

AGENDA
ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

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

Roll Call

1. Public Comment

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Approve the December 7, 2023, Engineering and Operations Committee meeting minutes.

3. January 10, 2024, Board Meeting Motion Agenda Items

The Committee will review and discuss the following agenda items to be considered for approval at the January 10, 2024, Board meeting. The Committee will formulate a recommendation to the entire Board based on its discussions with staff.

3.1 Recommend the Authorization of a Supplemental Appropriation of Funds for the Freeman Diversion Expansion Project (CIP 8001), Authorize Approval of a Contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Hardened Ramp 90% Design (Engineering Department, Craig Morgan)

Recommend the approval of the motion to the Board authorizing approval of a supplemental appropriation to cover the \$2,100,000 FY 23-24 budget shortfall and recommending the approval of the motion to the Board authorizing the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the court mandated Hardened Ramp 90% Design in the amount of \$1,999,810.

4. Monthly Department Updates

Information Item

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

4.1 Engineering Department Update (Dr. Maryam Bral)

4.2 Environmental Services Department Update (Marissa Caringella)

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update (Randy Castaneda)

5. Future Agenda Items



ADJOURNMENT

Directors:

Chair Lynn E. Maulhardt
Daniel C. Naumann
Catherine P. Keeling


Staff:


Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.
Anthony Emmert
Marissa Caringella
Evan Lashly
Vanessa Vasquez

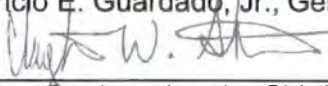
Dr. Maryam Bral
Clayton Strahan
Craig Morgan
Randy Castaneda
Michel Kadah

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Approved:

 FOR MEG
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager


Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer


Clayton Strahan, Interim Chief Operations Officer

Posted: (date) December 29, 2023

(time) 4:30 p.m.

(attest) Vanessa Vasquez

At: www.unitedwater.org

Posted: (date) December 29, 2023

(time) 4:30 p.m.

(attest) Vanessa Vasquez

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



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

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn E. Maulhardt, chair
Catherine P. Keeling, director
Daniel C. Naumann, director

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Marissa Caringella, environmental services manager
Clayton Strahan, interim chief operations officer
Randy Castaneda, water treatment supervisor
Murray McEachron, hydrologist supervisor
Craig Morgan, engineering manager
Evan Lashly, senior environmental scientist
Michel Kadah, engineer
Kaili Taniguchi, engineer
Vanessa Vasquez, clerk of the committee

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

No members of the public were in attendance.

Call to Order – Open Session

Director Naumann called the committee meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. The clerk of the Committee called roll. All Committee members were present (Naumann, Maulhardt, and Keeling).

Before public comments Director Naumann announced that the Regional Defense Partnership of the 21st Century (RDP-21) will be sending a support letter for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project. Chair Maulhardt then proceeded to recognize the importance of the date of the committee meeting in remembrance of Pearl Harbor.

1. Public Comments
Information Item

Director Naumann asked for public comment. None were offered.



2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion to approve the Minutes from the October 5, 2023, Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, Director Naumann; Second, Maulhardt. Voice vote: three ayes (Naumann, Maulhardt and Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries 3/0/0.

3. December 13, 2023, Board Meeting Motion Agenda Item

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following motion items to formulate recommendations to the full Board at its December 13, 2023, meeting.

3.1 Authorize Contract Amendment to the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Development of the Final Design Phase of the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project (CIP 8002), Approval of a Supplemental Appropriation to Cover Fees Associated with the Amendment, and Approval to Fund the Supplemental Appropriation Using the EPA WIFIA Loan

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

No further questions or comments.

The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this motion to the full Board.

3.2 Approve Resolution Determining the Three Barrel Culvert Replacement Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approve the Project

Engineering Manager Craig Morgan presented motion item 3.2 (presentation attached).

No further questions or comments.

The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this motion to the full Board.

3.3 Approve Resolution Determining the Inverted Siphon Replacement Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approve the Project

Engineering Manager Craig Morgan presented motion item 3.3 (presentation attached).

No further questions or comments.



The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this motion to the full Board.

3.4 Authorize Approval of a Contract with HDR Engineers, Inc. to Develop the Final Design of the Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade – Freeman to Ferro Recharge Basin (CIP 8018)

Engineering Manager Craig Mogan presented Motion Item 3.4 (presentation attached).

No further questions or comments.

The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this motion to the full Board.

3.5 Authorize Approval of a Contract Amendment to the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with Cramer Fish Sciences to Complete Pre-Implementation Studies

Senior Environmental Scientist Evan Lashly presented motion item 3.5 (presentation attached).

Director Keeling asked for clarification on the dollar amount listed in the motion item slide (different than the amount listed on the agenda). Mr. Lashly confirmed that the motion item slide reflected the correct amount, and this amount would be the amount presented to the Board.

No further questions or comments.

The Committee members were all in favor of recommending approval of this motion to the full Board.

4 Monthly Department Updates

Information Item

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

4.2 Engineering Department Update

Dr. Maryam Bral presented department updates that covered status updates on 2023 Water Sustainability Summit, Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) Safety Improvement Project (SIP) Board of Consultants (BOC) Meeting No. 8, SFD SIP Updated Project Schedule, SFD SIP Regulatory Compliance and the Proposed Permitting Timeline, SFD SIP LAFCo Support Letter, SFD SIP Intake Design Modification – Yield Increase, SFD SIP Historical Low Reservoir Levels and Releases, SFD SIP Low Reservoir Levels and Modified Intake Elevations,



SFD SIP Projected Reservoir Siltation for High-Flow Intakes and Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project – Phase 1 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (presentation attached).

During Dr. Bral's presentation regarding Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project Intake Design Modification – Yield Increase, slide seven, Chair Maulhardt suggested a graphic illustrating the motion of the water through the intake, perhaps in a three-dimensional form would better depict the process of the intake design to the public.

Dr. Bral explained that GEI Consultant's Inc. scope of work includes a three-dimensional design currently under development.

Director Naumann had to excuse himself for an appointment at 10:45 a.m.

No further questions or comments.

4.3 Environmental Services Department Update

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella presented Environmental Services department updates that included Santa Felicia Dam, Lake Piru, Middle Piru Creek, Freeman Diversion Operations and Training and Tour (presentation attached).

During slide one of the presentation Ms. Caringella had Mr. McEachron present state water imports.

No further questions or comments offered.

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update

Interim Chief Operations Officer Clayton Strahan presented Operations and Maintenance department updates that covered Santa Felicia Dam, Freeman Diversion Maintenance, Saticoy Well Field, and the PTP System (presentation attached).

No further questions or comments offered.

Mr. Strahan verbally introduced the Operations and Maintenance Refined Valve Exercise Program.

The Committee then discussed revisions to the current system of reporting to the Committee and Board. Director Keeling suggested a chart reflecting approved and expected expenditures for current projects that are being presented to the Committee and Board.



Streamlining Board approval process and efficient use of staff time for multi-year, and long-term projects was discussed, General Manager Mauricio Guardado suggested that staff meet to review policies and consider opportunities to streamline processes. Staff will conduct internal discussions and develop recommendations for the Committee and Board considerations.

No further questions or comments.

5 Future Agenda Items

None were offered.

No further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT 11:30 a.m.

Chair Maulhardt adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting held on December 7, 2023.


ATTEST: _____
Chair Lynn E. Maulhardt

Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Motion Item 3.1

Authorize Contract Amendment to the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Development of the Final Design Phase of the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project (CIP 8002), Approval of a Supplemental Appropriation to cover Fees associated with the Amendment, and Approval of Fund Transfer from the EPA WIFIA Loan

Contract Amendment Fee: \$1,158,211



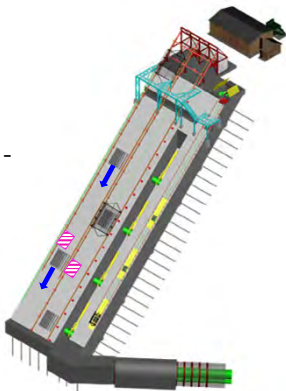
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Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Motion Item 3.1

1. Authorize Contract Amendment to address Design Modifications and Additional Analysis:

- ❖ Increase Proposed High-Flow Intakes from 4 to 6 and Modify Elevation of Proposed Intakes – Enabling Operational Flexibility
- ❖ BOC’s Recommended Design Modifications and Additional Analysis - (BOC Meeting No. 7, June 21, 2023)
- ❖ Develop Design Details and Alternative Means and Methods requested by BV – More Cost-Effective Construction Contract
- ❖ Completion of Design PFMA – FERC’s Requirements
- ❖ Additional Analysis to Support Environmental Documents





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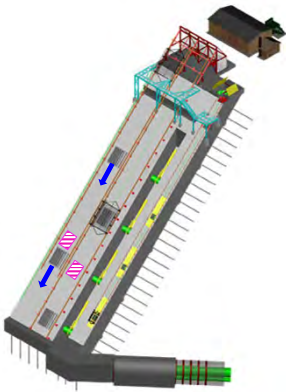
Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Motion Item 3.1

- 2. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation due to insufficient funds in FY23/24 Budget
- 3. Approval of Fund Transfer from EPA WIFIA Design Loan to Support Supplemental Appropriation

Updated Contract Fee:

Original Contract Amount:	\$867,980
Contract Amendment Fee:	\$1,158,211
Total Contract Fee to Date:	\$2,026,191



Water Supply Reliability

Motion Item 3.2

Resolution for Adoption of CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the Three Barrel Culvert Replacement (CIP 8018)

❑ Exempt under Section 15301 and Section 15302

❑ In support of the Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade - Freeman to Ferro.

