

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

General Manager

Legal Counsel David D. Boyer

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

AGENDA ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, March 7, 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 February 1, 2024, Engineering and Operations Committee meeting minutes.

3. March 13, 2024, Board Meeting Motion Agenda Items

Review, discuss, and make a recommendation on the following agenda items for approval at the March 13, 2024, Board meeting.

3.1 Professional Consulting Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to Develop 30% Design of the Lake Piru Recreation Area Facility Improvement Plan (FIP) (CIP 8055)

(Engineering Department, Dr. Maryam Bral)

Recommend approval of the motion to the Board authorizing the General Manager to execute a professional consulting services agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$407,000 to develop the 30% design package of the Lake Piru Recreation Area Facility Improvement Plan (FIP) (CIP 8055).

3.2 Construction Contract with ABC - Liovin Drilling, Inc. for EBB Phase 1 Monitoring Wells (CIP 8019)

(Engineering Department, Dr. Maryam Bral)

Recommend approval of the motion to the Board authorizing the General Manager to award a construction contract to the lowest responsive bidder, ABC - Liovin Drilling, Inc. in the amount of \$2,746,539 [\$2,692,685 plus 2% contingency] for the construction of the Extraction Barrier Brackish Water Treatment (EBB) Phase 1 Monitoring Wells (CIP 8019).

4. Monthly Department Updates Information Item

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 Annual Investigation and Report of Groundwater Conditions within United Water Conservation District (Dr. Zach Hanson) Staff will brief the Committee on the annual report on groundwater conditions within the District for the past, current and ensuing water year, in conformance with Section 75560 of the California Water Code.
- 4.2 Engineering Department Update (Informational Item Only No Presentation)
- 4.3 Environmental Services Department Update (Marissa Caringella)
- 4.4 Operations and Maintenance Department Update (Craig Morgan)
- **Future Agenda Items** 5.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Staff: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr. Anthony Emmert Dr. Marvam Bral Marissa Caringella Craig Morgan

Randy Castaneda Dr. Zach Hanson Robert Richardson JD Smallwood Nathan Summerville Vanessa Vasquez

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda material in an alternative format, please contact the District's offices at (805) 525-4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

> FOR MEG

Approved:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer

Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer

(time)10:35 a.m.

(attest) Vanessa Vasquez

Posted: (date March 1, 2024 At: www.unitedwater.org (attest) Vanessa Vasquez Posted: (date) March 1, 2024 (time) 10:35 a.m. At: United Water Conservation District Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030



ENGINEERING and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Board of Directors Sheldon G. Berger, President Lynn E. Maulhardt, Vice President Catherine P. Keeling, Secretary/Treasurer Mohammed A. Hasan Gordon Kimball Daniel C. Naumann

General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Legal Counsel David D. Boyer

Thursday, February 1, 2024, 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

Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer Marissa Caringella, environmental services manager Craig Morgan, chief operations officer John Lindquist, water resources supervisor Josh Perez, human resources manager Robert Richardson, principal engineer Nathan Summerville, senior engineer Vanessa Vasquez, clerk of the committee Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Burt Handy

Call to Order – Open Session

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

1. Public Comments Information Item

Chair Maulhardt asked for public comment. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion to approve the Minutes from January 4, 2024, Engineering and Operations Committee meeting, Chair Maulhardt; Second, Naumann. Voice vote: three ayes (Naumann, Maulhardt and Keeling); none opposed. Motion carries 3/0/0.

3. February 14, 2024, Board Meeting Motion Agenda Item

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following motion item to formulate recommendations to the full Board at its February 14, 2024, meeting.

3.1 Inverted Siphon Construction Contract (CIP 8018)

(Engineering Department, Dr. Maryam Bral) (presentation attached). Recommend the approval of the motion to the Board authorizing the General Manager to award a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Granite, in the amount of \$891,000 for the construction of the Inverted Siphon Replacement Project a component of the Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade – Freeman to Ferro Recharge Basin (CIP 8018).

Director Naumann would like the motion item slide to include grant support details along with information related to conversations with local project site residents. Director Keeling expressed concerns over the Inverted Siphon construction compromising an area near a family's orchard in which Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan stated that staff would do their due diligence to recompact the area, if necessary, making it more secure.

Chair Maulhardt asked for public comment, none offered.

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).

4.1 Engineering Department Update

Dr. Maryam Bral presented department updates that included the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (SFD SIP), 2023 Bathymetric Survey, Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade, Oxnard - Hueneme Pipeline (OHP) Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility, Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) – Phase 1 and a Project Overview.

The Committee members would like to see the Project Overview slide separated into three slides. The following were recommended:

- First slide to include a project timeline
- Second slide to include costs and focus point indicated in pink
- Third slide to include grant funding information
- Labeling of any projects that increase water supply

4.2 Environmental Services Department Update

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella presented Environmental Services department updates that included Freeman Diversion Updates



including an open Fish Ladder, MSHCP, Grant Application submission and support (presentation attached).

Director Naumann asked for a review status timeline on the application submitted for grant program funding for the hardened ramp fish passage facility. Ms. Caringella explained that United had not heard back on the application yet, timeline is unconfirmed, but awards are anticipated by the end of the year.

No further questions or comments offered.

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update

Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan presented Operations and Maintenance department updates that covered the Santa Felicia Spillway Drain, Saticoy Recharge Basins, Dos Diegos, El Rio Water Treatment Facility and the Pleasant Valley Reservoir (presentation attached).

The Committee members congratulated Mr. Morgan on his promotion to Chief Operations Officer. During Mr. Morgan's presentation Chair Maulhardt and Director Keeling recommended two different companies for soil testing. Mr. Morgan stated staff will review different options.

No further questions or comments offered.

5. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items offered.

Chair Maulhardt asked staff to have internal discussions with management on possible external collaboration to combat invasive arundo.

A recommendation was made to include a summary slide in future agenda packets with project costs and grant support information as well as posting it to the District's website for transparency.

ADJOURNMENT 10:41 a.m.

Chair Maulhardt adjourned the meeting at 10:41 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 February 1, 2024.

