being prepared when the opportunities present themselves, United has increased the benefits of its operation to the region.

President Dandy asked about the timing of the water release, and Mr. Guardado replaced the water would be released after November 1, 2023 and before December 31, 2023.

**Engineering Department – Dr. Maryam Bral**

**3.3 Contract for Hardened Ramp 60% Design Hydraulic Support for NHC in the Amount of \$343,490.**

**Motion**

Engineering Manager Craig Morgan addressed the Board, stating that like the previous motion items, 3.3 and 3.4 were similar in that both were related to the Freeman Diversion Hardened Ramp fish passage alternative.

Mr. Morgan explained how NHC had been “carrying the ball since 2019” on this project based on the firm's hydraulic expertise. He also stated that the 60 percent design of the Hardened Ramp was part of the stipulated order required to be completed within 120 calendar days.

Director Maulhardt reported that the Engineering Committee had reviewed the motion, agreement and scope of work and was recommending full Board approval.

Motion authorizing the General Manager to execute a professional consulting services agreement with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Inc. (NHC) to support the advancement of the Hardened Ramp Design to 60% and authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$343,490, Director Maulhardt; Second, Director Hasan. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

**3.4 Contract for Hardened Ramp 60% Design for GEI in the Amount of \$1,752,670.**

**Motion**

Mr. Morgan addressed the Board again, explaining that by engaging the two companies through two separate contracts the District was able to advance the design and ensure the structural integrity of the project.

Director Maulhardt again stated that the Engineering Committee had reviewed the motion, agreement and scope of work and was recommending full Board approval.

Motion to authorizing the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI) to advance the Hardened Ramp Design to 60% and authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,752,670, Director Maulhardt; Second, Director Hasan. Roll call vote: six ayes (Berger, Hasan, Keeling, Maulhardt, Naumann, Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Kimball). Motion carries 6/0/1.

**4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS READING FILE**

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

President Dandy asked if there were any topics or items for future discussion. None were offered.

**6. ADJOURNMENT 8:55 a.m.**

President Dandy adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m. to the **Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 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 September 13, 2023.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board

# OFFICIAL REGION 5 Board Ballot

2024-2025 TERM



**Please return completed ballot  
by Sept. 15, 2023**

**E-mail:** [regionelections@acwa.com](mailto:regionelections@acwa.com)

**Mail:** ACWA  
980 9th Street, Suite 1000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## General Voting Instructions:

- 1 You may either vote for the slate recommended by the Region 5 Nominating Committee or vote for individual region board members. Please mark the appropriate box to indicate your decision.
- 2 Please complete your agency information. The authorized representative is determined by your agency in accordance with your agency's policies and procedures.

Submitted board candidate bios and headshots are available on [www.acwa.com/elections/2023-region-elections/](http://www.acwa.com/elections/2023-region-elections/).

1

### Nominating Committee's Recommended Slate

☐ I concur with the Region 5 Nominating Committee's recommended slate below.

#### CHAIR:

- **John L. Varela**, Director/2023 Board Chair, Valley Water

#### VICE CHAIR:

- **Sarah Palmer**, President, Board of Directors, Zone 7 Water Agency

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

- **Ernesto A. Avila**, Board President, Contra Costa Water District
- **Mary Bannister**, Director, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
- **John Muller**, President, Board of Directors, Coastside County Water District
- **John H. Weed**, Board Member, Alameda County Water District
- **Floyd Wicks**, Director, Montecito Water District

OR

### Individual Board Candidate Nominations

☐ I do not concur with the Region 5 Nominating Committee's recommended slate. I will vote for individual candidates below as indicated.

#### CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- ☐ **Sarah Palmer**, President, Board of Directors, Zone 7 Water Agency
- ☐ **John L. Varela**, Director/2023 Board Chair, Valley Water
- ☐ **John H. Weed**, Board Member, Alameda County Water District

#### CANDIDATES FOR VICE CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- ☐ **Sarah Palmer**, President, Board of Directors, Zone 7 Water Agency
- ☐ **John H. Weed**, Board Member, Alameda County Water District

#### CANDIDATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS: (MAX OF 5 CHOICES)

- Ernesto A. Avila**, Board President, Contra Costa Water District
- Mary Bannister**, Director, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
- John Muller**, President, Board of Directors, Coastside County Water District
- Sarah Palmer**, President, Board of Directors, Zone 7 Water Agency
- John H. Weed**, Board Member, Alameda County Water District
- Floyd Wicks**, Director, Montecito Water District

2

AGENCY NAME

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

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## Success

Your vote has been recorded. You may view your voting receipt below.

### Current ballots

You are registered to vote in the following ballots:

Already voted - ACWA Board Officers' Election for President & Vice President

### Voting receipts

You have voted in the following ballots:

[View Receipt - ACWA Board Officers' Election for President & Vice President](#)



### Staff Report

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

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

**From:** Kathleen Kuepper, Hydrogeologist  
Bram Sercu, Senior Hydrologist

**Date:** October 3, 2023 (October 11, 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 September 2023.

#### **Summary:**

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

Activity	Amount (acre-feet)
Total Diversions at Freeman Diversion	12,252
Lloyd-Butler Mutual Water Company surface water use	NA
Recharge to Saticoy basins (metered + unmetered)	5,725
Recharge to Noble and Rose basins	1,947
Recharge to El Rio basins	3,242
Total Ag Pipeline Deliveries of water diverted at Freeman	1,338
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 September 2023

Basin	Available Storage (acre-feet)
Oxnard Forebay	24,100

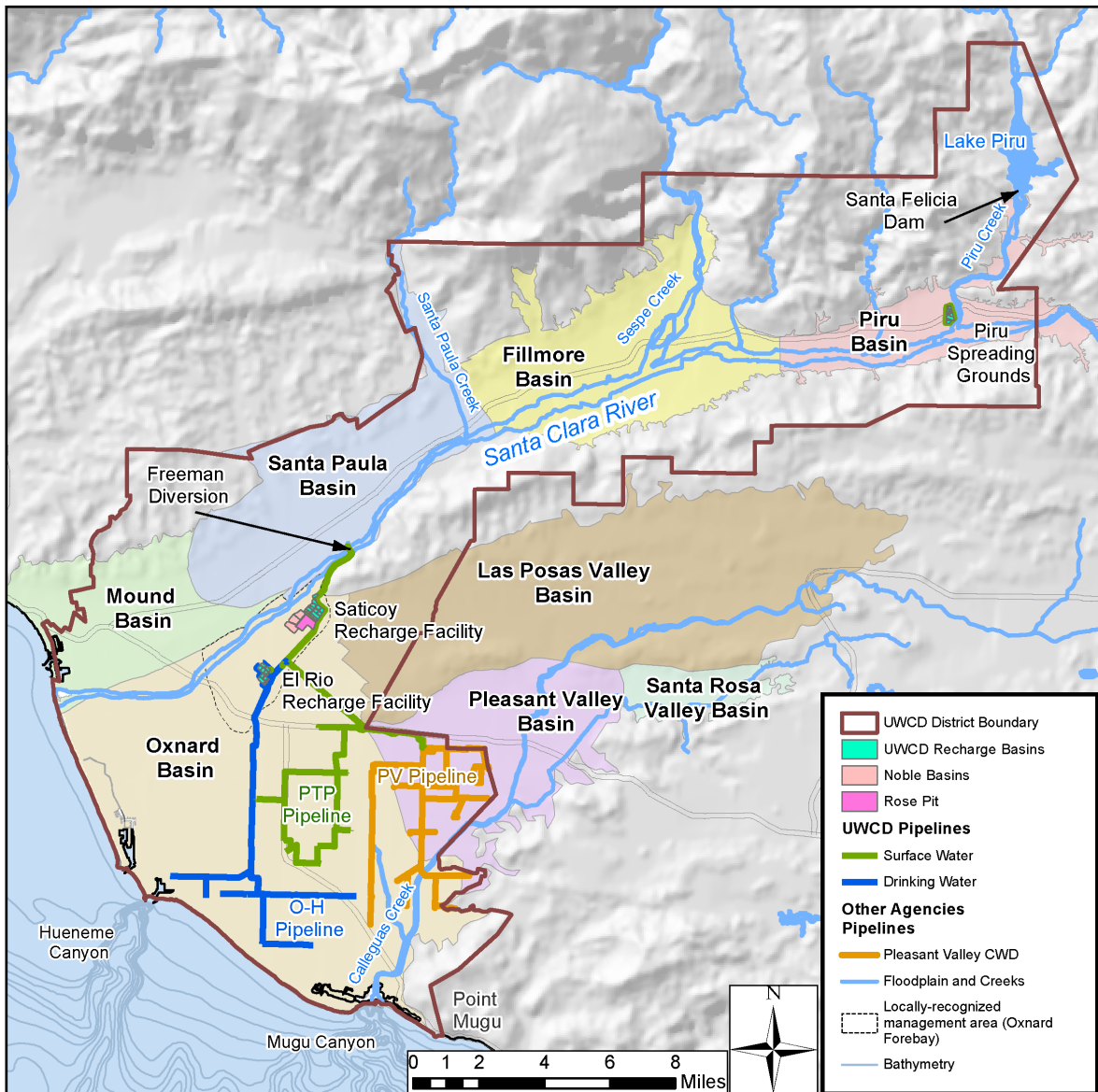
#### Precipitation for Month of September 2023

Location	Precipitation (inches)
Lake Piru	0.12
Santa Paula	0.07
El Rio	0.06



### September 2023 Hydrologic Conditions Report 2022/23 Water Year

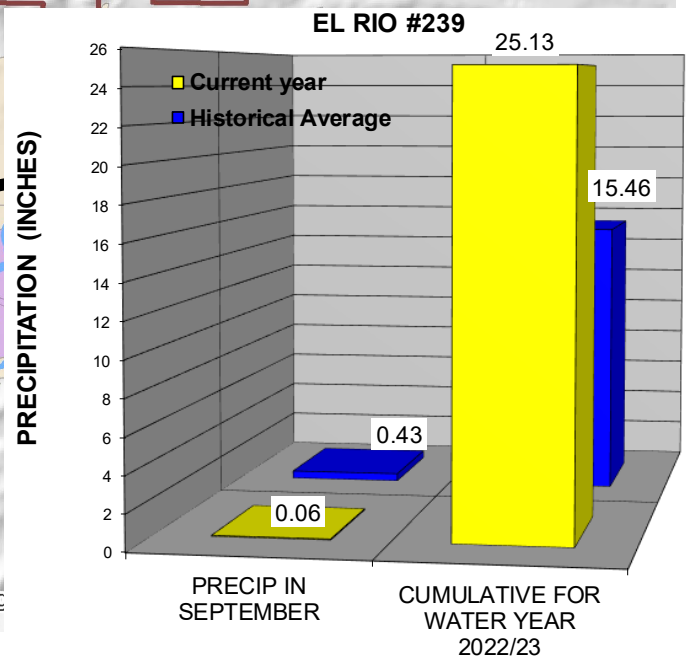
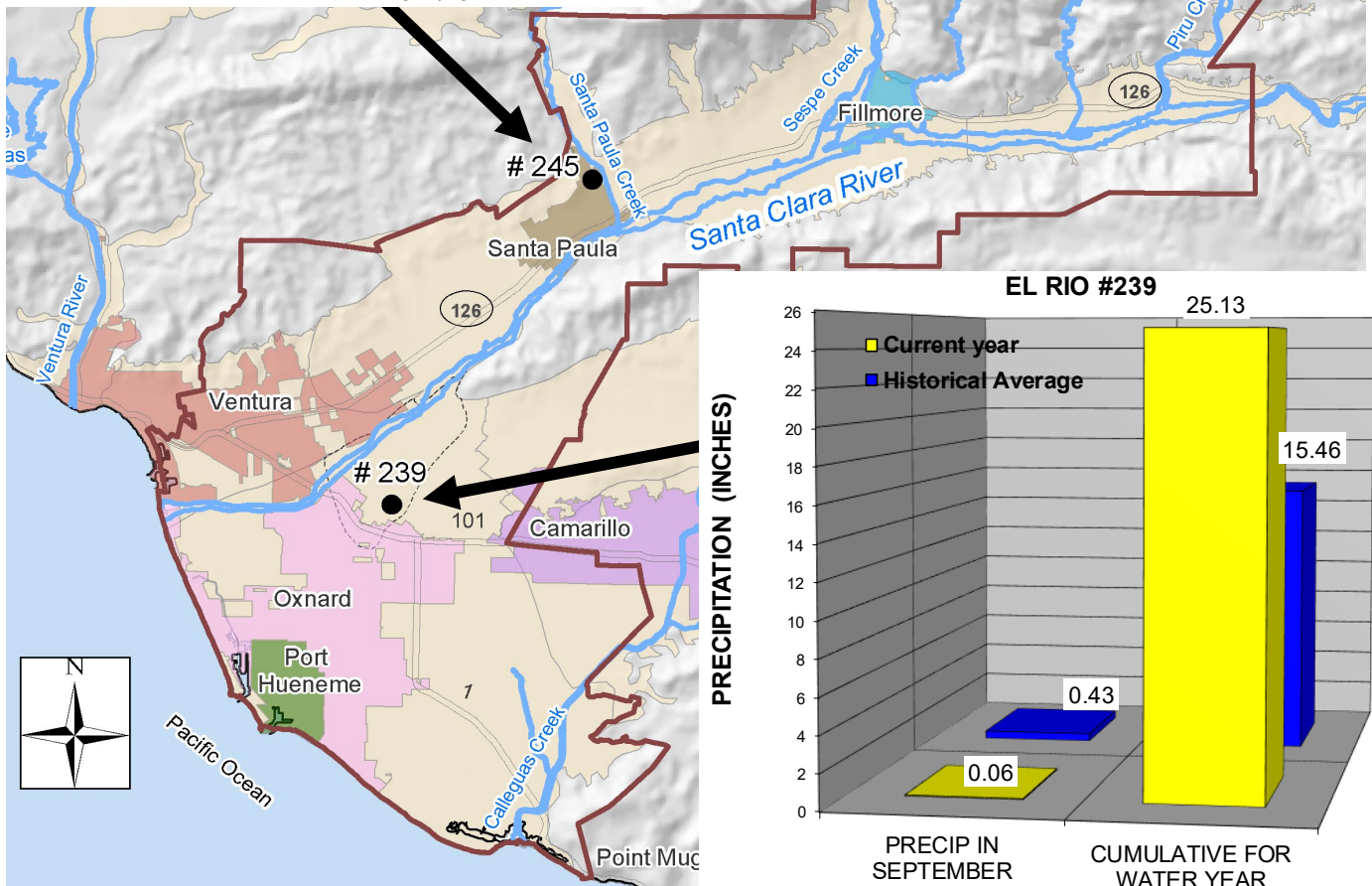
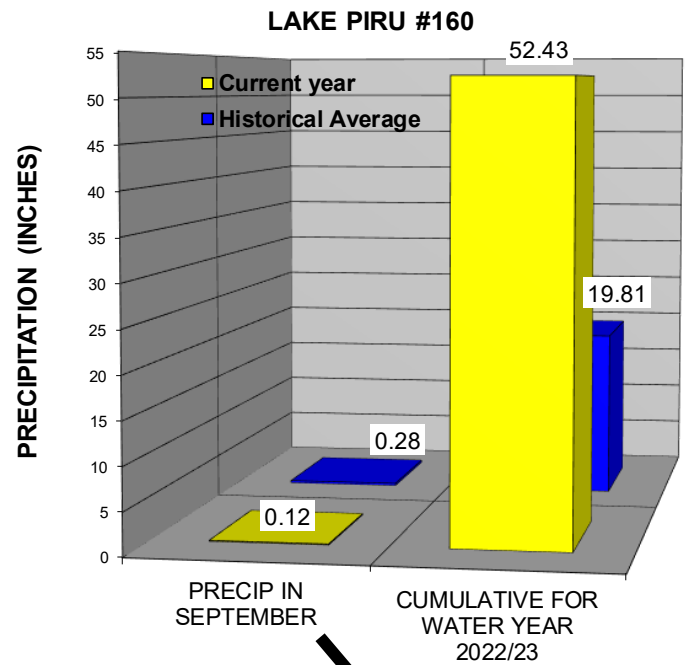
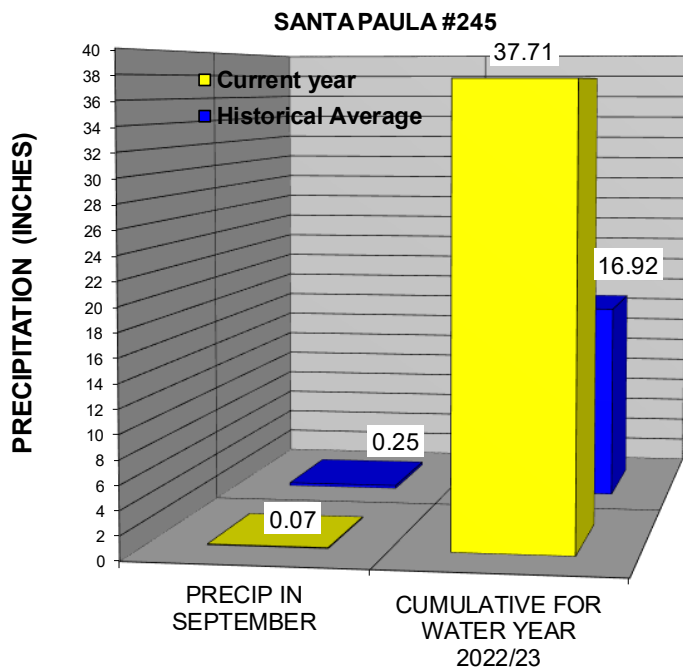
October 3, 2023



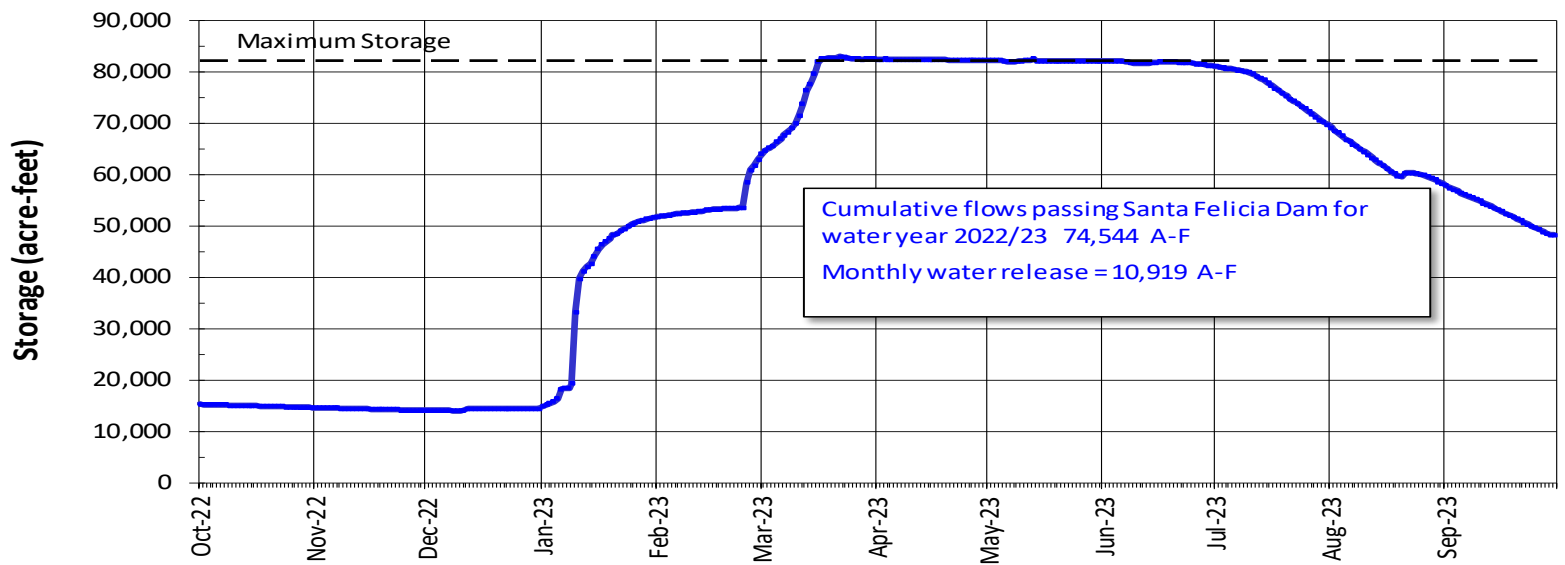
*Note: This report may contain provisional data until final review at the end of the water year.*

