

AGENDA
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

OPEN SESSION - ROLL CALL

1. Public Comments
Information Item

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 January 8, 2026, Committee meeting minutes.

3. UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Items

Review, discuss, and make a recommendation on the following agenda items considered for approval at the March 11, 2026, Board of Directors meeting:

3.1 Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Freeman Diversion Improvement Project

Motion

Consider recommending that the full Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign a Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI) for 60% design consulting services in connection with the Freeman Diversion Improvement Project (CIP 8001).

3.2 A Resolution Determining that the Lower Olive Grove Restroom Repair Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project

Motion

Consider recommending approval to the full Board of Directors of a resolution determining that the Lower Olive Grove Restroom Repair Project (Project) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approving the Project and directing staff to file the Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA.

4. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project Schedule Updates

(Assistant General Manager Dr. Maryam Bral)

Information Item

Receive an informational update from the Engineering Department regarding its activities in support of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project.



**5. 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.

5.1 Engineering Department Update (Engineering Manager Robert Richardson)

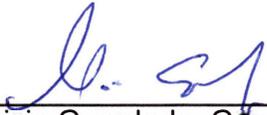
5.2 Environmental Services Department Update
(Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella)

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update
(Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan)

6. Future Agenda Items

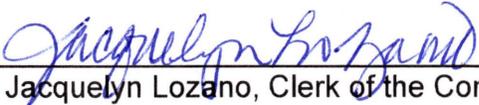
ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved: 
Mauricio Guardado, General Manager


Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

This Agenda was posted Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at United Water Conservation District Headquarters, Oxnard, CA and www.unitedwater.org.


Jacquelyn Lozano, Clerk of the Committee



United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Committee

Date: February 17, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: 2. Approval of Minutes
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the January 8, 2026, Committee meeting minutes that are attached.



Board of Directors
Lynn E. Maulhardt, President
Catherine P. Keeling, Vice President
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Ford
Mohammed A. Hasan
Steve Huber
Rachel Jones

General Manager
Mauricio Guardado

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

**MINUTES
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030**

OPEN SESSION

Director Gordon Kimball called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members Roll Call

Present: Directors Ford and Kimball

Absent: Director Keeling

1. Public Comments:

**2. Approval of Minutes
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) to approve November 6, 2025, minutes.

Voice vote: Ayes: Ford and Kimball; Noes: None; Absent: Keeling

3. January 8, 2026, UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Items

**3.1 Indemnification Agreement by and between United Water Conservation
District and Costco Wholesale Corporation
Motion**

Engineering Manager Robert Richardson summarized and presented this motion to the Committee for their consideration to the full Board of Directors for approval, presentation attached.

Director Kimball expressed his appreciation to staff for the good work put forth on this project.

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) to authorize the General Manager to execute the Indemnification Agreement by and between United Water Conservation District and Costco Wholesale Corporation related to the Pleasant Valley Pipeline facility near Springville Drive in the City of Camarillo.

Voice vote: Ayes: Ford and Kimball; Noes: None; Absent: Keeling



3.2 Permanent Access Easement from Costco Wholesale Corporation

Motion

Engineering Manager Robert Richardson summarized and presented this motion to the Committee for their consideration to the full Board of Directors for approval, presentation attached.

Director Kimball reiterated how pleased and thankful he was to all for the time and dedication put forth by District staff and representatives of Costco Whole Corporation (Costco) towards these projects. Mr. Richardson highlighted Senior Engineer Nathan Summerville's role in the process. Director Kimball also asked to please pass along appreciation from the Directors to Costco staff with them being so considerate. A representative from Costco voiced his thanks to District staff, mentioning they are great team to work with and went above and beyond expectations during this process.

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) to authorize the General Manager to sign and record the Permanent Access Easement granted by Costco Wholesale Corporation related to the Pleasant Valley Pipeline facility near Springville Drive in the City of Camarillo.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Ford, Kimball; Noes: None; Absent: Keeling

4. Monthly Department Updates

Information Items

4.1 Engineering Department

Engineering Manager Robert Richardson presented department highlights to the Committee, presentation attached.

Director Kimball provided, considering the tremendous amount of work it takes to complete dam reports and all the necessary paperwork, those things matter and aren't going unrecognized, and added he hopes staff makes the time for creative thinking and planning ahead.

4.2 Environmental Services Department

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella presented department highlights to the Committee, presentation attached.

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department

Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan presented department highlights to the Committee, presentation attached.

5. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were offered by the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Kimball adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.



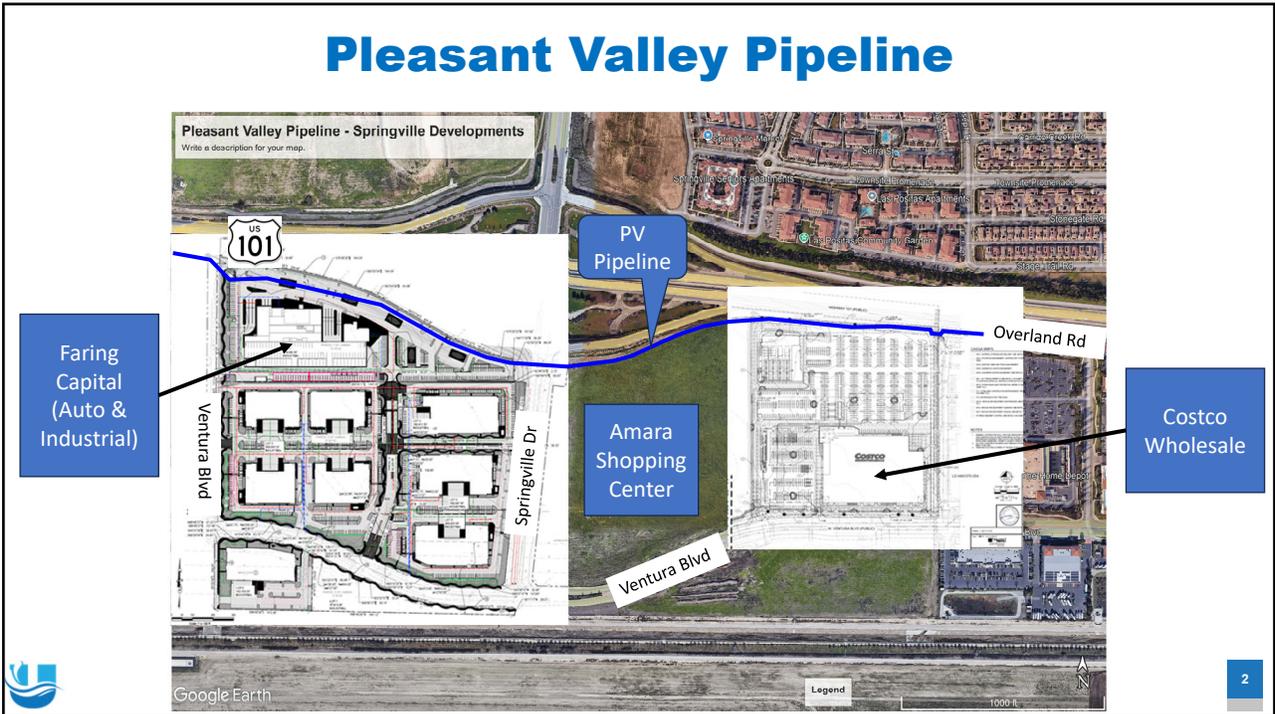
I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of January 8, 2026.

ATTEST: _____
Catherine P. Keeling, Chair



Motion Item 3.1 and 3.2 Related to Costco Development
January 8, 2026

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Costco Development - Background



Limit impact to existing pipeline



Pre/Post Inspection funded by Costco



Indemnification and hold harmless to protect District



Additional easement for O&M access



Motion Item 3.1: Authorize the Indemnification Agreement by and between United Water Conservation District and Costco Wholesale Corporation



- **Mitigates liability from development adjacent to PV Pipeline**
- **Protects from impact by Costco to District's O&M of PV Pipeline**
- **District legal counsel assisted with development and review**

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION

THIS INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between the United Water Conservation District ("District") and Costco Wholesale Corporation, a Washington corporation, ("Costco") as of the date upon which it is fully executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties (the "Effective Date"). The District and Costco are collectively referred to as "the Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District constructed the Pleasant Valley Pipeline ("PV Pipeline") in 1996 and continues to deliver non-potable surface water to the Pleasant Valley County Water District for the purposes of agricultural irrigation; and

WHEREAS, portions of the PV Pipeline were re-aligned in 2011 to accommodate for the construction of the Springville Drive Interchange by the City of Camas ("City"); and

WHEREAS, the District holds a Waterline & Access Road Easement - 2012032100032570 (hereinafter the "Easement"), granted by the City in 2012, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Easement, the District is permitted access to, and operates, maintains, repairs the underground PV Pipeline within the Easement area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Easement, shared express written consent from the District, construction of any facilities within the Easement area is not permitted; and

WHEREAS, Costco is the owner of certain real property within the City as described in Exhibit "B" (the "Costco Property"); and

WHEREAS, Costco seeks to develop the Costco Property, which includes, but is not limited to, the construction of a retail establishment, a possible gas station, parking lot, access road, and associated improvements on the Costco Property, together with access, parking, landscaping and related improvements on City property adjacent to the Costco Property; and

WHEREAS, Costco's proposed development activities and future ongoing operations and use of the Costco Property, are adjacent to and/or abut the District's Easement; and

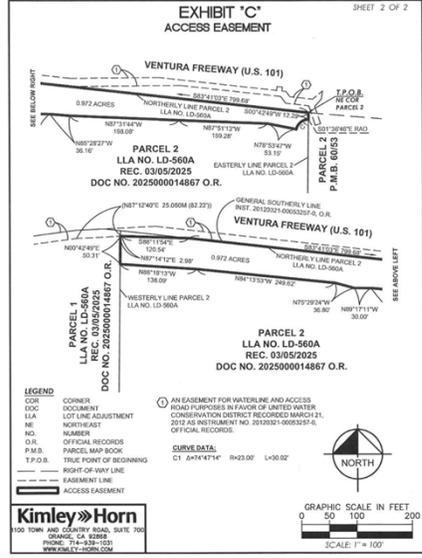
WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Parties wish to clarify responsibility related to any impact the proposed development activities and ongoing operations and use of the Costco Property may have on the District's Easement.



Motion Item 3.2: Accept Permanent Access Easement from Costco Wholesale Corporation for the Pleasant Valley Pipeline



- Provides sufficient access for operation and maintenance purposes
- Prohibits future obstructions adjacent to the pipeline
- District legal counsel assisted with development and review



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ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Monthly Update
 January 8, 2026

1

Santa Felicia Dam Regulatory Compliance



End-of-Year FERC SFD Reporting Schedule

Report	Filing Date
Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring (DSSMR)	By December 31, 2025
Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Status Report	
Annual Security Compliance Certification (ASCC)	
Owners Dam Safety Program (ODSP) and Annual Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation (CDSE)	



Annual SFD EAP Binder Update



December 11, 2025 – SFD/Saticoy Duty Operator Dam Safety Cross-Training



2

2

Collaboration with U.S Navy Seabees



- **Site Tour with LCDR Rossman** to review prospective projects at LPRA, SFD and Saticoy Basins
- **FIRST Naval Construction Regiment (1 NCR)** is stationed at NBVC Port Hueneme
- **Innovative Readiness Training Program** provides military training opportunities that provide services to the community



December 22, 2025

3



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RR1

EBB WTP – Site Approval Requests



	30% Design Plans	Phase 1 SAR	Phase 1A SAR
Description:	Includes construction of seven (7) extraction wells at five (5) well sites, manifold pipelines, and discharge facility.		Includes remaining field activities (power monitoring study, potholing, temporary piezometer well installation, soil resistivity testing).
UWCD submitted to NBVC:	Apr 22, 2025	Jun 27, 2025	Jul 22, 2025
NBVC submitted RFI to UWCD:	May 21, 2025	Dec 5, 2025 (requested relocation of extraction well sites)	Nov 3, 2025
UWCD responded to RFI from NBVC:	Jun 19, 2025	Dec 19, 2025	Dec 2, 2025
Approval from NBVC:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	<input type="checkbox"/> Pending	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nov 21, 2025



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RR1

Asset Management



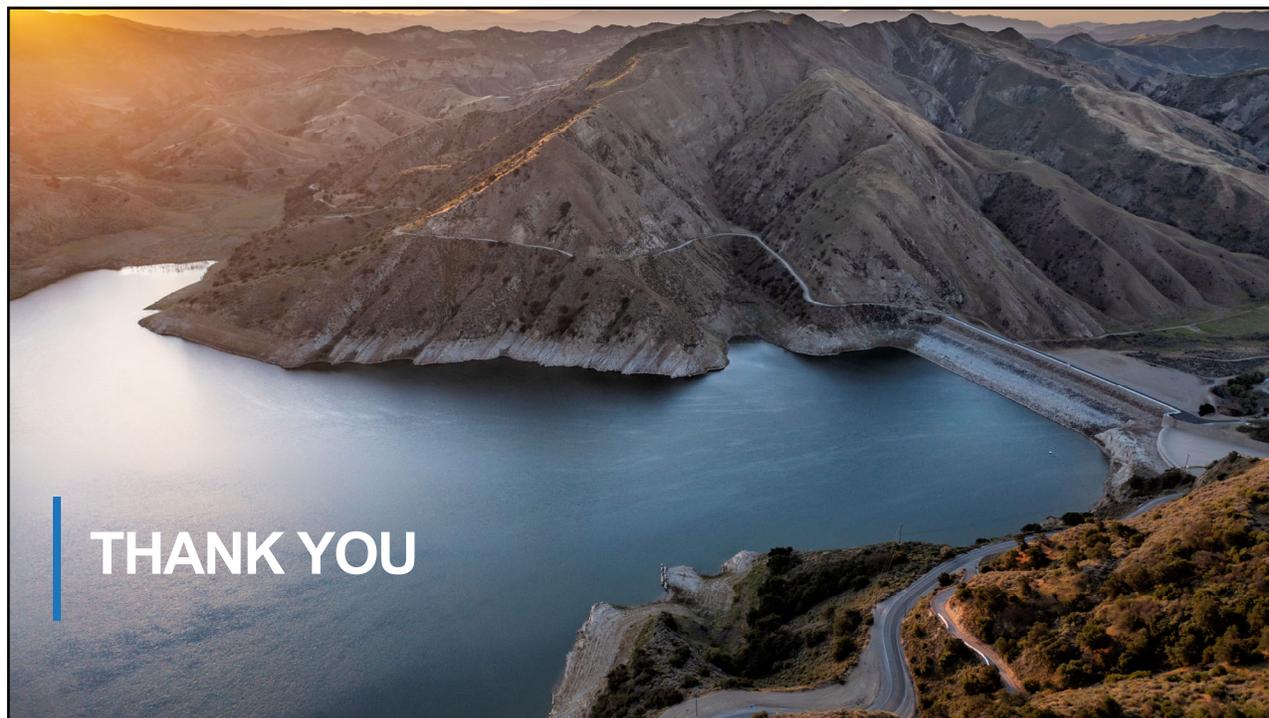
Digitization Project

- Over 40 boxes and 43,000 individual items
- Historical physical media stored in old Farmer's Insurance office
- Files, drawings, photo binders, and other miscellaneous items
- Contract executed with ARC Document Solutions, Inc.