❑ Replacement of the Three Barrel Culvert will remove a restriction in the system and replace an aging facility.

Desilter

Saticoy Yard

Main Canal

Existing Structure to be Replaced

Approx. Work Limits

Access Road (1000 ft from Saticoy Yard)

50 ft

N

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Water Supply Reliability


Motion Item 3.3

Resolution for Adoption of CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the Inverted Siphon Replacement (CIP 8018)

Exempt under Section 15301 and Section 15302

In support of the Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade - Freeman to Ferro.

Replacement of the Inverted Siphon will provide positive drainage, remove a restriction in the system, and replace an aging facility.



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Water Supply Reliability

Motion Item 3.4

Authorize Approval of a Contract with HDR Engineers, Inc. to Develop the Final Design of the Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade Project – Freeman to Ferro (CIP 8018)


Final Design, Permit Support, and Bid Support for 3 5-ft diameter pipes from Noble to Ferro Basin


HDR is the designer for the State Water Project Interconnection Project and is completing preliminary design of the Noble to Ferro connection.

Contract Fee not to Exceed \$350,000

Grant Funding: \$1M matching (IRWM)

Sufficient funds available in the FY 2023/24 budget





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Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Motion 3.5

Authorize Approval of Amendment No. 8 to the Contract Cramer Fish Sciences for Services Related to Santa Felicia Dam Fish Passage Pre-implementation Studies

- Committee will consider recommending approval of the motion to the full Board to authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the professional consulting services agreement with Cramer Fish Sciences
- Contract is directly related to the FERC license compliance associated with the 2008 Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service
- Amendment amount: \$196,054



Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting Agenda Item 3.5

Request to consider recommending that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with Cramer Fish Sciences to complete field work associated with their study plan regarding Santa Felicia fish passage pre-implementation studies in the amount of \$196,054



Project Background

2008 – NMFS Biological Opinion

2017 – Fish Passage Feasibility Report

2019 – Pre-implementation Study Plan

- Stipulated a process for evaluating the feasibility of fish passage
- Identified “trap and haul” as potentially feasible, contingent upon resolving specific uncertainties
- Study plan designed to address uncertainties related to passage of downstream migrants



Study Plan Overview

- Spring-fall field sampling – yrs 1-3
 - Population, demographics, movement, genetic sampling
- Operate Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) antennas – yrs 1-3
 - Movement
- Operate low-tech fish traps – yrs 2-3
 - Test trap designs, movement, genetic sampling
- Develop technical reports and analysis

Upper Piru Creek
Pyramid Lake
Fish Creek
Middle Piru Creek
Agua Blanca Creek
Lake Piru
Lower Piru Creek

Sampling frame
PIT antennas
Fish traps

Middle Piru Creek – February 2022

3

Jan 9, 2023 Storm Damage

- Storm Damage Assessment Upstream of Lake Piru
 - ~\$185K loss of equipment middle Piru Creek
- FEMA Reimbursable
 - Complete loss of upper PIT array
 - Partial loss of lower PIT array
 - Complete loss of fyke trap equipment
 - Displacement of RST

Middle Piru Creek – February 2023

Lake Piru & SFD – March 2023

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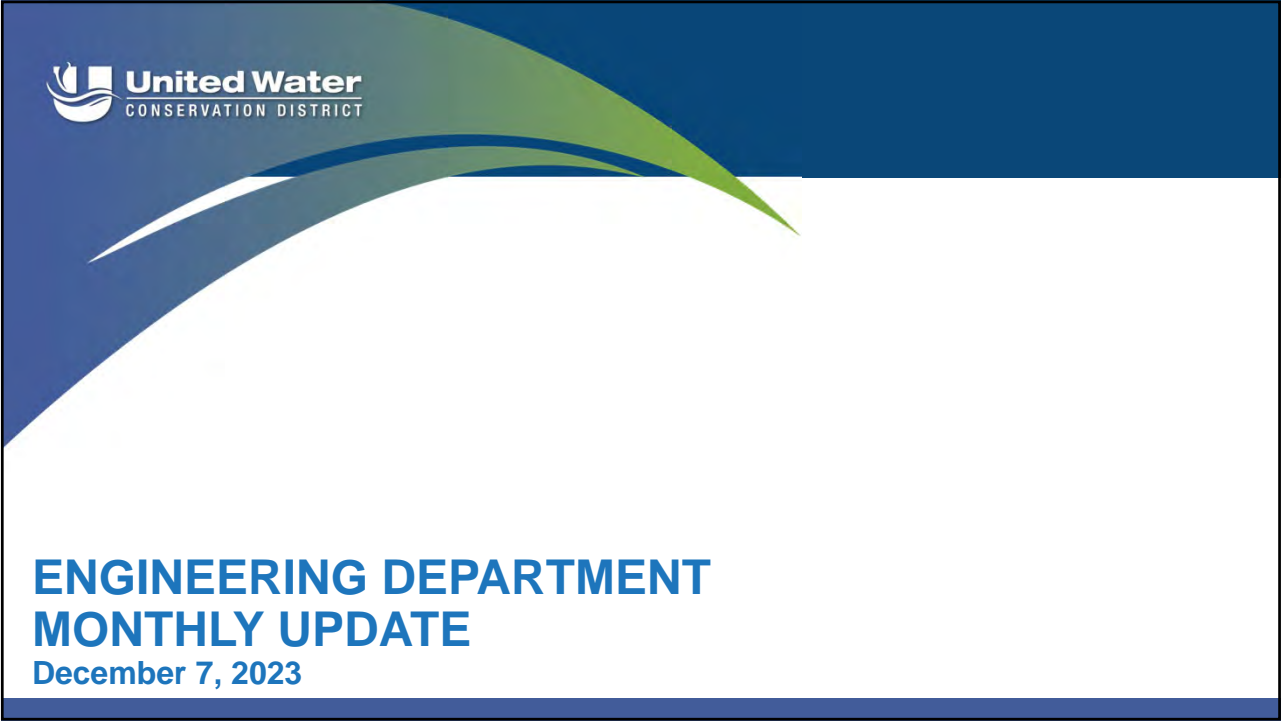
Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

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- Contract is directly related to the FERC license compliance associated with the 2008 Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service; *to complete the final phase of field studies*
- Amendment amount: \$196,054





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23 Water Sustainability Summit



Engineering and Water Resources Presentations

- ❑ The Best Science Available – *Dr. Sun*
- ❑ Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment – *Dr. Bral*
- ❑ Optimizing Use of Growing Water Portfolio – *Dr. Sercu*
- ❑ Freeman Diversion Expansion – *Craig Morgan*
- ❑ Laguna Road Recycled Water Pipeline – *Robert Richardson*
- ❑ SFD Public Safety Improvement Project – *Dr. Bral*
- ❑ The Threat of New Bypass Flow Recommendations for the Region – *Murray McEachron*
- ❑ Ramping Down the Region's Water Supply – *John Lindquist*

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Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

BOC Meeting No. 8

Meeting Agenda:




- Overall Project Schedule Update - based on **Proposed Regulatory Compliance and Permitting Timeline**
- Interim Risk Reduction Measures
- 60% Design of Spillway Improvements

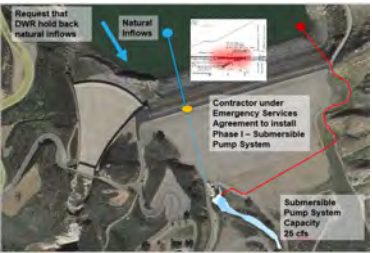
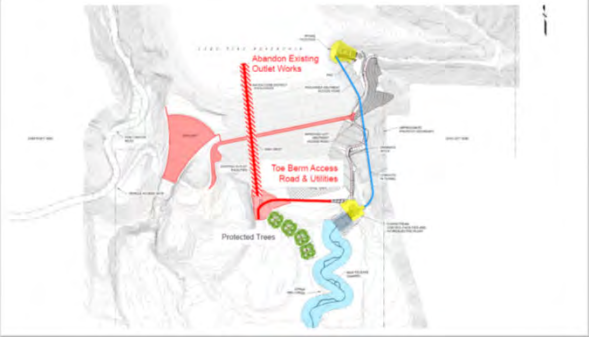
Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

Spillway Improvements - 60% Design Phase

Board of Consultants
Meeting No. 8

UWCD Headquarters
Oxnard, CA
November 15-16, 2023









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Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project