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# Precipitation

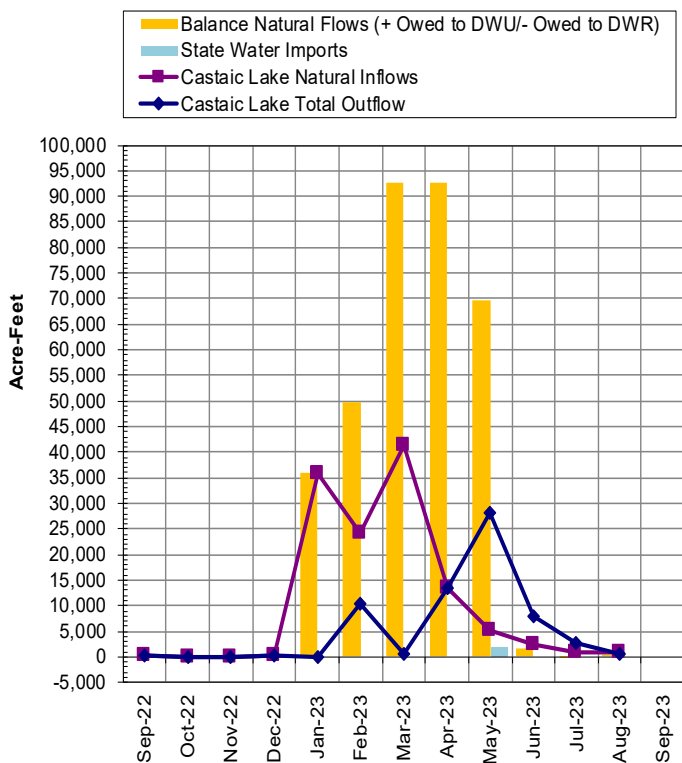


District-wide percent of normal precipitation = 221%

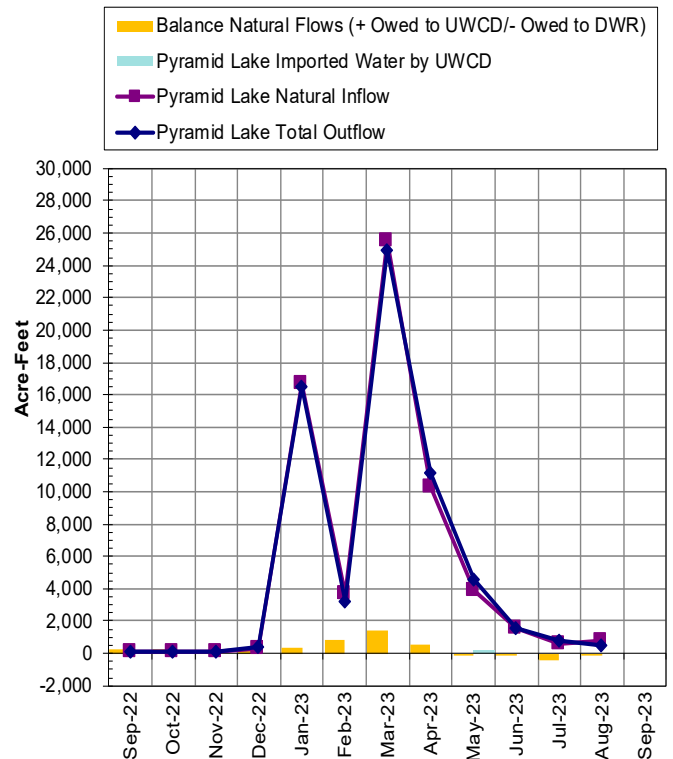


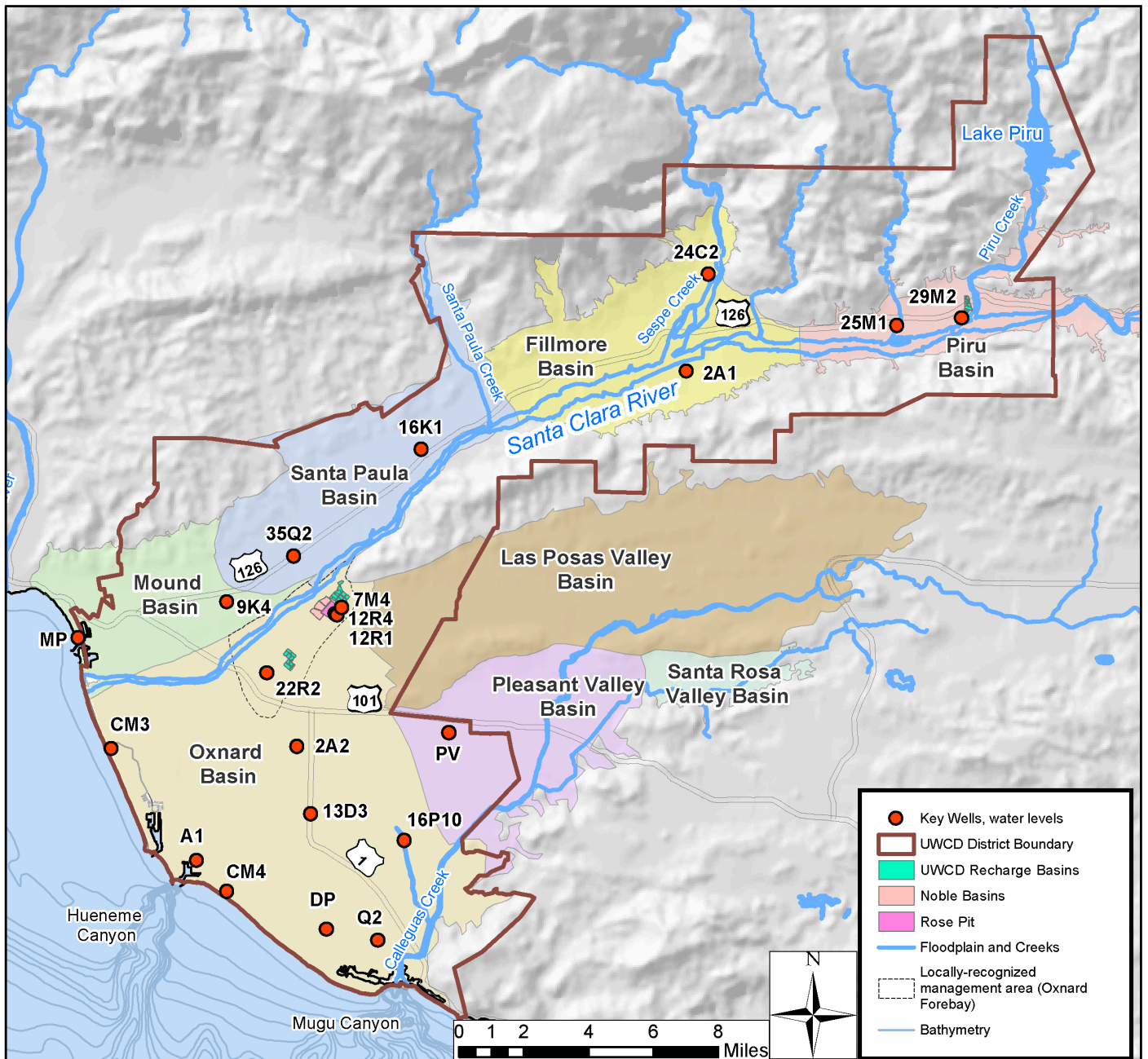
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Hydro Plant Outflow (Acre-Feet)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Hydro Plant Outflow (A-F)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Castaic Lake releases to downstream water users (DWU)



### Pyramid Lake releases to UWCD



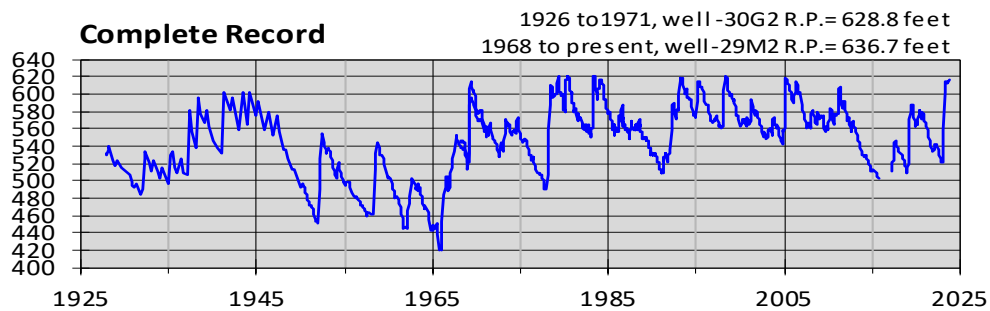
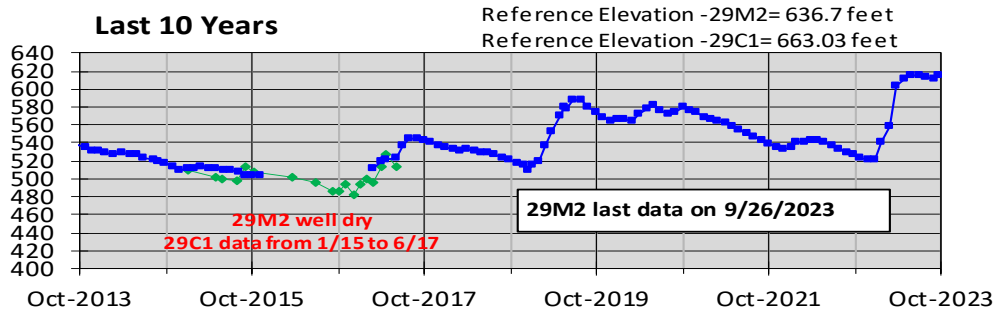


## Locations of Key Wells, Monthly Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

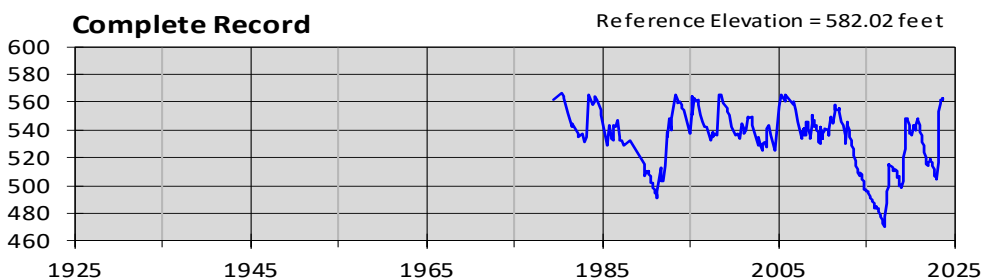
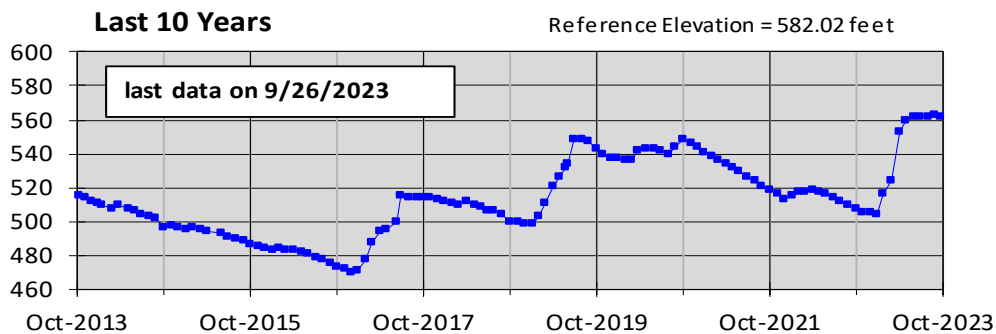


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Piru Basin

Well 04N18W29M02S (29M2)



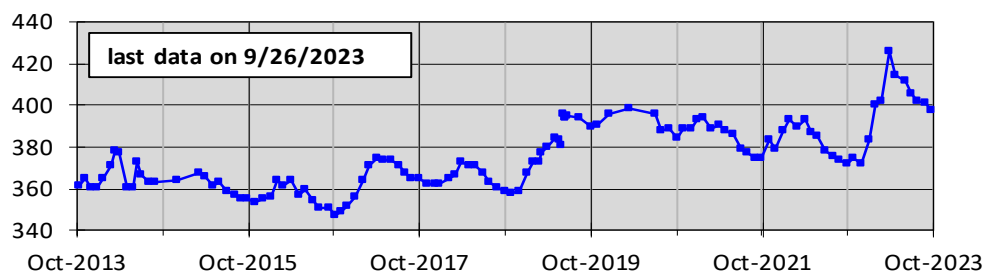
Well 04N19W25M01S (25M1)



# Groundwater Elevation Records – Fillmore Basin

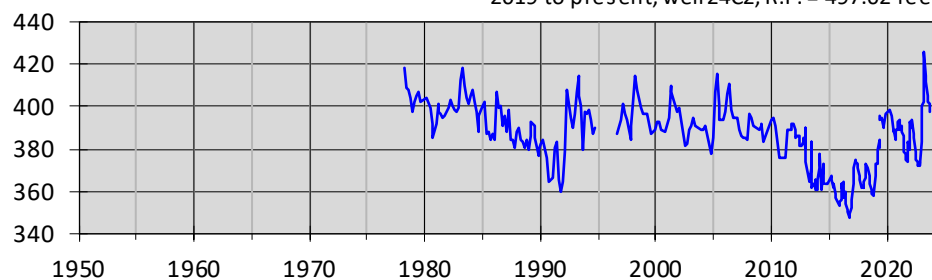
Well 04N20W24C02S (24C2)

## Last 10 Years



## Complete Record

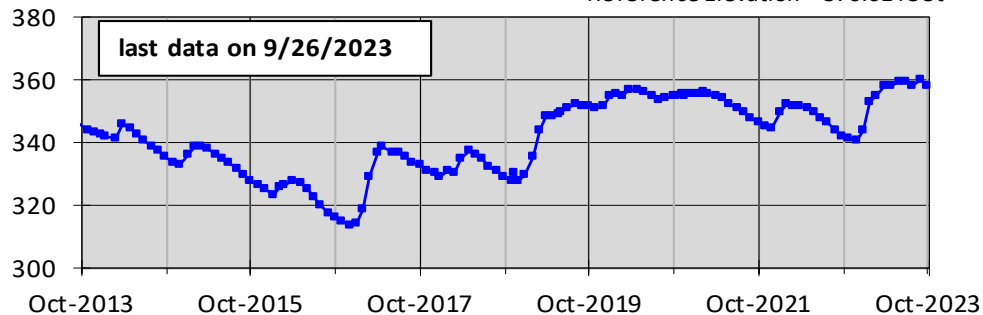
1978 to 2014, well 23Q2, R.P. = 513.99 feet  
2015 to 2019, well 23N1, R.P. = 559.00 feet  
2019 to present, well 24C2, R.P. = 497.02 feet



Well 03N20W02A01S (2A1)