ATTEST:

Chair Lynn E. Maulhardt



ATTENDANCE LIST

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

General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

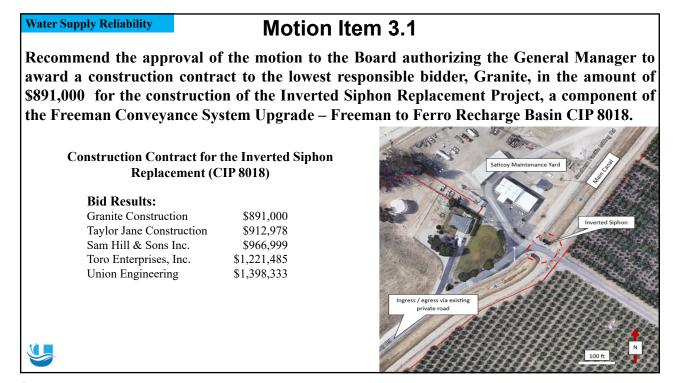
Legal Counsel David D. Boyer

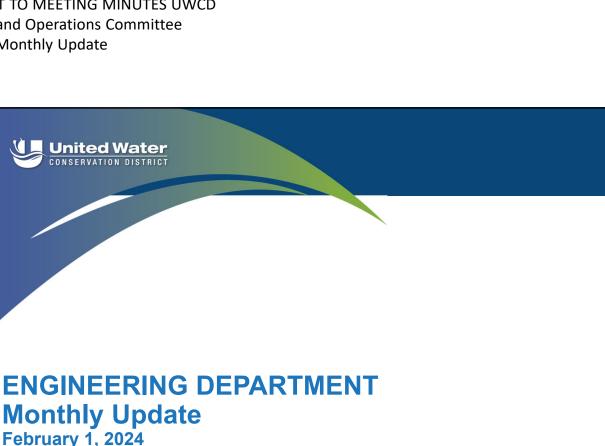
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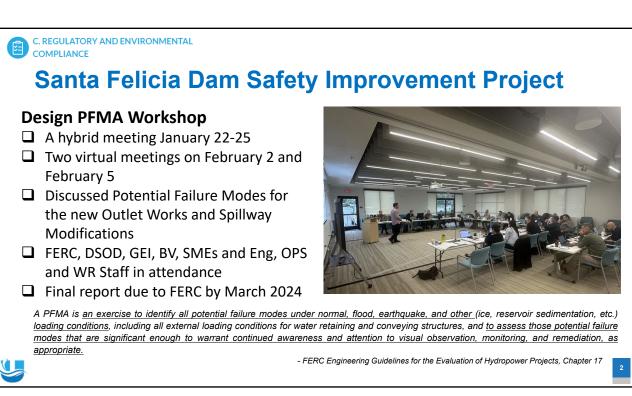
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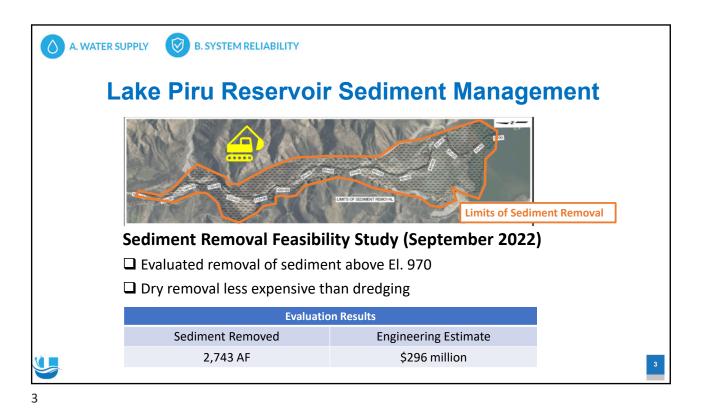
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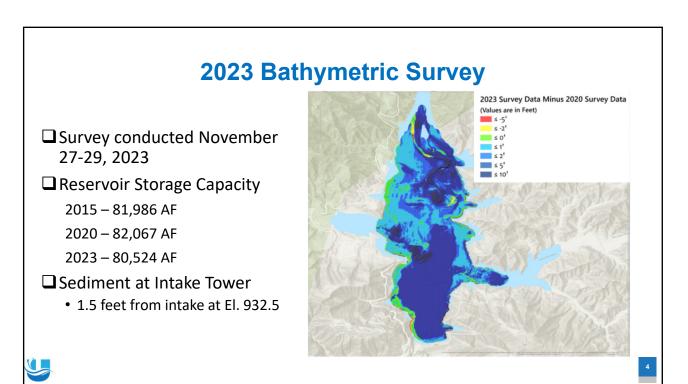
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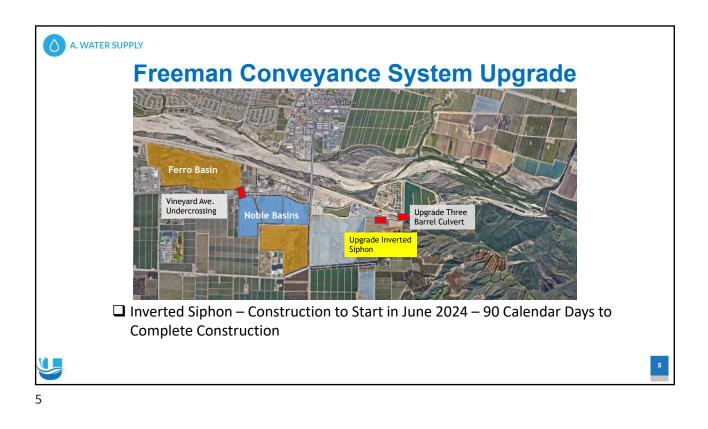