Updated Project Schedule



	2019				2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4								
	Regulatory Compliance and Permitting																				??																															
New Outlet Works	Design																Award		PreCon		Construct				Startup/Test																											
Spillway Improvements	Design																Award		PreCon		Construct																															
Environ. Mitigation	Design																				Award		Construct																													



BOC Meeting #8

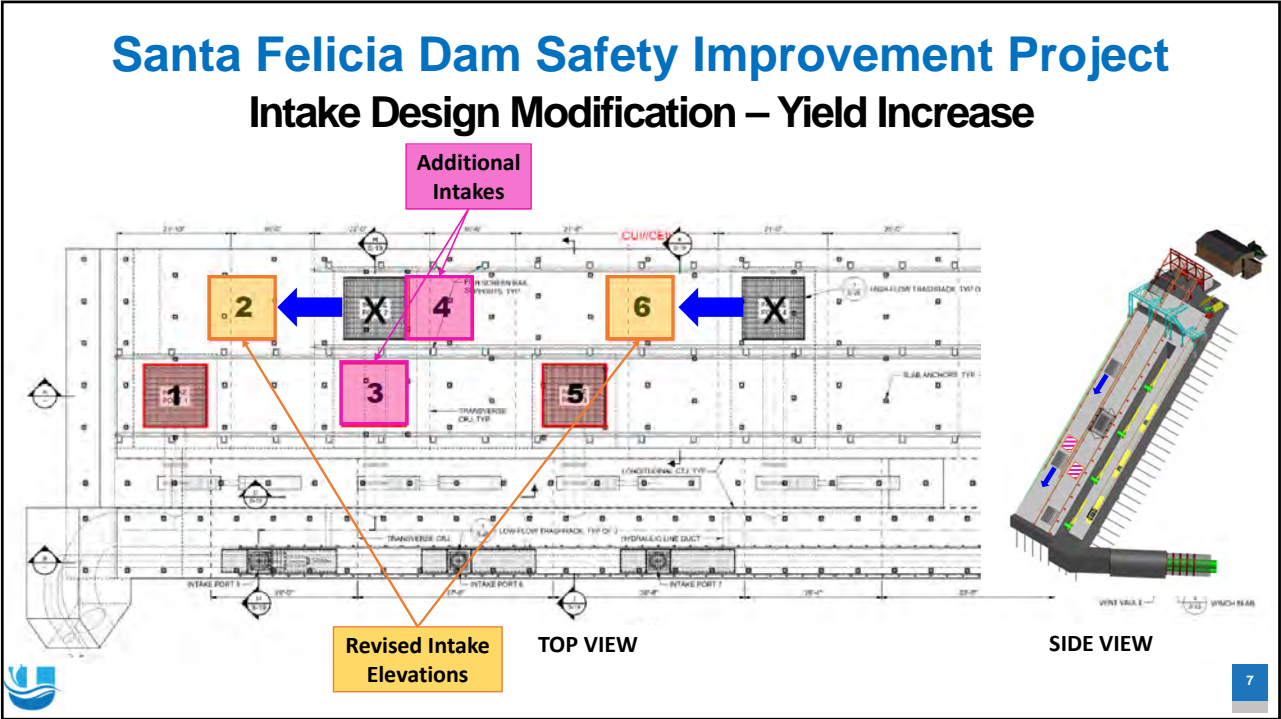


Submitted to FERC and DSOD on October 31, 2023

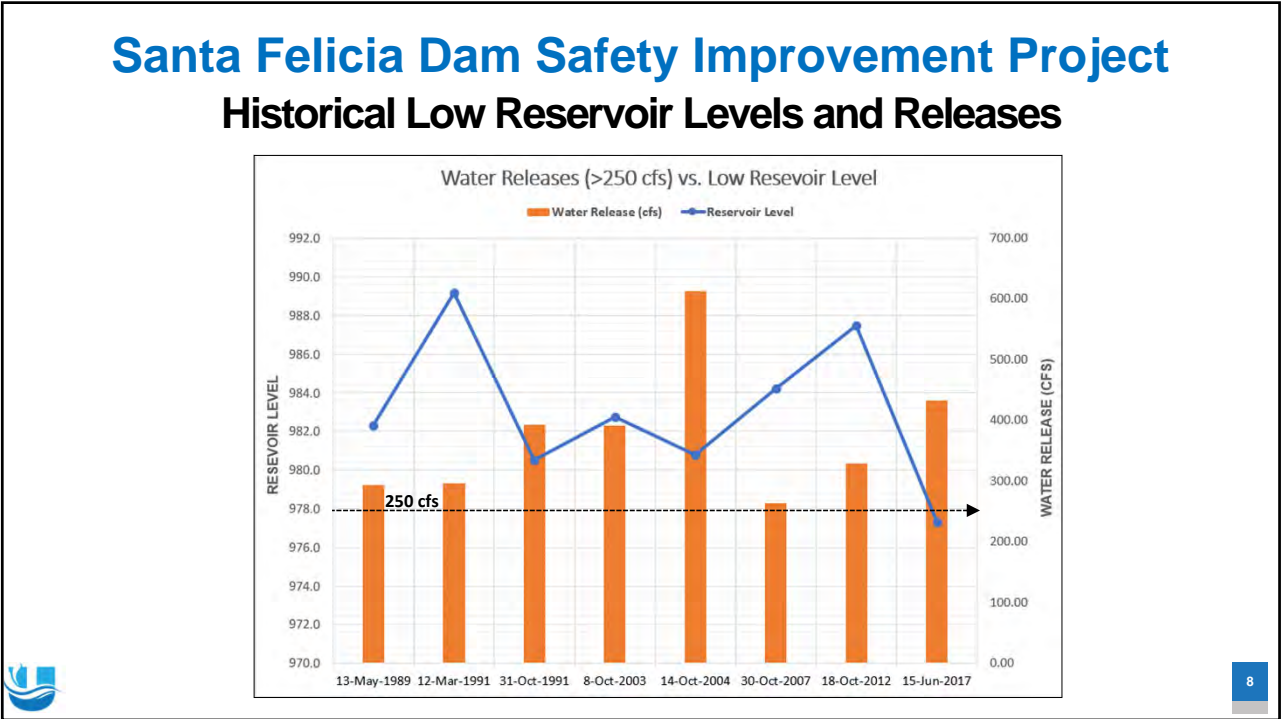
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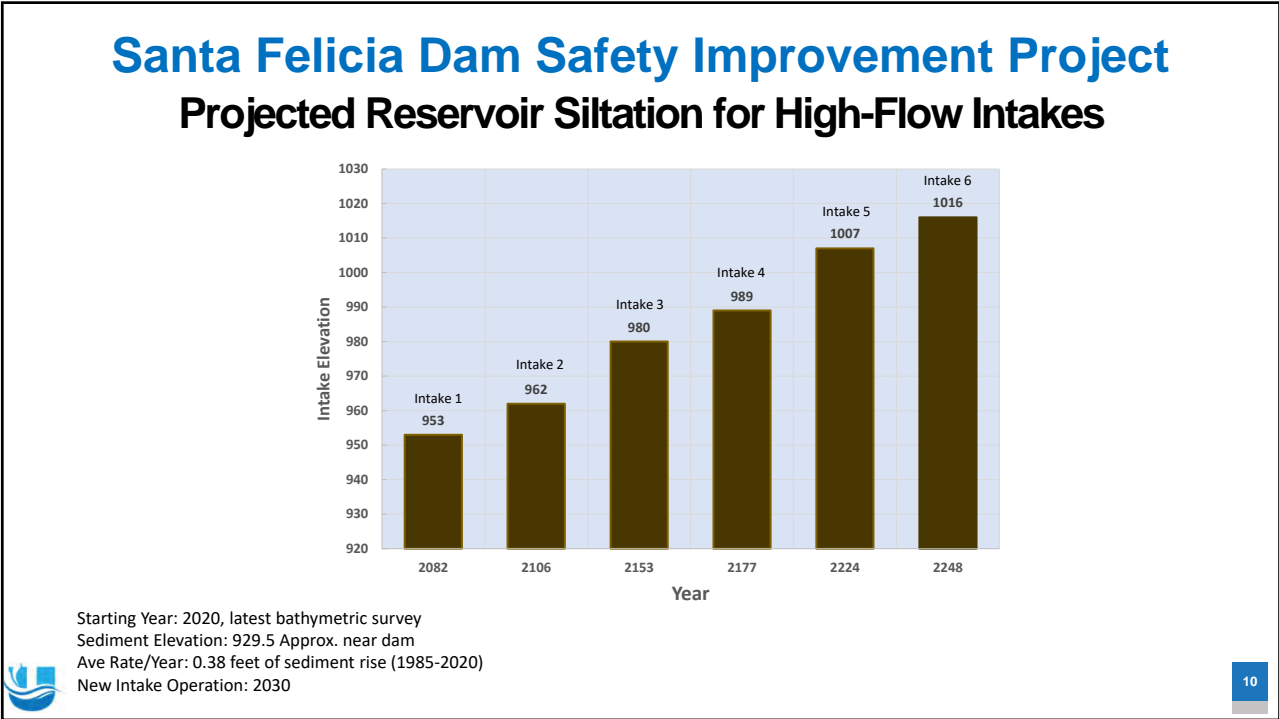
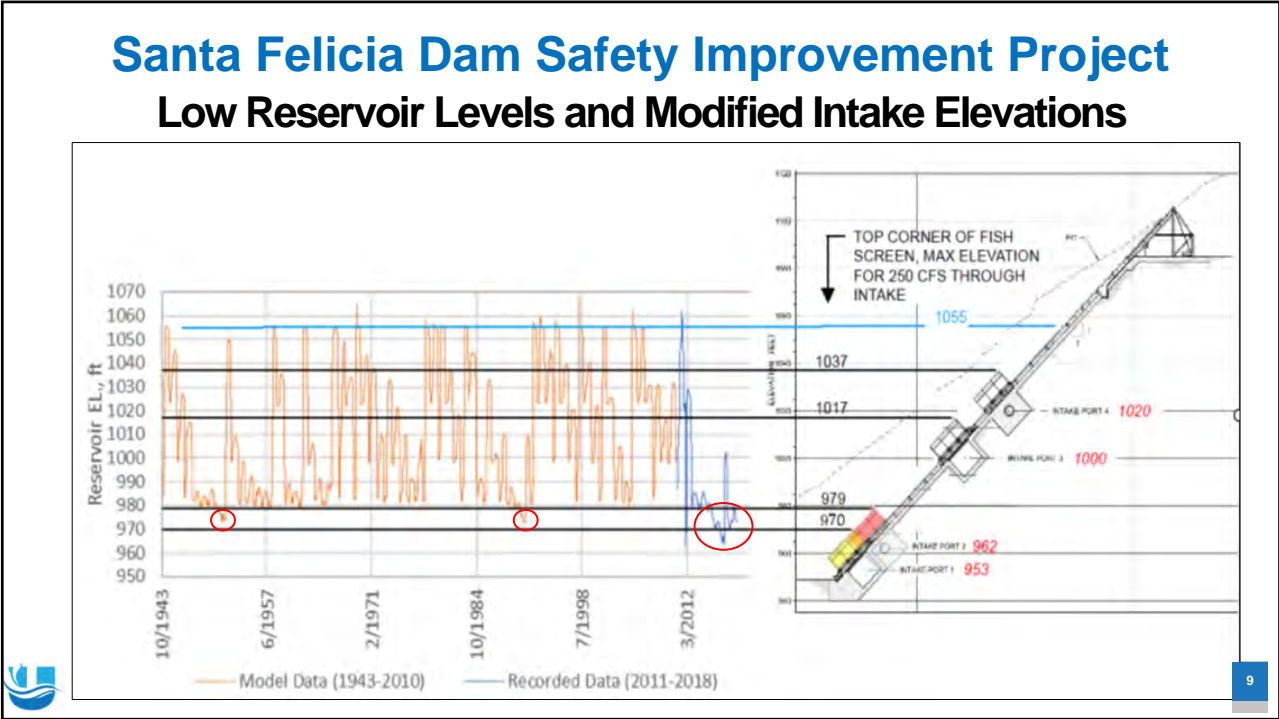