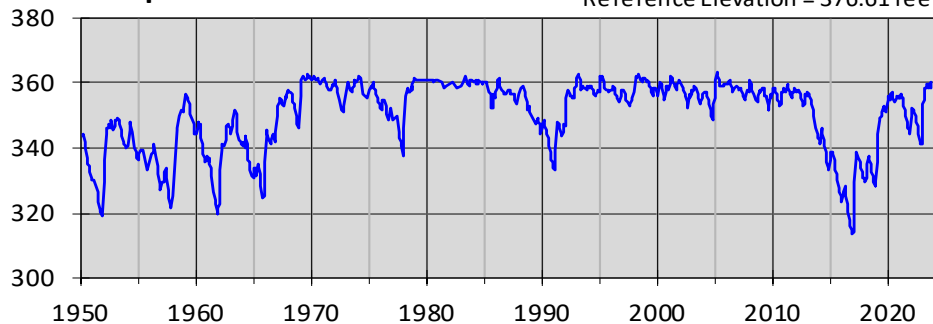
## Last 10 Years

Reference Elevation = 376.61 feet

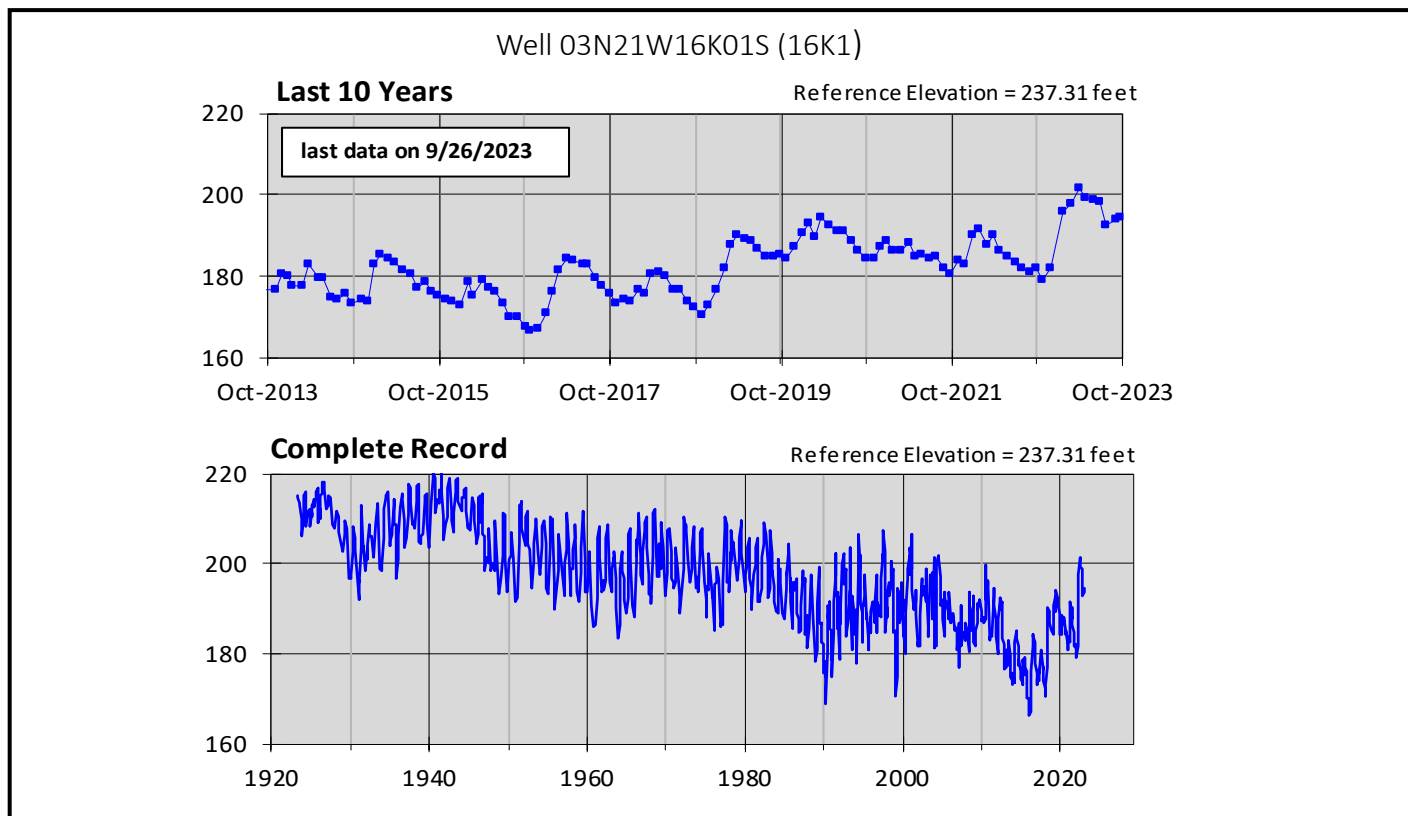


## Complete Record

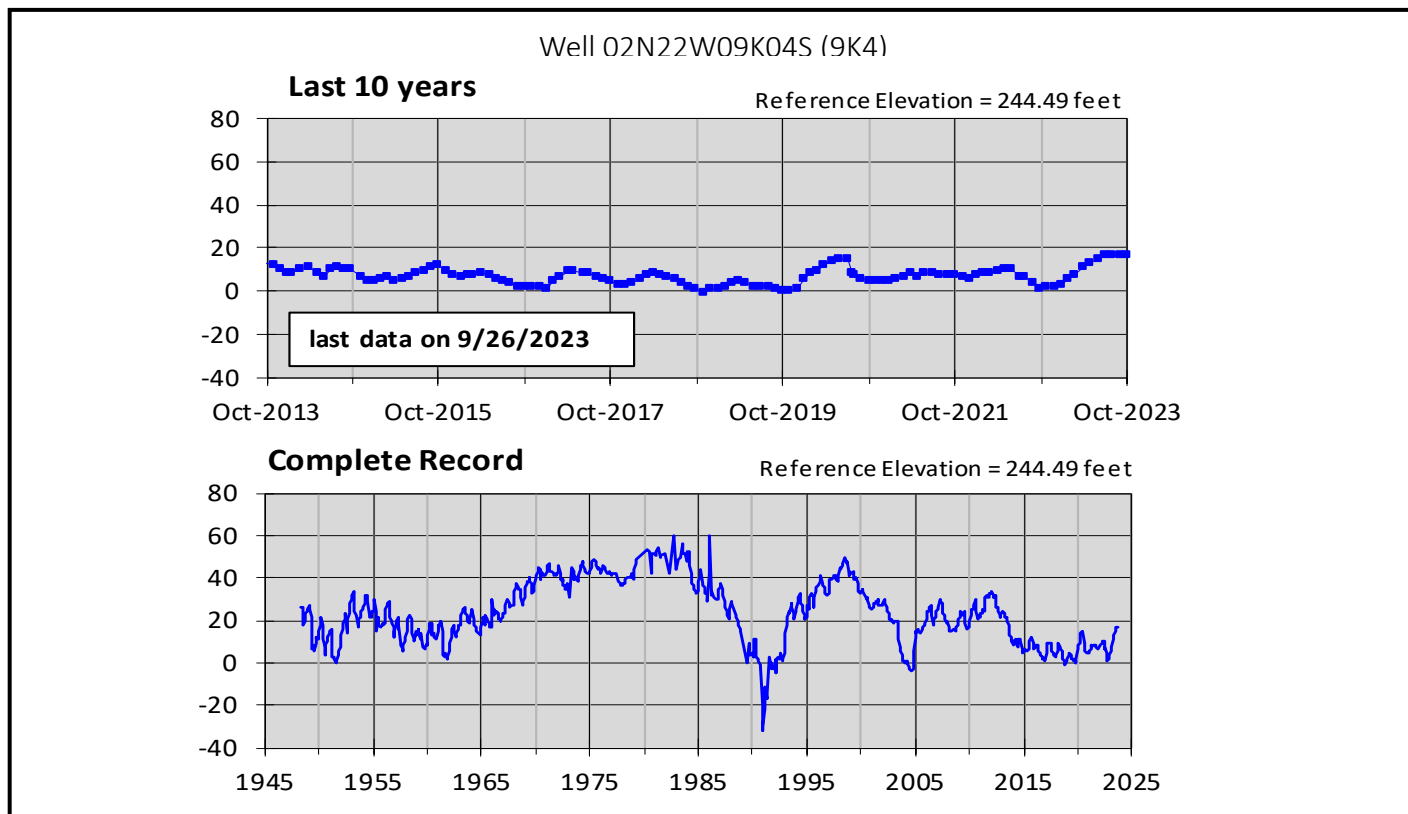
Reference Elevation = 376.61 feet



## Groundwater Elevation Records – Santa Paula Basin



## Groundwater Elevation Records – Mound Basin



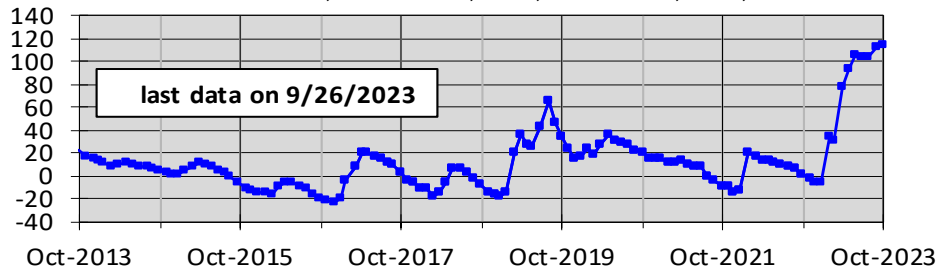


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Oxnard Basin, Forebay

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

## Last 10 Years

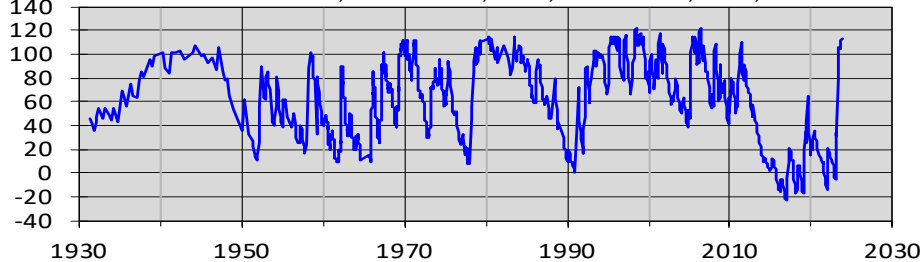
-12R1; RP = 134.19 ft; - 7M4; RP = 142.84 ft; -12R4; RP = 137.11 ft



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

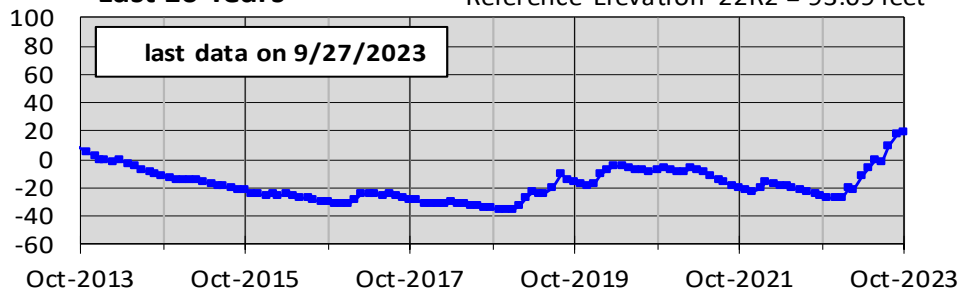


Note: Well 12R1 was destroyed in 2014 and replaced with well 12R4. When well 12R4 goes dry at approximately 9 ft msl, well 7M4 is used to measure groundwater level.

Well 02N22W22R02S (22R2)

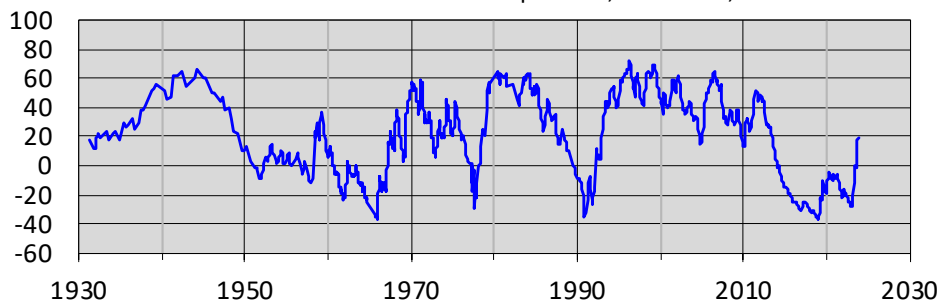
## Last 10 Years

Reference Elevation -22R2 = 93.09 feet



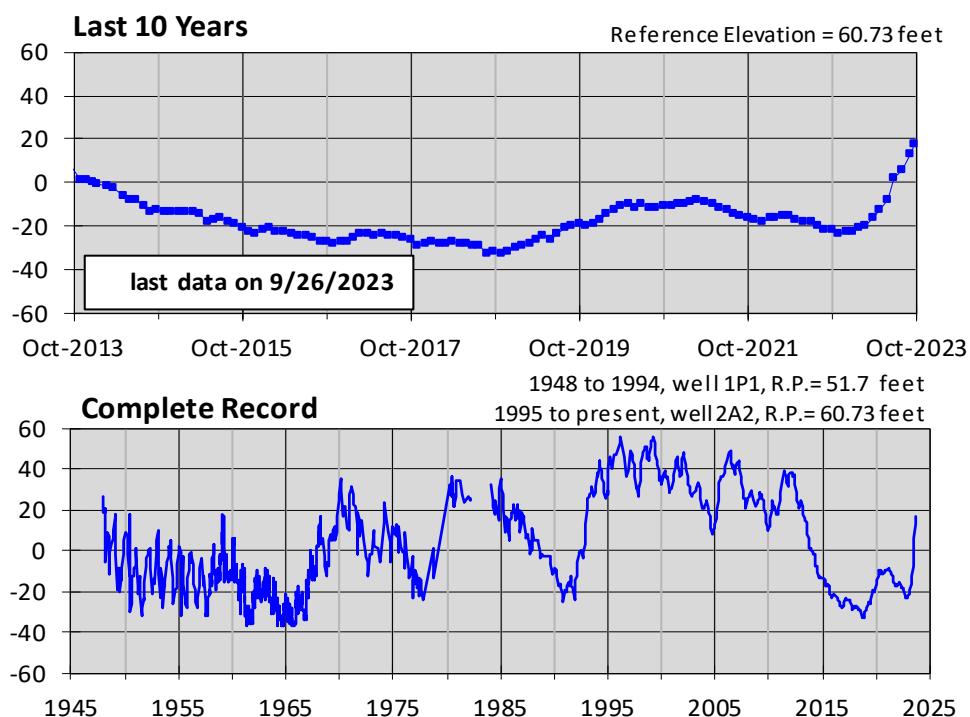
## Complete Record

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

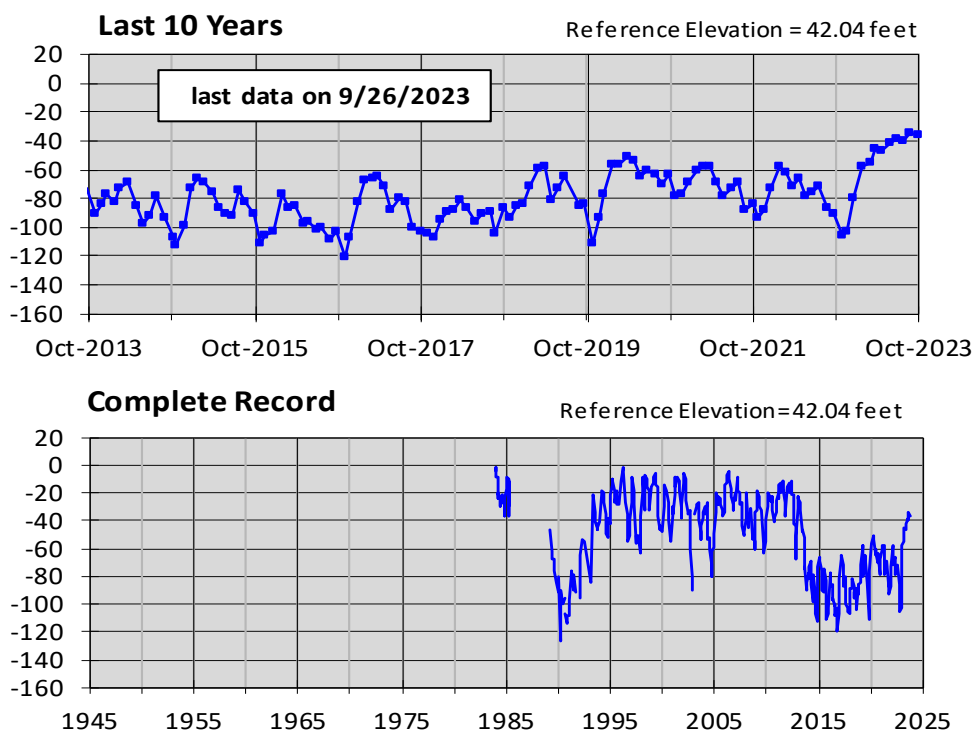


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Oxnard Basin

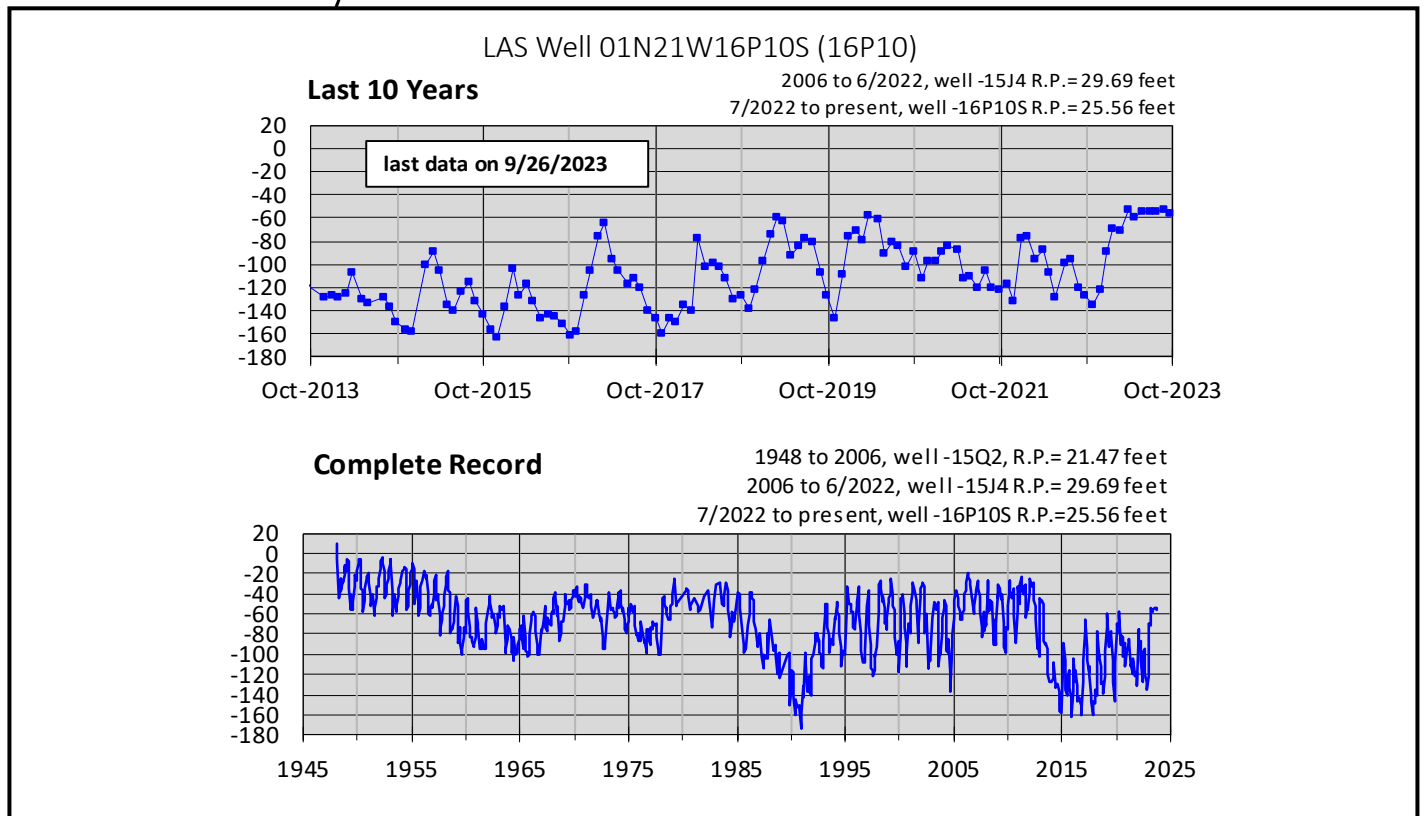
UAS Well 01N22W02A02S (2A2)



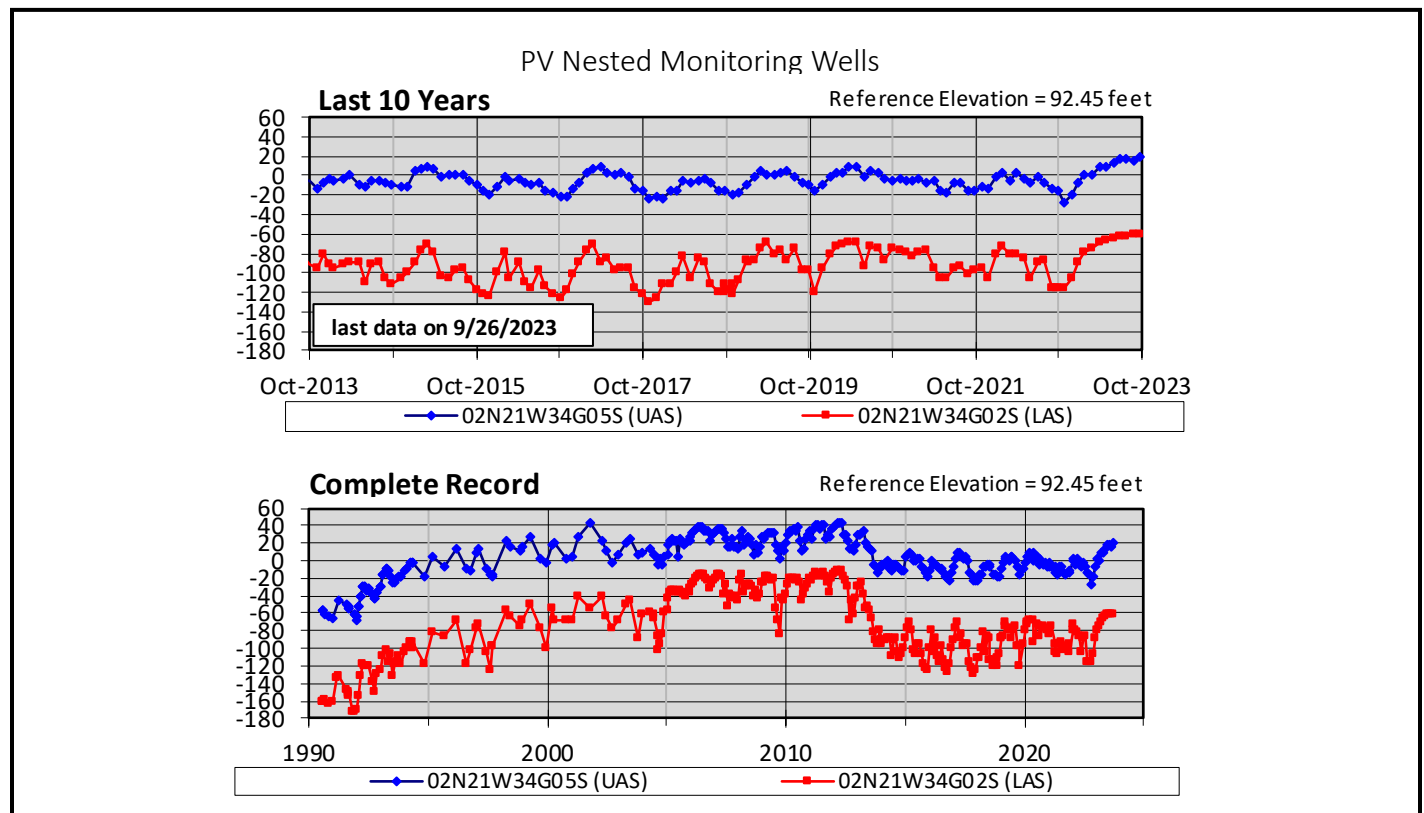
LAS well 01N22W13D03S (13D3)