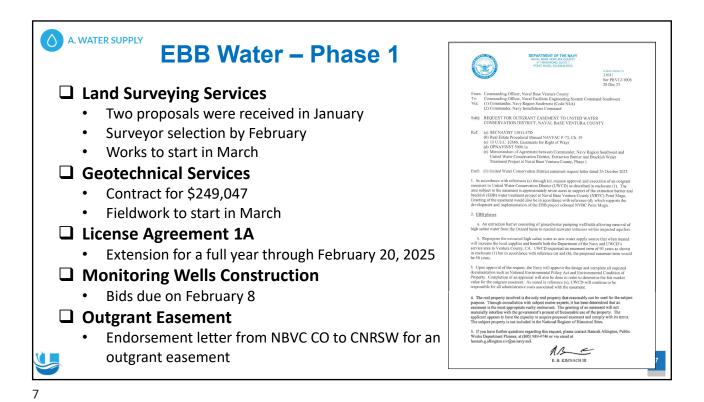




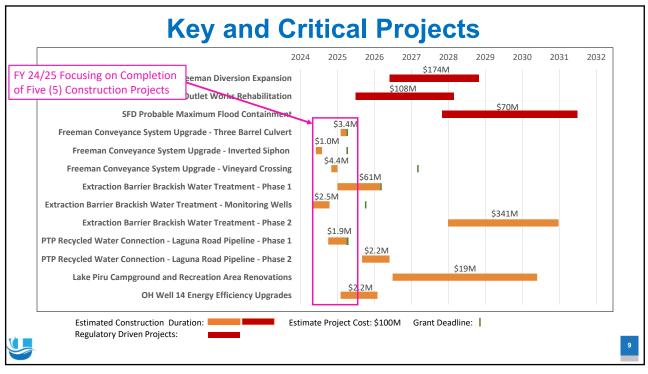








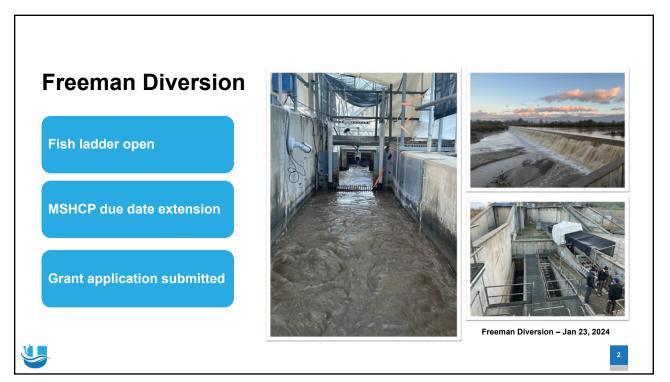


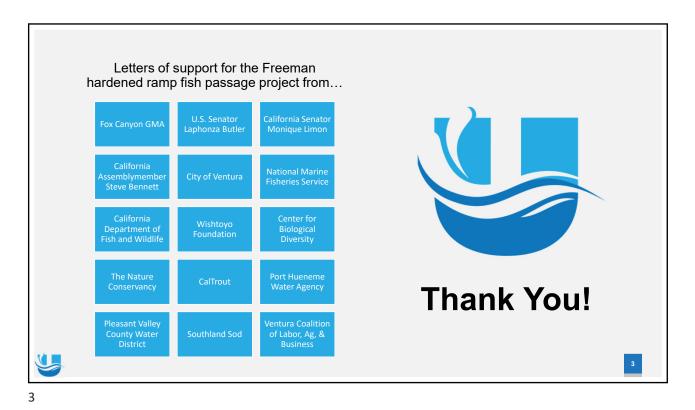




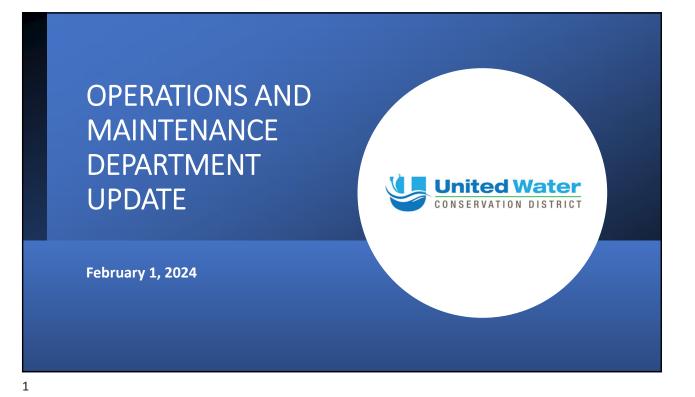




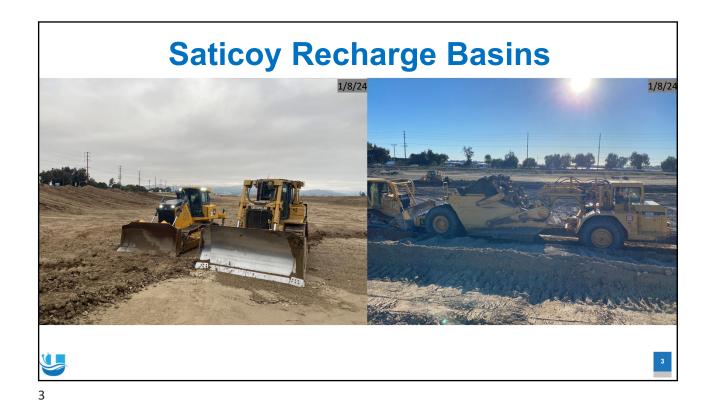




ATTACHMENT TO MEETING MINUTES UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Operations and Maintenance Monthly Update





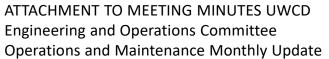




ATTACHMENT TO MEETING MINUTES UWCD

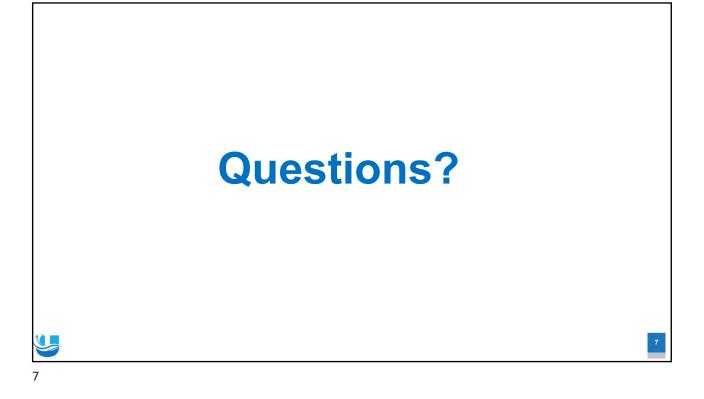
Operations and Maintenance Monthly Update

Engineering and Operations Committee











Staff Report

То:	Engineering and Operations Committee Members		
Through:	Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager		
From:	Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer Adrian Quiroz, Engineer		
cc:	Brian Zahn, Chief Financial Officer Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer		
Date:	February 29, 2024 (March 07, 2024, Committee Meeting)		
Agenda Item:	3.1 Authorize Approval of a Professional Consulting Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to develop the		

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will consider recommending approval of the motion to authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) in the amount of \$407,00.00 to develop the 30% design package of the Lake Piru Recreation Area Facilities Improvement Project (FIP), to the full Board.