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UWCD

25 Feb 23

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST

AND

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD DISTRICT

Subj: EXTRACTION BARRIER AND BRACKISH WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AT

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY, PHASE 1

Ref: (a) Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project Feasibility Study -

Groundwater Modeling, UWCD 2021 December

(b) Department of the Navy Chief Sustainability Officer Serial Two Water Security

(March 21, 2023)

(c) US Government License N4247230P00608

(d) Project Letters of Support (2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022)

(e) California Water Code Section 7000 et seq.

(f) CPNAVINST 5096.12

(g) MNAVINST 1101.47D

(h) DADR 8000.19

(i) CNR 5001 4000.1D

1. Purpose: This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to delineate roles and responsibilities

and establish the relationship between Commander, Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW), acting

through Commanding Officer, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), their respective staff and

personnel, and United States Coast Guard District (USCGD) regarding Phase 1 of the mutually

beneficial Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment project. This MOA supports

the development and implementation of the EBB Water project and project objectives. The MOA

establishes the mutually agreed responsibilities and commitments by CNRSW and USCGD

during the term of the MOA. The EBB Water project has three phases: (1) an extraction barrier

consisting of groundwater pumping wellfields allowing removal of high saline water from the

Ocean basin to protect sensitive resources within impacted aquifers, and (2) to replace the

extracted high saline water with a new water supply source that when treated will increase the local

supply and benefit both the Department of the Navy (DON) and UWCD's service area in

Ventura County, California.

2. Background: Seawater intrusion has been recognized since the early 1900s as a major impact

to Ventura County groundwater production aquifers and resulted in NBVC, and other coastal

groundwater pumpers moving water production inland. The local aquifers are now classified by

➤ Formalizes relationship between CNRSW, NBVC and UWCD for Phase 1

➤ Delineates roles and responsibilities

➤ Allows for MOA amendment as necessary

➤ Implementation may be affected by court rulings (i.e., OPV Coalition)

SUBJ: EXTRACTION BARRIER AND BRACKISH WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AT

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have entered into this Agreement as of on the later of the

two date(s) indicated below:

MAURICIO GUARDADO

UWCD General Manager

B. N. ROSEN

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Commander, Navy Region Southwest

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UWCD

25 Feb 23

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST

AND

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD DISTRICT

Subj: EXTRACTION BARRIER AND BRACKISH WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AT

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

Ref: (a) Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project Feasibility Study -

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2. Background: Seawater intrusion has been recognized since the early 1900s as a major impact

to Ventura County groundwater production aquifers and resulted in NBVC, and other coastal

groundwater pumpers moving water production inland. The local aquifers are now classified by

➤ CNRSW/NBVC will:

• Execute appropriate real estate agreements

• Act as Federal lead agency for NEPA and federal consultations

• Work directly with UWCD and FCGMA to assess requirements and allocations required for the project

• Lead all CA Coastal Commission Communications

• Support UWCD in funding requests

• Has final decision authority over all decisions that affect NBVC

• Provide access to UWCD staff

SUBJ: EXTRACTION BARRIER AND BRACKISH WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AT

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

Ref: (a) Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project Feasibility Study -

Groundwater Modeling, UWCD 2021 December

(b) Department of the Navy Chief Sustainability Officer Serial Two Water Security

(March 21, 2023)

(c) US Government License N4247230P00608

(d) Project Letters of Support (2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022)

(e) California Water Code Section 7000 et seq.

(f) CPNAVINST 5096.12

(g) MNAVINST 1101.47D

(h) DADR 8000.19

(i) CNR 5001 4000.1D

4. Agreement/Understanding/Responsibilities

(a) CNRSW/NBVC will:

(1) Request approval to execute appropriate Real Estate agreements in support of the

project per reference (g). Real estate and funding requirements will be outlined in a letter to

UWCD upon receipt and approval of real estate requests processed by CNRSW/NBVC.

(2) Act as the Federal lead agency under NEPA for Phase 1 of EBB Water project, which

necessarily includes foreseeable aspects of Phase 2. Assign subject matter experts (SME) to

support UWCD staff with preparation of NEPA documentation. NEPA requirements will be

provided to UWCD upon acceptance of a real estate request for Phase 1 facilities and resources.

CNRSW and UWCD agree that development of the NEPA requirements by UWCD

staff/contractors provides consistency between the NEPA and CEQA documents in a cost

savings and a benefit of the project execution schedule.

(3) Act as the lead agency for all federal consultations, have reviewing authority, control

aspects of environmental review, and compliance that affect CNRSW/NBVC or its operations.

(4) Work directly with UWCD and the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency

(FCGMA) to assess requirements and allocations required for the project.

(5) Provide (as allowed by data security laws and requirements) previous studies, data,

surveys, and other technical documentation that supports development of the EBB Water project.

(6) Lead all California Coastal Commission (CCC) communications, consultations,

applications, negotiations, and final regulatory decisions. CCC required information, data, and

special studies will be provided to staff to facilitate the regulatory interactions.

(7) Sign and process the final NEPA document(s) per reference (f) upon concurrence of

federal, relevant state and local regulators, CNRSW and Navy leadership, and receipt of all

required documents and permits.

(8) Support (letters of support, meetings with government officials, and other non-

monetary support) UWCD during project funding requests to federal, state, and local agencies.

(9) Discover potential legacy contamination.

(10) Have final decision authority over all decisions that affect NBVC or its operations,

including but not limited to location, identification, and approval for placement of infrastructure,

mitigation or other changes, and engineering solutions to technical problems.

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EBB Water – Phase 1 MOA

SUB: EXTRACTION BARRIER AND BRACKISH WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AT NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

(11) Permit and receive authority to operate for any Facility-Related Control Systems that connect to Navy infrastructure, utility monitoring or control network, or otherwise.