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

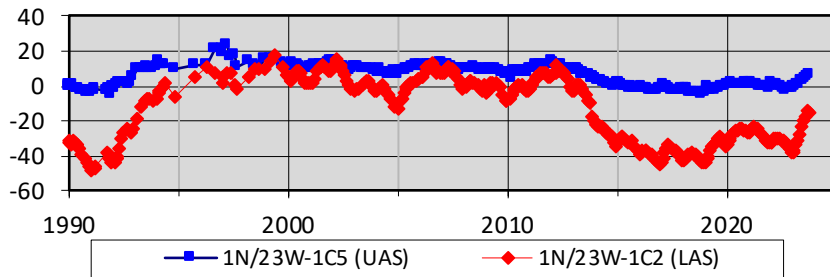


## Groundwater Elevation Records – Pleasant Valley Basin

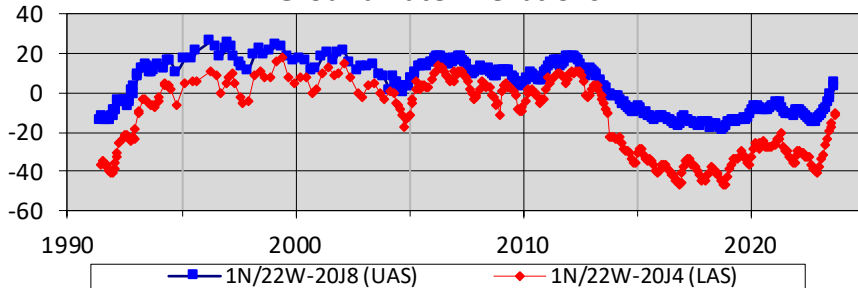


# Groundwater Elevation Records – Coastal Nested Monitoring Wells

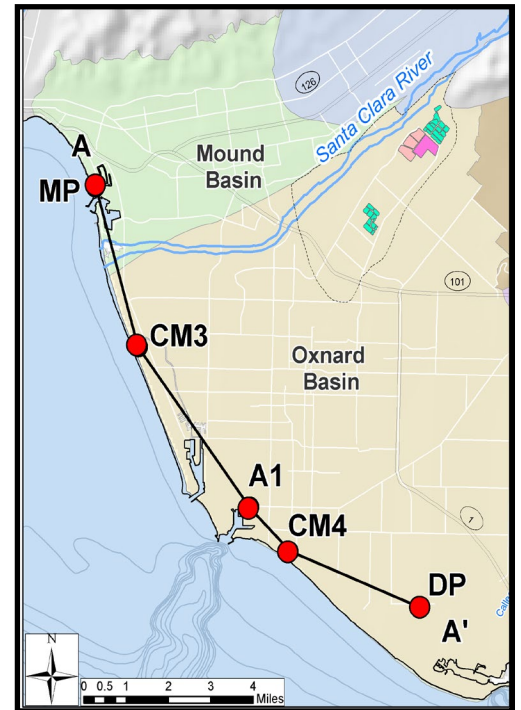
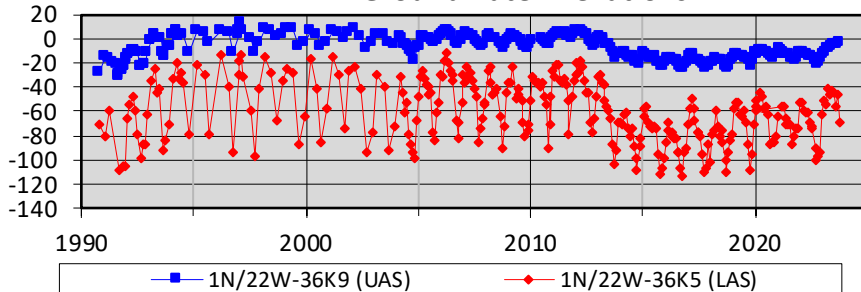
**CM3 Groundwater Elevations**



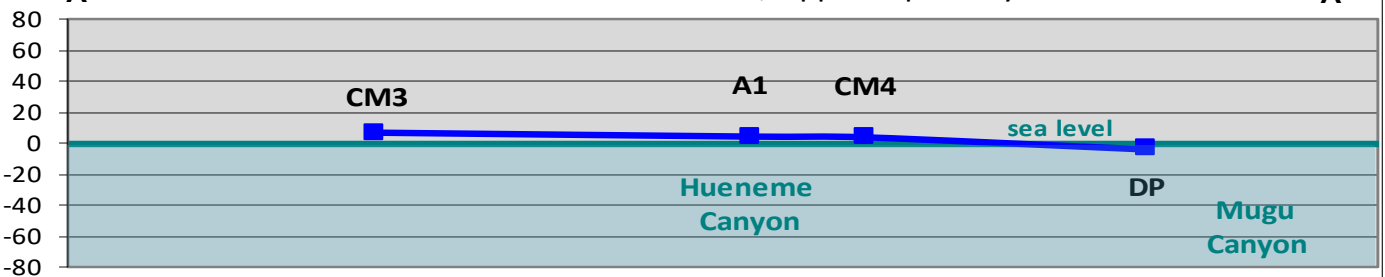
**A1 Groundwater Elevations**



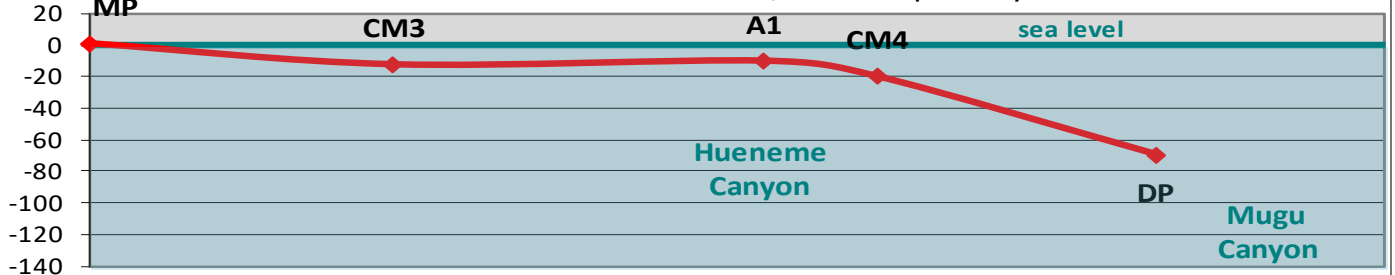
**DP Groundwater Elevations**



**Coastal Groundwater Elevation Transect, Upper Aquifer System**



**Coastal Groundwater Elevation Transect, Lower Aquifer System**



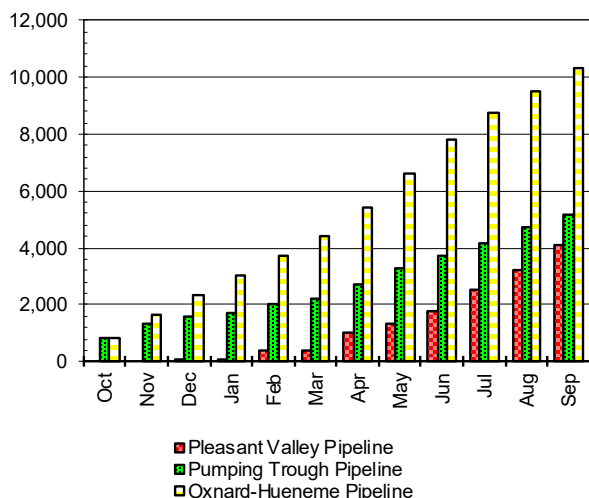
## Monthly Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2022/23)

	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	598.8	330.0	425.1	766.1	691.1	845.6
PV Pipeline (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	598.8	330.0	425.1	766.1	691.1	845.6
PTP (surface water)	0.0	0.0	64.5	143.7	207.7	186.7	507.1	538.9	461.6	414.0	541.0	492.8
PTP (PTP 1-5)	706.9	500.4	145.6	0.0	117.3	9.1	2.2	0.3	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
PTP (OH-12/13)	116.5	32.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PTP (Saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	509.3	539.2	468.1	414.0	541.0	492.8
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	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	986.3	1,175.4	1,233.1	942.7	728.4	817.8
Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP, PV, c-cust)	0.0	0.0	72.4	228.0	520.5	205.6	1,105.9	868.9	886.7	1,180.1	1,232.1	1,338.4
Total Groundwater Delivery (PTP, OH, Sat)	1,659.2	1,350.7	858.8	643.3	817.6	739.9	988.5	1,175.7	1,239.6	942.7	728.4	817.8
Total Delivery (surface water, groundwater)	1,659.2	1,350.7	931.2	871.3	1,338.1	945.5	2,094.4	2,044.6	2,126.3	2,122.8	1,960.5	2,156.2

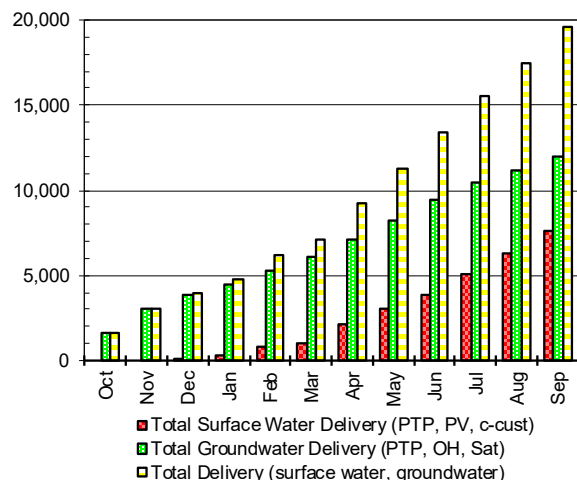
## Cumulative Water Deliveries, acre-feet (Water Year 2022/23)

	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	1,022.7	1,352.7	1,777.8	2,543.9	3,235.0	4,080.6
PV Pipeline (saticoy well field)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	1,022.7	1,352.7	1,777.8	2,543.9	3,235.0	4,080.6
PTP (surface water)	0.0	0.0	64.5	208.2	415.9	602.6	1,109.7	1,648.6	2,110.2	2,524.2	3,065.2	3,558.0
PTP (PTP 1-5)	706.9	1,207.3	1,352.9	1,352.9	1,470.2	1,479.3	1,481.5	1,481.8	1,488.3	1,488.3	1,488.3	1,488.3
PTP (OH-12/13)	116.5	148.6	148.6	148.6	148.6	148.6	148.6	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	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	2,739.8	3,279.0	3,747.1	4,161.1	4,702.1	5,194.9
C-customers (surface water)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	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	5,427.9	6,603.3	7,836.4	8,779.1	9,507.5	10,325.3
Total Surface Water Delivery (PTP, PV, c-cust)	0.0	0.0	72.4	300.4	820.9	1,026.5	2,132.4	3,001.3	3,888.0	5,068.1	6,300.2	7,638.6
Total Groundwater Delivery (PTP, OH, Sat)	1,659.2	3,009.9	3,868.7	4,512.0	5,329.6	6,069.5	7,058.0	8,233.7	9,473.3	10,416.0	11,144.4	11,962.2
Total Delivery (surface water, groundwater)	1,659.2	3,009.9	3,941.1	4,812.4	6,150.5	7,096.0	9,190.4	11,235.0	13,361.3	15,484.1	17,444.6	19,600.8

Cumulative deliveries by system



Cumulative deliveries by source/type



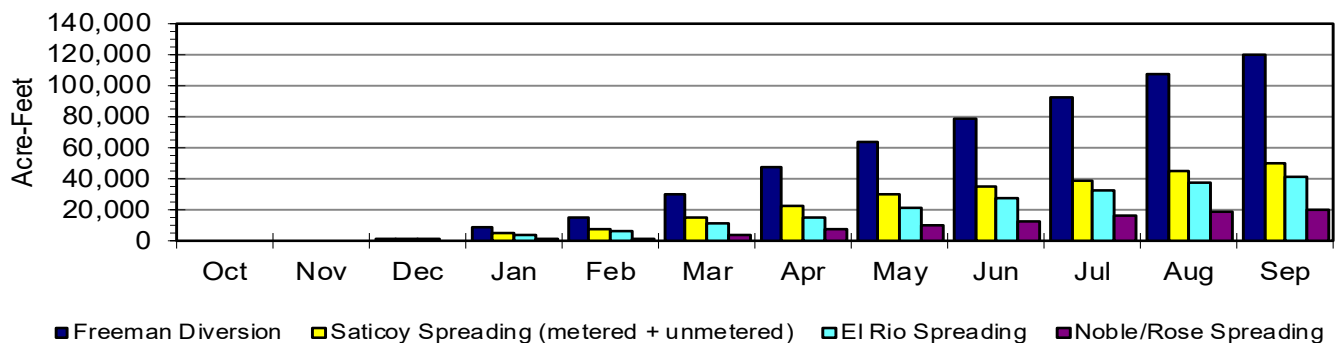
### Monthly diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2022/23, in acre-feet

Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading (metered + unmetered)	El Rio Spreading	Noble/Rose Spreading	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	0
Feb	0	5,268	2,347	2,127	274	15
Mar	0	15,517	7,754	4,751	2,806	3
Apr	0	17,306	7,870	4,522	3,791	17
May	0	16,604	6,861	5,434	3,423	18
Jun	0	14,656	5,158	6,114	2,480	27
Jul	0	14,048	3,890	5,986	2,954	38
Aug	0	14,552	6,182	4,387	2,712	39
Sep	0	12,252	5,725	3,242	1,947	NA

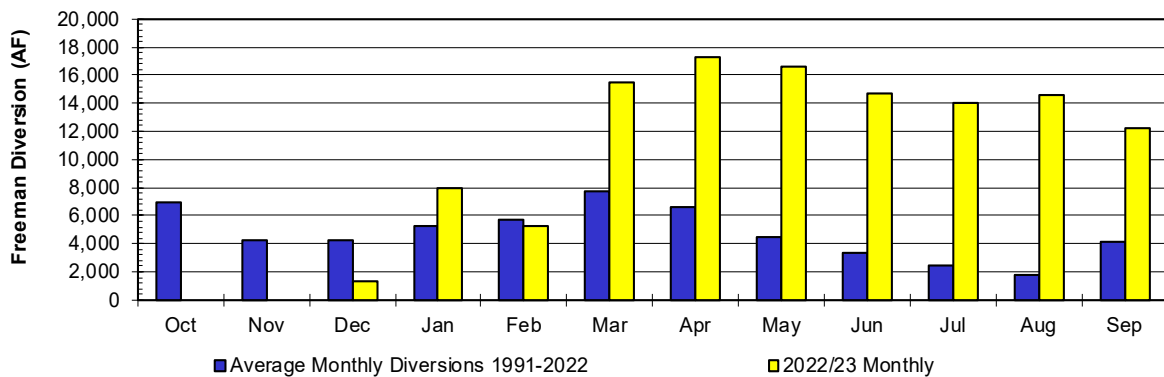
### Cumulative diversion and recharge totals by facility, 2022/23, in acre-feet

Month	Piru Spreading	Freeman Diversion	Saticoy Spreading (metered + unmetered)	El Rio Spreading	Noble/Rose Spreading	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	1
Feb	0	14,565	7,022	6,265	457	16
Mar	0	30,082	14,776	11,016	3,263	19
Apr	0	47,388	22,646	15,538	7,054	36
May	0	63,992	29,506	20,972	10,477	53
Jun	0	78,648	34,665	27,086	12,957	80
Jul	0	92,696	38,554	33,072	15,911	119
Aug	0	107,248	44,736	37,459	18,623	158
Sep	0	119,500	50,461	40,701	20,570	NA

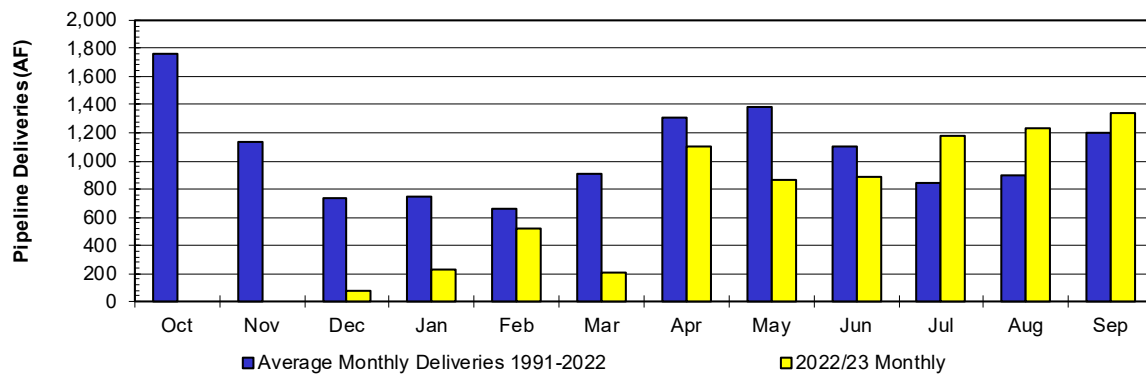
### Cumulative diversion at Freeman, and distribution to recharge facilities



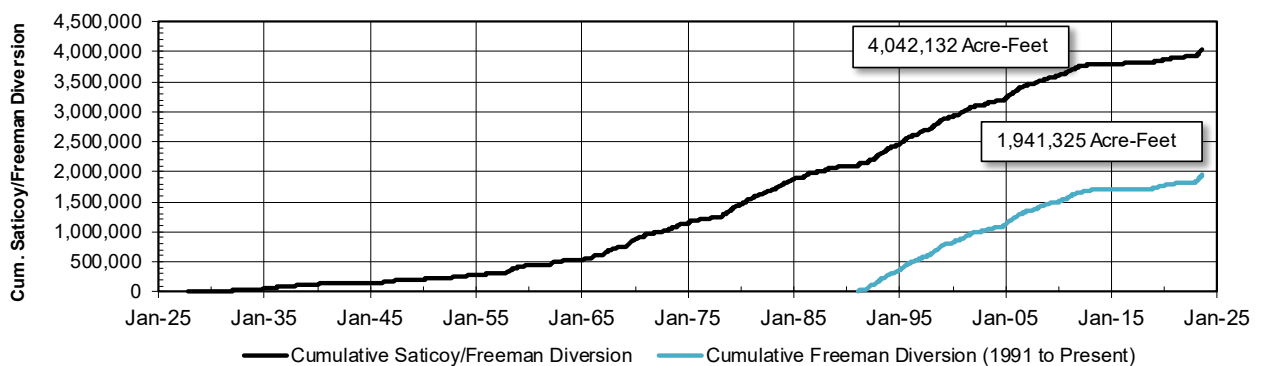
Monthly 2022/23 diversion at Freeman, compared to average monthly diversions (1991-2022)