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UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting
Environmental Services Department Monthly Update



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

January 8, 2026



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Environmental Compliance



2025 Annual Reporting



Jan 8, 2026
Freeman permit applications submitted



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Increased State Water Imports

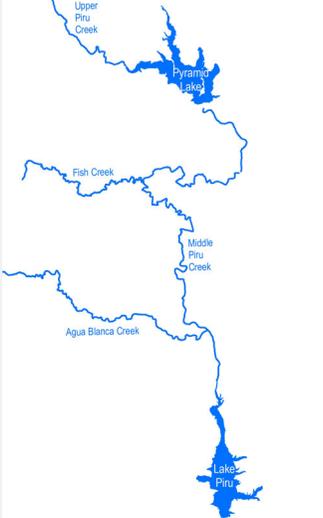
Variance and amendment requests submitted to FERC and Water Board

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Public comment periods, agency consultations, and NEPA EA issued

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Approval for two-year variance expected January 2026



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Thank You!



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**OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE
DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**



January 8, 2026

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**Santa Felicia Dam
and
Lake Piru**

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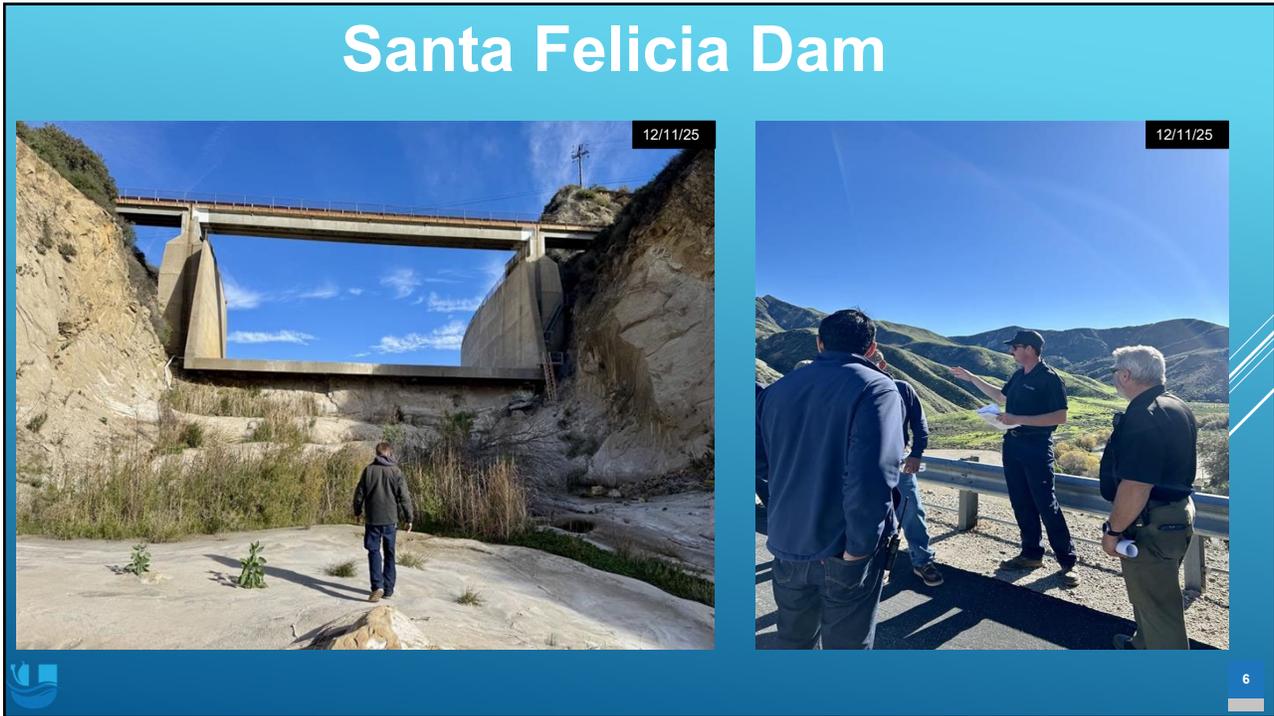
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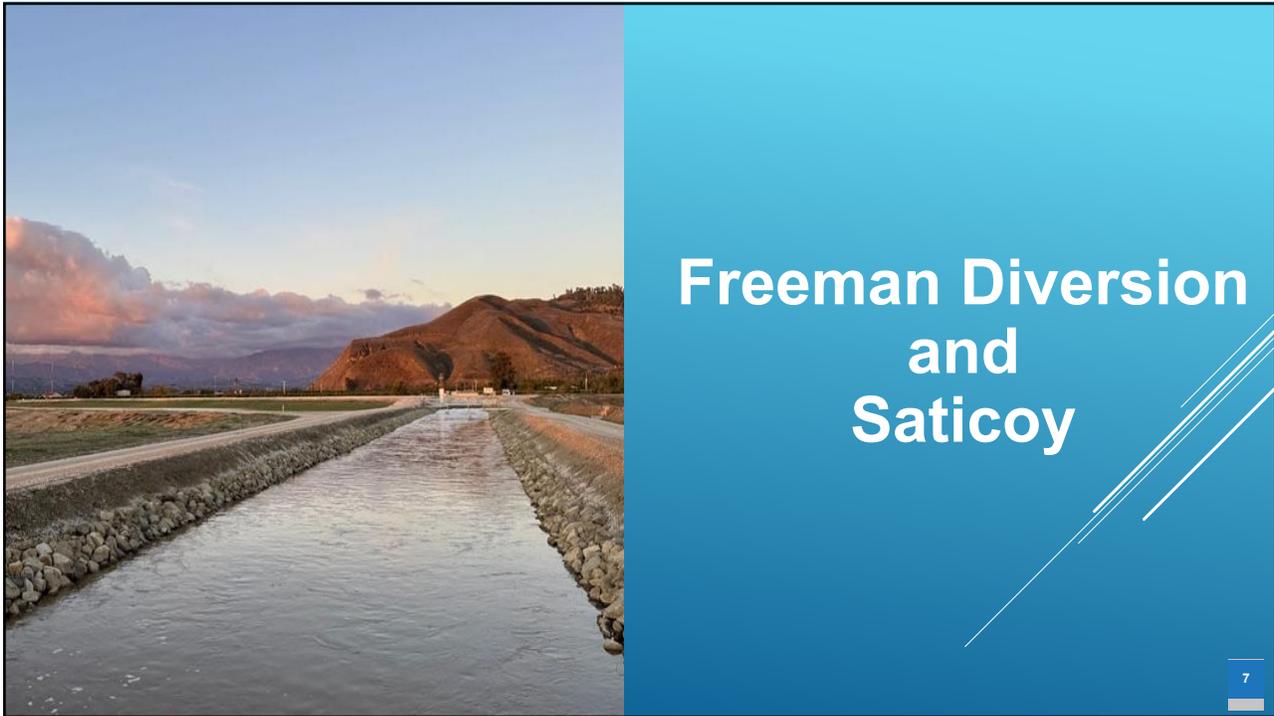
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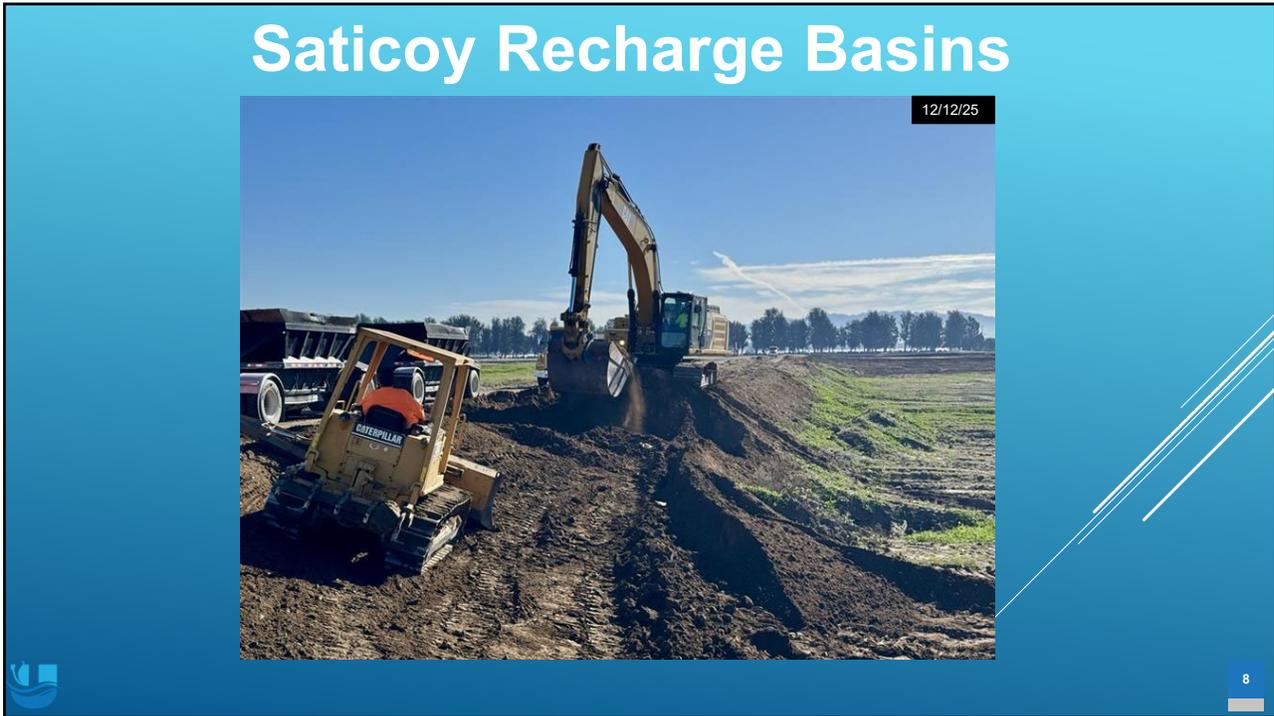
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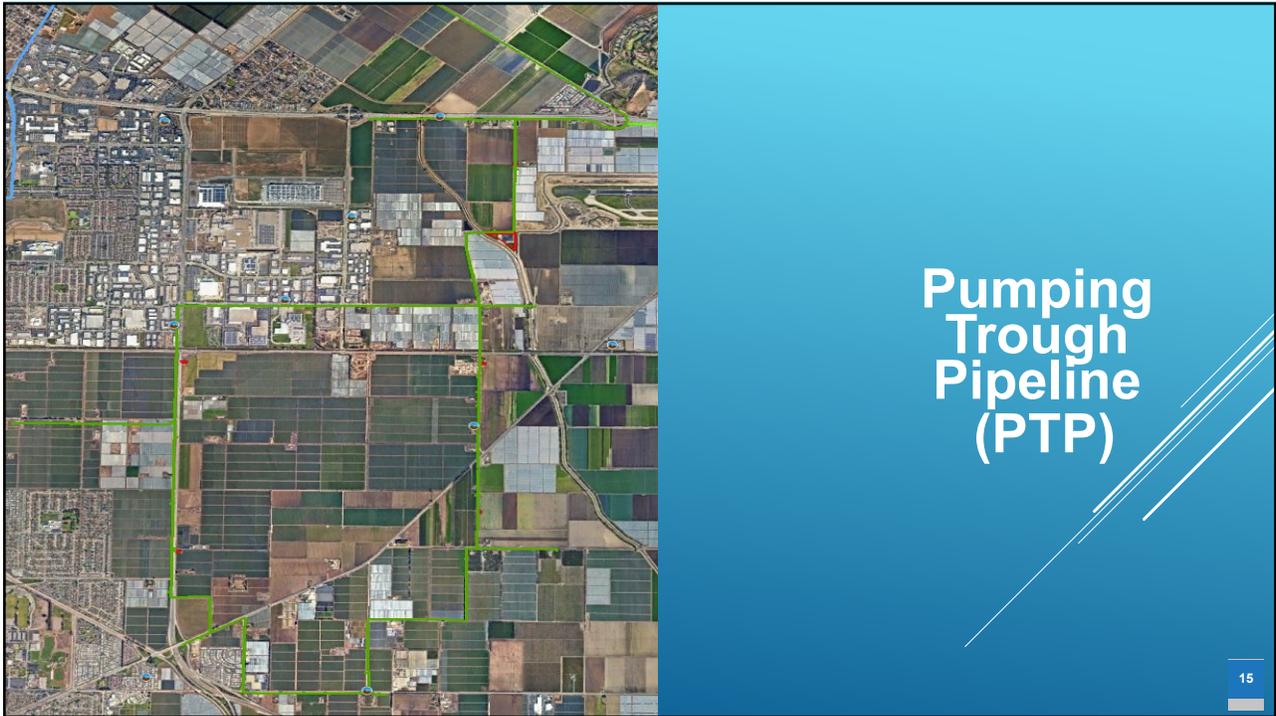
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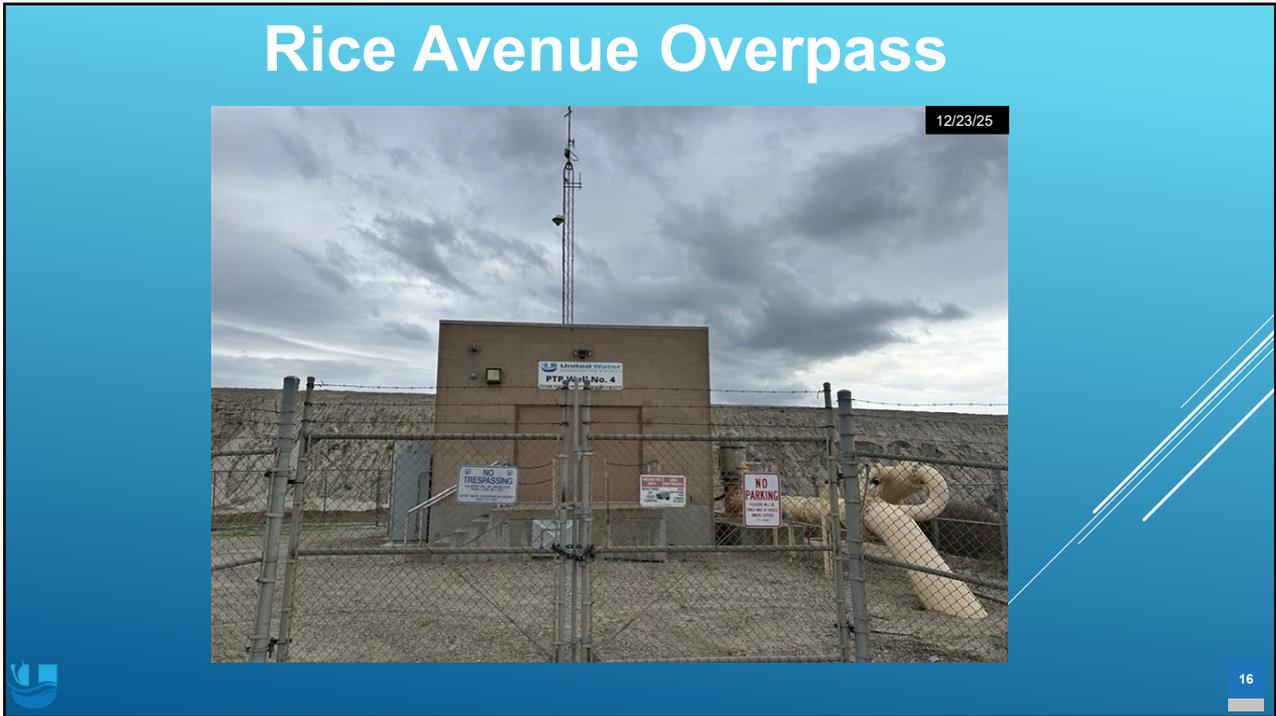
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STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer
Nathan Summerville, Senior Engineer