(12) Provide access onto NBVC Point Mugu, as necessary, for UWCD staff and their consultants to perform work per the MOA.

8. 12/6/23 add:

(1) Conduct, fund, document, and report all required studies, analyses, and assessments required to support the EBB Water project and share with CNRSW/NBVC.

(2) Plan, design, permit, construct, operate, and maintain infrastructure as part of Phase 1 of the EBB Water project, as approved by CNRSW/NBVC.

(3) Obtain necessary permits for construction, construction of a groundwater extraction well, which includes the TDR to new project.

(4) Fund and contract an environmental consultant acceptable to CNRSW/NBVC to prepare and finalize both NEPA and CEQA documentation in support of the EBB Water Phase 1 project.

(5) Develop and fund studies and documents in support of NEPA and CEQA documentation, as determined in coordination with CNRSW/NBVC.

(6) Obtain and pay for all applicable Federal, State, and local required permits to own and operate all the facilities required for the EBB Water Phase 1 project. Applicability of permits and other requirements to be coordinated with CNRSW/NBVC.

(7) Comply with all Federal, state, and local requirements applicable to their facilities and operations, including but not limited to requirements relating to air, water, noise, and hazardous waste and substances. Be responsible for Federal, State, and local permits, as applicable, implementation and ensuring compliance with all permit conditions, as well as compliance with any permits or regulatory circumstances/approvals obtained by CNRSW/NBVC.


(8) Own, operate, and maintain the Phase 1 facilities, including but not limited to a groundwater extraction wellfield, a pipeline interlink, and discharge facilities.

(9) Upon approval granted by the Navy, fund all administrative costs to support execution of appropriate real estate agreement(s).

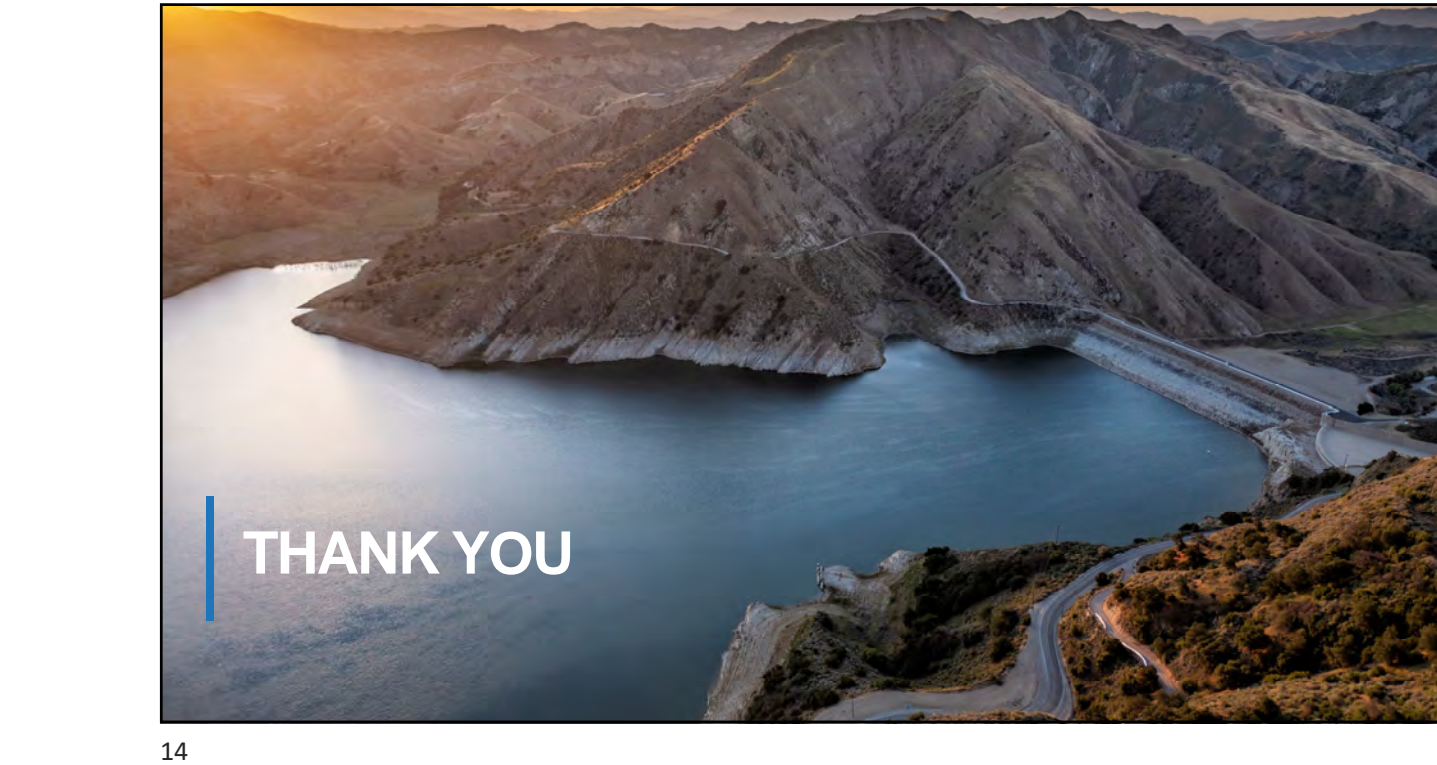
(10) Apply and assign appropriate UWCD applicant for all required permits and regulatory requirements with exception of required CCC consent permit(s) including other federal requirements to be specified by CNRSW/NBVC.

➤ UWCD will:

- Conduct, fund, document, and report all required studies and analyses
- Plan, design, permit, construct, operate, and maintain Phase 1 infrastructure
- Continue to support FCGMA's groundwater sustainability goals and water supply projects
- Fund and contract with environmental consultant acceptable to CNRSW/NBVC for NEPA/CEQA documentation
- Comply with all federal, state and local requirements
- Fund Navy's administrative costs to support execution of real estate agreement



13





Agua Blanca Creek – Oct 9, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

December 7, 2023





SFD, Lake Piru, & middle Piru Creek


FERC compliance study activities

Annual tamarisk surveys and treatment

Status of State water imports



Agua Blanca Creek – Oct 9, 2023



2

Freeman Diversion Operations

Cowbird trapping annual report

Support for O&M maintenance activities

MSHCP to be submitted Feb 9, 2024



Freeman Diversion – Nov 6, 2023

Training and Tour

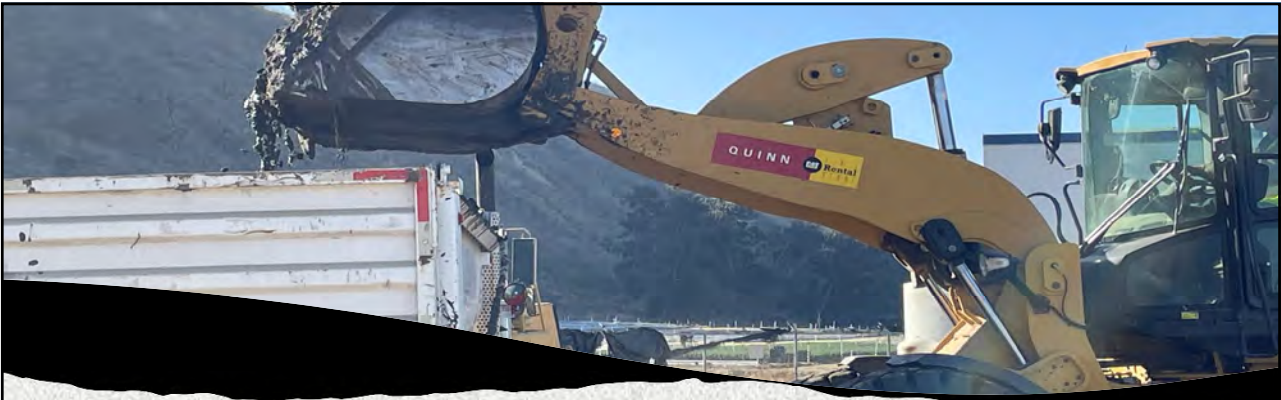


October Environmental Services staff quagga mussel and veliger training workshop




November tour of the Casitas Robles Diversion facility and fish ladder






OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATE

December 7, 2023




1



Santa Felicia Dam

Fugro Bathymetric Survey – Lake Pyramid Inflow – Marina Anchor Adjustments – Wind Damage – SFD Water Releases



2

2



Freeman Diversion Maintenance

Fish Ladder Gate Maintenance– Fish Screen Maintenance – Freeman Sediment Removal



3



Freeman Diversion Maintenance Continued

Freeman Rain Cover Installation – Trash Rack Maintenance – Sediment Removal at Floc Building



4



Saticoy Well Field

Total Well Production During Shutdown: 224.4 Acre Feet
Well #1: 50.6 AF Well #3: 36.6 AF
Well #2: 59.6 AF Well #4: 77.6 AF



5



PTP System

PTP Turnout 162 Meter Swap – New No Drinking Signs at PTP Turnouts – Pleasant Valley Reservoir Weed Abatement



6





Staff Report

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

From: Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer
Craig Morgan, Engineering Manager

cc: Brian Zahn, Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 27, 2023 (January 4, 2024 meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.1 Recommend the Authorization of a Supplemental Appropriation of Funds for the Freeman Diversion Expansion Project (CIP 8001), Authorize approval of a Contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Hardened Ramp 90% Design
Board Motion

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will consider recommending to the Board authorization for a supplemental appropriation of funds for the Freeman Diversion Expansion Project, CIP 8001, and authorize approval of a Contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Hardened Ramp 90% Design at its regular January 10, 2024, meeting.