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

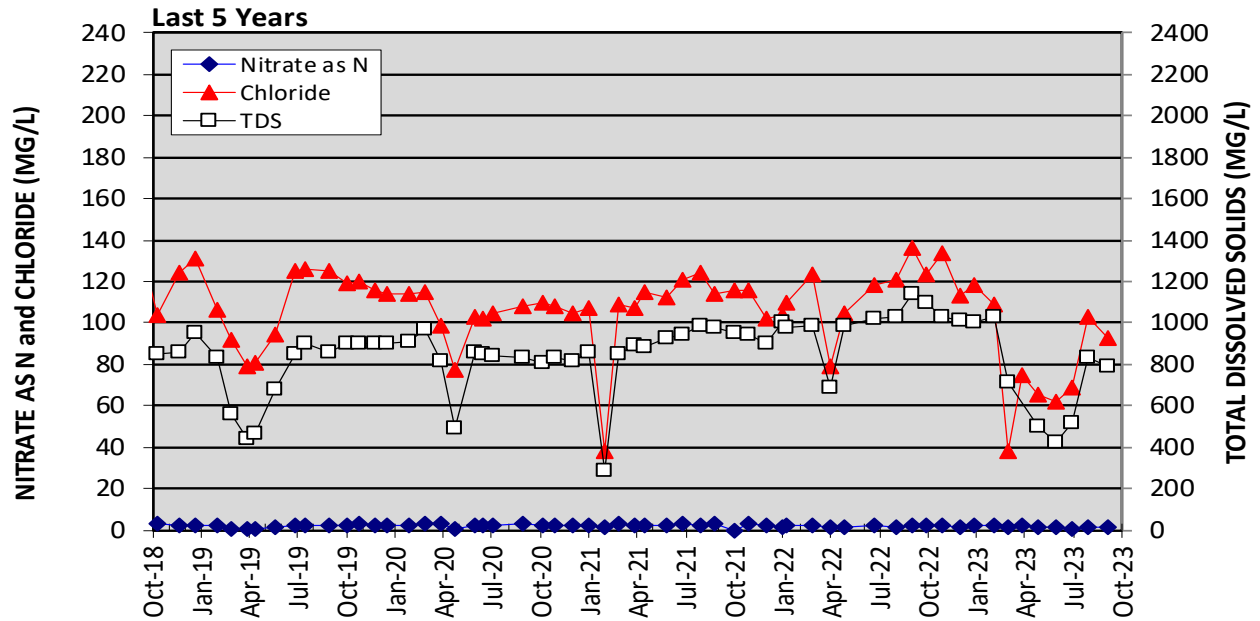


Cumulative diversion at Saticoy and Freeman Diversion, in acre-feet

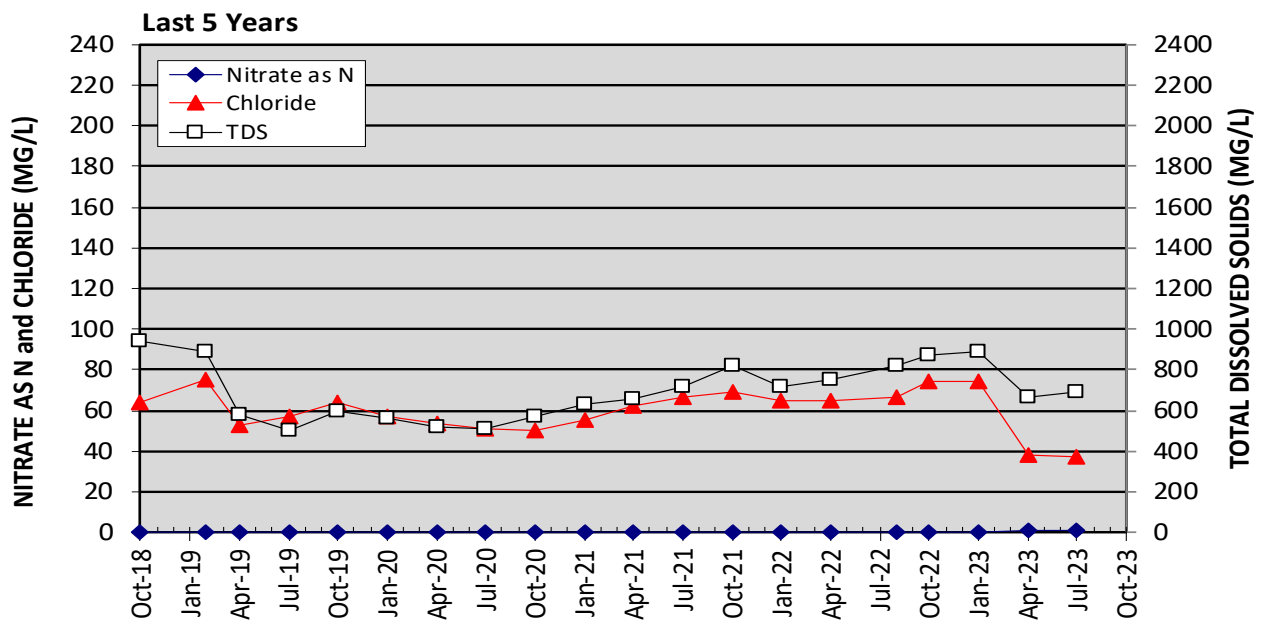


# Water Quality

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



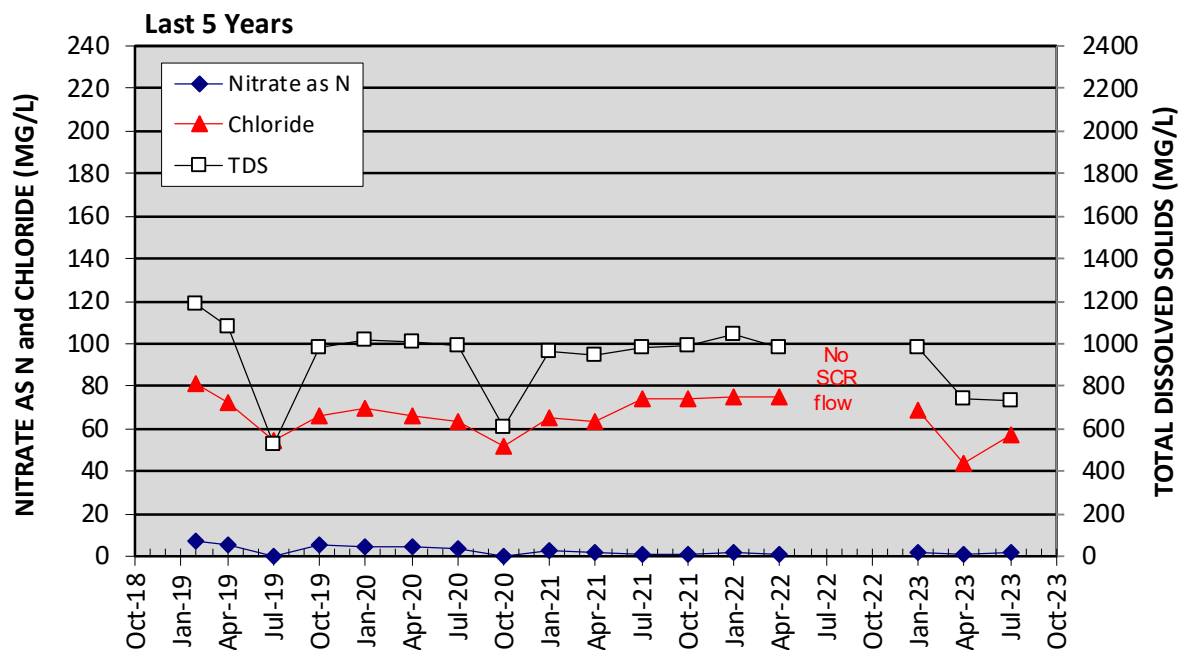
Piru Creek water quality below Santa Felicia Dam



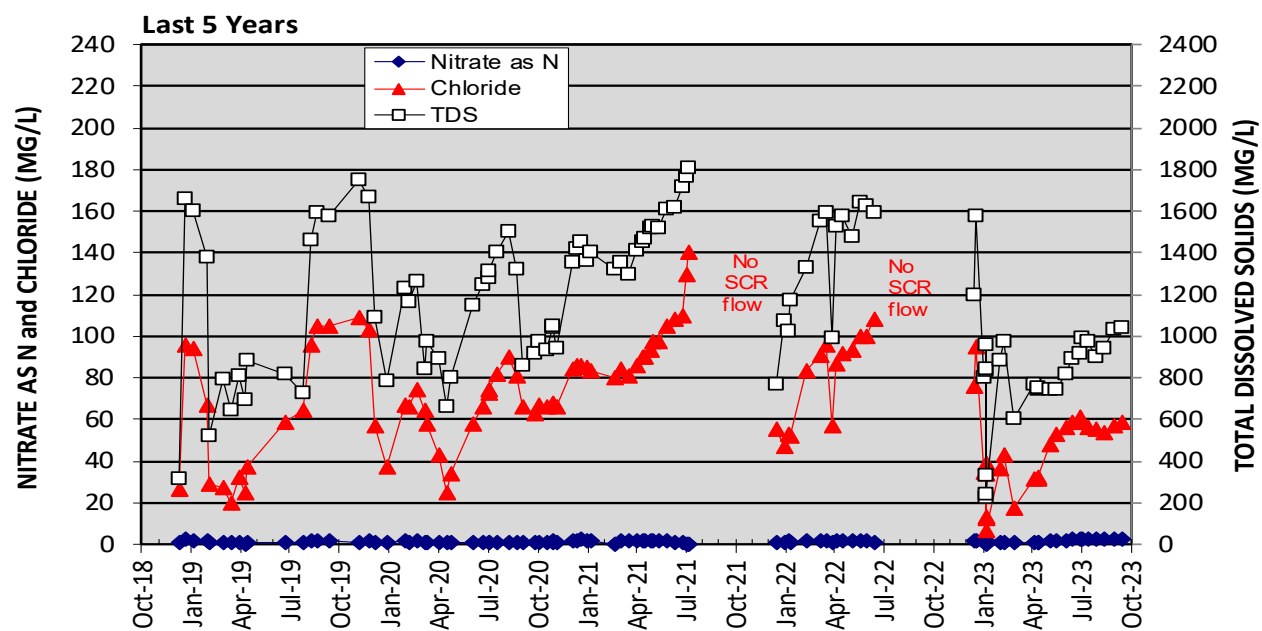


# Water Quality

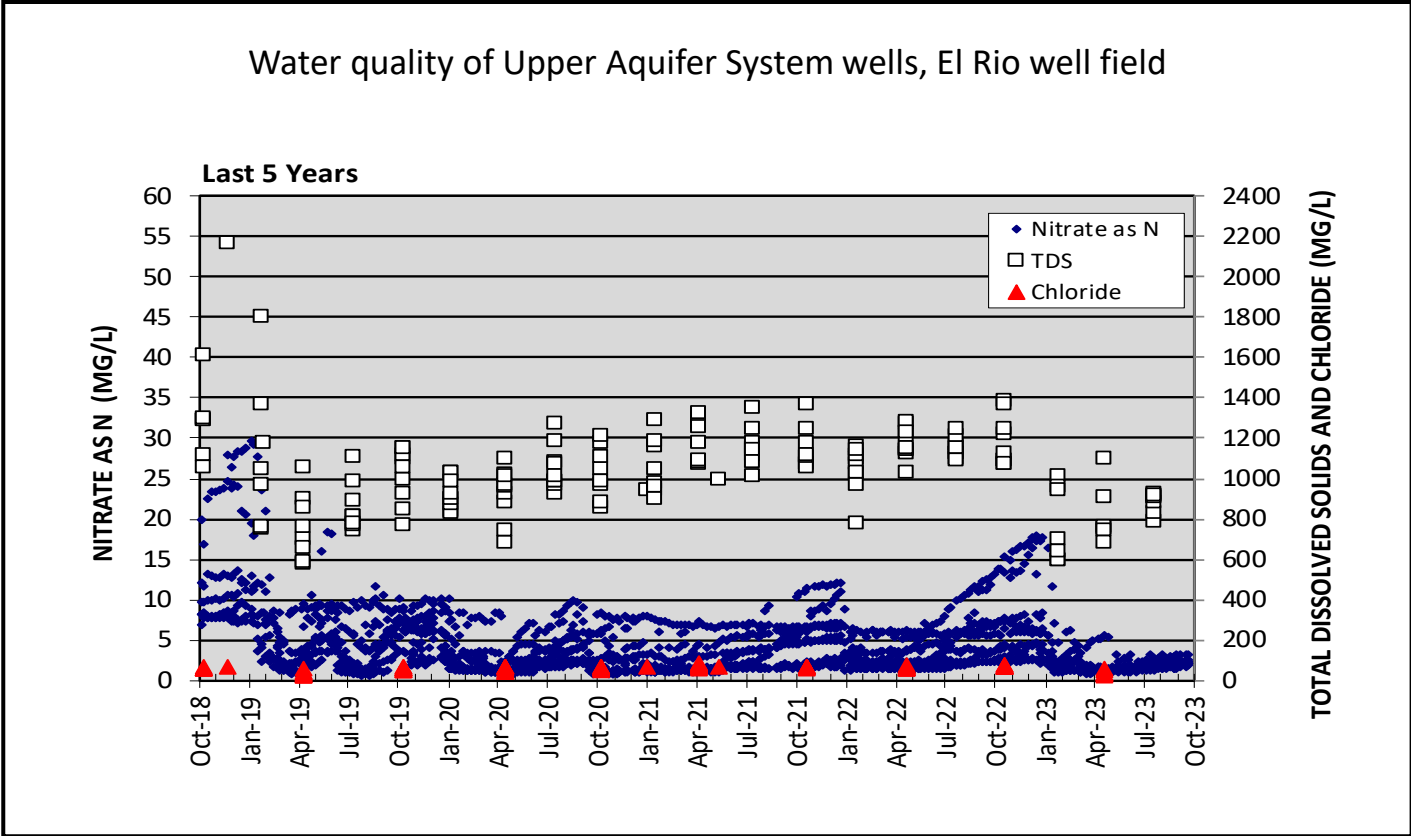
Santa Clara River water quality near Fillmore Fish Hatchery

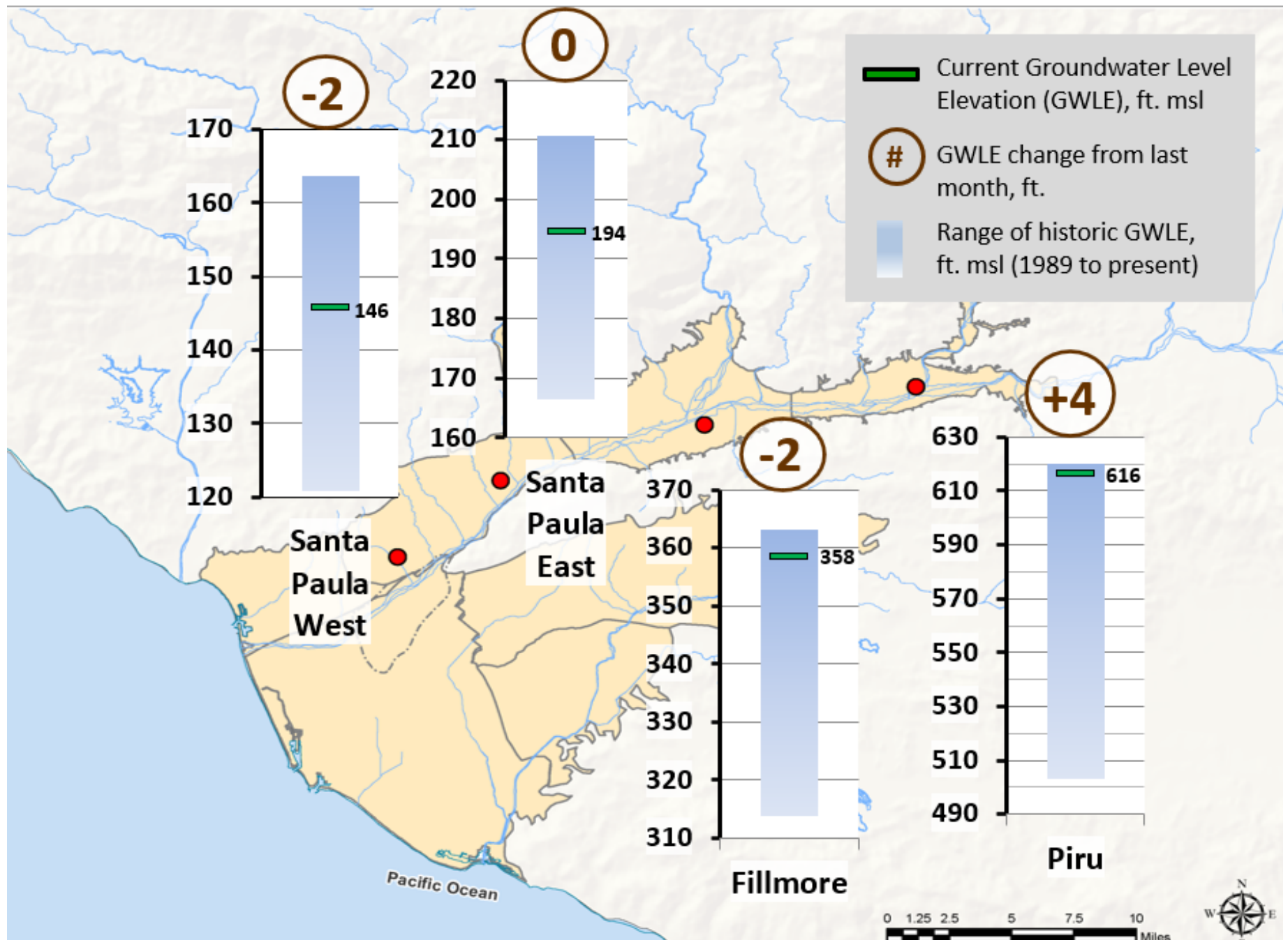


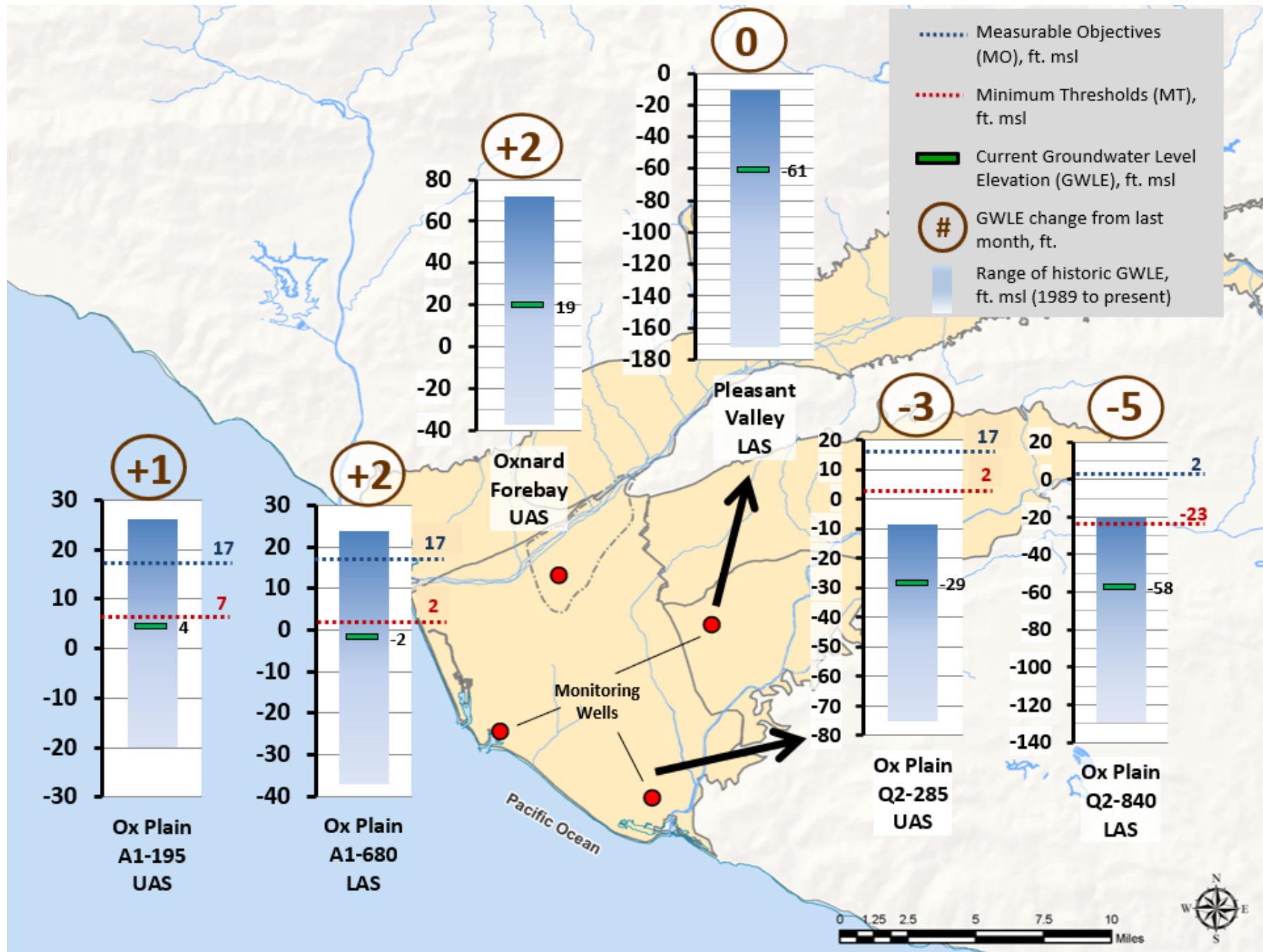
Santa Clara River water quality at Freeman Diversion