Date: February 25, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.1 Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Freeman Diversion Improvement Project
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Consider recommending that the full Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign a Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI) for 60% design consulting services in connection with the Freeman Diversion Improvement Project (CIP 8001).

Background:

The Freeman Diversion Improvement Project has been identified as a feasible alternative at the Freeman Diversion facility that will provide environmental and operational benefits in a shorter timeframe and at a reduced cost compared to other alternatives. In September 2025, GEI and Northwest Hydraulics Consultants (NHC) completed the conceptual design of the new alternative, which consists of improving the current fish passage and diversion facility. After the conceptual design, the team immediately began the 30% design, which is scheduled for completion on February 27, 2026.

Discussion:

The Freeman Diversion Improvement Project has five primary goals: 1) improve fish passage compared to the current facility, 2) increase diversion capabilities, 3) reduce construction impacts to fish passage and riparian habitat, 4) reduce construction interruption of water diversions, and 5) reduce construction costs.

The proposed Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI would advance the 30% design to a 60% design level. The scope includes analysis, design, and plans; a memorandum documenting design criteria; and development of construction cost, scheduling, and constructability. NHC is included as a subconsultant to GEI and would continue to provide hydraulic design. Additional hydraulic design will include additional computational fluid dynamics (CFD) modeling of critical elements of the design.

**Agenda Item: 3.1 Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI
Consultants, Inc. for the Freeman Diversion Improvement
Project
Motion**

The scope also includes limited survey work to resolve known discrepancies in control points and to better establish the as-constructed layout of the facility. The results of the survey task will be important during detailed design and eventual construction.

Mission Goal:

This contract meets mission-related Goal A (Water Supply) and Goal C (Regulatory and Environmental Compliance).

Fiscal Impact:

The contract fee is \$1,268,000 and is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget for CIP 8001 (421-400-81020-8001-8015).

Attachments:

Attachment A – Professional Services Contract with GEI for 60% Design of the Freeman Fish Passage and Diversion Improvement Project

**AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made and entered into on _____, 2026, by and between the **United Water Conservation District**, Ventura County, California, (hereinafter “**UNITED**”), and **GEI Consultants Inc.** (hereinafter “**CONSULTANT**”).

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, UNITED desires to obtain professional engineering consultation services in connection with the **Freeman Diversion Improvement Project** (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, UNITED has selected CONSULTANT to provide such services; and

WHEREAS, CONSULTANT represents that it has the skills, experience, license, and expertise to perform these professional services for UNITED; and

WHEREAS, UNITED is desirous of engaging the services of CONSULTANT to perform these services;

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the terms and covenants set forth herein, UNITED and CONSULTANT mutually agree as follows:

1. EMPLOYMENT

A. UNITED hereby employs CONSULTANT to perform and complete the professional engineering services as set forth in Exhibit “A” (“Scope of Work/Schedule of Charges”). CONSULTANT shall perform such professional services as set forth in Exhibit “A” and shall furnish or procure the use of incidental services, equipment, and facilities reasonably necessary for the completion of services.

B. Any extra work over and above that included in the Scope of Work included in Exhibit “A” shall be in compliance with Section 3D.

C. CONSULTANT represents that its services shall be performed, within the limits prescribed by UNITED, in a manner consistent with the level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other engineering professionals under similar circumstances at the time and in the vicinity its services are performed.

D. **Rich Sanchez** shall: (a) personally perform or supervise the performance of services on a day-to-day basis on behalf of CONSULTANT; and (b)

maintain direct communication with UNITED's **Craig Morgan** or designee in the performance of CONSULTANT's services.

E. CONSULTANT in the performance of services hereunder shall fully comply with any and all local, state and federal laws, regulations, ordinances, and policies applicable to its work, including any licensing laws applicable to CONSULTANT's profession and anti-discrimination laws pertaining to employment practices.

F. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions set forth in Exhibit A (Scope of Work/Schedule of Charges) versus those terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement shall govern and the conflicting terms and conditions in Exhibit A shall not apply.

2. TERM OF AGREEMENT

Unless otherwise earlier terminated as specified in Section 8, this Agreement shall commence on the date set forth above and shall expire on **December 31, 2026**.

3. COMPENSATION

Payment by UNITED for the consulting services shall be considered as full compensation for all personnel, materials, supplies, and equipment used in carrying out the work.

A. Compensation and payments to the CONSULTANT shall be as described below:

1. UNITED shall compensate CONSULTANT on a time and expenses basis not to exceed **one million two hundred sixty eight thousand dollars (\$1,268,000)** for performing all services authorized and required by this Agreement and specified in Exhibit "A." UNITED shall compensate CONSULTANT only for actual costs incurred on a time and expenses basis, but in no event shall the total compensation be greater than the not to exceed amount above. However, the total amount paid on a time and expenses basis may be lower than the not to exceed amount above based on actual costs incurred. Payment shall be made in accordance with CONSULTANT's Schedule of Charges submitted to UNITED, included in Exhibit "A" attached and incorporated by reference herein.

2. CONSULTANT shall provide UNITED with monthly itemized invoices. Invoices shall include the categories and identities of CONSULTANT's employees performing services, a description of the services, the number of hours spent performing services, the hourly rate for each employee, CONSULTANT's actual costs and expenses, and the total amount of compensation requested by CONSULTANT for that month. Upon UNITED's request, CONSULTANT shall include with its monthly invoices a detailed verification, including accounting

records, of the work actually performed and costs and expenses incurred, along with any other documents or information reasonably requested by UNITED.

B. UNITED shall pay CONSULTANT within thirty (30) days after receipt of CONSULTANT's invoices, with the exception of any disputed amounts which shall be withheld until resolution of the dispute. If UNITED has reasonable grounds to believe that CONSULTANT will be unable to materially perform the services under this Agreement, or there exists or may exist a claim against CONSULTANT arising out of CONSULTANT's negligence or intentional acts, errors, omissions, or material breach of any provision of this Agreement, then UNITED may withhold payment of any reasonable amount due to CONSULTANT which is directly related to such negligence, intentional act, error, omission or material breach. No payment made under this Agreement shall be conclusive evidence of CONSULTANT's performance of the Agreement, either wholly or in part, and no payment shall be construed to be an acceptance by UNITED of CONSULTANT's work.

C. CONSULTANT shall notify UNITED in writing of the need for additional services required due to the circumstances beyond the CONSULTANT's control ("Additional Services"). The CONSULTANT shall obtain written authorization from UNITED before rendering any Additional Services. Compensation for all approved Additional Services shall be negotiated and approved in writing by UNITED before such Additional Services are performed by CONSULTANT. No compensation shall be paid to the CONSULTANT for any Additional Services that are not previously approved by UNITED in writing.

D. Reimbursable expenses, if applicable, are in addition to compensation for services outlined in the Scope of Work and Additional Services, and shall be paid to the CONSULTANT in accordance with the guidelines specified on Exhibit "B". Reimbursable expenses are paid at the actual costs, without mark-ups, incurred by the CONSULTANT and the CONSULTANT's employees in conduct of Agreement activities.

4. SCHEDULE OF WORK

CONSULTANT shall complete and deliver services and deliverables to UNITED in a diligent and professional manner, in accordance with the Project schedule set forth in Exhibit "A" attached and incorporated by reference herein. Time is of the essence in CONSULTANT's performance of services hereunder.

CONSULTANT's Project Manager shall keep UNITED's **Chief Operations Officer**, or designee informed as to the progress of work by informal reports. Neither party shall hold the other responsible for damages or delay in performance caused by acts of God, strikes, lockouts, accidents, or other events beyond the reasonable control of the other or the other's employees and agents.

5. ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT

This Agreement is a professional services contract. CONSULTANT shall not assign this Agreement or any portion of the work without the prior written approval of UNITED. Any such assignment without UNITED's prior written approval shall be void. UNITED may withhold such approval for any reason in its sole discretion.

6. INDEMNIFICATION

To the fullest extent permitted by law, CONSULTANT agrees to indemnify and hold UNITED entirely harmless from all liability arising out of:

1. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability. Any and all claims under Workers' Compensation acts and other employee benefit acts with respect to CONSULTANT's employees or CONSULTANT's subconsultant's employees arising out of CONSULTANT's work under this Agreement; and

2. General Liability. To the extent arising out of, pertaining to, or relating to the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the CONSULTANT, the CONSULTANT shall indemnify, defend and hold UNITED harmless from any liability for damages for (1) death or bodily injury to person; (2) injury to, loss or theft of property; (3) any failure or alleged failure to comply with any provision of law; or (4) any other loss, damage or expense arising under either (1), (2), or (3) above, sustained by the CONSULTANT or UNITED, or any person, firm or corporation employed by the CONSULTANT or UNITED upon or in connection with the Project, except for liability resulting from the sole or active negligence, or willful misconduct of UNITED, its officers, employees, agents, or independent consultants who are directly employed by UNITED. The CONSULTANT, at its own expense, cost, and risk, shall defend any and all claims, actions, suits, or other proceedings (other than professional negligence covered by Section A3 below) that may be brought or instituted against UNITED, its officers, agents, or employees, to the extent such claims, actions, suits, or other proceedings arise out of, pertain to, or relate to the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the CONSULTANT, and shall pay or satisfy any judgment that may be rendered against UNITED, its officers, agents, or employees, in any action, suit or other proceedings as a result thereof. Any costs to defend under this Section A2 shall not exceed the CONSULTANT's proportionate percentage of fault; and

3. Professional Liability. To the extent arising out of, pertaining to, or relating to the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the CONSULTANT, the CONSULTANT shall indemnify and hold UNITED harmless from any loss, injury to, death of persons, or damage to property caused by any act, neglect, default, or omission of the CONSULTANT, or any person, firm, or corporation employed by the CONSULTANT, either directly or by independent contract, including all damages due to loss or theft, sustained by any person, firm, or

corporation, including UNITED, arising out of, or in any way connected with, the Project, including injury or damage either on or off UNITED property; but not for any loss, injury, death, or damages caused by sole or active negligence, or willful misconduct of UNITED. With regard to the CONSULTANT's obligation to indemnify for acts of professional negligence, such obligation does not include the obligation to provide defense counsel or to pay for the defense of actions or proceedings brought against UNITED, but rather to reimburse UNITED for attorneys' fees and costs incurred by UNITED in defending such actions or proceedings brought against UNITED, and such fees and costs shall not exceed the CONSULTANT's proportionate percentage of fault.

7. INSURANCE

A. CONSULTANT shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Agreement, and for injuries which occur and claims which are made after the services herein are provided, insurance policies in accordance with the requirements set forth in Exhibit "C" attached and incorporated by reference herein. CONSULTANT shall also provide UNITED with a certificate of insurance attesting to its professional liability (errors and omissions) coverage and all required additional insured endorsements.

B. Submission of insurance certificates or endorsements or other proof of insurance shall not relieve CONSULTANT from liability under the indemnification provisions of Section 6. CONSULTANT's obligations in accordance with Section 6 shall apply whether or not such insurance policies shall have been determined to apply to any of such claims, damage, lawsuits, losses or liabilities covered by Section 6.

C. By its signature hereto, CONSULTANT certifies that it is aware of the provisions of California Labor Code Section 3700 which requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers compensation' or to undertake self-insurance as specified. CONSULTANT shall comply with these provisions before commencing work under this Agreement.

8. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

A. Termination for Cause

1. UNITED may terminate CONSULTANT's services for cause, whereupon this Agreement shall terminate immediately. Termination may occur regardless of whether CONSULTANT's services are completed. Any termination or special instructions from UNITED shall be made in writing.

2. Termination for cause may occur upon any of the following events: (a) CONSULTANT's material breach of this Agreement; (b) abandonment or lack of diligence in performance of the work by CONSULTANT; (c) cessation, suspension,

revocation or expiration of any license needed by CONSULTANT to provide services hereunder; (d) failure of CONSULTANT to substantially comply with any local, state or federal laws, regulations, ordinances or policies applicable to its work hereunder; (e) filing by or against CONSULTANT of bankruptcy or any petition under any law for relief of debtors; or (f) conviction of CONSULTANT or its principal representative or personnel for any crime other than minor traffic offenses.