Background:

United Water Conservation District (District) is in the process of designing campground facility improvements to the Lake Piru Recreation Area (LPRA). The District seeks to improve visitor experience at the LPRA by renovating the existing Olive Grove, Oak Lane, Lower Oaks and Group Camp 1 Campgrounds and by creating a new recreational vehicle (RV) campground at the Overflow Campground. Based on revenue estimates conducted by Stantec in 2022, using 2021 LPRA revenue and occupancy data, the improvements are expected to increase year-round campground occupancy by approximately seventy-five (75) percent and total annual revenue by approximately \$380,000 (2022 USD). The multi-year construction of the improvements would be implemented in three (3) phases; Phase 1 would consist of constructing the new RV campground at the Overflow Campground; Phase 2 would consist of renovating the Olive Grove Campground; and Phase 3 would consist of renovating the Oak Lane, Lower Oaks and Group 1 Campsites. The total cost of the Lake Piru Recreation Area FIP, including design, permitting, bidding, and construction is estimated to be \$17.7 million (2022 USD).

Discussion:

Agenda Item: 3.1 Authorize Approval of a Professional Consulting Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to develop the 30% Design of the Lake Piru Recreation Area Facilities Improvement Plans – Lake Piru Recreation Area Facilities Improvement Plan (CIP 8055) Board Motion

A conceptual design package for the Lake Piru Recreation Area FIP was completed by Stantec in November 2022. The conceptual design package developed three (3) alternatives, which varied in the number of camp sites, amenities, and level of service. At the June 14, 2023 Borad of Directors meeting, the Board adopted the proposed conceptual draft of the FIP and the General Manager was authorized to direct staff to advance the preferred alternative (Alternative 2) to 30% and 60% design phases. Included in the 30% design phase services developed by Stantec are a comprehensive topographic and boundary survey that would be used to develop a base map for the design, a geotechnical investigation supported by a nine (9) borehole drilling exploration program; 30% design plans consisting of approximately one hundred five (105) sheets; and a water distribution system analysis to support the design of a new water distribution system. It is anticipated that Stantec will proceed with the 30% design phase in March 2024 and be completed by December 2024. Subsequently, sufficient funds are included in the FY 2024-25 budget to begin work on the 60% design phase.

A copy of Stantec's complete proposal, including the scope of work and deliverables, proposed fee, and the project schedule, is included in Attachment A.

Mission Goal:

Meets Mission-Related Goal B, System Reliability, and Goal D, Fiscal Responsibility.

Fiscal Impact:

Sufficient funds to cover the proposed contract amount of \$407,000.00 are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 and 2024-25 budgets (Project Account No. 8055-815).

Attachment:

Attachment A Lake Piru Recreation Facilities 30% Design Proposal from Stantec



Staff Report

	3.2 Construction Contract with ABC – Liovin Drilling, Inc. for EBB Phase 1 Monitoring Wells (CIP 8019) Board Motion
Date:	Chris Coppinger, Senior Hydrogeologist February 26, 2023 (March 7, 2023, Committee Meeting)
From:	Dr. Maryam Bral, Chief Engineer John Linquist Water Resources Supervisor
Through:	Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
То:	Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will consider recommending approval of the motion item to the full Board that considers authorizing the General Manager to award a construction contract to the lowest responsive bidder, ABC Liovin Drilling Inc, in the amount of \$2,746,539 [\$2,692,685 plus 2% contingency] for the construction of the Extraction Barrier Brackish Water Treatment (EBB) Phase 1 Monitoring Wells. A California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Round 1 grant will offset approximately 40% of project costs.

Discussion:

This project will install a new monitoring well field at Navy Base Ventura County, Point Mugu (NBVC). The new wells will provide additional aquifer and water quality data for EBB Phase 1 extraction well field design and permitting, serve as sentinel wells for the EBB extraction barrier, and provide United monitoring points for groundwater level and quality.

A total of 20 wells will be installed at 5 different sites. The wells will be constructed in both nests (multiple wells in the same borehole) and clusters (several wells sited near each other). The wells will be screened in the semi-perched aquifer and the upper aquifer system. Following construction, the wells will be sampled for water quality parameters, instrumented with pressure transducers and dataloggers, and included in United's regular data collection efforts. Pending Navy approval, key monitoring wells will be equipped with cellular telemetry systems.

3.2 Construction Contract with ABC – Liovin Drilling, Inc. for EBB Phase 1 Monitoring Wells (CIP 8019)

Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., prepared technical specifications, drawings and bid schedule for the project. Jacobs will also provide field services during the construction of the wells.

Contract documents were published January 2, 2024. A pre-bid job walk was conducted January 18, 2024. Five drilling contractors attended the meeting. Before bids were due one of the contractors indicated that they did not have equipment available to meet United's schedule and another contractor stated they would not have the bonding capacity for the bid. Two bids were received on February 8, 2024. The lowest responsive bid was provided by ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc.

The bids received are summarized in the table below.

Bidder	Base Bid ^A	Total Bid ^A		
ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc.	\$ 1,630,015.00 ^B	\$ 2,692,235.00 ^B		
Cascade Drilling, LP ^{C, D}	\$ 1,317,090.00	\$ 2,222,375.00		

EBB Phase 1 Monitoring Well Bid Results

Notes:

- A Base Bid includes construction of 18 monitoring wells targeting portions of Semi-Perched, Oxnard, and Mugu aquifers. The Total Bid adds optional drilling methods, geophysical testing, and the construction of two additional wells for extraction testing. One well will fully penetrate the Oxnard aquifer, the other fully penetrates the Mugu. These test wells may be utilized as monitoring wells when the aquifer testing is completed.
- B ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc.'s proposal contained a math error on bid schedule item 11. The extended cost was not correctly calculated from the unit cost resulting in a \$450 error. Prices shown have been corrected.
- C Cascade Drilling, LP's proposal did not acknowledge the second addendum that was published.
- D Cascade Drilling, LP took exception to liquidated damages clauses and insurance requirements in the construction contract.