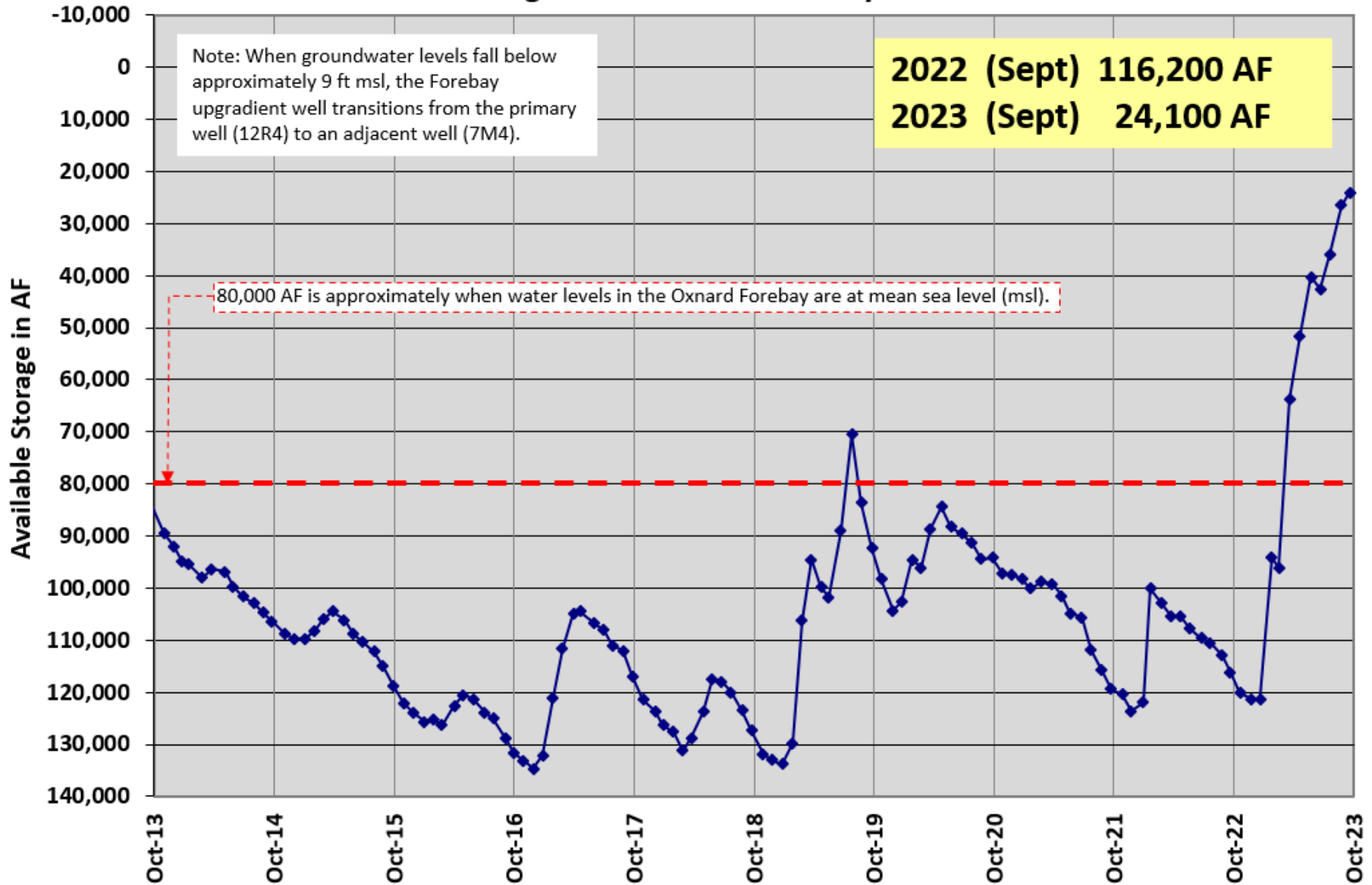
# Water Quality

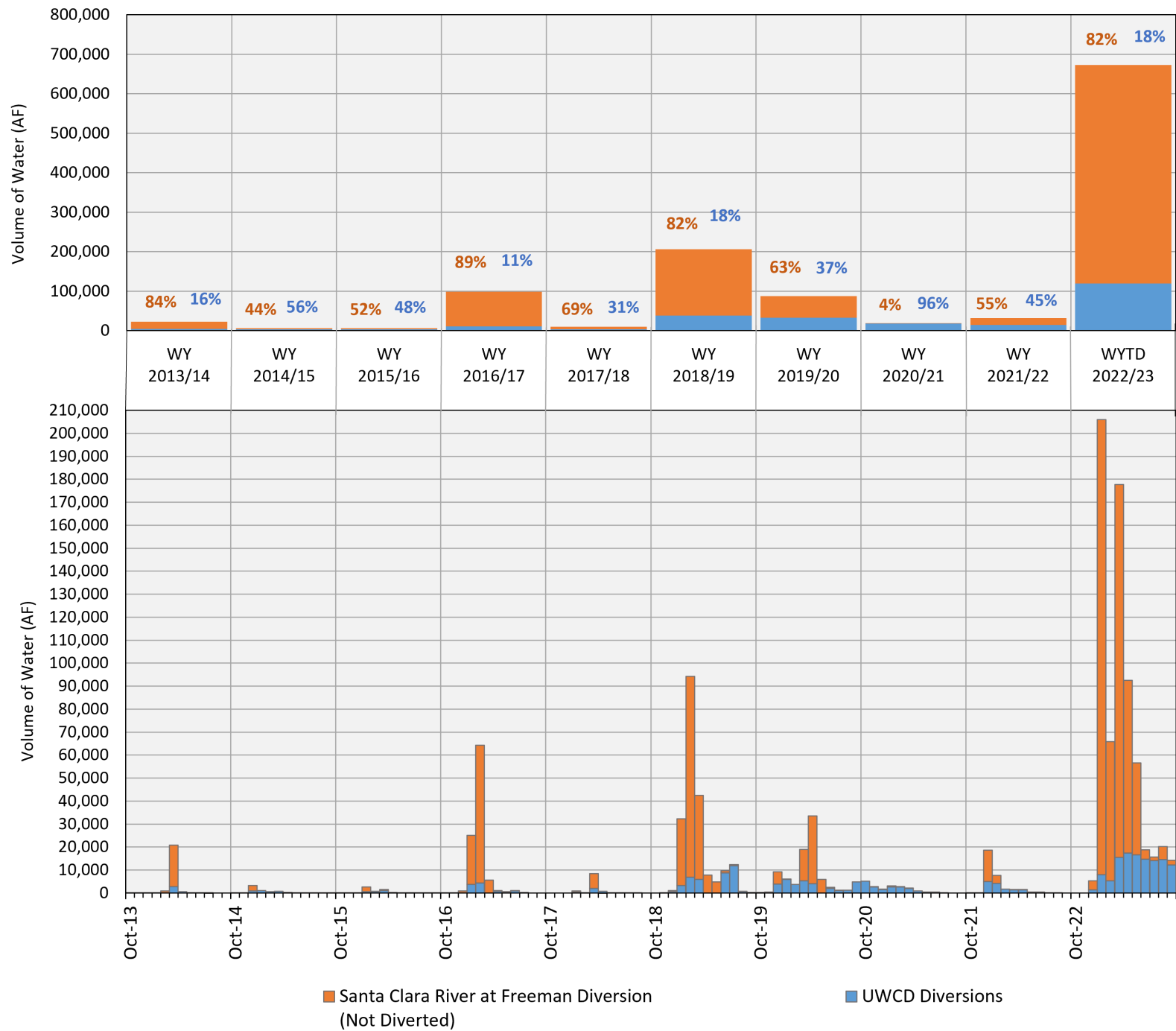






## Available Storage in the Oxnard Forebay - Last 10 Years





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

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

**Agenda Item:** 3.C Monthly Investment Reports for months ending July 31, 2023 and August 31, 2023  
**Information Item**

---

**Staff Recommendation:**

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

**Discussion:**

Informational purposes.

**Fiscal Impact:**

As shown.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Combined Investment Report for July 2023

Attachment B - Combined Investment Report for August 2023

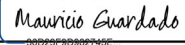


**United Water Conservation District**  
**Monthly Investment Report**  
**July 31, 2023**

<b><u>Investment Recap</u></b>	<b><u>G/L Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Weighted Avg Days to Maturity</u></b>	<b><u>Diversification Percentage of Total</u></b>
Bank of the Sierra	3,630,596	1	8.49%
Citizens Business Bank	5,755,101	1	13.47%
US Bank - 2020 COP Bond Balance	6,137,151	1	14.36%
Petty Cash	4,400	1	0.01%
County Treasury	1,712	1	0.00%
LAIF Investments	27,209,962	1	63.66%
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Securities</b>	<b>42,738,921</b>		<b>100.00%</b>
 <b>Investment Portfolio w/o Trustee Held Funds</b>	 <b>42,738,921</b>		
<b>Trustee Held Funds</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>42,738,921</b>		


<b>Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Deposits (Disbursements)</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
	29,958,313	(2,748,351)	27,209,962
	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Interest</b>	
	<b>Earned YTD</b>	<b>Received YTD</b>	<b>Qtrly Yield</b>
	-	251,649	3.15%

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

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

9/26/2023

Date Certified

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager

9/22/2023

Date Certified

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer

9/21/2023

Date Certified

<b><i>United Water Conservation District</i></b>			
<b><i>Cash Position</i></b>			
<b>July 31, 2023</b>			
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Composition</b>	<b>Restrictions/Designations</b>
<b>General/Water Conservation Fund:</b>			<b>Revenue collected for district operations</b>
General/Water Conservation	6,014,223	(7,377,114)	Includes General, Rec & Ranger, Water Conservation
		4,962,000	Reserved for legal expenditures
		4,751,849	Designated for replacement, capital improvements, and environmental projects
		3,677,488	Supplemental Water Purchase Fund
General CIP Funds	16,839,512	16,839,512	Appropriated for capital projects
2020 COP Bond Funds	6,719,306	6,719,306	Reserved for CIP Projects
<b>Special Revenue Funds:</b>			<b>Revenue collected for a special purpose</b>
State Water Project Funds	5,265,671	5,265,671	Procurement of water/rights from state water project
<b>Enterprise Funds:</b>			<b>Restricted to fund usage</b>
Freeman Fund	(1,920,811)	(1,920,811)	Operations, Debt Service and Capital Projects
		-	Designated for replacement and capital improvements
		-	Reserved for legal expenditures
Freeman CIP Fund	4,778,674	4,778,674	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Fund	(1,277,709)	(1,277,709)	Delivery of water to OH customers
OH CIP Fund	2,753,476	2,753,476	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Well Replacement Fund	640,106	640,106	Well replacement fund
PV Pipeline Fund	712,387	712,387	Delivery of water to PV customers
PV CIP Fund	244,483	244,483	Appropriated for capital projects
PT Pipeline Fund	313,728	313,728	Delivery of water to PTP customers
PT CIP Fund	1,655,875	1,655,875	Appropriated for capital projects
<b>Total District Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>42,738,921</b>	<b>42,738,921</b>	

**United Water Conservation District**  
**Monthly Investment Report**  
**August 31, 2023**

<b><u>Investment Recap</u></b>	<b><u>G/L Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Weighted Avg Days to Maturity</u></b>	<b><u>Diversification Percentage of Total</u></b>
Bank of the Sierra	3,630,596	1	8.49%
Citizens Business Bank	5,782,556	1	13.52%
US Bank - 2020 COP Bond Balance	6,137,151	1	14.35%
Petty Cash	4,400	1	0.01%
County Treasury	1,712	1	0.00%
LAIF Investments	27,209,962	1	63.61%
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Securities</b>	<b>42,766,376</b>		<b>100.00%</b>
 <b>Investment Portfolio w/o Trustee Held Funds</b>	 <b>42,766,376</b>		
<b>Trustee Held Funds</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>42,766,376</b>		

<b>Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b> 27,209,962	<b>Deposits (Disbursements)</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b> 27,209,962
	<b>Interest Earned YTD</b> -	<b>Interest Received YTD</b> 251,649	<b>Qtrly Yield</b> 3.15%

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:  
  
36D73F9D982743E  
**Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager**

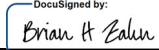
9/26/2023

**Date Certified**

DocuSigned by:  
  
7D038ECP00A099E  
**Anthony Emmert, Assistant General Manager**

9/22/2023

**Date Certified**

DocuSigned by:  
  
6B6DDB3D24674A3  
**Brian H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer**

9/21/2023

**Date Certified**

<b><i>United Water Conservation District</i></b>			
<b><i>Cash Position</i></b>			
<b>August 31, 2023</b>			
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Composition</b>	<b>Restrictions/Designations</b>
<b>General/Water Conservation Fund:</b>			<b>Revenue collected for district operations</b>
General/Water Conservation	6,114,347	(7,555,164)	Includes General, Rec & Ranger, Water Conservation
		4,962,000	Reserved for legal expenditures
		4,751,849	Designated for replacement, capital improvements, and environmental projects
		3,955,662	Supplemental Water Purchase Fund
General CIP Funds	16,508,535	16,508,535	Appropriated for capital projects
2020 COP Bond Funds	6,719,306	6,719,306	Reserved for CIP Projects
<b>Special Revenue Funds:</b>			<b>Revenue collected for a special purpose</b>
State Water Project Funds	4,508,472	4,508,472	Procurement of water/rights from state water project
<b>Enterprise Funds:</b>			<b>Restricted to fund usage</b>
Freeman Fund	(1,047,893)	(1,047,893)	Operations, Debt Service and Capital Projects
		-	Designated for replacement and capital improvements
		-	Reserved for legal expenditures
Freeman CIP Fund	4,566,977	4,566,977	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Fund	(966,267)	(966,267)	Delivery of water to OH customers
OH CIP Fund	2,669,900	2,669,900	Appropriated for capital projects
OH Pipeline Well Replacement Fund	653,746	653,746	Well replacement fund
PV Pipeline Fund	752,137	752,137	Delivery of water to PV customers
PV CIP Fund	244,483	244,483	Appropriated for capital projects
PT Pipeline Fund	444,420	444,420	Delivery of water to PTP customers
PT CIP Fund	1,598,214	1,598,214	Appropriated for capital projects
<b>Total District Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>42,766,376</b>	<b>42,766,376</b>	



### **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 H. Zahn, Chief Financial Officer  
Kris Sofley, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board  
Zachary Plummer, Technology Systems Manager  
Tony Huynh, Risk and Safety Manager

**Date:** September 29, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.1 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report  
**Information Item**

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

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

#### **Discussion:**

##### **Finance**

- With the addition of two new staff members the Finance team is now fully staff for the first time since April 2023:
  - Accountant – Ariana Escobar started September 25, 2023
  - Accountant – Miriam Cisneros started September 25, 2023
- All CIP and PO roll-over was completed in late September, and all carry over funds are available for projects and PO's
- Finance is finalizing the last few journal entries to close out the 2022-23 year
- Finance staff is beginning budget training on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

##### **Administrative Services**

- Provided administrative assistance for drafting, finalizing, and distributing/posting materials for the UWCD Finance and Audit (September 5), and Executive (September 11) Committee meetings as well as the regular UWCD Board meeting (September 13) at El Rio. Admin team also assisted the Environmental Services team in preparing for and conducting the public hearings on the EIR for the Freeman Diversion (September 28)
  - Provided administrative support, coordination and assistance to AWA VC for its Board of Directors meeting (September 7), and Water Issues Committee meeting (September 19).
-

#### **4.1 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report**

##### **Information Item**

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- Provided administrative assistance, coordination, and technical support in organizing tours of the Freeman Diversion for Reiter Brothers team, with Spanish language translation provided by Administrative Assistant III Eva Ibarra, on September 6 and at 9am, 11:30am and 2:30pm on Friday, September 8.
- Provided administrative support, coordination and assistance to UCCE's Strawberry and Vegetable Crop meeting (September 12), California Avocado Commission meeting (September 12) and California Avocado Commission Board of Directors meeting (September 26); Farm Bureau VC Regulatory issues meeting (September 20); Watershed Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) general membership meeting (September 27)
- Coordinated with Engineering staff on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the District's Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant grand opening (September 13), including outreach to all elected officials in the County, State Assemblymembers and State Senators, Regulatory Agency executives, grant partners at DWR and OLDCC, and contractors involved in the construction of the plant and local media. Numerous elected officials and representatives of elected officials attended the ceremony, many providing commemorative certificates. Admin team drafted a press release for the event which was distributed by CV Strategies. Admin team also worked directly with Gretchen Wenner and Brian Varela on what resulted in a very favorable story in the Ventura County Star on the positive impact the treatment plant will have on water resources for the county. Guests and the District have shared many of the photos of the event on social media platforms as well.
- Coordinated with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) media office on drafting a press release and providing a photo of the Santa Felicia Dam (and Board members) for distribution to national and social media platforms. Provide a copy of the release and photo to CV Strategies for distribution to local and water media outlets; also posted the release and photo on the District's Facebook page (with an ad boost) and Instagram page.
- Coordinated and assisted in organizing the all staff presentations of "History of UWCD Part II" presented by Murray McEachron (September 19) and "What a Difference 10 Years Makes" presented by Mauricio Guardado (September 21). This completed the series of History of UWCD (4 presentations in total) which are posted on the UWCD YouTube Channel and UWCD Facebook page and are earning positive comments from the public.
- Began outreach to speakers, sponsors and attendees for the Water Sustainability Summit IV, scheduled for Thursday, October 26, from 1pm to 5pm at the District's HQ Boardroom and via Zoom. To date, we have confirmed the Keynote Speaker, several project presenters from outside the District and speakers for the panels presented as part of the Summit's public education/engagement/outreach effort. We have also registered 25 in-person participants and 20 virtual participants to date (registration opened September 18)

##### **Human Resources**

- Successfully onboarded the following personnel
    - Senior Engineer (Nathan Summerville – started September 5<sup>th</sup>)
    - Executive Assistant (Tracy Oehler – started September 18<sup>th</sup>)
    - Accountant (Miriam Cisneros – started September 25<sup>th</sup>)
    - Accountant (Arianna Escobar – started September 25<sup>th</sup>)
-

#### **4.1 Monthly Administrative Services Department Report**

##### **Information Item**

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- Working on recruitments for the following positions:
  - Operations Supervisor – Water Supply and Distribution – Position posted, closes on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Operations Supervisor – Water Treatment – Position posted, closes on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Hydrology Supervisor – Position posted, selection pending GM approval.
  - Principal Engineer – Position closed, pending interview date.
  - Park Ranger Cadet, interviews held on September 12<sup>th</sup> – physical exams scheduled for mid-October.
  - Senior Control Systems Programmer – interviews held on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Held annual benefits presentation on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended Cal Lutheran's Executive Talent Management Forum on Artificial Intelligence as it related to Talent Management strategies.

##### **Safety and Risk Management**

- Met with new FEMA Public Assistance Program Delivery Manager and provided ongoing documentation for disaster recovery efforts.
- Applied and awarded \$1000 from SDRMA Loss Prevention Fund for the purchase of fire safety equipment at Lake Piru.
- Conducted annual fire extinguisher training and coordinated annual servicing of extinguishers.
- Coordinated repair of El Rio security gate.
- Conducted SCBA fit testing of new staff in preparation for Quarterly SCBA training.
- Participated on Park Ranger Cadet and Senior Controls System Programmer Interview Panels.
- Coordinated the completion of Wilderness First Aid and Stream Safety training for Environmental Services, Park Rangers, and Water Resources staff.