3. Subject to the provisions of Section 3.B herein, CONSULTANT shall be paid for all approved services performed and approved expenses incurred to the date of termination for cause supported by documentary evidence, including payroll records and expense reports, up to the date of the termination. In the event of termination for cause, all damages and costs associated with the termination, including increased consultant and replacement consultant costs, shall be deducted from any payments due to CONSULTANT.

4. In the event a termination for cause is determined to have been made wrongfully or without cause, then the termination shall be treated as a termination for convenience in accordance with Section 8.B below, and CONSULTANT shall have no greater rights than it would have had if a termination for convenience had been effected in the first instance. No other loss, cost, damage, expense or liability may be claimed, requested or recovered by CONSULTANT.

B. Termination Without Cause/For Convenience. This Agreement may be terminated without cause by UNITED or for UNITED's convenience upon fourteen (14) days' written notice to the CONSULTANT. In the event of a termination without cause, UNITED shall pay the CONSULTANT for all approved services performed and all approved expenses incurred under this Agreement supported by documentary evidence, including payroll records and expense reports, up until the date of the notice of termination. In addition, CONSULTANT will be reimbursed for reasonable termination costs through the payment of 3% beyond the sum due the CONSULTANT under this section through 50% completion of the CONSULTANT's portion of the Project and, if 50% completion is reached, payment of 3% of the unpaid balance of the contract to CONSULTANT as termination cost. This 3% is agreed to compensate the CONSULTANT for the unpaid profit CONSULTANT would have made under the Project on the date of termination and is consideration for entry into this termination for convenience clause.

C. In the event of termination with or without cause, CONSULTANT shall promptly provide to UNITED all Project Documents as defined in Section 9 below within five (5) calendar days from the effective date of termination. Failure to provide all Project Documents as required shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement.

D. In the event of a dispute as to the performance of the work or an interpretation of this Agreement, or payment or nonpayment for work performed or

not performed, the parties shall attempt to resolve the dispute. Pending resolution of the dispute CONSULTANT agrees to continue the work diligently to completion. If the dispute is not resolved, CONSULTANT agrees it will neither rescind the Agreement nor stop the progress of work, but CONSULTANT's sole remedy will be to submit such controversy to determination by a court having competent jurisdiction of the dispute as required by this Agreement after the Project has been completed and not before.

9. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

A. The CONSULTANT is employed to render a professional service(s) only and any payments made to it are compensation solely for such services as it may render and recommendations it may make in the performance of services.

B. All plans, specifications, construction documents, data, records, files, communications, information, reports and/or other documents that are prepared, generated, reproduced, maintained and/or managed by the CONSULTANT or CONSULTANT's subconsultants arising from or in any way related to the services provided under this Agreement (regardless of medium, format, etc.) shall be and remain the property of UNITED ("Project Documents"). UNITED may provide the CONSULTANT with a written request for the return of the Project Documents at any time. Upon CONSULTANT's receipt of UNITED's written request, CONSULTANT shall return the requested Project Documents to UNITED within five (5) calendar days. CONSULTANT may make copies of the work generated. Failure to comply with any such written request above shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed a waiver of any copyright in the Project Documents prepared by the CONSULTANT. Any unauthorized reuse or modification of such Project Documents other than for purposes intended by CONSULTANT or for the Project shall be at UNITED's risk and liability.

C. CONSULTANT agrees that all dealings of the parties under this Agreement shall be confidential and no Project Documents or information developed, prepared or assembled by CONSULTANT under this Agreement, or any information made available to CONSULTANT by UNITED, shall be revealed, disseminated or made available by CONSULTANT to any person or entity other than UNITED without the prior written consent of UNITED, unless otherwise required by subpoena or applicable law or regulatory authority.

10. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP

It is expressly understood between the parties that no employee/employer relationship is intended, the relationship of CONSULTANT to UNITED being that of an independent contractor. UNITED shall not be required to make any payroll deductions or provide Worker's Compensation Insurance coverage or health benefits to CONSULTANT. CONSULTANT is solely responsible for selecting the means,

methods and procedures for performing its services hereunder as assigned by the UNITED and for coordinating all portions of the work so the results will be satisfactory to UNITED. CONSULTANT will supply all tools and instruments required to perform its services under this Agreement.

11. ASSISTANCE BY UNITED

It is understood and agreed that the UNITED shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable, assist and cooperate with CONSULTANT in the performance of CONSULTANT's services hereunder. Such assistance does not include, in any manner, the exercise of professional judgment for which CONSULTANT is being retained herein. Such assistance and cooperation to be provided by UNITED as applicable includes, but shall not be limited to, providing right of access to work sites; providing material available from the UNITED's files such as maps, as-built drawings, records and operation and maintenance information; and rendering assistance in determining the location of existing facilities and improvements which may be affected by the Project. CONSULTANT shall otherwise be responsible for giving all notices and complying with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and lawful orders of any public authority relating to the work.

12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

A. Examination of Records

CONSULTANT agrees that UNITED shall have access to and the right to examine at any reasonable time and on reasonable notice CONSULTANT's documents, papers and records, including accounting records, relating to its performance under this Agreement.

B. Notice

All notices or other official correspondence relating to contractual matters between the parties shall be made by depositing the same as first-class, postage paid mail addressed as follows:

To CONSULTANT: Rich Sanchez
Senior Vice President/Area Manager
GEI Consultants Inc.
35 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 220
Pasadena, CA 91101

To UNITED: Craig Morgan
Chief Operations Officer
United Water Conservation District
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

or such other address as either party may designate hereinafter in writing delivered to the other party. All notices shall be agreed to have been received three (3) days after mailing.

C. No Waiver

No failure or delay by UNITED in asserting any of UNITED's rights and remedies as to any default of CONSULTANT shall operate as a waiver of the default, of any subsequent or other default by CONSULTANT, or of any of UNITED's rights or remedies. No such delay shall deprive UNITED of its right to institute and maintain any actions or proceedings which may be necessary to protect, assert or enforce any rights or remedies arising out of this Agreement or the performance of this Agreement.

D. Integration

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter hereto, and supersedes all prior agreements, oral or written, and all prior or contemporaneous discussions or negotiations between the parties.

E. Modification

No alteration or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties.

F. Rules of Interpretation

The terms of this Agreement have been negotiated by the parties and the language used in this Agreement shall be deemed to be the language chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent. This Agreement shall be construed without regard to any presumption or rule requiring construction against the party causing such instrument to be drafted, or in favor of the party receiving a particular benefit under this Agreement. No rule of strict construction shall be applied against any party to this Agreement.

G. Partial Invalidity

If any term, covenant, condition, or provision of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect, and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated thereby.

H. Incorporation of Recitals and Exhibits

The foregoing recitals and exhibits are incorporated herein as though fully set forth.

I. California Law; Dispute Resolution; Venue

This Agreement shall be interpreted and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of California, regardless of whether this Agreement is executed by any party in another state or otherwise. If a dispute arises between the parties related to this Agreement or the breach thereof, the parties shall first attempt in good faith to settle the matter through discussion, and if unsuccessful may in their discretion mutually agree to mediate the dispute prior to filing a judicial action. The costs of a third party mediator, if utilized, shall be borne equally by the parties. If either party elects to file an action in court, such action shall be filed and heard in a court of competent jurisdiction in the County of Ventura.

J. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, a complete set of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall comprise but a single document. Signatures may be given via facsimile transmission and shall be deemed given as of the date of facsimile transmittal of the executed Agreement by one party to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by the parties hereto.

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By _____
Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.

By _____
Richard Sanchez, Senior Vice President

**EXHIBIT “A” TO AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

CONSULTANT shall provide professional engineering consultation services under this Agreement in accordance with work described in the attached **Scope of Work** and **Schedule of Charges**.

February 17, 2026

Mr. Craig Morgan, P.E.
Chief Operations Officer
United Water Conservation District
1701 N Lombard St., Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

**Subject: Freeman Fish Passage Improvement Project – 60% Design
Freeman Diversion, Ventura County, California**

Dear Mr. Morgan:

GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI) has prepared this scope of services, cost estimate, and schedule for the Freeman Fish Passage Improvement Project - 60% Design as requested by United Water Conservation District (UWCD). Our scope is based on discussions between GEI, Northwest Hydraulics Consultants (NHC), and UWCD.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this proposed contract is to advance the 30% design drawings developed to a 60% Design level.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

We propose to divide the scope of work for the Freeman Fish Passage Improvement Project – 60% Design into the following tasks:

- Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination
- Task 2 – 60% Analyses and Design
- Task 3 – 60% Design Drawings
- Task 4 – Technical Specifications
- Task 5 – 60% Design Criteria Technical Memorandum
- Task 6 – 60% Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC), Preliminary Construction Schedule, and Constructability Assessment
- Task 7 – Comment Response Sheet
- Task 8 – Survey of Existing Facility and three-dimensional (3-D) AutoCAD Model Development

The scope of work for each of these tasks is described in the sections below.

Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination

This task includes internal coordination and management of the GEI team, contract administration, project controls, progress reporting, and coordination with UWCD, and other UWCD consultants. GEI's project manager will coordinate with UWCD throughout the duration of the work, with assistance as needed from task leads. The following activities are included in this task:

- Management and supervision of the GEI design team.
- Coordination meetings with UWCD and NHC.
- Management, coordination, and evaluation of subconsultant services.
- Management of the project scope, schedule, and budget.
- Progress report included with submittal of monthly invoices.

Coordination and communications with UWCD include one-hour progress meetings every two weeks (virtual) to discuss project issues and progress, and one-hour meetings with NHC every two weeks.

Task 2 – 60% Analysis and Design

GEI will perform civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical analyses and evaluations to advance the improvement project design and plans to a 60% level of completion. The engineering design criteria will be compiled in an updated design criteria memorandum. Some of the key improvements include modifications in:

- Fish passage and Denil ladder area including changing one entry gate and one exit gate.
- Flushing channel modifications including changing the roller gate.
- Auxiliary Water System changes.
- Screen bay changes including providing additional freeboard and upgrading of fish screens.
- Adding a Fish Relocation Facility at the bypass location.
- Phase work to be completed in the dry seasons to reduce impact and cost.

Support for hydraulic analyses and evaluations will be provided by NHC as GEI's subconsultant. NHC will provide the appropriate sizing and spatial arrangements of the improvement elements to satisfy the hydraulic requirements of UWCD's operations and the standard criteria of the Agencies.

Task 3 – 60% Design Drawings

GEI will update the 30% design drawings to bring them to a 60% level of completion. Updates will be based on the results of the design development including civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical design. The deliverable will be the 60% design plan set.

Task 4 – Technical Specifications

Technical specifications for construction of the Freeman Fish Passage Improvement Project will be developed and prepared for the 60% design level. The technical specifications will be developed in draft form commensurate with a 60% design level.

Task 5 – 60% Design Criteria

GEI will prepare a Design Criteria Memorandum (DCM) for the 60% design level project. A draft 60% DCM will be submitted to UWCD for review, and a final 60% DCM will be prepared addressing UWCD comments.

Task 6 – 60% OPCC and Constructability Assessment

GEI will prepare an OPCC based on the 60% design information. The cost estimate will be generated in accordance with the guidelines established by AACE as a Class 3 estimate with an expected upper accuracy range (high) of +10% to +30%. The OPCC will be based on our evaluation of the major construction items appropriate to complete the work, and quantity estimates developed from the 60% design drawings.

GEI will also prepare an anticipated construction schedule based on a preliminary sequence of construction in addition to developing an approximate Project Impact Area Sheet.

A draft 60% OPCC, Construction Schedule, and Project Impact Area Sheet will be submitted to UWCD for review and a final version will be prepared to address and incorporate UWCD comments.

The OPCC, Construction Schedule, and Project Impact Area Sheet effort will be supported by Integrated Engineering and Construction (IEC) as GEI's subconsultant.

Task 7 – Comment Response Sheet

GEI will compile comments on the 60% design plan set provided to them by UWCD after review of the 60% design. GEI will prepare a Comment Response Sheet (CRS) to compile the comments and responses. A Draft CRS will be submitted to UWCD for review and finalized to address UWCD comments on GEI's responses.

Our cost estimate is based on receiving one round of comments from UWCD. Any changes resulting from the comments will be incorporated into the next phases of design, as appropriate.

Task 8 – Survey and 3-D AutoCAD Model Development of Existing Facility

GEI will engage a surveyor to conduct a survey of the existing facility along with confirming survey control points' locations and elevations under this task. The surveyor will be required to survey the corner locations of the main walls of the intake area, the screen bay area, and other parts of the facility to generally confirm the as-built drawings. The surveyor will be required to produce a drawing showing the location of the control points and existing facility features. This survey information will be incorporated in the design effort.

This task also includes the development of an AutoCAD 3-D model rendering of the existing facility as requested by UWCD. In this 60% design stage, the model development will be started and progressed produce a 3D-pdf of the existing facility. The AutoCAD model will be refined and enhanced in subsequent design phases to add more detail and renderings for visual presentations.

COST ESTIMATE AND SCHEDULE

We developed our cost estimate based on a planned schedule of 24 weeks starting from March 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026. We developed this cost estimate by establishing a detailed list of estimated design drawings based on our prior experience working on this project, identifying design efficiencies that could be applied for the design from prior phases of the project, and formulating a budget to meet this anticipated level of effort within the agreed upon schedule. Our estimated cost to perform the above scope of work is \$1,267,436 (\$773,436 GEI+ \$429,000 NHC +\$30,000 Surveyor +\$15,000 IEC +\$20,000 Frisch Electrical). A detailed breakdown of the cost estimate is provided in Attachment A.

PROPOSED SUBCONSULTANTS

As requested by UWCD, GEI will engage NHC as a subconsultant to support the 60% Design effort to provide hydraulic analyses and evaluations including design support. NHC's proposed cost for this effort is included in GEI's cost estimate and a copy of NHC's proposal is included as Attachment B. In addition, GEI plans to engage Frisch Engineering to provide electrical design support and IEC to provide support in preparing the OPCC and constructability assessment. Costs for these subconsultants have been included in GEI's cost estimate.

ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions were made in developing the scope of work and cost estimate for the 60% design of the Freeman Fish Passage and Diversion Optimization Project:

1. Hydraulic analyses and evaluations will be provided by NHC for the 60% Design to be completed under a subcontract with GEI. NHC will provide GEI with the appropriate sizing and spatial arrangements of the improvement elements to satisfy the hydraulic requirements and address the issues identified by the Agencies.
2. UWCD will provide all available as-built drawings, technical information, and documents for the existing facility.
3. No additional field subsurface explorations will be required for the 60% design of the facilities.
4. All deliverables will be submitted in electronic format.