Cascade Drilling, LPs exceptions to the contract were considered material defects to the bid based on United procurement policy, grant funding deadline requirements, and insurance requirements in the license agreement between NBVC and United.

Based on the information and references provided, staff have verified that ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc. has satisfactory experience to perform the work.

3.2 Construction Contract with ABC – Liovin Drilling, Inc. for EBB Phase 1 Monitoring Wells (CIP 8019)

Staff recommends that the Committee recommend the full Board to authorize the General Manager to award the construction contract to ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc. for the construction of EBB Phase 1 Monitoring Wells.

Fiscal Impact:

The Adopted FY 23-24 CIP Budget in the amount of \$4.18 million under construction provides sufficient funding for the total construction cost (including contingency) in the amount of \$2,746,539. This cost, along with \$412,316 design contract with Jacobs, initial sampling, and instrumentation costs will be partially offset by a DWR SGM grant of \$1,317,900.



Staff Report

To:Engineering and Operations Committee MembersThrough:Mauricio E. Guardado Jr., General ManagerFrom:Maryam A. Bral, Chief Engineer
Robert J. Richardson, Principal Engineer
Nathan Summerville, Senior Engineer
Adrian Quiroz, Engineer
Kaili Taniguchi, EngineerDate:February 29, 2024 (March 7, 2024, meeting)Agenda Item:4.2 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 February 2024.

Discussion:

- 1. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project
 - Spillway Improvement Project
 - The construction management firm for the Outlet Works Improvement Project, Black & Veatch (BV), and UWCD Engineering, Environmental Services and O&M staff conducted a site visit on February 15, 2024 (See Figure 1) to discuss several considerations for enhancing contractor access/egress and staging areas during construction for both the Outlet Works and Spillway Improvement projects.
 - Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - Board of Consultants (BOC) Meeting No.9 for the 100% design package has been scheduled for May 1-2, 2024. The 100% design package will be submitted to FERC and the BOC no later than April 15, 2024, prior to the BOC Meeting.
 - On February 15, 2024, UWCD and BV met with Piru Neighborhood Council Member, Ken Wiseman, to discuss the needs and concerns of the Piru Community relate to recreational opportunities at Lake Piru, releases from Santa Felicia Dam, Emergency Preparedness and construction of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project.

- On February 15, 2024, UWCD staff and BV met with legal counsel to discuss contractor prequalification and bid strategies for the Outlet Works Improvement Project.
- Design PFMA 90% Outlet Works and 60% Spillway
 - Design PFMA Workshop The design PFMA workshop was conducted at District HQ from January 22 - 25, 2024, and two virtual overflow days were conducted on February 2, 2024, and February 5, 2024. An additional 8-hour overflow session has been scheduled for March 11, 2024, to finalize the PFMs that were identified but could not be fully developed during the previous workshop days. A Design PFMA Summary Report will be prepared by BV and submitted to the District for review in March 2024.
- FERC License Amendment Application, NEPA Documentation and the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
 - Please see the monthly Environmental Services Department staff report for additional updates. report.
- Loan and Grant Applications
 - Staff and the Grant Task Force (GTF) responded to multiple requests regarding the 2023 FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistant (FMA) grant sub-application. The sub-application was resubmitted multiple times to Cal OES and most recently on February 12, 2024.
 - On February 14, 2024, Staff and the GTF submitted the Part 1 Document expressing interest in FEMA's High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant funding for the 100% design scope of work for the Spillway Improvement Project.
- 2. Condor Point Improvement Project
 - No updates to report this period.
- 3. Lake Piru Recreation Area Facility Improvement Plan (FIP)
 - Staff received a proposal from Stantec for development of the 30% and 60% design of the FIP. Please refer to Motion Item related to this project.
- 4. Freeman Diversion Expansion
 - Staff continue to meet with the special advisors to provide data to be used in their sediment model.
 - Staff continue to participate in meetings and discussions for the delivery of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Please see the monthly Environmental Services Department staff report for additional updates.
 - Staff collected and provided imagery data to NHC to analyze the impacts of recent storms on the geomorphology downstream.

5. Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- GSE has submitted approximately 400 out of a total of 411 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-Two (42) Change Orders (COs) have been fully executed to date amounting to a net total of \$1,473,222.18. This represents approximately 15.8% 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 \$810,311.99 or 8.7% 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 and Filter Vessel CAV Modifications (see Figure 3)
 - Washwater Recovery Tank Floating Decanter Troubleshooting (see Figure 4)
 - Replacement of buried 24" Filter Water Butterfly Valve Gearbox (see Figures 5 and 6)
- 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.
- 6. PTP Metering Improvement Project
 - Total number of meters installed: 53 of 60 or 88.3% complete.
 - One (1) meter installed on February 22, 2024 (Turnout No. 161).
 - Easement acquisition completion: 33 of 41 obtained or 80.5% complete (no change).
 - Task Order No. 3 with Hamner, Jewell and Associates was prepared in the amount of \$7,700 to assist in the acquisition of eight (8) outstanding 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)
- 7. <u>PTP Recycled Water Connection Laguna Road Pipeline Project</u>
 - On February 20, UWCD and PVCWD Staff met to discuss draft terms of a recycled water delivery agreement and wheeling rates.

- Staff completed their review of the draft Initial Study Mitigation Negative Declaration (IS-MND) and submitted comments to Rincon Consultants. The draft IS-MND is expected to be issued for public review and comments in April.
- Staff worked with MKN Associates to incorporate a blow-off into the design of the pipeline at the Revolon Slough crossing. Staff also worked with MKN Associates on a scope of work to update coverage under the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Rincon Consultants to update the CEQA IS-MND.
- On February 23, MKN Associates' geotechnical subconsultant conducted a hand auger boring at the location of the future booster pump station along Laguna Road and Wood Road.
- 8. <u>Rice Avenue Grade Separation Project and Impact on PTP</u>
 - No update to report.
- 9. <u>State Water Project (SWP) Interconnection Pipeline Project</u>
 - No update to report.

10. Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade - Freeman to Ferro

- A contract for final design with HDR Engineering, Inc for \$227,000 was executed and United held a kick-off meeting and site visit with HDR staff on February 22, 2024.
- United Staff submitted the first progress report and invoice under the Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan). The IRWM grant will provide one million dollars in funding to the Vineyard Avenue Crossing Project with the requirement for the District to fund a million dollars in match.
- A Notice of Award was provided to Granite Construction for the construction of the Inverted Siphon Project. The Board of Directors approved the construction contract under Motion Item 5.2 as part of the February regular meeting.
- Staff conducted a pre-application meeting with Ventura County Watershed Protection District and the United States Army Corp of Engineers for 408 Application for the Three Barrel Culvert Replacement Project.

11. Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- Agreements:
 - On February 12, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southwest Real Estate Product Support Division provided draft Modification No. 1 to the succeeding monitoring wells license agreement that covers construction, access, maintenance, operation, and data collection of new monitoring wells (EM-1 through EM-5). Staff returned comments on the agreement to NAVFAC on February 20.

- Grants:
 - 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 March 2024.
 - On February 7, Staff visited DFA staff at the CalEPA headquarters in Sacramento to discuss the status of the project and grant agreement.
- Meetings:
 - Held regular progress meetings with District staff, Navy staff, Phase 1 project design team (KJ) and environmental documentation and permitting team (ESA Consultants).
- Design:
 - On February 9, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants (K/J) submitted the Basis of Design Report which is currently under review by District Staff.
 - On February 23, District and NAVFAC Staff conducted site reconnaissance at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu to evaluate project impacts by the abandonment of proposed extraction well site "EBB3" due to storm-related damage to Beach Road (see Figure 9).
- CEQA/NEPA/Permits:
 - Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.
- Geotech/Hydrogeology:
 - Additional boring locations were identified on February 23.
- Land Surveying:
 - Staff reviewed two (2) proposals received for land surveying services at NBVC Point Mugu and additional questions for clarification were issued to prospective land surveyors on February 23. Work is anticipated to proceed in March 2024.

12. Asset Management/ CMMS System

- District staff participated in learning sessions with GEI, AtkinsRéalis, and HDR Engineers Inc. to discuss Asset Management and Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS). Operations and Engineering staff attended the sessions.
- 13. OH Water Well No.20
 - The General Pump Company completed the installation and start-up testing of the pump and motor for OH Well No. 20 on February 09, 2024. Staff is currently

working to obtain the DDW Permit Amendment that would allow delivery of OH Well No. 20 water into the distribution system.

- 14. OH Well 14 Energy Efficiency Upgrade
 - The District's consultant MNS has completed the field work for geotechnical and survey to support the preliminary design effort for the replacement of the OH Well 14 discharge line.

15. <u>California American Water (CalAm) Emergency Use Interconnection to the OH</u> <u>Pipeline</u>

• In September 2021, United Board of Directors authorized execution of an agreement (Agreement) with CalAm to establish an emergency use interconnection to the OH Pipeline for providing additional system reliability to the El Rio Service Area. The Agreement between United and CalAm was fully executed by the General Manager on February 14, 2024. Per the Agreement, CalAm is allowed to establish emergency connections to the OH pipeline, one at the intersection of North Rose Avenue and Simon Way and another near the intersection of North Rose Avenue and E. Collins Road. The emergency connection at Simon Way includes a new valve and a lateral from the OH Pipeline existing 8-inch nozzle to a new metering vault within street right of way on Simon Way between North Rose Avenue and George Street. The E. Collins Road emergency connection is for future use and only includes a new valve and a lateral from an existing 8-inch nozzle on the OH Pipeline. CalAm has completed the design plans which were reviewed by Staff and is currently coordinating the construction schedule with the Engineering and Operations Staff. Construction of the emergency connections, which is expected to start in late 2024 requires a shutdown. The OH Pipeline shutdown and construction activities will be closely coordinated with the District customers at the minimum two weeks prior to the shutdown.

16. Other Topics, Meetings and Training

- On February 8 through 9, Maryam Bral, Robert Richardson and Chris Coppinger attended the 2024 CalDesal Annual Conference in Sacramento and presented progress on the Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project (see Figure 7 and 8).
- On February 9, 2024, Nathan Summerville and Destiny Rubio attended the APWA Lunch.
- On February 15, 2024, Robert Richardson and Nathan Summerville attended the AWA Breakfast.
- Winter storms have caused erosion of the Santa Clara River Levee owned and operated by Watershed Protection (See Figure 2). On February 22, Nathan Summerville attended a progress meeting with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for the Santa Clara River Levee (SCR-1) to find out about the

status of the SCR-1 project and the County's maintenance plan for the portion of the levee upstream of the SCR-1 adjacent to the Ferro Basin.



Figure 1 – Site visit with BV on February 15, 2024



Figure 2 – Erosion of Santa Clara River Levee adjacent to Ferro Basin



Figure 3 – Installation of 3" Electrically Actuated Valves on Filter Vessel Vents



Figure 4 – O&M Staff Ascending Washwater Recovery Tank Ladder for Inspection



Figure 5 – GSE Construction Vacuum Excavating at Buried 24" Butterfly Valve



Figure 6 – GSE Construction Replacing Gearbox at Buried 24" Butterfly Valve



Figure 7 – Maryam B., Chris C., Robert R. for 2024 CalDesal Annual Conference



Figure 8 – Robert R. and Chris C. co-presenting at 2024 CalDesal Annual Conference



Figure 9 – Nathan J. (NAVFAC), Tessa L., Maryam B., Chris C. at NBVC Point Mugu on February 23



Staff Report

То:	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:	February 29, 2024 (March 7, 2024, meeting)		
Agenda Item:	4.3 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 February 2024.

Discussion:

- 1. <u>Santa Felicia Project Operations and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)</u> <u>License Support</u>
 - Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (SFDSIP)

On January 30, 2024, Environmental Services staff (ES) submitted the 2023 Annual Project Activity Progress Report in compliance with the SFDSIP's 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board.

On January 30, 2024, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) filed a letter with FERC with comments on the project and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation. In response, United will meet with FERC to discuss the path forward for consultation.