##### **Technology Systems**

- Provided support for the enhancement of Camera Capabilities at Santa Felicia Dam: Finalization of this pivotal project ensures the district's adherence to the guidelines stipulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) related to critical infrastructure security.
  - Geospatial Software Needs Committee: This newly established working group represents a stride in the ongoing development of our organizations scientific software tools.
  - Human Resource Collaboration: Our successful onboarding of new staff illustrates Technology Systems supportive role in organizational continuity.
  - Emergency Preparedness: The execution of the siren infrastructure test reconfirms our readiness to address emergencies.
  - Comprehensive technical support was rendered for a series of events elucidating the "History of United Water."
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### **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 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report  
**Information item**

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#### **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

## 4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

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- 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
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## 4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report

### Information Item

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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 13<sup>th</sup>.
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## **4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report**

### **Information Item**

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- 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.

## 4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report

### Information Item

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#### 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
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## 4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

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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



## 4.2 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

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**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 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

**Date:** September 26, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report  
**Information Item**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Board will receive and review 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

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#### 4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

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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

#### 4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

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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

#### 4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

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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:** October 2, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.4 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report  
**Information Item**

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#### **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 10.4 feet in September due to conservation release, to 47,313 acre-feet (AF) of storage.
- 12,252 AF of water was diverted by the Freeman Diversion facility in September.
- 7,672 AF of water was delivered to the Saticoy recharge basins in September (metered plus unmetered, including Noble and Rose Basins).
- 3,242 AF of surface water was delivered to the El Rio recharge basins in September.
- 493 AF of surface water was delivered to the PTP system in September.
- 0 AF of surface water was delivered to C customers in September.
- 846 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 1022.
  - Conservation releases from the Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) continued during the month of September, at a release rate of 160-195 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.
-



**Agenda Item: 4.4 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report**  
**Information Item**

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

- Diversion rate at the Freeman Diversion averaged 206 cfs for the month of September, with 217 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):

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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.

- **Instrumentation**

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**Agenda Item: 4.4 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report**  
**Information Item**

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- Instrumentation staff troubleshoot and configured the upgraded OH Booster Plant emergency gas engine PLC's compact-logix 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 disused 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 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
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**Agenda Item: 4.4 Monthly Operations and Maintenance Department Report**  
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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.

Safe Handling and storage were also briefed by El Rio staff. 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.

**Attachment:** Operations Log for September

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	CI2
	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*		58214			120,280	63,625		52.27	643,349	93,200	27,912	71,743		37,459	63802.7558		18439.53	0.0	6,128	4,020	3,080		0.0	0	9,681	79,936
9/1/23	1033.34	57812	1029.00	0.204	-9	189.3	0	0.00	256	240	16	0	0	65.31	12	148.43	40.33	0.0	27.8	27.7	0.1	0.00	0.0	0.0	20.3	190
9/2/23	1032.95	57411	1025.00	0.208	-9	189	0	0.09	264	248	16	0	0	68.51	18	151.85	36.41	0.0	19.2	18.3	0.9	0.00	0.0	0.0	24.8	196
9/3/23	1032.59	57043	1021.00	0.138	6	188.9	0	0.03	255	239	16	0	0	72.11	2	161.48	50.47	0.0	8.0	7.8	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.0	21.7	177
9/4/23	1032.30	56748	1018.00	0.188	44	188.8	0	0.00	258	242	16	0	0	70.1	1	150.02	43.09	0.0	41.6	26.5	15.1	0.03	0.0	0.0	24.3	189.2
9/5/23	1031.92	56362	1014.00	0.205	-21	169.4	0	0.00	250	234	16	0	0	53.2	3	150.24	48.81	0.0	54.2	15.9	38.3	0.08	0.0	0.0	23.5	197
9/6/23	1031.62	56060	1009.00	0.195	16	164.4	0	0.00	314	167	13.7	133.7	0	63	-11	85.83	29.29	0.0	58.7	23.0	35.7	0.11	0.0	0.0	24.8	228
9/7/23	1031.32	55758	1004.00	0.210	16	164.3	0	0.00	218	202	16	0	0	58.26	8	104.62	24.57	0.0	62.3	23.4	38.9	0.10	0.0	0.0	24.6	230
9/8/23	1031.01	55447	999.00	0.212	12	165.1	0	0.00	218	202	16	0	0	58.3	8	104.61	15.95	0.0	61.5	25.4	36.1	0.09	0.0	0.0	25.7	243
9/9/23	1030.65	55089	993.00	0.214	-5	171.1	0	0.00	214	198	16	0	0	53.09	9	100.06	14.28	0.0	70.0	20.9	49.1	0.13	0.0	0.0	28.2	238
9/10/23	1030.34	54782	987.00	0.186	24	175.5	0	0.00	227	211	16	0	0	55.38	15	129.49	18.42	0.0	22.3	7.7	14.6	0.03	0.0	0.0	22.0	190
9/11/23	1030.00	54446	981.00	0.220	10	175.2	0	0.00	297	174	13.5	110.1	0	44.13	7	98.58	19.87	0.0	47.2	21.1	26.1	0.08	0.0	0.0	25.9	217
9/12/23	1029.65	54103	973.00	0.210	6	175.1	0	0.00	211	195	16	0	0	50.63	6	106.47	19.92	0.0	64.4	19.4	45.0	0.12	0.0	0.0	24.0	215
9/13/23	1029.33	53791	966.00	0.242	29	181.2	0	0.00	216	200	16	0	0	66.04	12	96.91	18.39	0.0	50.7	16.0	34.7	0.09	0.0	0.0	24.5	206
9/14/23	1028.97	53441	959.00	0.200	11	183.4	0	0.00	216	200	15.7	0	0	61.81	4	106.47	19.6	0.0	54.7	16.3	38.4	0.10	0.0	0.0	23.0	216
9/15/23	1028.61	53092	956.00	0																						



### **Staff Report**

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

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

**From:** Clayton W. Strahan, Chief Park Ranger

**Date:** September 27, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report  
**Information item**

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

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

#### **Discussion:**

During the month of September, staff saw visitation numbers drop as the weather cooled down and days got shorter. With the last long weekend of the summer behind us, staff are shifting gears as the slow season is now upon us. Maintenance tasks are becoming more of a focus and with hopes of opening the store next season, work has started on getting the building ready for customers.

#### **Staff Tasks and Activity Highlights**

- **August 28 - September 1:** Staff coordinated the marina asphalt repair project in conjunction with engineer staff. The project, which focused on the marina parking lot adjacent to the dry storage area, was completed and put back into service in three days.
  - **September 1 - 30:** Staff continued with the ongoing management of the FEMA cleanup efforts from the January 9, 2023, storm event. During the month of September contractors completed the east road repair work, cleaned off the dam spillway and completed all but one drain basin along Piru Canyon Road.
  - **September 5, 8, 10, and 19:** Staff worked in conjunction with O&M to perform significant moves of the marina dock. The increased frequency of this labor-intensive task is a result of the water levels rapidly decreasing associated with ongoing water releases. Mechanical issues associated with the district's work barge winch system have plagued the process, as the aging vessel continues to create challenges.
  - **September 14:** Staff filed a trespass enforcement authorization letter with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department in an effort to curb unauthorized access occurring in and around the Saticoy facility. Ongoing issues associated with illegal access to the area through the gate off the 118 freeway have plagued the facility. This authorization enables the district to request immediate enforcement action from the Sheriff's office for those
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## 4.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

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illegally accessing the area.

- September 14, 16 and 22: Staff moved lakeside anchors in conjunction with O&M. This process spanned over several days due to difficulties with the aging work barge.
- **September 16:** Staff hosted a monthly event for Happy Campers, an Alcoholics Anonymous group who has been hosting monthly recovery meetings for residents of Los Angeles County for more than twenty years.
- **September 18-29:** Pacific Vista Landscape, the districts landscaping contractor at Lake Piru, performed annual tree work in and around the recreation area. Areas of focus were Condor Point, The Olive Grove Campground, and the Juan Fernandez Boat Launch. This project has a budgeted amount of \$70,000.00 and it is expected to be performed in three phases between now and the end of the calendar year.
- **September 18-22:** Pacific Vista Landscape, who was awarded the FEMA cleanup and repair contracts for the Dog Park and the Day Use facilities, began working on phase one of the Dog Park project. This effort included removing the existing asphalt walkway, which had been damaged by the January storm and marking locations for the new chain link fence. Phase two of the project will include installation of the fence and replacing the asphalt walking path with an ADA approved decomposed granite walkway. Finally, phase three will include hydroseeding the area with new turf.
- **September 20:** Staff met with pest control firms to create a new contract for the district's monthly pest control services at Lake Piru. This contract had not been revised since 2019 under the previous concessions service and no longer met the needs of the facility.
- **September 20:** O&M staff assisted LPRA staff in the installation of a new winch system on the work barge. The winch is a necessary item that allows for the movement of lakeside anchors.
- **September 22:** Staff has been working on scheduling routine services for all District vessels and vehicles during the offseason.

### Staff Training/Meetings/Events

- **September 9, 10 and 15:** Staff facilitated training at Lake Piru for the County Search and Rescue and County Aviation units. These exercises target water rescues and are imperative in ensuring our first responders are well versed in the skills needed to respond to emergencies for the residents of our county.
  - **September 11 and 12:** Ranger staff attended Ventura County Sheriff Dispatch sit-alongs. This experience allows Rangers to better understand how calls for service get routed and what exactly happens when calls for service are processed.
  - **September 12:** Staff hosted interviews for four potential candidates for the currently vacant Park Ranger Cadet position at Lake Piru. The next step in the process is to request candidates to perform a state mandated physical battery exam.
  - **September 14:** Ranger staff attended herbicide applicator training hosted at El Rio. This class trains staff members on how to safely apply herbicide. With the rainy season upon us, this training is vital as vegetation will soon consume the park.
  - **September 15 and 16:** Staff facilitated filming for Big Reel Studios. This production generated \$6,192.00 in revenue.
  - **September 19 and 20:** Ranger staff attended wilderness first aid training at Lake Piru.
-

## 4.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

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This program teaches individuals how to deal with emergency situations by using first aid skills in a delayed-help environment.

- **September 20:** Staff assisted the Risk and Safety Managers meeting with vendors to provide quotes for new digital locks on all District facilities. This evaluation is being conducted as part of the Districts efforts to improve physical security at all locations.
- **September 21:** Ranger staff attended training provided by California Fish and Wildlife. This training allows Lake Piru Rangers to have a better understanding of wildlife conservation and the role they play in ensuring the preservation of our resources.
- **September 26:** Staff hosted an independent film shoot which generated \$3,200.00 in revenue.

### • Revenue and Visitation Recap

2023 Day Use/Other Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2023 Day Use/Other Revenue (Jan. 1 – Sept. 26)	\$223,287.00
2022 Day Use/Other Revenue (Jan. 1 – Sept. 26)	\$206,815.00
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	<b>\$16,472.00</b>
Annual Increase/Decrease %	<b>+7.96%</b>
2023 Camping Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2023 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1 – Sept. 26)	\$499,550
2022 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1 – Sept. 26)	\$450,114.00
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	<b>\$49,422.50</b>
Annual Increase/Decrease in %	<b>+10.98%</b>
Total Combined Revenue Current and Previous Year Comparison (2023 vs. 2022)	
2023 All Revenue (Jan. 1 – Sept. 26)	\$859,105.00
2022 All Revenue (Jan. 1 – Sept. 26)	\$776,270.00
Total Revenue Increase from Prior Year	<b>+\$82,835.00</b>
Annual Increase/Decrease in %	<b>+10.67%</b>

\*\*\*It should be noted that the above figures have not been verified by the district's finance department

2023 Total Visitation Figures				
Month	# People	# Vehicles	# Vessels	Pets
January	598	414	16	10
February	1,698	366	0	3
March	3,475	1,036	0	3
April	11,466	3,222	125	67
May	12,194	3,242	514	47
June	12,873	2,955	513	29
July	24,482	5,716	893	54
August	9,105	2,561	400	16
September	3,747	1,667	694	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,940</b>	<b>21,179</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>246</b>



## 4.5 Monthly Park and Recreation Department Report

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- **Incidents/Arrests/Medicals**

Ranger staff responded to a difficulty breathing call in the Lake Piru campground. Upon arrival Engine 151 was already on scene. Patient was transported via AMR to Henry Mayo Hospital. No further information.

- **Citations/Enforcement Summary**

Throughout September, four citations were issued for violations of District Ordinance 15 and or for violations of the California Penal Code of the California Harbors and Navigation Code. Additionally, it should be noted that Ranger staff issued numerous verbal warnings throughout the month for violations of District ordinances and state laws.

- **Grants**

In late August, Park Ranger personnel were awarded a personal floatation device (PFD) equipment grant from the California Department of State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways. The program provided 90 PFD units to be checked out by visitors free of charge to improve water safety in and around public reservoirs. The program will be administered by Ranger personnel and is currently already being utilized by visitors.

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### **Staff Report**

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

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

**From:** John Lindquist, Water Resources Supervisor  
Dr. Jason Sun, Supervisory Water Resources Engineer  
Murray McEachron, Hydrologist Supervisor

**Date:** September 27, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and Update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)  
**Information Item**

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Board will receive a report on Water Resources Department activities for the month of September 2023, including a summary of the activities of the three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA, and Mound Basin GSA and the Santa Paula Basin (adjudicated) Technical Advisory Committee.

#### **Discussion:**

#### **Staff Activities**

Notable efforts and activities conducted by staff during September included the following:

- Hydrology:
    - Staff continued 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 will continue seeking opportunities to secure additional Article 21 and other SWP water in the coming months.
    - Staff continued to provide input on operational decisions at Freeman Diversion to manage sediment accumulation near the intake structure, maximize diversions, and comply with regulatory requirements.
-

**Agenda Item: 4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and Update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)**  
**Information Item**

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- Staff continued to assist 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 and interpretation of physical modeling efforts at the Bureau of Reclamation's facility in Denver and at the University of Iowa.
- Staff continued to provide input to support compliance with *O. mykiss* migration release requirements at Santa Felicia Dam.
- Staff continued to coordinate with recharge operators at Saticoy and El Rio to maintain optimum percolation rates for the facilities.
- Staff continued to assist the Engineering Department in developing a reservoir operations plan and hydrological risk assessment for Lake Piru prior and during the construction of the new outlet works as part of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement project. Additionally, Staff assisted the Engineering Department to identify alternative elevations for the proposed new intakes of the new sloping intake as part of the new outlet works system.
- Staff participated in Freeman Diversion Operational Work Group meetings (which include the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] and California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) to discuss proposed operational parameters, including bypass flows, associated with a proposed higher instantaneous diversion rate at Freeman Diversion.
- Hydrogeology:
  - Staff continued routine groundwater monitoring and reporting activities within the District.
  - Staff participated in meetings of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the District, as detailed in subsequent sections of this report.
  - Staff continued to assist the Engineering Department and their consultant with design of Phase 1 extraction wells for the EBB Water Project.
  - Staff are working with a consultant to plan installation of EBB Water Project Phase 1 groundwater monitoring wells and are managing the SGM Grant activities associated with this effort. Staff are also developing a sampling and analysis plan for the EBB monitoring wells to provide data on ambient groundwater conditions in the project area. The information collected will be used in support of design of Phase 1 of the EBB Water Project.
  - Staff updated a three-dimensional animation illustrating the initial development and subsequent expansion of the groundwater recharge mound formed this spring and summer below United's spreading basins in the Forebay.
  - Staff provided technical support to the Engineering Department for testing and planning for installation of a permanent pump at new El Rio replacement well #20.
  - Staff updated the "Maximum Extent Practicable" (MEP) analysis of the impacts on groundwater conditions of potential reductions of diversions and recharge in the

**Agenda Item: 4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and Update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

Page 3

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Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins associated with proposed bypass flows at Freeman Diversion.

- Staff revised a draft monitoring plan to support the updated “Recycled Water Pumping Allocation Impacts Analysis” (described below, under “Groundwater Modeling”) in response to comments from stakeholders.
- Staff continued working with the State Water Resources Control Board to develop an appropriate scope of work for the Prop 1, Round 3 grant in support of the EBB Water Project. The grant is expected to be finalized and signed late this year.
- Staff began updating analysis of trends in groundwater and surface-water use within the District through water year 2022.
- Staff began reviewing recent downscaled climate-model results for selected locations to update forecasts developed by the State for future rainfall amounts within the District’s service area.
- Staff continued reviewing data to evaluate the reasons for lower-than-expected surface-water deliveries to the Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP) this summer.
- Groundwater Modeling:
  - The model review panel has completed the assessment of the updated Coastal Plain Model. Their preliminary review did not find any issues or concerns. Staff continue to refine and improve the Coastal Plain Model.
  - Staff held a meeting with FCGMA staff and its consultant, DUDEK, on the modeling support efforts using the updated Coastal Plain Model. Several action items were identified including extending the simulation period of the Coastal Plain Model from 1985-2019 to 1985-2022.
  - Staff have completed a new Recycled Water Pumping Allocation (RWPA) Impact Analysis report, submitted to FCGMA and the City of Oxnard. The report is part of the District’s effort to assist the City of Oxnard in assessing the benefits and impact of its RWPA based on supplying the advanced treated recycled water (RW) from the City of Oxnard’s Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment Program (GREAT Program) to agricultural users in the southern Oxnard Basin.
  - Staff prepared more modeling analysis for legal counsel for litigation support related to the OPV adjudication.
  - Staff are working on the subsidence model calibration.
- Outreach and Education
  - Staff began planning presentations for United’s Water Sustainability Summit #4, scheduled for October 26.
  - Several staff attended the Groundwater Resources Association of California’s (GRAC) Western Groundwater Congress in Burbank, California. Dr. Bram Sercu presented “Up to the challenge: Operational strategies to maximize groundwater recharge on the Oxnard Plain during the drought buster year of 2023” to Congress attendees.

**Agenda Item: 4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and Update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Murray McEachron gave several tours of Freeman Diversion and Saticoy Spreading Grounds to stakeholders from Ventura County.
- Murray McEachron gave a presentation on the recent (post-1950) history of United Water Conservation District at a lunchtime educational meeting open to all United staff on September 19.

**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 continued to meet periodically with FCGMA staff and other stakeholders to analyze benefits and impacts of water-supply 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 held a regular Board meeting on September 27. Notable agenda items for the September 27 meeting included:

- Receive and file an addendum to United's 2022 Recycled Water Management Impact Analysis Annual Report regarding the City of Oxnard's Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) program, documenting that the Oxnard Subbasin and Forebay area groundwater conditions meet the conditions in Resolution No. 2013-02 for Oxnard to pump its recycled water pumping allocation (RWPA).
- An update from FCGMA staff on preparation of an updated impact analysis and resolution for proposed modifications to the City of Oxnard's GREAT program.
- An update from FCGMA staff on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 5-year evaluations for the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley Basins.
- An update on planning for implementation of the Las Posas Valley Basin Adjudication Judgment.
- An update on Las Posas Valley Basin extraction allocations for water year 2023-24
- An update regarding notice of commencement of groundwater adjudication in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Groundwater Basins.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 25 at 1:30 p.m.

*GSP Implementation Support* – United supported implementation of the GSPs for the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley Basins as follows:

- United staff coordinated with FCGMA's staff and its consultant, Dudek, to plan updated groundwater model scenarios for the 5-year updates required for the Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and West Las Posas Valley Basins.
- United coordinated with FCGMA and City of Oxnard staff to develop and run model scenarios evaluating potential impacts of proposed changes to how Oxnard exercises its

**Agenda Item: 4.6 Monthly Water Resources Department Report and Update on Activities of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)**  
**Information Item**

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Recycled Water Pumping Allocation. United submitted draft and final RWPA Impact Analysis and Monitoring Plans to the FCGMA and City of Oxnard.