CLOSING

GEI is looking forward to continuing to assist UWCD with the Freeman Fish Passage Improvement Project – 60% Design. Please contact Rich Sanchez or Iqbal Ahmed if you have any questions or comments. Mr. Sanchez can be reached at 916.350.1769; rsanchez@geiconsultants.com or Dr. Ahmed at 818.552-6400; iahmed@geiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GEI Consultants, Inc.



Iqbal Ahmed, Ph.D., P.E., G.E.
Project Manager



Richard Sanchez, P.E.
Principal-in-Charge

Attachment A: Cost Estimate Freeman Diversion
Attachment B: Proposal from NHC for 60% Design

March 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026

\$1,267,436

Subconsultant costs include 15% mark-up

Description												Expenses				Total Cost	
	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 1	CAD	Admin	Subtotals		Subs	Travel/ Mileage	ODCs and Other Expenses (hotel + perdiem)		Subtotal
											Hrs	Cost					
	\$370 /hr	\$331 /hr	\$278 /hr	\$244 /hr	\$207 /hr	\$184 /hr	\$168 /hr	\$153 /hr	\$184 /hr	\$137 /hr							
TASK 1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT																	
Coordination and Management	24				40						64	\$17,160				\$0	\$17,160
Meetings	48	30	30								108	\$36,030				\$0	\$36,030
Progress reports	6										6	\$2,220				\$0	\$2,220
QA/QC Management	12										12	\$4,440				\$0	\$4,440
Technical Advisor	12										12	\$4,440				\$0	\$4,440
Administrative Support										32	32	\$4,384				\$0	\$4,384
Task Totals	102	30	30	0	40	0	0	0	0	32	234	\$68,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$68,700
TASK 2 60% ANALYSES AND DESIGN																	
Civil	8	24									32	\$10,904				\$0	\$10,904
Structural	8	80	80		160						328	\$84,800				\$0	\$84,800
Geotechnical and geological	8										8	\$2,960				\$0	\$2,960
Mechanical design	8	120									128	\$42,680				\$0	\$42,680
Electrical -Tom Frisch Engineers											0	\$0				\$0	\$0
Hydraulic Design-NHC											0	\$0	\$429,000			\$493,350	\$493,350
Task Totals	32	224	80	0	160	0	0	0	0	0	496	\$141,300	\$429,000	\$0	\$0	\$493,350	\$634,700
TASK 3 60% DESIGN DRAWINGS																	
Civil	8	120							120		248	\$64,760				\$0	\$64,760
Structural	8	120			120				300		548	\$122,720				\$0	\$122,720
Mechanical	8	160							200		368	\$92,720				\$0	\$92,720
Electrical	16										16	\$5,920	\$15,000			\$17,250	\$23,170
Task Totals	40	400	0	0	120	0	0	0	620	0	1,180	\$286,100	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$17,250	\$303,400
TASK 4 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS																	
General	4	24	20		10						58	\$17,054				\$0	\$17,054
Civil	4	16	20		10						50	\$14,406				\$0	\$14,406
Structural	4	24	20		10						58	\$17,054				\$0	\$17,054
Mechanical	4	24	20		10						58	\$17,054				\$0	\$17,054
Electrical	4										4	\$1,480	\$5,000			\$5,750	\$7,230
Task Totals	20	88	80	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	228	\$67,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,750	\$72,800
TASK 5 60% DESIGN CRITERIA																	
Draft Technical Memorandum	12	40			40					20	112	\$28,700				\$0	\$28,700
Final Technical Memorandum	8	16			16					20	60	\$14,308				\$0	\$14,308
Task Totals	20	56	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	40	172	\$43,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$43,000
TASK 6 60% OPCC AND CONSTRUCTABILITY ASSESMENT																	

Draft OPCC, Construction Schedule, and Project Impact Area Sheet	4	40	40		10					10	104	\$29,280				\$0	\$29,280
Final OPCC, Construction Schedule, and Project Impact Area Sheet	4	24	24		10					8	70	\$19,262				\$0	\$19,262
Cost Estimate Support-Subconsultant IEC											0	\$0	\$15,000			\$17,250	\$17,250
Task Totals	8	64	64	0	20	0	0	0	0	18	174	\$48,500	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$17,250	\$65,800
TASK 7 COMMENT RESPONSE SHEET																	
Comment response sheet	4	8			12						24	\$6,612				\$0	\$6,612
Task Totals	4	8	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	24	\$6,612	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,600
TASK 8 Survey and 3-D Model Development																	
Engage and manage Surveyor	4				8						12	\$3,136				\$0	\$3,136
Perform Survey	4				12						16	\$3,964	\$30,000	\$500		\$35,000	\$38,964
Develop 3D AutoCAD Model of Existing Facility	8	16							120		144	\$30,336				\$0	\$30,336
Task Totals	16	16	0	0	20	0	0	0	120	0	172	\$37,436	\$30,000	\$500	\$0	\$35,000	\$72,436
PROJECT TOTALS	242	886	254	0	468	0	0	0	740	90	2,680	698,648	\$494,000	\$500	\$0	\$568,600	\$1,267,436

Notes:

1. Task 4 Technical Specifications includes a first draft of approximately sixty (6) Division 01 and above General and Technical Requirements specifications.
2. Task 6 includes expansion of the 30% Preliminary Construction Schedule and OPCC and adjustments to the Project Impact Area if needed.

FEE SCHEDULE

<u>Personnel Category</u>	<i>Hourly Billing Rate</i> \$ per hour
Staff Professional – Grade 1	\$ 153
Staff Professional – Grade 2	\$ 168
Project Professional – Grade 3	\$ 184
Project Professional – Grade 4	\$ 207
Senior Professional – Grade 5	\$ 244
Senior Professional – Grade 6	\$ 278
Senior Professional – Grade 7	\$ 331
Senior Consultant – Grade 8	\$ 370

Drafter / Designer and Senior Technician (CAD)	\$ 184
Technician, Word Processor, Administrative Staff	\$ 137
<u>Office Aide</u>	<u>\$ 103</u>

These rates are billed for both regular and overtime hours in all categories. Rates will increase up to 5% annually, at GEI’s option, for all contracts that extend into the next calendar year. Rates for Deposition and Testimony increased 1.5 times.

OTHER PROJECT COSTS

Subconsultants, Subcontractors and Other Project Expenses - All costs for subconsultants, subcontractors and other project expenses will be billed at cost plus a 15% service charge. Examples of such expenses ordinarily charged to projects are subcontractors; subconsultants: chemical laboratory charges; rented or leased field and laboratory equipment; outside printing and reproduction; communications and mailing charges; reproduction expenses; shipping costs for samples and equipment; disposal of samples; rental vehicles; fares for travel on public carriers; special fees for insurance certificates, permits, licenses, etc.; fees for restoration of paving or land due to field exploration, etc.; state and local sales and use taxes and state taxes on GEI fees. *The 15% service charge will not apply to GEI-owned equipment and vehicles or in-house reproduction expenses.*

Field and Laboratory Equipment Billing Rates – GEI-owned field and laboratory equipment such as pumps, sampling equipment, monitoring instrumentation, field density equipment, portable gas chromatographs, etc. will be billed at a daily, weekly, or monthly rate, as needed for the project. Expendable supplies are billed at a unit rate. *The 15% service charge will not apply to this item.*

Transportation and Subsistence - Automobile expenses for GEI or employee-owned cars will be charged at the rate per mile set by the Internal Revenue Service for tax purposes plus tolls and parking charges or at a day rate negotiated for each project. When required for a project, four-wheel drive vehicles owned by GEI or the employees will be billed at a daily rate appropriate for those vehicles. Per diem living costs for personnel on assignment away from their home office will be negotiated for each project. *The 15% service charge will not apply to this item.*



NHC Ref. No. 5010592
16 February 2026

United Water Conservation District

1701 Lombard Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

Attention: **Craig Morgan, P.E.** Chief Operations Officer
Nathan Summerville, P.E. Senior Engineer
Rich Sanchez, P.E. Senior Project Manager
Iqbal Ahmed Ph.D, P.E Senior Project Manager

Via email: craigm@unitedwater.org
nsummerville@unitedwater.org
rsanchez@geiconsultants.com
iahmed@geiconsultants.com

Subject: Freeman Diversion Denil Optimization 60% Design Plans

Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (NHC) has provided support to United Water Conservation District (United) through several phases of design alternatives to upgrade the Freeman Diversion. This has included work on the Hardened Ramp up through development of the 100% hydraulic designs for the Hardened Ramp concept and hydraulic support for the 90% Design phase led by GEI. NHC also provided a review of the geomorphic processes in the system to support the potential adjustment of the downstream ramp invert elevation.

NHC recently performed concept design work on the Freeman Fish Passage and Diversion Improvement Project that utilizes the existing footprint and many features of the diversion facility (Canal Gates, Crest Gates, Fish Ladder and Ladder Entrance, Low Flow Bypass Gates, etc.) to maximize the diversion capacity and improve fish passage conditions. Fish passage features including the Denil ladder and entrance, auxiliary water system, fish trap/assessment facility and fish screens were analyzed and improved where feasible. NHC is currently documenting these concepts through a design development report (DDR) and supporting GEI's 30 percent design plans that are scheduled to be provided to United at the end of February 2026.

This task order will provide additional funding for NHC to advance the hydraulic and fisheries concept to the 60% Design Level. NHC's work will support GEI's larger 60% design plan set and cost submittal. The services to be provided can be described to some degree at present but will be adapted depending on needs identified by United and GEI moving forward. The work will be coordinated in regular meetings. A description of work tasks and budgets to support the expected level of effort are provided below.

TASKS

NHC has identified five primary tasks for completion of the work described below.

Task 1: Meetings, Support and Coordination

NHC has allocated time for coordination with the design team on specific items as well as regular interactions and meetings with GEI and United to coordinate on the project. Includes time to review the development of a scope for survey at the site.

Assumptions: This scope assumes regular weekly meetings with United and GEI for 6 months (28) and up to 14 meetings with GEI for specific items. No time is allocated for discussions with regulatory agencies or to respond to their requests. This scope does not include additional time for any legal hearings or additional related items.

Task 2: Design of Intake and Aux System and River Hydraulics

A preliminary intake design and auxiliary (aux) water layout was developed in collaboration with United and GEI, which is being incorporated into the 30% plans. Hydraulic engineering work in this phase will primarily focus on refinement of these designs. Below are some areas where additional hydraulic analysis/design may occur at this phase:

- Review of sedimentation throughout the system (existing issues and proposed features) and identification of potential concepts to address them.
- Incorporate updated Freeman Diversion facility survey data and re-align design elements to match.
- Update the existing reach wide HEC-RAS model to document the 100-year water levels.
- Evaluate need for additional scour protection upstream and downstream of the facility.
- Further analysis of gate operations and impacts to diversions and fisheries. Investigate when the system can run based just on the head gates and when the canal gates would be used and the impacts to sedimentation/fisheries/diversions
- Further hydraulic analysis on the Aux Water System (AWS), to support the Gate in Gate and/or expanded/alternative AWS.
- Provide input on maintenance, access, and operational components of the design to address questions from United.
- Updated numerical model runs where changes in the design require additional analysis, update to match new surface developed from survey to be done by others.
- Evaluate drainage of main fish bay area for cleaning and repairs.

Assumptions: The basic concept from the 30% design will be utilized for the 60% design. NHC will utilize the existing 2D and 3D CFD models to analyze the intake and AWS to assess local conditions as needed. The models will be updated to reflect any new survey to be collected by others. Minimal changes/updates will be needed to the existing DEM's of the facility to reflect any new topographic survey. Updated analysis for changes to the DEM will only be done as necessary for potential significant changes in topography identified from the survey. The existing HEC-RAS model will be utilized to assess the reach wide conditions. No changes will be made to the hydrology and only modifications to represent structures that are part of the project. Tailwater review will utilize previous work done in the Geomorphic Assessment (2024) and data collected over varying conditions in 2023 through 2025. The sediment review will be high level working off of existing materials from earlier iterations of the work and presentations from United. The design of large-scale sediment management features (specific gates, desander, etc.) is not part of the design. Documentation of analysis will be provided in updates via presentation during regular meetings and updates to the DDR at completion.

Task 3: Fish Passage Designs

The NHC team has developed a concept for an optimized Denil fish ladder on the existing footprint along with a preliminary bypass pipe system and fish relocation facility which are being brought to the 30% level through the existing work. The fish passage designs are based on a maximum river flow rate of 1800cfs and with an attraction flow rate of 10%, to be split through the Fish Ladder and Aux Water (Intake AWS and Gate in Gate). This task will advance this work further to support the 60% design plans and documentation.

Work on this task may include:

- Refine details on the primary fish screen system (screen, baffle, cleaning options, etc.) and hydraulic design conditions. GEI will lead the mechanical and civil design components of the screen based on the hydraulic recommendations.
- Hydraulic Analysis and design for the false weir/fish monitoring system
- Refinement of the Denil Design/Analysis including the development of a 3D surface and hydraulic modeling to analyze the function of the structure.
- Advancement of the fish relocation design and transport system.
- CFD Modeling to refine fish passage components.
- Evaluate impact of operating flushing channel on the fish passage system.
- Evaluate dewatering of fish passage system.
- Evaluate orifice flows in Denil baffles for lamprey passage.

Assumptions: The 30% design concepts will be used as a base for the Denil, Fish Relocation and Monitoring work. Modifications at 60% will be refinement of these concepts. This scope does not include coordination with agencies (CDFW/NMFS) or any analysis or

modification of the concepts if they review the DDR and 30% Design Plan Submittal. The level of hydraulic modeling of the Denil will vary depending on needs at this phase, CFD modeling may wait to 90% depending on initial results and discussions.

Task 4: Documentation and Support

This task will provide support for the 60% design plans and documentation. A draft Development Design Report (DDR) is being developed as part of the 30% designs to serve as a hydraulic basis of design. In this task NHC will address any comments on the initial draft and provide an update to include features developed as part of the 60% plans.

NHC will provide the hydraulic related components for the design to GEI as they are developed through draft model results and CAD drawings. NHC will provide support for hydraulic related components of the design plans to a 60 percent level. Updates will be completed based on advanced hydraulic design to key features such as the typical Denil fishway cross-sections, fish screens, evaluation station and gate configurations. NHC will provide hydraulic results (velocities, water levels) to GEI as requested to support their designs. NHC will review a draft of the 60% design plans for conformance with the supporting hydraulic analysis. NHC will provide feedback for the constructability assessment being led by GEI for any hydraulics related questions.