On February 15, 2024, ES participated in a project site tour with Black & Veatch, the construction management firm for the Outlet Works Improvement Project. In addition, ES met with the full project team to discuss environmental compliance coordination and implementation during construction.

On February 23, 2024, NMFS filed a letter with FERC requesting a response from FERC on aspects of the project and the ESA Section 7 consultation.

On February 28, 2024, United met with FERC to discuss the SFDSIP and the ESA Section 7 consultation process.

• Santa Felicia Fish Passage Pre-Implementation Studies

Trapping activities in middle Piru Creek continued in late January and February 2024. High flows and hazardous road conditions due to storm activity have periodically limited trap operations and site access. Both fish traps (rotary screw and fyke) have operated as flows and access allow. One passive integrated transponder (PIT) antenna was partially damaged during a mid-February storm. Cramer Fish Sciences staff, with support from ES, expect to complete the repair before the end of February. Trap and PIT antenna operations are planned to continue through May 2024 as flows allow.

• Water Release Plan and Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan

Under the Water Release Plan and FERC license for the Santa Felicia Project, United Water Conservation District (United) is required to make certain water releases from the Santa Felicia Dam for steelhead habitat and migration when specific triggers are met. Triggers for habitat water releases are based on cumulative rainfall within the water year. United evaluates whether the trigger is met on the first day of each month, between January and June. The table below presents trigger criteria for each month and minimum required releases if those triggers are met. Each month that the trigger is not met, the minimum required habitat water release is seven (7) cubic feet per second (cfs). The total precipitation as of March 1, 2024, has met the triggers for elevated habitat releases for the water year. The minimum required habitat water release for the month of March is 20 cfs.

Habitat water release trigger date	Trigger criteria (total cumulative precipitation on trigger date)	Minimum required water release if trigger is met	2024 Measured cumulative precipitation	Actual minimum required habitat water release for month
January 1	4.80 inches	15 cfs	4.64 inches	7 cfs
February 1	8.10 inches	20 cfs	7.82 inches	7 cfs
March 1	12.00 inches	20 cfs	21.12 inches	20 cfs
April 1	14.90 inches	20 cfs	TBD	20 cfs
May 1	16.30 inches	10 cfs	TBD	10 cfs
June 1	17.50 inches	9 cfs*	TBD	9 cfs

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

• Annual Reporting and Notifications

Vegetation and Noxious Weed Management Plan: The 2023 Annual Report was submitted to the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) on February 21, 2024. ES will file the Annual Report with FERC following the USFS Annual Consultation on February 28, 2024.

Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP): On February 8, 2024, ES submitted a supplemental status update to FERC for the 2023 HPMP Annual Report. The supplemental information was requested by FERC staff and will finalize the annual reporting under the HPMP.

USFS Annual Consultation: On February 28, 2024, ES met with staff from the Los Padres National Forest for an annual consultation to discuss the USFS' 4(e) Conditions, as required by United's FERC license. Minutes from the consultation will be filed with FERC by May 15, 2024.

2. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of February, ES supported Freeman Diversion operations and maintenance activities by coordinating with and providing notifications to resource agencies as needed, conducting surveys of dewatered areas, and providing on-site biological monitoring. The fish ladder and surveillance system have remained in operation, except for a few interruptions due to storm impacts, since the Sespe trigger was met in late January.

On January 25, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued a draft Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) for the Freeman Diversion Routine Maintenance Project. On February 26, 2024, ES met with CDFW staff to discuss necessary revisions to the draft LSAA. ES will prepare and submit revisions.

3. Freeman Diversion Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

Following the January 17, 2024, status hearing in the *Wishtoyo et al. v. United* case, a meeting with special master Judge Smith, NMFS, and CDFW has been scheduled for April 3, 2024. The meeting is intended to address outstanding issues and determine next steps regarding the proposed fish passage improvements. Currently, the deadline for the Freeman Diversion MSHCP and associated court ordered regulatory applications is April 9, 2024.

4. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of February, 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 quagga mussel veliger (larva) sampling in United's lower system. United staff continues to meet regularly with

4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

Pleasant Valley County Water District. Additionally, ES ordered eight (8) totes of Clearigate product to replenish the product used to treat the Pleasant Valley reservoirs and to have additional product on hand for repeat treatments of the Pleasant Valley reservoirs as needed.

ES completed updates to United's "Unistandard Operating Procedures for Cleaning, Decontaminating, and Inspecting Equipment Exposed to Areas Contaminated with Quagga Mussels," which was last updated in 2016. The updated standard operating procedures for quagga mussel decontamination have been provided to United staff.

5. Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project (EBB Water Project)

On February 8, 2024, United submitted the initial draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Project Description to the Navy's NEPA team for review. This action kicks off the internal NEPA process and is progress towards federal environmental compliance for Phase 1 of the EBB Water Project.

6. <u>Capital Improvement Project Permitting and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)</u> <u>Support</u>

On February 1, 2024, ES submitted a request to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for a suspension of CEQA for the Vineyard Undercrossing Project under Paragraph 5 of Executive Order N-7-22. On February 21, 2024, the CNRA denied United's request to suspend CEQA. ES is working with Engineering to complete the CEQA requirements for the project.

On February 20, 2024, ES participated in the Three Barrel Culvert Replacement Project 408 pre-application meeting with the Engineering Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE confirmed that the project qualifies for a replacement of existing facilities categorical exclusion under NEPA. On February 21, 2024, Pax Environmental completed a cultural survey of the project area. A cultural resource assessment report is required for the 408 permit application. Pax Environmental expects to have the report completed by March 26, 2024.

7. Grant Efforts

On February 9, 2024, United submitted 60% design plans and associated supporting materials to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as requested to support the WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects grant application for the Freeman hardened ramp fish passage facility.

On February 14, 2024, United submitted a project description memorandum expressing interest in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY24 High Hazard Potential Dams grant funding for the design scope of work for the SFDSIP.

4.3 Monthly Environmental Services Department Report Information Item

During February, ES developed materials for the legislative team to support the federal appropriations budget process.