- United prepared and submitted “Project Evaluation Checklists” and related supporting materials to the FCGMA. These checklists provide updated information on United’s planned water-supply projects that were included in the 2022 GSP updates prepared by the FCGMA (covering water year 2021).

**Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA)**

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

*Board of Directors meetings* – The FPBGSA cancelled its September 21 regular Board meeting. The next FPBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for October 19, at 4:00 p.m.

**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 FCGMA held a regular Board meeting on September 25. Notable agenda items for the September 25 meeting included:

- The Board reappointed the Agriculture and Environmental Stakeholder Directors for a new one-year term.
- The Board accepted the appointment of Jennifer Tribo as the City of San Buenaventura’s representative through June 2024.

The next MBGSA Board meeting is scheduled for October 23, at 1:00 p.m.

**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 have prepared a draft version of the Santa Paula Basin Annual Report for water year and calendar year 2022.



### **Staff Report**

**To:** UWCD Board of Directors

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

**From:** Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

**Date:** September 25, 2023 (October 11, 2023, meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 5.1 **Resolution 2023-15** Adopting the Revised Owner Dam Safety Program dated October 2023  
**Motion**

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2023-15, approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program, revision 9.0 dated October 2023.

#### **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*)

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**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



## Coffee revolution brewing among Ventura County farmers



**Isaiah Murtaugh**

Ventura County Star September 30, 2023



A dusty, verdant smell hangs in a back room at Santa Paula's Rancho Filoso — like cut grass, touched with a nectarine sweetness.

Lisa Tate slides open a closet door. Piled inside are stacks of translucent green plastic bags, carefully labeled and dated like science experiments. She drags three out to the floor of the drying room and cracks their zippered seals. The smell billows forth, stronger.

The bags are full of coffee beans, green and fresh, still in their husks, grown right here on the slopes of Rancho Filoso.

Traditional wisdom has it that coffee is only a viable crop in the "bean belt" tropics: warm, humid locales like Hawaii, Brazil, Vietnam and coffee's homeland of Ethiopia.

But Ventura County farmers, and their counterparts in Santa Barbara and San Diego counties, are at the cutting edge of a growing revolution, trying to establish coffee as a new California cash crop.

More than 70 farms, including at least five in Ventura County, have begun growing coffee on a commercial scale.

The movement is still young and somewhat experimental, but already, California coffees are making a mark. Erika Liftee, a two-time U.S. Brewer's Cup gold medal winner and World Brewer's Cup runner-up, used beans from Goleta-based Frinj Coffee to place sixth at the national coffee-brewing competition in April.

Blue Bottle, one of the nation's largest specialty coffee roasters, has used California beans and on Wednesday, founder James Freeman opened a pop-up coffee tasting boutique in Los Angeles featuring more Frinj products.

Tate's Santa Paula beans scored a quality rating of 89.25 (out of 100) in taste tests three years ago, before her 1.5 acres of coffee trees were fully mature, and she's expecting this year's crop to perform even better.

"I've learned to be a coffee snob," said Tate, a former K-cup devotee. "We're not doing that. We're doing fancy schmancy."



## Goleta origins

An organic farmer and agricultural tinkerer named Jay Ruskey grows his crops in the hills of Goleta.

Ruskey built his farm, Good Land Organics, around tropical fruits like cherimoya and finger limes. But in 2002, he met Mark Gaskell, a farm adviser with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources program.

Gaskell, who had previously worked in coffee hotspot Panama, convinced Ruskey to try growing coffee, and the farmer started interplanting his avocado groves with coffee seedlings.

Ruskey's coffee-growing experiments overlapped with what observers call the "third wave" of the U.S. coffee market: a movement toward coffee as a gourmet product, often roasted in house. The new wave adopted a lighter roasting style and highlighted the geographic origins of small batches of coffees.

With higher production and labor costs than the regions that grow most of the world's coffee, California is unlikely to ever compete with the low-end, bulk coffee grown on industrial-scale coffee farms. But the changing market, Ruskey said, opened a door for high-end California coffee to be profitable.

"The price points are still going up. The demand is global for specialty coffees," Ruskey said. "You can either make grape juice for Welch's or you can make wine."

And on his farm, Ruskey started to taste coffee he thought could meet that market demand.

## **Big money, big risk**

In 2017, Ruskey founded Frinj, which has supplied plants and consultations to many of the new crop of commercial coffee farmers.

Those who want to sign on can pay Frinj for a farm consultation and then purchase trees that the farm grows from seed. Ruskey doesn't hesitate to reject farms he thinks don't have the proper terrain or weather.

When the first harvest is ready, Frinj processes the fresh coffee cherries at one of its two facilities in Goleta and San Diego County.

Ruskey said 30% to 40% of profits from the resulting green and roasted coffee goes back to the farmer. Frinj's roasted coffee can sell online for well over \$100 per pound. Lemons retail for about \$2 per pound, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

Today, Frinj's network has about 70 farms that Ruskey considers commercial scale, each with at least 500 plants. All told, he estimated, Frinj has sold over 100,000 trees to farmers.

To Ruskey's knowledge, it's the only operation of its kind outside the tropics. Farmers in Florida, Australia, Italy, Japan and South Africa are experimenting, he said, but not to Frinj's current scale.

Coffee plants can take four to five years to produce usable cherries and some of the farms in Frinj's network are still waiting for their plants to mature. Next year, Ruskey said, a number of those farms will produce their first harvests. He's anticipating

Frinj's biggest harvest yet, well above the anticipated 1,000 pounds of green coffee the company anticipates this season.

Like some of his colleagues, David Armstrong, CEO of Hobson Family Farms, chose to sign on with Frinj two years ago in an attempt to diversify the farm's offerings.

Just three crops — avocados, lemons and strawberries — accounted for half of the county's \$2.1 billion agriculture industry last year, according to the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

There's risk in that top-heavy distribution. Factors like changing markets and new, crop-threatening pests can suddenly bite into the profitability of a single crop.

"I wanted to do something different," Armstrong said.

Hobson, located between Santa Paula and Ventura, planted roughly 13 acres with more than 18,000 coffee trees, making it Frinj's largest partner.

Armstrong expects his first viable crop next year and is "cautiously optimistic." Still, there are risks.

"We could lose our entire crop," he said. "There are huge unknowns. Every time it gets cold, we're facing losses. We don't know what the pest situations are."



Tate, who started out working with Frinj in 2016 before leaving because of distance issues and launching the California Coffee Collective, has already lost a number of trees.

"We lost plants to record-breaking heat, record-breaking winds," she said. This year, Rancho Filoso lost a cluster of trees when storm waters burst from a previously unknown spring in the middle of her orchard. "That's farming."

Ironically, the farm hasn't lost any trees to cold, the one thing Tate was most concerned about. She said climate change has made frosts rare in recent years.

Still, she said, coffee is "super experimental."

"It might not go," she said. "It could take one frost and it's done."

If the trees do survive for the long haul, there's the matter of growing coffee that is reliably delicious, a must for a crop targeting the high-end market.

"It's not just getting a crop," Armstrong said. "It's growing the best coffee in the world. It doesn't work (financially) otherwise."

Farmers are still tinkering, from seedling to green coffee bean. Ruskey said Frinj is working to dial in cultivation practices, especially since California growers are working under a different set of climate and terrain constraints from most of the rest of the world. Researchers from the University of California are also experimenting at sites in San Diego and Pomona.

Does the coffee taste better if it's grown in the shade or sun? What kind of nutrients do local soils need? How often should the plants be pruned? What varieties work best in local conditions?

With every plant taking years to mature, getting those answers isn't quick.

"I knew this was a long-haul process," said Ruskey, who doesn't expect the research to ever end.

"It's agriculture. Everyone's constantly trying to improve."

The cycle of experiments is faster once the coffee is picked.



Tate's California Coffee Collective, a partnership with Newbury Park-based Ragamuffin Coffee Roasters, has turned coffee cherries into syrups, candy brittle and a caffeinated jam packed with sweet, layered flavor. Tate said it goes well with brie cheese.

She said the collective has also supplied cherries — which would otherwise go to the trash heap — for liquor-distilling experiments at Ventura Spirits.

But the true gold is kept in a back closet at Rancho Filoso, packed into green plastic bags, carefully dated and labeled to keep track of the different processing methods the collective has experimented with.

Soon, it will be roasted, ground, steeped in hot water. Tate can't help but be excited.

"It's so obvious how special it is," she said.

*Isaiah Murtaugh covers education for the Ventura County Star in partnership with Report for America. Reach him at [isaiah.murtaugh@vcstar.com](mailto:isaiah.murtaugh@vcstar.com) or 805-437-0236 and follow him on Twitter [@isaiahmurtaugh](https://twitter.com/isaiahmurtaugh) and [@vcsschools](https://twitter.com/vcsschools). You can support this work with a tax-deductible donation to [Report for America](https://reportforamerica.org).*

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# OJAI VALLEY NEWS

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## Judge OKs 4th extension in water suit

- [Perry Van Houten](#)
- Sep 28, 2023 [Updated](#) 4 hrs ago

The judge in a major water lawsuit involving thousands of Ojai Valley residents has granted a further six-month stay in the case.

During a status conference in the Ventura River Watershed Adjudication lawsuit on Sept. 27, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge William F. Highberger approved the stay until March 30, so that structured mediation talks can continue.

The further stay was unopposed by major parties, including defendant and cross-complainant the city of Ventura, cross-defendants Casitas Municipal Water District, the city of Ojai, East End Group, Ventura River Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, Wood-Claeysens Foundation, Rancho Matilija Water Company and Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

In a joint report filed with the court on Aug. 21, major parties provided an update on the mediation process and said it had experienced significant delays since the last status conference on June 28.

“Unfortunately, the mediator was in a car accident and also had to attend to several family medical issues that regrettably impacted the mediation schedule in July and August,” the report stated. “For these reasons, no formal mediation session has occurred since the last status conference.”

Though no formal mediation had taken place since June 28, work on the structured mediation has continued to proceed, “and the mediator and the parties to this joint report have acted diligently to continue to move the process forward despite significant delays caused by events beyond their control.”

Work has included preparing for an anticipated mediation session between the parties and the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a CDFW staff tour of the watershed, outreach to the watershed's two groundwater sustainability agencies, and multiple meetings with a number of exempt and non-exempt parties, the joint report stated.

"There is hope that further settlement efforts will lead to a happy outcome," said Highberger during the Sept. 27 status conference that lasted less than 10 minutes. He granted the six-month stay, the fourth so far in the case, and extended the trial date to March 30.

There were no objections to the extension of the stay, but Meiners Oaks resident Claude "Russ" Baggerly said his request to take part in the mediation as an exempt party had received no reply from mediator David Ceppos.

Baggerly, who served on the CMWD Board of Directors, "spent a lot of time to stay informed with these proceedings and to try to offer what contributions he can," said Highberger. He then directed Shawn Hagerty, attorney for the city of Ventura, to ask Ceppos "to make an affirmative effort to reach out to Mr. Baggerly so that he is in actual communication with the mediator and can express his sentiments to the mediator. What happens after that is still up to the good judgment of the mediator."

A further status conference in the case is set for Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 10 a.m.



## **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$13 Million WIFIA Loan for Water Supply Resiliency and Dam Stabilization in California**

### **Contact Information:**

**EPA Press Office ([press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov))**

**WASHINGTON (September 27, 2023)** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan totaling \$13 million to the United Water Conservation District in Oxnard, California. This funding will support the planning and design to modernize the district’s largest surface water source, the Santa Felicia Dam, and expand the local drinking water supply by 20%. Since its creation, EPA’s WIFIA program has announced \$19 billion in financing to support over 110 projects that are strengthening drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure while creating over 60,000 jobs.

“EPA’s WIFIA program provides long-term, low-cost loans that help communities like Ventura County, California save money and protect local water resources,” said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. “With historic funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and programs like WIFIA, the Biden-Harris Administration is investing in modernizing America’s water infrastructure, so every community has clean, safe and reliable access to water.”

The Santa Felicia Dam is categorized as an extremely high hazard due to risks associated with seismic events, and United Water Conservation District reduced its reservoir capacity by 20% to comply with seismic reservoir restrictions. This WIFIA loan supports the planning and design costs for the dam’s modernization, which will enhance its resiliency to seismic events, improve stormwater management, expand drinking water supply, and protect public safety. The project will be constructed under a future WIFIA loan and will include a new outlet works system, expansion of a dam spillway, and a new outlet channel.

“Securing this low-interest WIFIA loan for the first phase of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project allows the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) to begin the initial design and construction work that is required to meet the new safety standards established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and California’s Division of Safety of Dams,” said **UWCD General Manager Mauricio Guardado**. “The WIFIA loan reduces the financial burden on our rate payers while enhancing our ability to store more stormwater

for groundwater recharge, provide more water resources for our growers and municipalities, protect the nearly 400,000 people, businesses and food growers below the Santa Felicia Dam and continues to support our sustainable water management practices.”

This initial WIFIA loan accelerates the project’s planning and design while establishing a long-term commitment under a \$100 million WIFIA master agreement to finance future construction. The district will save approximately \$5 million by financing with a WIFIA loan. Investing in the region’s infrastructure will create approximately 100 jobs.

Learn more about [EPA’s WIFIA Program](#) and water infrastructure investments under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#).

### Background

Established by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, the [WIFIA program](#) is a federal loan program administered by EPA. The WIFIA program’s aim is to accelerate investment in the nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental credit assistance for regionally and nationally significant projects. The WIFIA program has an active pipeline of pending applications for projects that will result in billions of dollars in water infrastructure investment and thousands of jobs.

EPA recently made the 7th round of WIFIA financing available and is currently accepting letters of interest for WIFIA and SWIFIA loans. \$6.5 billion is available through WIFIA, and \$1 billion is available through SWIFIA, which is a loan program exclusively for State infrastructure financing authority borrowers. EPA is currently accepting letters of interest for WIFIA and SWIFIA loans. Learn more about [submitting a letter of interest for a WIFIA loan](#).

In addition to WIFIA loans, there are many federal funding resources available for communities and utilities to improve vital water and wastewater resources. President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation’s infrastructure and competitiveness. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a historic \$50 billion investment in upgrading critical water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

EPA.GOV







NEWS

# Water options improve for thousands as treatment facility goes online at El Rio wellfield



**Gretchen Wenner**  
Ventura County Star

Published 2:26 p.m. PT Sept. 13, 2023



A filtration system at the United Water Conservation District's groundwater recharge facility in El Rio will improve drinking water for thousands of Ventura County residents. A celebration for the \$14.2 million treatment plant's opening was held Wednesday. *BRIAN J. VARELA/THE STAR*

Iron be gone. Manganese, away.

A \$14.2 million groundwater treatment facility that scrubs iron and manganese from supplies at a wellfield in El Rio has switched on. The plant will improve drinking supplies for thousands of Ventura County residents, including families living at Naval Base Ventura County.



On Wednesday morning, officials and dignitaries celebrated the United Water Conservation District project at its El Rio facility at 3561 N. Rose Ave., north of Oxnard.

"This is going to be a project that will be very helpful in those drought times," said Mauricio Guardado Jr., United's general manager, during the event.

Wednesday's gathering marked completion of the plant's first phase after construction started around February 2022. The facility treats supplies pumped from deep wells.

The first phase will treat up to 3,500 gallons of groundwater per minute. Future phases can expand capacity to about 8,250 gallons per minute.

The treated water, with its lower concentrations of the metals, can be blended with water pumped from wells closer to the surface, where nitrate concentrations are high during a drought.

That blended water will allow use of up to 11,750 acre-feet of groundwater a year, district officials said. An acre-foot, which is about 326,000 gallons, generally supplies two or more average California households with their annual indoor and outdoor needs.

"To improve the water quality is such a gift," said Ventura County Supervisor Kelly Long, whose district includes the El Rio site.

The El Rio treatment plant was awarded an unusual military grant because the facility helps supply water to the naval base, at both the Port Hueneme and Point Mugu locations. The Department of Defense provided \$4.2 million.

The California Department of Water Resources provided another \$2.5 million in state grant funds.

United's El Rio wellfield helps supply water to about 250,000 county residents. Treated water from the new plant will aid residents of the Navy base, four small mutual water companies that serve the El Rio area and the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

A pipeline from the El Rio facility will carry the blended water to Oxnard and to the Port Hueneme Water Agency, which will distribute it to the Navy base.

United doesn't directly supply residential customers, but its groundwater is used by the cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme. The district also provides surface water and groundwater to many large agricultural users.



A storage tank for treated groundwater stands at the United Water Conservation District's El Rio wellfield Wednesday.  
**BRIAN J. VARELA/THE STAR**

Headquartered in Oxnard, United encompasses about 214,000 acres that straddle the Santa Clara River from Lake Piru to the coast. The district owns and operates Santa Felicia Dam, which created Lake Piru — a reservoir — and multiple facilities along the river, including the Freeman Diversion Dam near Saticoy.

Multiple agencies and elected officials supported the groundwater treatment facility, including local, state and federal representatives, Navy base personnel and the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency.

*Staff writer Brian Varela contributed to this report.*

*Gretchen Wenner is the breaking news and city editor at the Star. She can be reached at [gretchen.wenner@vcstar.com](mailto:gretchen.wenner@vcstar.com).*

## **UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S NEW IRON AND MANGANESE TREATMENT PLANT COMES ONLINE**

### **First of District's Water Sustainability Projects Improves Water Quality, Ensures Water Supply Reliability and Provides Drought Resiliency for Underserved Communities in El Rio as well as Residents of Port Hueneme and Oxnard**

(September 11, 2023) United Water Conservation District (UWCD) is celebrating the start of operations for its new Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant at the District's El Rio facility (located at 3561 N. Rose Avenue, Oxnard CA 93036) with an official open-to-the-public ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 10a.m.

"As with all of the District's water sustainability projects, collaboration is key," stated UWCD's General Manager Mauricio Guardado in announcing the multi-dignitary ceremony. "This project, which grew out of UWCD's annual Water Sustainability Summit, benefitted from the support of the entire community, including U.S. Representative Julia Brownley, U.S. Navy Base Ventura County's Commanding Officer Captain Robert "Barr" Kimnach III, State Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, and so many others."

That support translated into \$4.2 million in grant funding from the federal Department of Defense's Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and another \$2.5 million from the state's Department of Water Resources (DWR) Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management. The new plant ensures the water quality, water supply and drought resiliency for the estimated 250,000 county residents that rely on the four small mutual water companies serving the El Rio area as well as for the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme and, ultimately, families living on Navy Base Ventura County.

UWCD Board President Bruce Dandy added: "The Board and staff of United look forward to celebrating the construction and operation of this innovative new plant, another valuable accomplishment of the District, with all of the people it will benefit and our special guests, which include Captain Kimnach, State Water Resources Control Board Chief Deputy Director Jonathan Bishop, Ventura County Supervisor Vianey Lopez, and others."

The new \$10.32 million Iron and Manganese Treatment plant reduces concentrations of iron and manganese in groundwater pumped from deep wells at the El Rio wellfield.

As UWCD Chief Engineer Dr. Maryam Bral explained: "Treating the groundwater from the Lower Aquifer System (LAS) wells at the El Rio facility at a rate of 3,500 gallons of groundwater per minute initially, future phases for the plant can expand operations up to 8,250 gallons per minute, vastly improving water quality, water supply reliability, and drought resiliency. By reducing iron and manganese concentrations in the water from LAS wells, UWCD will then use that water to blend with water from the Upper Aquifer System (UAS) wells that contain high concentrations of nitrate during periods of drought. The result is some 11,750 acre-feet of groundwater per year, enhancing the local water supply.

###

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

Contact: Tara Bravo, CV Strategies  
Phone: (510) 300-5843  
Email: tara@cvstrat.com





**IRON AND MANGANESE TREATMENT PROJECT**  
IMPLEMENTED BY:  
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ENGINEER: KENNEDY JENNIS CONSULTANTS, INC.  
CONTRACTOR MANAGER: HORN ENGINEERING, INC.  
CONTRACTOR: GSC CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.  
FUNDING SOURCE:  
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM AND  
THE BAKERSFIELD REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD PROGRAM  
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014