Assumptions: It is assumed that the 60% design will be a refinement and further development of the work done at the 30% level without any major changes. It is assumed that NHC will provide input on up to 8 sheets. NHC will provide an updated draft of the DDR to GEI for comment, those comments will be addressed prior to the initial draft to United. NHC will then provide a final version addressing United concepts. NHC will address one set of comments/questions on the plan features from GEI. NHC will address one set of United comments on the concepts NHC developed that were incorporated into the larger drawing set by GEI. GEI will be able to utilize results previously developed to estimate quantities for the cost estimate. Does not include addressing any CDFW/NMFS comments

Task 5: As-Directed Support Tasks

The needs for the project may change over time. This line item provides NHC a way to address hydraulics items and requests from United or GEI that were unforeseen but may come up as part of the technical project or supporting the legal work.

Assumptions: Requests will come from GEI or United. NHC will assess if funds are available before completing the work. The use of these funds will be summarized in the monthly progress reports. Depending on the request, additional budget may be required, this will be requested prior to doing the task.

SCHEDULE

It is assumed that work will start after board approval and extend through submittal of the draft report and plans in alignment with GEI’s schedule. The work will conclude with the submittal of the final 60% plans by GEI. This budget was developed, assuming a time frame of 5 months from start of work to draft 60% plans (end of July), with an additional month to address comments.

BUDGET

The costs for the tasks outlined above were estimated based on the expected level of effort for design and analysis of potential solutions that are presently anticipated. Depending on initial development and review of potential solutions with GEI and United team, cost allocations may need to be shifted between tasks. The hourly rates will be based on our 2026 Table. A cost breakdown by task is given below.

#	Task	Budget
1	Meetings, Support and Coordination	\$74K
2	Intake, Aux System and River Hydraulics	\$134K
3	Fish Passage Designs	\$130K
4	Documentation and Support	\$71K
5	As-Directed Support Tasks	\$20K
	Amount Requested	\$429K

CLOSURE

We hope the approach outlined above and the estimated schedule meets United’s needs for contracting purposes. Please call or email with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Inc.



Brady McDaniel, P.E.
Principal



Barry Chilibeck, P Eng
Principal

NHC COST PROPOSAL - TASK BREAKDOWN BUDGET

PROJECT: Freeman 60% Design
 CLIENT: United Water Conservation District
 DATE: 13-Feb-26
 BY: bjm/bmc

Task No	Task Description	NHC Personnel										GIS2 CZ 131.00	Labor Cost	Direct Cost	Task Cost
		PE2 jav 317.00	PE2 bjm 317.00	PE2 BC 317.00	PE3 HF 295.00	SE1 reo 224.00	SE2 rmg 208.00	SE2 PRF 208.00	GIS JDL 164.00						
1	Meetings, Support and Coordination	46	72	52	0	56	38	0	0	0		\$74,338		\$74,338	\$74,000
	Meetings with United and GEI, some prep (24 assumed)	32	32	32		34	34					\$45,120			
	Survey Scoping		8			8						\$4,328			
	Meeting with GEI (14 assumed)	14	14	14		14	4					\$17,282			
	General Support, Coordination and Invoicing		18	6								\$7,608			
2	Intake, Aux Water and Operations	106	34	21	16	142	76	88	12	48		\$129,933	\$4,000	\$133,933	\$134,000
	Review of Sedimentation through System	32	8			24	24					\$23,048			
	Update Models/DEM to Survey					16		12		32		\$10,272			
	100yr HEC-RAS Modeling		2		16			8	12			\$8,986			
	Evaluate Need for Scour Protection	2	2	4		16		24				\$11,112			
	Gate Operations	6	8			24		12		8		\$13,358			
	Aux System Detailed Design	40	4			24	40					\$27,644	\$2,500		
	Input on Maintenance, access, operations	6	6	12		12	12					\$12,792			
	Update numerical models	12	2	3		16		32		8		\$16,677	\$1,500		
	Evaluate Drainage of Main Fish Bay	8	2	2		10						\$6,044			
3	Fish Passage Designs	84	16	82	0	108	112	76	0	0		\$120,990	\$9,000	\$129,990	\$130,000
	Refine Primary Fish Screen System	2	2	32		24	24					\$21,780			
	Hydraulic Analysis of False Weir/Monitoring System	6	2	12		16	20					\$14,084			
	Refinement of Denil Design Analysis/3D/CFD	40	2	8		16	32					\$26,090	\$5,000		
	CFD Modeling of Fish Passage Components	32	2	2		4	4	76				\$28,948	\$4,000		
	Fish Relocation Design and Transport			6		16	32					\$12,142			
	Impact of Flushing Channel on fish passage	2	6	6		16						\$8,022			
	Evaluate dewatering of Fish Passage System	2	2	8		8						\$5,596			
	Evaluate Orifice Flows in Denil for Lamprey			8		8						\$4,328			
4	Documentation and Support	49	23	25	0	98	88	0	0	0		\$71,005		\$71,005	\$71,000
	Address Question/Comments from DDR	4	4	4		16	6					\$8,636			
	Update DDR with new analysis	32	8	8		48	48					\$35,952			
	Design Hydraulics to GEI	6	6	6		14	14					\$11,754			
	Review of 60% Design Plans	3	3	3		12	12					\$8,037			
	Constructability Assessment Support	4	2	4		8	8					\$6,628			
5	Legal/As-Directed Support Tasks	8	8	8		32	24					\$19,768		\$19,768	\$20,000
	<i>Totals</i>	293	153	188	16	436	338	164	12	48				\$ 429,034	\$429,000

Symbol	Classification	2023	2025	2026	Hourly Rate*
pe2	principal	\$290.00	\$308.00	\$317.00	Brady McDaniel, Barry Chilibeck, Pepe Vasquez
pe3	principal engineer T3/ sr project engineer 1	\$270.00	\$286.00	\$295.00	Hank Fehlman, Ed Wallace
spe	senior project engineer	\$235.00	\$249.00	\$256.00	Andrey Shvidchenko
se1	senior engineer/scientist 1	\$205.00	\$217.00	\$224.00	Rob Odell
se2	senior engineer/scientist 2	\$190.00	\$202.00	\$208.00	Pablo Rodriguez, Reinaldo Morales Garcia, Dan Maldoff
e1	engineer/scientist 1	\$170.00	\$180.00	\$185.00	
e2	engineer/scientist 2	\$145.00	\$154.00	\$159.00	
je	junior engineer/scientist	\$135.00	\$143.00	\$147.00	
gis1	gis analyst 1	\$150.00	\$159.00	\$164.00	Dawn Lasprugato
gis2	gis analyst 2	\$120.00	\$127.00	\$131.00	Cass Zhao
set	senior cad designer	\$165.00	\$175.00	\$180.00	
et	engineering technician 1	\$140.00	\$149.00	\$153.00	
jet	engineering technician 2	\$125.00	\$133.00	\$137.00	
	jr. engineering technician	\$105.00	\$111.00	\$114.00	
sca	senior contract administrator	\$190.00	\$202.00	\$208.00	
ste	senior technical editor	\$150.00	\$159.00	\$164.00	
te	technical editor	\$125.00	\$133.00	\$137.00	
oa	office administrator	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$109.00	

**EXHIBIT “B” TO AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

CONSULTANT shall adhere to the following **Guidelines for Expense Reimbursement**:

Incidental expenditures incurred by CONSULTANT in the course of performing work under this Agreement and submitted for reimbursement by UNITED shall comply with the following guidelines.

Receipts are required for all reimbursable expenses (with an exception for meals and lodging) and shall be furnished with the invoice. Reimbursable expenditures shall not be subject to mark-up. Only actual costs of expenditures within the limits presented below are eligible for reimbursement.

1. Reimbursable Expenditures

A. Travel Expenses

Expenses for airfare or other travel accommodations shall not exceed costs that would reasonably be expected for comparable economy or coach class accommodations.

Personal vehicles may be used when appropriate and mileage will be reimbursed at the standard Internal Revenue Service (IRS) business mileage rate (e.g., 72.5 cents per mile for calendar year 2026, but for a total cost no greater than the cost that would reasonably be expected for round trip economy or coach class airfare. With the exception of extenuating circumstances (e.g. transport of specialized equipment), mileage for any trip over 500 miles shall be reimbursed at a total cost no greater than would reasonably be expected for round trip economy or coach class airfare. Extenuating circumstances shall be pre-approved by UNITED.

Rental vehicle costs are reimbursable when justified by the nature of the trip. With the exception of extenuating circumstances (e.g. transport of more than 4 people or excessive cargo) the total expense for the rental vehicle shall not exceed a cost that would reasonably be expected for a standard class vehicle. Insurance for rental vehicles is not reimbursable and must be in accordance with all insurance requirements set forth in this Agreement.

B. Lodging

The cost of lodging incurred on approved CONSULTANT business trips is reimbursable. UNITED will reimburse lodging at the standard U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rate for Ventura County (e.g., \$191.00 per night [excluding

taxes] for the months of October 2025 and January – September 2026). GSA rates are annually updated in October.

C. Meals

The cost of meals incurred on approved CONSULTANT Projects is reimbursable.

If UNITED is reimbursing the CONSULTANT for lodging, UNITED will reimburse for meals at the appropriate standard GSA rate for Ventura County (i.e., \$64.50 (or 75% of a daily rate) per day for first and last calendar day of PROJECT work, and \$86.00 per day for additional PROJECT workdays for calendar year 2026.

If UNITED is not reimbursing the CONSULTANT for lodging, UNITED will not reimburse the CONSULTANT for meals.

D. Equipment

All reimbursable equipment must be purchased or rented at a reasonable cost, in accordance with industry standards.

E. Expendable Items

Items that are expendable (depleted) will not be returned to UNITED, as the items will be “used up” in the course of CONSULTANT’s work.

F. Non-Expendable Items

Items that are non-expendable (not depleted) will be returned to UNITED upon completion of CONSULTANT’s work.

**EXHIBIT “C” TO AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

CONSULTANT shall procure and maintain for the duration of the Agreement, and for injuries that occur and claims which are made after the services herein are performed, insurance against claims or injuries to persons or damages to property, which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by CONSULTANT, its agents, representatives, or employees.

Minimum Scope of Insurance

Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

1. Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage (occurrence Form CG 00 01 or its equivalent).
2. Insurance Services Office Form Number CA 00 01 covering Automobile Liability, Code 1 or its equivalent (any auto).
3. Workers’ Compensation insurance as required by the State of California and Employer's Liability Insurance.
4. Errors & Omissions Liability insurance appropriate to the CONSULTANT’s profession. Architects’ and engineers’ coverage is to be endorsed to include contractual liability.
5. Valuable Document Insurance on all plans, specifications and other documents as may be required to protect UNITED in the amount of its full equity in such plans, specifications and other documents.

Minimum Limits of Insurance

CONSULTANT shall maintain limits no less than:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. General Liability:
Including operations, products and completed operations, as applicable. | \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. If Commercial General Liability Insurance or other form with a general aggregate limit is used, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this project/location or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit. |
| 2. Automobile Liability: | \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage. |

3. Employer's Liability: **\$1,000,000** per accident for bodily injury or disease.
4. Errors & Omissions Liability: **\$1,000,000** per claim.
5. Valuable Document Insurance **Full Equity of all Documents**

Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions

Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by UNITED. At the option of UNITED, either: the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions as respects UNITED, its directors, officers, officials, employees and agents; or CONSULTANT shall provide a financial guarantee satisfactory to UNITED guaranteeing payment of losses and related investigations, claim administration and defense expenses.

Other Insurance Provisions

The commercial general liability and automobile liability policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

6. For all policies required by this Agreement, UNITED and its directors, officers, officials, employees and volunteers are to be covered as additional named insureds as respects: liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the CONSULTANT; or automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by the CONSULTANT.
7. For any claims related to this Project, the CONSULTANT's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects UNITED and its directors, officers, officials, employees and agents. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by UNITED, its directors, officers, officials, employees or agents shall be excess of the CONSULTANT's insurance and shall not contribute with it.
8. Each insurance policy required by this clause shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be canceled by either party, except after thirty (30) days prior written notice has been provided to UNITED (with the exception of ten (10) days for nonpayment of premium).

If General Liability, Contractors Pollution Liability and/or Asbestos Pollution Liability and/or Errors & Omissions coverages are written on a claims-made form:

9. The retroactive date must be shown, and must be before the date of the contract or the beginning of contract work.
10. Insurance must be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided for at least five (5) years after completion of the contract of work.

11. If coverage is canceled or non-renewed, and not replaced with another claims-made policy form with a retroactive date prior to the contract effective date, the CONSULTANT must purchase an extended period coverage for a minimum of five (5) years after completion of contract work.
12. A copy of the claims reporting requirements must be submitted to UNITED for review.
13. If the services involve lead-based paint or asbestos identification/ remediation, the Contractors Pollution Liability shall not contain lead-based paint or asbestos exclusions. If the services involve mold identification/ remediation, the Contractors Pollution Liability shall not contain a mold exclusion and the definition of "Pollution" shall include microbial matter including mold.

Acceptability of Insurers

Insurance is to be placed with insurers qualified to do business in the State of California with a current A.M. Best's rating of no less than A: VII, unless otherwise acceptable to UNITED. Exception may be made for the State Compensation Insurance Fund when not specifically rated.

Verification of Coverage

CONSULTANT shall furnish UNITED with original certificates and amendatory/ additional insured endorsements effecting coverage required by this clause. The endorsements should be on forms provided by UNITED or on other than UNITED's forms provided those endorsements conform to UNITED requirements. All certificates and endorsements are to be received and approved by UNITED before work commences. However, failure to do so shall not operate as a waiver of these insurance requirements. UNITED reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements effecting the coverage required by these specifications at any time.

Waiver of Subrogation

CONSULTANT hereby agrees to waive subrogation, which any insurer of contractor may acquire from vendor by virtue of the payment of any loss. CONSULTANT agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to effect this waiver of subrogation.

The Workers' Compensation policy shall be endorsed with a waiver of subrogation in favor of the entity for all work performed by the CONSULTANT, its employees, agents and subcontractors.