- 8. Miscellaneous
 - During late January and February, ES attended National Weather Service webinars for updates regarding storm forecasts.
 - On January 30, 2024, Andrew Dennhardt, a Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provided a presentation to ES on the results of USFWS' watershedwide least Bell's vireo surveys (which United has contributed to) and the recently published Arroyo Toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) 5-Year Review: Status and Evaluation.
 - On February 20, 2024, Terra Dressler, a Fisheries Biologist with Stillwater Sciences, provided a presentation to ES about her Ph.D. research which investigated the comparisons of thermal tolerance of geographically distinct populations of *Oncorhynchus mykiss*.
 - On February 29, 2024, ES attended the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee Meeting.
 - ES staff is developing a comment letter for the California Fish and Game Commission in response to the January 30, 2024, CDFW California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Status Review of Southern California Steelhead. The comment letter will be submitted in advance of a possible CESA listing decision at the April Fish and Game Commission meeting.



Staff Report

То:	Engineering and Operations Committee Members	
Through:	Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager	
From:	Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer Randy Castañeda, Operations Supervisor — Water Treatment J.D. Smallwood, Operations Supervisor — Water Distribution	
Date:	February 29, 2024 (March 7, 2024, meeting)	
Agenda Item:	4.4 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 February 2024.

1. Water Releases, Diversions

- Lake Piru rose to 27.52 feet in February. Levels peaked at 77,700 acre-feet (AF) of storage and are currently increasing primarily due to storm inflows.
- 7,168 AF of water was diverted by the Freeman Diversion facility in January.
- 3,899 AF of water was delivered to the Saticoy recharge basins in January (metered plus unmetered, including Noble and Rose Basins).
- 2,958 AF of surface water was delivered to the El Rio recharge basins in January.
- 206 AF of surface water was delivered to the PTP system in January.
- 0 AF of surface water was delivered to C customers in January.
- 100 AF of surface water was delivered to Pleasant Valley County Water District in January.

2. Major Facilities Update

Santa Felicia Dam

- On February 1st, 2024, the lake level was 1023.83 and reached a peak of 1051.35 on February 28, 2024.
- Santa Felicia Dam release flows varied from 7–208 CFS throughout February due to multiple Migration Releases initiated by rainfall throughout the county.
- United staff hosted a facility tour at Santa Felicia Dam for Black & Veatch on February 15, 2024, as part of the new Outlet Works / Spillway Design Project.
- SFD monthly inspection for February is near completion.

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

- Saticov staff assisting with Santa Felicia Dam activities and inspections as part of our cross-training program.
- Herbicide applications were performed at Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru Campgrounds.
- Siren test was held and completed on Friday, February 2nd.

• Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities

- Diversion rates at the Freeman Diversion averaged 101 cfs for the month of February.
- District staff operated the Freeman Diversion throughout the month of February, harvesting increased Santa Clara River flows due to storm events, accommodating fish ladder by-pass flows, recharging basins, and delivering surface water to El Rio, PTP and PV pipelines.
- Staff performed various heavy equipment operations which included: sediment removal from both Freeman Diversion's canal bay and head bay, road repairs / drainage pipe installation near the Rose Basin, and other miscellaneous tasks.
- Herbicide application tasks are ongoing and continuing near the Freeman Diversion and the Saticoy Spreading Grounds / Noble Basins.
- Static water levels (distance of water from the well pad to the water table):

	2024	2023	2022
Saticoy	28'	63'	106'
El Rio	71'	130'	131'
PTP	80'-111'	100-119'	100-139'

• Oxnard-Hueneme (OH) Delivery System

- Staff monitored contractors as they replaced air vacuum valves and installed electrical conduit to improve backwash process at Fe/Mn Plant.
- EL Rio operators sent out RFPs to prospective contractors regarding upcoming projects for OH and PTP systems.
- Staff reinforced drain outlet at EL Rio Pond 8 and began to install new catch basin and drain piping at Pond 9.
- Staff assisted contractor with annual flow test verifications for miscellaneous OH turnout meters.
- EL Rio operators performed multiple percolation tests on EL Rio ponds to determine which ones will be scraped in upcoming months.
- Completed quarterly and annual NPDES reports which are required by Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to maintain our current discharge permits.
- Staff replaced non-operational air vacuum valves on OH well field north manifold.
- Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD)

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

- 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 performed additional weed abatement at PV Reservoir after major brush clearing was completed last month.

• Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)

- During the month of January, the PTP system demand was met primarily with surface water and supplemented with PTP wells.
- Staff upgraded PTP Turnout meter #161 with Endress Hauser Electromagnetic meter.
- Staff performed annual PM work on 6" pressure valves at PTP Reservoir.
- Staff assisted QUINN CO. rectify alarm issues for PTP Well 5 emergency generator.
- Staff researched possible locations for installing Quagga mussel inspection plate at PTP Reservoir.

Control Systems

- Control Systems staff began preparations to install new flow meter at Freeman Diversion Auxiliary Gate.
- Staff replaced faulty level transducer at OH Well 19.
- Staff has started to develop program to have remote capability of verifying accuracy for PTP and OH well flow meters
- Staff programed and commissioned an Endress Hauser Electromagnetic flow meter at Turnout #161 off Laguna Road.
- Staff performed troubleshooting at Saticoy Moss Screen that revealed motor for trash pump will need to be replaced in the near future.
- Staff worked on EL Rio SCADA modifications for OH well energy efficiency program.

• Lake Piru Water System

- All chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the drinking water system were within proper ranges for February.
- 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.
- Basic maintenance and inspections are ongoing and continuing.

3. Operations and Maintenance Projects Update

- EL Rio staff began training two new operators on OH and PTP operations.
- Staff completed OSHA required HazWoper 40-hour training and SCBA fit-testing.

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

- EL Rio operators, along with UWCD engineering staff, attended meeting with County of Ventura cross-connection specialist to discuss new regulations on backflow device testing and recording.
- Staff continued relocating items from current EL Rio break room into temporary storage containers.
- Staff assisted with upgrades by Dial Security, to alarm system for EL Rio buildings.
- Staff participated in a meeting with MNS construction management firm to discuss possible locations for new 18" pipeline that will be part of the OH Well 14 energy efficiency upgrade.
- Saticoy and SFD staff united to complete a major spraying operation at the Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru campgrounds.
- Saticoy pond "O" scraping efforts at 100% completion.

4. Other Operations and Maintenance Activities

- 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.

5. 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 February.