Discussion:

On July 18, 2023, the United States District Court Central District of California got the parties to agree on a joint stipulation that stated that the Mod-9 design of the hardened ramp with a flushing channel is United's preferred fish passage alternative. The joint stipulation also states that the Plaintiffs and Agencies will support the project and provide letters of support for United's applications for grant funding to finance the project.

The joint stipulation mandates the delivery of the 60% Engineering Design to be delivered by January 12, 2024, the MSHCP delivered by February 9, 2024, and the 90% Engineering Design to be delivered by June 10, 2024. This accelerated schedule outpaces the budget allocation for CIP 8001 for the Fiscal Year 2023-24. Currently there is enough budget to cover the delivery of the 60% Engineering Design and delivery of the MSHCP but there is no budget remaining to cover the 90% Engineering Design.

GEI and NHC are both working on the 90% Engineering Design, GEI has submitted a proposal for \$1,999,810 to complete the 90% Engineering Design and NHC has submitted a proposal for \$90,000 for their portion of the 90% Engineering Design.

**Agenda Item 3.1 Approve a supplemental appropriation of funds for the Freeman Diversion Expansion Project (CIP 8001), Authorize approval of a Contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Hardened Ramp 90% Design
Motion**

Fiscal Impact

The work that is currently being performed was not planned or budgeted for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget. While we are aggressively pursuing Grants and Appropriations, there is no current certainty to any grant awards. Currently, there is no budget, in this amount, to transfer within the FY2024-25 budget to fund this work. Approval of this item will require a supplemental appropriation of \$2,100,000 to keep the project moving forward to meet the courts deadlines. The supplemental appropriation would be acquired from the Replacement, Capital Improvement and Environmental projects reserve. The impact to the FY2024-25 budget would be an increase in expense spending on project 8001 of \$2.1M and a reduction of cash reverses in the same amount.



Staff Report
REVISED

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, Principal Engineer
Nathan Summerville, Senior Engineer
Michel Kadah, Engineer
Adrian Quiroz, Engineer
Kaili Taniguchi, Engineer

Date: December 27, 2023 (January 4, 2024, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Engineering and Operations Committee members will receive this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for the month of December 2023.

Discussion:

1. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- Spillway Improvement Project
 - On December 14, following the Board of Consultants (BOC) Meeting No. 8 and as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Staff finalized and e-filed with FERC the BOC Final Report and updated BOC Comments Tracking Form that includes plan and schedule to address BOC recommendations provided during the BOC Meeting No. 8. The BOC Final Report was also submitted to the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) on December 19.
- Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - On December 14, Engineering, Operations and Maintenance (OPS), and IT staff met to review and discuss the draft Operation and Maintenance Manual for the new outlet works facility. Comments received during this meeting will be

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- submitted to GEI Consultants (GEI) to be incorporated in the final O&M Manual revision. A workshop with Engineering, OPS, and GEI will be held in early 2024.
- Staff received the 60% Design Report for lower Piru Creek New Release Channel prepared by the environmental consultant (Catalyst Environmental Solutions and Stantec). Staff reviewed and provided comments to be incorporated in the next design phase. The 60% Design Report of the New Release Channel will be included in the revised draft Biological Assessment (BA) submittal package that is due to FERC by the end of 2023.
 - The District has received tremendous support from the local cities and agencies for the implementation of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project. Letters of support sent directly to FERC – Secretary Bose office have been issued by the following organizations.
 - LAFCO
 - City of Santa Paula
 - Calleguas Water District
 - Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century
 - FERC License Amendment Application, NEPA Documentation and the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
 - Staff reviewed the revised draft BA Project Description. The Project Description was updated to reflect the design modifications based on the 60% design of the spillway improvements, 90% design of the outlet works improvements and recent design changes, and the 60% design of lower Piru Creek new release channel. The revised draft BA is due to FERC by the end of 2023.
 - Staff reviewed Exhibit F prepared by GEI. Exhibit F is one of the three exhibits included in Santa Felicia Dam FERC license amendment application. Exhibit F includes updated and revised design drawings of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project. The FERC license amendment application will be submitted to FERC by the end of 2023.
 - Please see the monthly Environmental Services Department staff report for additional updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.
 - Loan and Grant Applications
 - On December 12, Staff and the Grant Task Force (GTF) submitted a sub-application to CalOES for the 2023 FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistant (FMA) Grant Program. The grant application is in support of the Santa Felicia Dam Spillway Improvement Project. If awarded, the cost of the project will be divided into a 90/10 split; 90% federal cost share and 10% non-federal cost share. In support of the FMA grant application, Staff requested and received a few
-

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

support letters from the following cities and agencies. Copies of the support letters were included in the FMA Grant application.

- City of Santa Paula
- Central Coast Labor Council
- Western States Regional Council Carpenters Local Union 805
- LiUNA – Laborer’s International Union of North America

2. Condor Point Improvement Project

- A construction agreement with MDJ Management, LLC. (MDJ), for construction of the Condor Point Swim Beach was executed on December 08, 2023. Notice to Proceed was also issued on December 08. MDJ subsequently broke ground on December 11, 2023. Construction of the swim beach (Figure 1) and assembly and installation of new picnic tables for the Condor Point Picnic Site (Figure 2) are underway and will be complete by January 2024 months before the FERC order due date on May 04, 2024.

3. Freeman Diversion Expansion

- Staff received comments from NMFS and CDFW on the draft operational plan outline.
- Staff receive weekly Hardened Ramp 90% design status updates from NHC and GEI.

4. Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- Meetings:
 - Weekly coordination meetings between Staff and HDR.
 - GSE has submitted approximately 385 out of a total of 410 submittal packages anticipated for the project (many remaining submittals relate to project close-out). 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 148 RFIs to date. HDR, KJ and the District have been providing responses and two RFIs (Nos. 144 and 148) are currently open.
 - Forty-One (41) Change Orders (COs) have been fully executed to date amounting to a net total of \$1,470,222.18. This represents approximately 15.7% 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 \$807,311.99 or 8.6% 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’s work in this reporting period included the following:
 - Punchlist Items
 - Air Scour System Troubleshooting
-

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- Filter Vessel CAV Modifications
- Fire Alarm Bell Installation (Figure 3)
- Asphalt Striping (Figure 4)
- The facility startup and testing activities will continue for a period of three months to comply with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) requirements for demonstrating full treatment efficacy.
- On December 20, 2023, the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) has approved Amendment No. 1 to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant agreement that extends the construction completion to March 31, 2024 and all grant closeout activities to July 31, 2024.

5. PTP Metering Improvement Project

- Total number of meters installed: 52 of 60 or 87% complete (+4 meters).
- One (1) meter installation is planned by late-2023 (Turnout No. 161).
- Easement acquisition completion: 33 of 41 obtained or 80.5% complete.
- There are eight (8) pending utility easement deeds:
 - One (1) partially signed (Turnout No. 120)
 - Six (6) that are under advisement by the property owner's legal counsel (Turnout Nos. 107, 142, 144, 145, 150, 156)
 - One (1) that has been rejected by the property owner (Turnout No. 154)

6. PTP Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project

- Meetings:
 - On December 7, Engineering and Water Resources staff met with the City of Oxnard Public Works Director, Water Utility Manager and Engineering staff to discuss the Laguna Road Recycled Water Pipeline connection and proposed use of the Advanced Water Purification Facility recycled water supply.
 - On December 12 and January 4, Engineering and Finance staff met to discuss proposed recycled water wheeling fees from Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD).
- The District had the option to consider two pipeline alignment alternatives for the recycled water line along Laguna Road: a pipeline alignment within the public right-of-way or a pipeline alignment within a private property north of Laguna Road. Staff met with the private landowner a few times, evaluated the timeline needed to secure applicable easements, agreements or permits for one or the other pipeline alignment alternative and decided to pursue the pipeline alignment alternative within the public-right-of-way. The decision was made considering two important factors, a potentially extended time needed to execute a mutually agreed upon easement deed between United and the private property owner(s) and the project

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

completion time set forth in the Sustainability Groundwater Management (SGM) grant agreement.

- On December 19, Staff directed MKN Associates to proceed with the 60% design documents for the pipeline alignment within the public right-of-way. The 60% design phase is anticipated to be completed in March 2024.

7. Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project and Impact on PTP

On October 12, United filed a motion opposing CalTrans Order of Possession filed against Pegh Investments, LLC (Pegh) and other private companies and public agencies including United in Ventura County. United holds easement deeds on the property owned by Pegh. Along with the Motion, United also proposed a Stipulation. The Stipulation asked CalTrans to take the Pegh Property subject to United's easement (i.e., UWCD's easement rights would be protected). During the Court Hearing on December 6, 2023, both United's Motion and Stipulation were signed. The Court Hearing has been extended to January 23, 2024. However, the expected outcome is that either United is dismissed from the Action or United and CalTrans enter into a Stipulated Judgement that allows United to maintain its easement rights.

8. State Water Project (SWP) Interconnection Pipeline Project

- No updates to report.

9. Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade - Freeman to Ferro

- The draft Preliminary Design Report was received from HDR on December 13, 2023 and Staff is currently reviewing the design alternatives. The Inverted Siphon Replacement Project is currently advertised for public bidding. The bid closing date is January 11, 2024.

10. Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- Agreements:
 - New Monitoring Wells: A succeeding 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) and construction of new monitoring wells (EM-1 through EM-5) is pending site approval by the Navy which is expected in late 2023.
 - The draft Letter of Request (LOR) initiating the Navy's real estate process for an outgrant easement for the Phase 1 project is currently in review by the Navy. Concurrence by Naval Base Ventura County's (NBVC) Commanding Officer is anticipated in December 2023 with concurrence from Commander of Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW) anticipated in January 2024. This will initiate the CNRSW Real Estate acquisition process.
 - Grants:
-

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- 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 Groundwater Grant Program (GWGP) grant that was approved on March 6, 2023, for the Phase 1 project. Execution of the grant agreement is anticipated by January 2024.
- Meetings:
 - Held weekly internal meetings between Engineering, Environmental, and Water Resources staff to discuss progress on agreements with the Navy (pending License Agreements, Outgrant Easement), grants (SGM, GWGP), CEQA/NEPA documentation preparation, permitting agency engagement, discharge, and pipeline alternatives evaluation, well site suitability analysis, coastal water quality sampling and groundwater flow modeling.
 - Held monthly NEPA/CEQA “Drumbeat” meetings with District, ESA Consultants and Navy NEPA staff and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).
 - District staff held bi-weekly meetings with the Phase 1 project design team (KJ) and CEQA and permitting team (ESA Consultants).
 - Held one monthly progress meeting with Navy staff.
- Design:
 - The Well Site Suitability TM is currently under development and will include an evaluation of well construction and development options.
 - Kennedy/Jenks Consultants (K/J) has proposed an equipment pre-procurement approach for long-lead time procurements to meet the GWGP grant requirement of construction completion by February 2026. K/J and District Staff are currently developing a plan including completing a list of equipment and accelerating the basis of design.
- CEQA/NEPA/Permits:
 - Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project’s environmental compliance and permitting process.
- Geotech/Hydrogeology:
 - District Staff has successfully negotiated a scope of work and fee with Earth Systems and will be executing a Professional Services Agreement with geotechnical exploration activities planned in early 2024.
- Land Surveying:
 - District Staff has prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting for land surveying services at NBVC Point Mugu. Staff anticipates receiving proposals in late January 2024.

11. Asset Management/ CMMS System

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item

- No updates to report.

12. OH Water Well No.20

- General Pump Company, Inc. installed a new pump for Well No.20. The motor is anticipated to be installed in February 2024.

13. OH Well 14 Energy Efficiency Upgrade

- The District received proposals from Phoenix Engineering and MNS Engineering. After review by a selection committee, MNS engineering was selected. The scope will include preliminary and final design activities to replace the existing 12-inch well discharge pipe with an 18-inch well discharge pipe.

14. Other Topics, Meetings and Training

- December 12 – Maryam Bral, Robert Richardson, Nathan Summerville and Adrian Quiroz attended a tour of the Piru Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) project.
- December 14 – Kaili Taniguchi and Adrian Quiroz attended the United States Society on Dams (USSD) Webinar titled “Early Contractor Involvement: Unlocking Your Project’s Potential”.
- December 19 – Robert Richardson virtually attended the State Water Resources Control Board Meeting where a new Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook and Regulations for Direct Potable Reuse were adopted.
- December 26– Staff prepared and electronically submitted the 2023 Santa Felicia Dam Annual Security Compliance Certification (ASCC) to FERC’s D2SI Security Branch. The preparation of the 2023 ASCC was coordinated with District’s Risk and Safety Manager.
- December 26 – Staff prepared and electronically submitted the 2023 SFD EAP Report to FERC.
- Staff prepared and e-filed with FERC the 2023 Santa Felicia Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Report (DSMMR).

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item



Figure 1 – Condor Point Swim Beach Construction



Figure 2 – Installation of New Picnic Tables at Condor Point



Figure 3 – Fire Alarm Bell Installation



Figure 4 – Fire Access Striping at Iron and Manganese Plant

4.1 Monthly Engineering Department Report Information Item



Figure 5 – Engineering Staff tours the Piru Wastewater Treatment Plant (Dec 12)



Figure 6 – “Electrochemical Nano Diffusion” System to Remove Chloride Content at the Piru Wastewater Treatment Plant (Dec 12)



Staff Report

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

cc: Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

From: Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager

Date: December 27, 2023 (January 4, 2024, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

The Engineering and Operations Committee members will receive this summary report from the Environmental Services Department regarding its activities for the month of December 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. A new water year began on October 1, and the minimum required habitat water release into lower Piru Creek below Santa Felicia Dam through January 1, 2024, is seven cubic feet per second (cfs).

- Santa Felicia Fish Passage Pre-Implementation Studies

On December 7, 2023, ES completed the reinstallation of instream monitoring equipment (PIT antennas and fish traps) that was lost or damaged by the January 2023 storm event. ES, Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS), and Westfork Environmental staff installed a complete replacement of the upper PIT antenna array, replacement of all instream components of the lower PIT antenna array, and anchors and support systems for two fish traps (fyke trap and rotary screw trap). Subsequently, CFS conducted initial trapping with the fyke trap after installation. On December 19, 2023, trap operations were temporarily suspended in response to elevated flows from the State Water Project water delivery via Pyramid and anticipated storm flows. Trapping activities are planned to resume once flows subside. CFS, with ES support, intends to operate the fish traps (as flows allow) and PIT antennas through May 2024.

4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

- Lake Piru Recreation Area Condor Point Swim Beach Development

On December 11, 2023, in compliance with Article 412 of United's FERC license, ES conducted a Worker Environmental Awareness Program training for contractors working on the Condor Point swim beach development at the Lake Piru Recreation Area. On December 6, 2023, a cultural resources survey was conducted by Pax Environmental, Inc. Surveyors did not find any sensitive cultural or tribal resources in the survey area. In addition, ES conducted daily biological sweeps prior to the start of construction.

- Annual Reporting

Santa Felicia Whitewater Boating Access Plan: On December 14, 2023, ES submitted the draft 2023 Whitewater Boating Annual Report to whitewater boating stakeholders. Stakeholders have 30 days to review and submit comments before the report is submitted to FERC.

Lake Piru Recreation Area Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement: On December 28, 2023, ES submitted an annual report in compliance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement permitting requirements for routine maintenance activities conducted in 2023 at the Lake Piru Recreation Area.

Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan: On December 29, 2023, Environmental Services staff (ES) filed the 2023 Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan Annual Report with FERC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). The Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan is a FERC required plan that outlines activities to remove exotic aquatic species in the spillway ponds below Santa Felicia Dam. In 2023, exotic species removal activities were limited due to unsafe conditions from the spill over Santa Felicia Dam spillway. ES will schedule a meeting with resource agency staff to discuss the contents of the report and future actions before April 2024.

2. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of December, ES supported Freeman Diversion operations and maintenance activities by conducting surveys of dewatered areas and providing on site biological monitoring. On December 13, 2023, ES, Water Resources, and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff held an interdepartmental meeting to discuss operational plans and communications protocols in preparation for the 2023–24 winter season.

On December 28, 2023, ES submitted a post-project report to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) for routine maintenance activities conducted at the Freeman Diversion on October 17, 2023. Maintenance activities included removing vegetation along the toe of the rip-rap from the Freeman Diversion to the downstream end of the desilting basin and in-kind repair of the access road just downstream of the Freeman Diversion.

On December 28, 2023, ES submitted an annual report in compliance with CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement permitting requirements for routine maintenance activities conducted in 2023 at the Freeman Diversion Facility.

4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

3. Freeman Diversion Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

On December 8, 2023, NMFS and CDFW provided comments on United's draft operations plan outline, which was submitted in accordance with the November 3, 2023, Joint Stipulation in the *Wishtoyo et al. v. United* case.

On December 11, 2023, United submitted requests for letters of support to NMFS, CDFW, Wishtoyo Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, and CalTrout in association with the grant funding application that staff is developing for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects grant program. Wishtoyo Foundation and Center for Biological Diversity have responded that they will each provide a letter of support. NMFS acknowledged receipt of the request, while CDFW and CalTrout have yet to respond.

4. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of December, ES continued conducting all quagga mussel monitoring activities on Lake Piru, lower Piru Creek, and the spillway pool in accordance with the Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan. ES also continued biweekly quagga mussel veliger (larva) sampling in United's lower system. United staff continues to meet regularly with Pleasant Valley County Water District.

On December 15, 2023, ES submitted a notification to CDFW stating that adult quagga mussels have been confirmed at the Freeman Diversion Facility. CDFW responded that they will reach out shortly to gather more information.

5. Capital Improvement Project Permitting and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Support

ES supported the Engineering Department by completing two California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemptions (NOE) for the Inverted Siphon Replacement Project and the Three Barrel Culvert Replacement Project. On December 18, 2023, the NOEs were filed with the Ventura County Clerk.

In December, ES also supported the Engineering Department in preparing materials to request a pre-application meeting with USACE as part of the 408 Permission process for the Three Barrel Culvert Replacement Project.

On December 12, 2023, ES and legal counsel met with representatives from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to discuss the potential eligibility of the Vineyard Avenue Undercrossing project for a CEQA suspension under Executive Order N-7-22. Next steps include drafting a CEQA suspension request letter to CNRA.

6. Grant Efforts

On December 12, 2023, after multiple meetings with staff from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), United submitted a sub-application for the FY23 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistant Grant for the Santa Felicia Dam Spillway Resiliency Project (a phase of the SFDSIP). United requested \$54,154,382.00, with a 90/10 federal cost share. CalOES is currently working with United to strengthen the full application, which is due to FEMA in February 2024.

4.2 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

On December 15, 2023, ES submitted the final data and financial reports for the Bird Surveys, Habitat Mapping, and Non-native Cowbird Removal in Los Padres National Forest Project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and completed in collaboration with Griffith Wildlife Biology. The three-year project studied sensitive riparian bird species in the Santa Clara River watershed. Data collected from the project will be provided to the U.S. Forest Service and USFWS to help inform recovery and management actions for riparian bird populations in the LPNF.

7. Miscellaneous

- On December 13, 2023, Evan Lashly attended a Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Steelhead Rescue, Relocation, and Genetic Conservation Plan in development by the Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District and Stillwater Sciences.
- On December 13, 2023, ES attended an ArcGIS licensing meeting with staff from Engineering, O&M, IT, and Water Resources.
- In December 2023, ES submitted 2023 special-status species encounters to the California Natural Diversity Database.

Staff Report
REVISED

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

From: Clayton Strahan, Chief Operations Officer
Randy Castañeda, Operations Supervisor — Water Treatment
J.D. Smallwood, Operations Supervisor — Water Distribution

Date: December 27, 2023 (January 4, 2023, meeting)

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

Staff Recommendation:

The Engineering and Operations Committee members will receive this summary report from the Operations and Maintenance department regarding its activities for the month of December 2023.

1. Water Releases, Diversions

- Lake Piru rose 4.69 feet in December because of the importation of the district's Table- A water and two water transfers from Palmdale Water and the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency. Levels peaked at 46,079 acre-feet (AF) of storage but are currently decreasing as the district continues its water conservation releases from Santa Felicia Dam.
- 13,788 AF of water was diverted by the Freeman Diversion facility in December.
- 11,248 AF of water was delivered to the Saticoy recharge basins in December (metered plus unmetered, including Noble and Rose Basins).
- 5,550 AF of surface water was delivered to the El Rio recharge basins in December.
- 306 AF of surface water was delivered to the PTP system in December.
- 0 AF of surface water was delivered to C customers in December.
- 316 AF of surface water was delivered to Pleasant Valley County Water District in December.

2. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
 - On December 1, 2023, the lake level was 1016.34 and reached a peak of 1021.03 on December 31st, 2023.
-

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

- Conservation and migration releases from the Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) varied due to Freeman water harvesting activities and rainfall during the month of December, at a release rate of 7-295 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- Lake Piru Marina inspection / damage assessment performed by Cal OES and FEMA.
- Bathymetric survey performed and completed by FUGRO.
- **Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities**
 - Diversion rates at the Freeman Diversion averaged 225 cfs for the month of December.
 - District staff operated the Freeman Diversion throughout the month of December, harvesting Santa Felicia Dam release flows, recharging basins, and delivering surface water to El Rio, PTP and PV pipelines.
 - Staff performed various heavy equipment operations in preparation for storm season to include scraping of ponds O and J, sediment removal and grading of roadways.
 - Brush removal near the “3 barrels” completed per Engineering’s request.
 - “South Fire” occurred on 12/9/23 and was contained on 12/12/23. The fire burned a total of 2,715 acres. United Water staff worked closely with multiple fire agencies by providing access for fire attack and kept ponds full for Fire Helicopters to draw water from.
 - Spraying operations are ongoing and continuing utilizing United Water’s new Can-Am herbicide application vehicles (HAV’s).
 - Static water levels (/distance of water from the well pad to the water table):

	2023	2022	2021
Saticoy	28’	143’	148’
El Rio	71’	150’	147’
PTP	80’-111’	122’-143’	115’-154’

- **Oxnard-Hueneme (OH) Delivery System**
 - Staff assisted with installation of cement vault at EL Rio that will serve as a housing for 42” OH pipeline inspection hatch that was constructed in August 2023.
 - UWCD staff assisted Division of Drinking Water engineer conduct their tri-annual sanitary survey of EL Rio treatment facilities and new Iron/Manganese Plant.
 - Staff went through annual CPR and first-aid training at UWCD headquarters.
 - Staff installed the first stage of new 12” discharge piping for OH Well 20 while General Pump Co. placed new tube/shaft and pump assembly down conductor hole.

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- Staff installed a new section of 18" piping on EL Rio Gas Engine #1 discharge header.
- EL Rio operators had to reset 800 KW backup generator multiple times after bird strikes tripped electrical power supply to OH wells.
- **Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD)**
 - PVCWD received United's surface water supply, surface supply from Conejo Creek Project and received highly treated recycled water from the City of Oxnard's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF).
 - 12% sodium hypochlorite injection continues at Saticoy's Moss Screen facilities for quagga mussel control.
 - Staff discussed possible changes to future PVCWD supply and demand structure.
- **Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)**
 - During the month of December, the PTP system demand was met primarily with surface water and supplemented with PTP wells.
 - Staff upgraded PTP Turnout meter #114 with Endress Hauser Electromagnetic meter.
 - Staff, along with UWCD Engineering Dept., developed plan to replace multiple defective isolation valves throughout PTP System in 2024.
- **Control Systems**
 - Control Systems staff replaced outdated Marsh-McBirney Flo-dar meter that used to measure Freeman Diversion flow rates with a new Sommer SQ-Xa flowmeter.
 - Staff rectified SCADA issues that were displaying inaccurate flow rates into the Noble Basin. Programmed telemetry to register "no flows" when mechanical entry gates are closed.
 - Staff programmed OH Well 13 to remain out of service until EL Rio operator deems it necessary to run. This new setting will ensure well does not start when not needed, which will prevent discharge line from over pressurizing.
 - Staff programed and commissioned an Endress Hauser Electromagnetic flow meter at Turnout #114 off Laguna Road.
 - Staff worked on installing new electrical conduits that will supply power to flow meter and motor to newly constructed OH Well 20.
- **Lake Piru Water System**
 - All chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the drinking water system were within proper ranges for the month of November.
 - 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.

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3. Operations and Maintenance Projects Update

- EL Rio operators went through quarterly exercise of donning chemical resistant A-suit, SCBA unit and applying multiple repair kits for stopping leaks on chlorine ton containers.
- Staff replaced air vent screens on OH Clear Well covers and made minor repairs to air vacuum valves on discharge manifolds for a few OH wells.
- UWCD staff attended meeting on protocol for future Quagga decontamination procedures.
- UWCD staff held interviews for new EL Rio operator positions; two candidates were chosen to start employment in January 2024.
- Staff participated in selecting a construction management firm to oversee OH Well 14 energy efficiency upgrade project that is slated to commence in fiscal year 2024-2025.
- UWCD staff met with Sunshine Homes to finalize documentation for purchase of new modular home, which will replace current EL Rio break room.

- **Other Operations and Maintenance Activities**
 - Staff facilitated tours at Freeman Diversion facilities.
 - Staff continued oversight of the chemical injection process at the Moss screen for quagga control.
 - Monthly bacteria samples were obtained for the PTP system.
 - Monthly meter readings were obtained for OH, PTP and PV pipelines.
 - Staff completed and electronically transmitted the monthly OH Surface Water Treatment Rule 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

- The online Target Safety assignment for November was “Water Industry Industrial Ergonomics.”
- Staff deployed new safety and security signs as part of the Santa Felicia Dam Public Safety Plan assessment.
- 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; specifically, tailgate safety meetings were conducted prior to every commencement of maintenance activities at the Freeman Diversion.

Attachment: Operations Log for December.