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager
Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager

From: Haven Whipple, Environmental Scientist
Nathan Summerville, Senior Engineer

Date: February 23, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.2 Adopt a Resolution Determining that the Lower Olive Grove Restroom Repair Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Consider recommending approval to the full Board of Directors of a resolution determining that the Lower Olive Grove Restroom Repair Project (Project) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approving the Project and directing staff to file the Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA.

Discussion:

United Water Conservation District (District) is the lead agency for the proposed Project under CEQA. The proposed Project will be located in the District's Lake Piru Recreation Area Lower Olive Grove Campsite. The Project consists of repairs to the restroom facility to restore the original functionality of the facility. Repairs include replacing nine wall-mounted toilets and repairing damaged wall connections, replacing cast iron drainpipes within the floor slab, and replacing approximately 25 feet of sewer pipe and 11 feet of sidewalk outside of the facility. The proposed Project involves no expansion of existing use and no expansion of capacity.

The Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) Section 15301 "Existing Facilities" (Class 1).

Section 15301 (a) pertains to "interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances." Section 15301 (b) pertains to "existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services". The District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Agenda Item: 3.2 Adopt a Resolution Determining that the Lower Olive Grove Restroom Repair Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project Motion

Mission Goal:

Meets mission-related Goal B (System Reliability) and Goal F (Communications and Community Outreach).

Fiscal Impact:

The County Clerk and Recorder's Office filing fee for the CEQA NOE is \$50.00 which is included in the Adopted Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget under project account 051-400-81060; 8055-835.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution

Attachment B – Notice of Exemption

RESOLUTION 2026-xx

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DETERMINING THAT THE LOWER OLIVE GROVE RESTROOM REPAIR PROJECT (“PROJECT”) IS EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVING THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, pursuant to the proposed Project the United Water Conservation District (“District”) intends to repair and restore the original functionality of the restrooms located within the Lower Olive Grove Campsite at the Lake Piru Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project will consist of replacing all wall-mounted toilets and repairing the damaged wall connections; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project will excavate and replace the original cast iron drainpipes within the bathroom facility floor slab; and

WHEREAS, for the proposed Project, approximately 25 feet of sewer pipe and 11 feet of sidewalk outside of the facility will be impacted to accommodate pipeline replacement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) categorical exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and

WHEREAS, the key consideration under a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 exemption is whether a project involves negligible or no expansion of use; and

WHEREAS, examples of projects that are exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 include the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) because the proposed Project involves the operation, repair,

maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of District facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 sets forth the following exceptions to categorical exemptions:

“(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located--a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource”; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

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

1. The District’s Board of Directors hereby finds and determines that the proposed Project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Specifically, the Board of Directors finds and determines that the proposed Project is categorically exempt pursuant to the Class 1 Existing Facilities exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15301) because the proposed Project involves the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of District facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

2. The District's Board of Directors hereby finds and determines that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

3. The District's Board of Directors hereby approves the proposed Project and authorizes its implementation when deemed appropriate by the General Manager.

4. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the District's Environmental Services Manager to file a Notice of Exemption for the Project in accordance with CEQA.

5. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of March 2026.

ATTEST: _____

Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board President

ATTEST: _____

Gordon Kimball, Board Secretary/Treasurer

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
United Water Conservation District
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

Ventura County Clerk
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Project Title: Lower Olive Grove Restroom Repair Project

Project Location: Lower Olive Grove Campsite, Lake Piru Recreation Area, 4780 Piru Canyon Road, Piru, California, 93040 (34.475362, - 118.765248)

Name of Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): United Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: United Water Conservation District

Project Description: The Lower Olive Grove Restroom at the Lake Piru Recreation Area, owned and operated by United Water Conservation District (District), needs repair to restore the original functionality of the facility. The drain system within the restroom regularly backs up and floods the restroom. The existing wall-mounted toilets are damaged at the connection to the wall. To address these deficiencies, a repair project has been proposed to repair the facility. Constructed in 1970, the restroom is situated within the Olive Grove campsite and is one of two restrooms and shower facilities serving the site. The work will consist of replacing all nine wall-mounted toilets and repairing the damaged wall connections. In addition, the original cast iron drainpipes within the floor slab will be excavated and replaced. Most of the drainpipe requiring replacement is located within the existing structure and approximately 25 feet of sewer pipe and 11 feet of sidewalk outside the facility also require replacement. The restroom repair will not increase the capacity of the existing facility. These repairs are restricted to restoring the original functionality of the restroom.



Figure 1. Project Location and Site Access Map



Figure 2. Lower Olive Grove Restrooms

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
 - Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
 - Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
 - Categorical Exemptions: Class 1, Guidelines § 15301 – Existing Facilities
 - Statutory Exemption
-

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) Section 15301 Existing Facilities (Class 1).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) categorical exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The key consideration under a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 exemption is whether a project involves negligible or no expansion of use. Examples of projects that are exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 include the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services and also the addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing facilities. The District reviewed the Project and determined that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) because the Project involves the repair or maintenance of District facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 sets forth the following exceptions to categorical exemptions:

“(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located--a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.”

The District determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Nathan Summerville, Senior Engineer
Telephone: 805-525-4431
Email: NathanS@unitedwater.org

Marissa Caringella
Environmental Services Manager
United Water Conservation District

Date

Date OPR received for filing: _____



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Robert Richardson, Engineering Manager
Adrian Quiroz, Senior Engineer
Kaili Taniguchi, Senior Engineer

Date: February 18, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4. **Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project Schedule Updates Information Item**

Staff Recommendation:

Receive an informational update from the Engineering Department regarding its activities in support of the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project.

Background:

Per the latest project schedule e-filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in May 2025, the contractor procurement phase for the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project was to begin in September 2025, culminating in the award of a construction agreement in July 2026. However, because funding to support the estimated \$204 million construction cost has not been secured, and the required regulatory approvals were pending, the start of the contractor procurement phase and construction had to be postponed. This update was provided by Assistant General Manager, Dr. Maryam Bral, to the UWCD Board of Directors (Board) at the September 10, 2025, Board Meeting. This update was also provided to FERC on September 15, 2025, which resulted in FERC's request for an updated schedule and submission prior to the next Board of Consultants Meeting, currently scheduled for March 25-26, 2026.

Discussion:

Staff have prepared an updated schedule for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (SFD SIP). The updated schedule includes additional time to secure funding to support construction, obtain the required regulatory approvals, and prepare bid documents. The tentative major milestone dates included in the updated schedule are summarized below. For more details, please refer to Attachment A.

**Agenda Item: 4. Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project Schedule Updates
Information Item**

Table 1 – Summary of Major Milestone Dates – SFD SIP Updated Project Schedule

Major Milestone Activity	Tentative Completion Date
SFD Outlet Works	
Start of Contractor Procurement	March 2027
Award of Construction Agreement	July 2028
Construction Completion	October 2032
SFD Spillway	
Start of Contractor Procurement	May 2032
Award of Construction Agreement	April 2032
Construction Completion	August 2036
Completion of SFD SIP	August 2036

The updated schedule will be e-filed with FERC on March 10, 2026, and is subject to change.

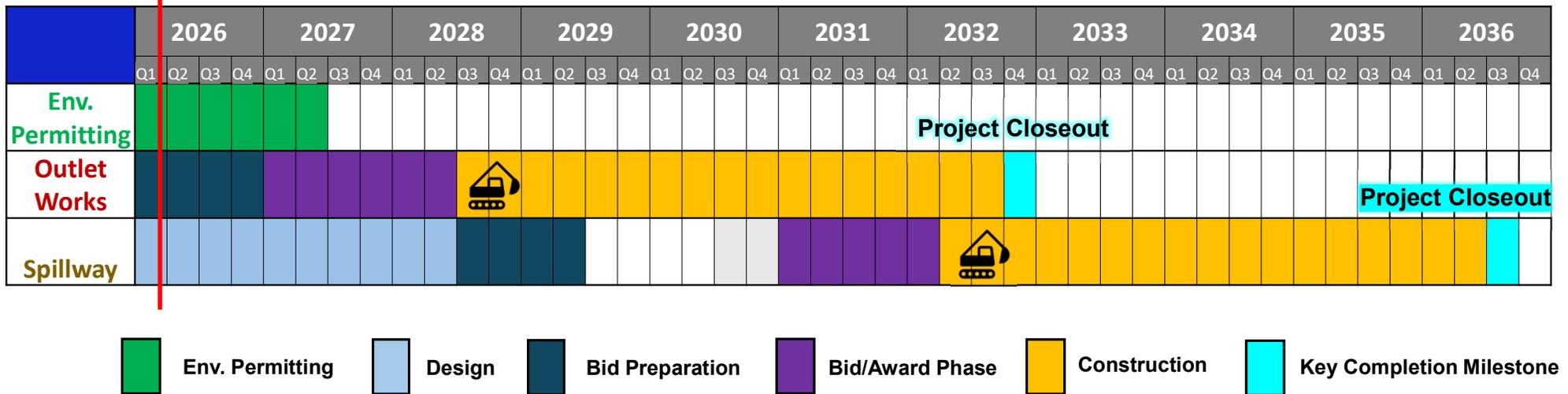
Attachment:

Updated Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project Simplified Schedule



SFD SIP - Proposed Updated Project Timeline

YOU ARE HERE



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Robert Richardson, Engineering Manager

Date: February 16, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for January 2026, as well as receive a presentation of its highlights. Please refer to the end of the report for a list of acronyms.

Discussion:

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- **FERC Compliance:**
 - January 8: Staff received a proposal from GEI for Amendment No. 2 to the SFD HHA and PSHA PCSA. The scope includes an update to SFD HHA to address FERC Comments. On January 30, a meeting with FERC and GEI was held to discuss their comments on the SFD HHA.
 - January 14: Staff met with the FERC Office of Energy Infrastructure Security to discuss potential Security Exercise Support to United. Staff are targeting holding a tabletop exercise sometime in August 2026.
 - January 26: Staff received a proposal from HDR to conduct a thickness inspection of the penstock required by FERC.
 - At the end of January, Staff held a review of and uploaded the SFD January Monthly inspection data.

- **Outlet Works Improvement Project:**
 - January 7: Staff conducted Part 1 of a front-end specifications workshop with BV and GEI to discuss insurance coverage requirements, liquidated damages, and Project Labor Agreements. Part 2 of the Front-End Specifications workshop continued on January 13, with discussion topics including groundwater treatment and disposal, bid escrow documents,

5.1 **Engineering Department Monthly Report** **Information Item**

formal partnering, and project labor agreements. Part 3 of the workshop was held on January 30.

- *Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*

Lake Piru Recreation Area FIP

- Lake Piru Campground and Recreation Area Renovations:
 - Restroom Rehabilitation
 - Throughout January, Staff prepared bid documents and prepared the project description for CEQA purposes.
 - January 16: Titan Environmental conducted lead and asbestos testing on the LOG and Oak Lane bathrooms to determine waste disposal requirements.
 - January 23: GPRS conducted a video survey at LOG, Upper Olive Grove, and Oak Lane restrooms. Staff reviewed videos received from GPRS of bathroom piping.
 - Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
 - In January, Staff coordinated with Stantec on the scope of work for the LPWTP Improvement Project. The design work is on track to start in March 2026 and be completed by late 2026. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to take place in early 2027.
- Lake Piru Asphalt
 - In late January, Staff surveyed distressed pavement areas at the Marina and Piru Canyon Road and prepared the FY 2026-2027 budget for the LPRA Pavement Maintenance Program.

Lake Piru Debris Clean-Up

- In January, Engineering Staff supported this effort by holding coordination meetings and scoping job walks with Recreation Staff and prospective contractors regarding the debris clean-up efforts for SFD and LPRA.

Freeman Diversion Expansion

- Throughout January, Staff met with NHC, GEI, and special advisors to advance the 30% design.
- January 25: Staff received the 60% Design proposal from GEI, which included NHC as one of the main subconsultants.
- *Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*

Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade – Freeman to Ferro

- January 7: Staff conducted a survey to support the high flow measurements taken in October 2025.
- January 6: Caltrans provided preliminary comments on the encroachment permit application for the Vineyard Avenue Crossing project. United has 30 days to

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

respond, or the application will be deleted, and the funds returned. The main item Caltrans requested is a supplemental environmental form which is anticipated to be completed in the required response period.

- January 15: Staff provided all requested information, and design consultant, HDR resubmitted the updated package to Caltrans. Updates to the package were minor and primarily consisted of supplemental forms and environmental information to assist Caltrans in their review.

State Water Interconnection Project

- January 25: Staff received 100% Plans and Specs from the City of Ventura. Bidding is on hold to complete easement negotiations.

OH Pipeline

- Throughout January, Staff updated figures and collected datasets for the UWMP. On January 12, the first UWMP notification letter was sent out to stakeholders.
- In early January, Staff coordinated with NV5 (design consultant for the Vineyard MWC Consolidation effort) regarding RFIs pertaining to the OH Pipeline.
- Engineering Staff assisted O&M Staff in observing construction of a 6-inch water line adjacent to Clearwell No. 2 to be used for maintenance of the clearwell cover and future storage building.
- January 20: Staff participated in a field visit with a prospective consultant to discuss the OH Wellfield generator and analysis and control upgrades needed to avoid line/ground faults. A draft proposal was received on January 23.

Pleasant Valley Pipeline

- Between January 14-16, Engineering Staff observed excavation and dewatering activities at the PV Pipeline leak area located east of Central Ave and north of HWY 101. Engineering Staff worked with O&M Staff to develop a repair plan for the replacement of the steel band with a new band fitted for compression, and installation of a reinforced concrete collar.

Recycled Water Planning Activities

- On January 6: Staff received and started to review the draft Title 22 Engineering Report prepared by Carollo Engineers from the City of Oxnard.
- On January 9: Staff held a meeting with the City of Oxnard and PVCWD regarding the status of AWPf operations and short-term recycled water deliveries, the draft Title 22 Engineering Report, and the FATW Agreement questionnaire.
- On January 15: Staff held a meeting with PVCWD and MKN to discuss the revised short-term recycled water delivery plan received on January 2.
- On January 21: Staff held a check-in Meeting with LARWQCB Staff regarding the status of short-term recycled water deliveries.

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- Throughout January, Staff held check-in meetings with KJ (design consultant) and ESA (environmental services consultant).
- January 13: Staff provided an updated project timeline for the draft succeeding Phase 1A license agreement and sent it to the Navy for approval.
- January 14: Staff received the draft NBVC water security problem statement provided by COMNAVREG SW.
- January 15: Staff received RFI #5 related to Phase 1B SAR requesting a slight relocation of extraction well site EBB1.

Asset Management/CMMS System

- January 16: an opportunistic inspection using a robotic camera crawler was conducted in an 870-ft section of the PV pipeline while it was undergoing repair.

Engineering File Digitization

- January 16: ARC Document Solutions picked up 11 boxes of Engineering historical files for scanning/indexing and 1 box for destruction.

Utility Requests

- January 15: Staff recorded a permanent access easement from Costco Wholesale Corporation for the Pleasant Valley Pipeline with the VC Recorder's Office.

On-Call Services Agreements

- January 14: three (3) On-Call Services Agreements (valid between 2025-2030) were executed with Stantec, Kyle Groundwater, and GSI Water Solutions.

Professional Development (Conferences, Trainings, Webinars)

- January 21: Staff attended the Employee Brown Bag Session - What Public Relations Is and Why It Matters to You as an Employee.
- January 28: Staff attended the Employee Brown Bag Session – Coding, Requisitions, and Financial Compliance Tracking.
- January 28: Staff attended the AWA CCWUC training "Protecting System Performance - Pump Curve Analysis for Critical Water Operations".

Public Outreach Support Activities

- January 8: Staff attended the RDP Regular Meeting "NBVC Annual Update, CAPT Dan Brown, Commanding Officer NBVC."
- January 15: Robert R., Adrian Q., Kaili T., Matthew W., Greg D., and Thomas G. toured Casitas MWD's Dam, sloping intake facility, and Marion Walker Pressure Filtration Plant (See *Figure 1*).

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

- January 15: Staff participated in the AWA Waterwise Breakfast “Recap of the Current Weather Year to Date” featuring a presentation from the NWS on the weather forecast for the remainder of the water year.
- January 20: Staff attended the AWA Water Issues Committee meeting and provided a State legislative update for UWCD.
- January 28: Staff participated in the UWCD Quarterly Tour and led the tours of SFD and the El Rio WTP.



Figure 1 - O&M and Engineering staff visiting Casitas Municipal Water District's Dam, sloping intake facility, and Marion Walker Pressure Filtration Plant.

**5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report
Information Item**

Acronym Index

Acronym	Definition
AWA	Association of Water Agencies
AWPF	Advanced Water Purification Facility
BV	Black & Veatch
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCWUC	Channel Counties Water Utilities Committee
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
COMNAVREG SW	Command Navy Region Southwest
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EBB	Extraction Barrier and Brackish
ESA	Environmental Science Associates
ESD	Environmental Services Department
FATW	Full Advanced Treatment Water
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FIP	Facility Improvement Project
FY	Fiscal Year
GEI	GEI Consultants
GM	General Manager
GPRS	Ground Penetrating Radar Systems, LLC
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HDR	HDR Consultants, Inc.
HHA	Hydraulic Hazard Analysis
I&C	Instrumentation and Control
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LOG	Lower Olive Grove
LPRA	Lake Piru Recreation Area
LPWTP	Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant
MKN	MKN & Associates
MWC	Mutal Water Company
NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County
NHC	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
NV5	Nv5 Global, Inc.
NWS	National Weather Service
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OH	Oxnard Hueneme
PCSA	Professional Consulting Services Agreement
PSHA	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis
PV	Pleasant Valley

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

Acronym	Definition
PVCWD	Pleasant Valley County Water District
RDP	Regional Defense Partnership
RFI	Request for Information
SFD	Santa Felicia Dam
UWCD	United Water Conservation District
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VC	Ventura County
WTP	Water Treatment Plant/Project



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager

Date: February 23, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: **5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report**
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

Review this staff report from the Environmental Services Department (ES) staff regarding its activities for the month of January 2026, as well as receive a presentation of its highlights.

Discussion:

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

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

On January 26, 2026, ES staff submitted the 2025 Project Activity Progress Report to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in accordance with Condition 8 of the Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project.

Water Release Plan and Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan

Under the Water Release Plan and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (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 triggers are met. Each month the trigger is not met, the minimum required habitat water release is seven (7) cubic feet per second (cfs). The total precipitation as of January 1, 2026, has met the triggers for elevated habitat releases through May 31, 2026. The minimum required habitat water release for the month of January is 15 cfs.

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

Habitat water release trigger date	Trigger criteria (total cumulative precipitation on trigger date)	Minimum required water release if trigger is met	2026 Measured cumulative precipitation	Actual minimum required habitat water release for month
January 1	4.80 inches	15 cfs	16.53 inches	15 cfs
February 1	8.10 inches	20 cfs	TBD	20 cfs
March 1	12.00 inches	20 cfs	TBD	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	TBD

*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.

General Maintenance at Lake Piru and Santa Felicia Project – Section 404 Clean Water Act

On January 15, 2026, ES staff submitted the 2025 Annual Report for General Maintenance Activities at Lake Piru and Santa Felicia Project to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as required by the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.

Santa Felicia Whitewater Boating Access – Lake Piru Recreation Area

On January 15, 2026, ES staff filed the 2025 Santa Felicia Whitewater Boating Access Annual Report with FERC. Previously, the Annual Report was submitted to stakeholders on December 10, 2025, for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received.

Santa Felicia Recreation Trail Plan – Pothole Trail

On January 15, 2026, ES staff submitted the 2025 Annual Monitoring Report for the Santa Felicia Recreation Trail Plan and Pothole Trailhead Parking Area Project to FERC, the Los Padres National Forest District Ranger, and the Angeles District Park Maintenance Supervisor.

During the month of January, ES staff continued to support and coordinate with the Los Padres National Forest Association regarding the development of the grant funded reroute of the U.S. Forest Service Pothole Trail. The trail reroute will increase accessibility and recreational value. The new trailhead will start at United’s Pothole Trailhead parking lot facility.

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

On September 29, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals granted United a motion to hold the court case “United Water Conservation District v. FERC” in abeyance and directed United to file status reports every 60 days. United filed the court case to challenge the biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on FERC’s issuance of a license for the Santa Felicia Project. On January 6, 2026, the ninety-second status update was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit.

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

2. Increased State Water Project Imports from Pyramid Lake to Lake Piru

On June 30, 2025, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted United's requests for a variance to DWR and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) FERC license for Pyramid Lake and for a temporary amendment to the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the SWRCB, to allow increased State Water Project (SWP) imports from Pyramid Dam to Lake Piru.

On January 23, 2026, the SWRCB issued a temporary amendment to the 401 WQC. FERC subsequently issued a temporary variance to the DWR and LADWP FERC license for Pyramid Lake on January 29, 2026. With the approved temporary variance, United has regulatory approval to release up to 25,000 acre-feet of SWP water to Lake Piru in the November to February delivery window through the end of February 2027. ES staff continues to develop materials needed for continued increased importation of SWP water beyond February 2027, including future temporary variance and permanent license amendment requests.

3. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of January 2026, ES staff supported Freeman Diversion operations and maintenance activities by coordinating with Water Resources and Operations and Maintenance staff, coordinating with resource agencies as needed, conducting pre-project surveys, and providing on-site biological monitoring.

ES staff initiated fish ladder operations on January 1, 2026, and has continued operating the fish ladder to date. A wet start to the water year (i.e., October through early January) resulted in substantial and sustained flows at the Freeman Diversion throughout the month of January. ES staff have assisted with conducting regular flushing operations. Several adult pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) have been observed in or near the facility. No *O. mykiss* have been observed.

On December 30, 2025, ES staff submitted the 2025 Annual Report for routine maintenance activities conducted at the Freeman Diversion to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), as required by Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement EPIMS-VEN-41964-R5. Additionally, on January 21, 2026, ES staff submitted a 2026 Notification of Work Plan to CDFW for Freeman Diversion routine maintenance activities.

On January 26, 2026, ES staff submitted the Year 5 Annual Report for the Restoration and Revegetation for the Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Facility Geotechnical Exploration Project to CDFW. This was the final report for the Project.

4. Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

On September 10, 2025, Judge Carter issued an Opinion in the Wishtoyo et al. v. United Water case which requires submittal of the Freeman Diversion Multiple Species Habitat

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and incidental take permit (ITP) application under the federal Endangered Species Act, and state ITP and LSA notifications, by January 8, 2026.

On January 8, 2026, pursuant to the requirements of the Court Opinion, United staff completed and submitted the MSHCP to NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and an ITP application and LSA notifications to CDFW for the hardened ramp fish passage facility. Additionally, United staff also completed and submitted a separate MSHCP, ITP application, and LSA notifications for the Improved Denil fish passage facility. On January 12 and 13, 2026, United staff attended a hearing with Judge Carter regarding attorney fees; a decision is pending.

Following the January 8, 2026, submittal, ES staff coordinated with the USACE, USFWS, and CDFW regarding the submitted materials and the next steps in the regulatory review process for their respective agencies. Additionally, ES staff collected data at several critical riffle sites in the lower Santa Clara River, downstream of the Freeman Diversion, in support of the critical riffle study.

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

On January 8, 2026, United staff met with the U.S. Department of the Navy's biological subject matter experts to discuss technical aspects of the state and federal biological consultations for Phase 1 of the EBB Water Treatment Project. United and Navy staff continue to have productive collaborative meetings in support of advancing the project.

6. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of January 2026, ES staff continued to conduct 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 staff also continued quagga mussel veliger (larva) sampling in United's lower system and continues to coordinate regularly with Pleasant Valley County Water District. No veligers were detected in the lower system throughout the month of January.

7. Grant Efforts

On January 21, 2026, ES and Grant Task Force staff met with representatives from Cal Fire to receive feedback on United's application to the Wildfire Prevention FY 2025-2026 grant program that was not selected for funding. In addition, ES staff began gathering pertinent project information to start the state and federal budget appropriations process.

8. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

On January 12, 2026, ES staff received the preliminary results of eDNA sample analysis collected on November 6, 2025, in East Grove in accordance with the Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Study Plan on behalf of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

Sustainability Agency. Additional eDNA sampling and fieldwork in East Grove is planned for spring 2026.

9. Miscellaneous

On January 7, 2026, ES staff attended a meeting for the Santa Clara River Arundo Management Working Group.

On January 15, 2026, ES staff attended the AWA Waterwise Meeting titled, “Recap of the Current Water Year” presented by NOAA.

On January 21, 2026, ES staff attended United’s brown bag presentation, “What is Public Relations?” presented by Public Outreach and External Affairs Manager Tara Mulally.

On January 24, 2026, ES staff hosted a booth at the 5th Annual Native Plant Fest at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

On January 28, 2026, ES staff participated in the public quarterly tour of United’s facilities.

On January 28, 2026, ES staff attended United’s brown bag presentation, “Coding, Requisitions, and Financial Compliance Tracking” presented by the Finance Department.



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer
Randy Castañeda, Operations Supervisor - Water Treatment
Ed Reese, Control Systems Supervisor
J.D. Smallwood, Operations Supervisor - Water Distribution

Date: February 16, 2026 (March 5, 2026, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive this summary report from the Operations and Maintenance Department regarding its activities for January 2026, as well as a presentation of its highlights.

1. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
 - On January 1, 2026, Lake Piru level was 1039.70' and peaked on January 23, 2026, with a lake level of 1055.10'. On January 31, 2026, the lake level then rested at 1052.30'. These changes were due to increased inflows caused by the 3.40" of rain, along with various ramping operations within January.
 - Santa Felicia Dam outflows varied between 15 cfs and 400 cfs due to minimum habitat flows, migration flows, and various releases in coordination with water conservation activities at the Freeman Diversion.
 - SFD's monthly inspection for January was completed and submitted to Engineering for review.
 - Interdepartmental coordination has been ongoing to support the debris removal process at Lake Piru, ensuring efficient planning and execution of cleanup efforts.

- **Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities**
 - Various maintenance activities and inspections were conducted throughout the Saticoy Facility, ensuring reliable storm preparedness and responses.
 - Staff performed routine screen bay maintenance between sediment flush operations to ensure continued functionality and reliable system performance.
 - Storm diversions were conducted at the Freeman Diversion in response to storm events.

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report Information Item

- Sediment flush operations were conducted at the Freeman Diversion in response to multiple storm events occurring throughout January.
- Static groundwater levels (distance to water - from the well pad to the water table):

Facility	2026*	2025	2024	2023
Saticoy	20'	51'	25'	63'
El Rio	53'	62'	63'	130'
PTP	51'-93'	60'-100'	59'-97'	100'-119'

** Static groundwater levels are typically recorded in the last week of the month.
This table represents data for the month of January.*

- **Oxnard Hueneme Delivery System**

- El Rio operators assisted with maintenance activities at Freeman Diversion.
- El Rio staff worked through flow meter issues at OH Well 16.
- El Rio staff de-energized the electrical supply to OH Well 19 so the defective motor could be removed and sent in for repairs.
- El Rio staff assisted Sparling Co. with an accuracy-and verification test of the flow meter that registers incoming water to El Rio Spreading Grounds.
- El Rio operators continued with installation of the 6" water line along southeast side of OH Clear Well 2.
- El Rio operators adjusted the OH disinfection process due to a decrease in demand from the City of Oxnard.

- **Pleasant Valley County Water District**

- Demand was met primarily with surface water delivery from Freeman Diversion.
- UWCD staff responded to and assisted with the repair and inspection of the PV 54" pipeline off Central Ave.

- **Pumping Trough Pipeline**

- El Rio staff worked through issues with the VFD and motor for PTP Well 3.
- El Rio staff responded to and repaired multiple electrical issues at various PTP well sites.

- **Control Systems**

- Wired the new VFD's at PTP Well 3, PTP Well 4, and PTP Well 5.
- Worked with the manufacturer to minimize the fluctuating readings of the SQ flowmeter on the Freeman Canal and implemented a solution that resolved the issue. .

- **Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant**

- All the chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant (LPWTP) were within proper ranges in January.

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report Information Item

- Monthly pH, turbidity, and coliform samples were obtained from the treatment plant as part of the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule compliance monitoring. The results were favorable, with another passing grade.

2. Operations and Maintenance Treatment Compliance Projects Update

- Completed monthly El Rio SWTR report and emailed to DDW and OH customers.
- El Rio staff completed quarterly FCGMA flow meter documentation and filed the updates.
- Completed and emailed quarterly NPDES reports to LARWQCB.
- El Rio operators completed the monthly inspection of the OH Clear Wells.
- El Rio operators performed verifications and calibrations on CL2, NH3 analyzers, and natural gas leak detectors.

3. Safety and Training

- O&M staff attended the monthly safety meeting on January 27.

Attachment:

Operation Log for January 2026

