



Every Drop Counts. ...So Does Every Vote.

**WATER SUPPLY, CONSERVATION AND
WATER QUALITY BOND MEASURE**

Ventura County's water supply has survived through decades of drought. Keeping it that way takes work, and right now, three critical pieces of that system need attention. That's why United Water Conservation District (United Water) is bringing a bond measure to Ventura County voters on **November 3, 2026** to help fund United Water's capital projects, including these three priority projects that can't wait.

THREE PROJECTS. THREE MANDATES.



Santa Felicia Dam: \$314 million

237,000 people live downstream. State and federal regulators require seismic and flood capacity upgrades to meet modern safety standards.

- Seismic retrofit of outlet works and intake tower
- Spillway improvements required by DSOD and FERC
- Protects water supplies (including for wildfire suppression), groundwater recharge, and Lake Piru



Freeman Diversion: \$104 million

A federal court order requires fish passage upgrades. The work will also increase how much stormwater, imported water and surface water United Water can capture.

- Required by binding federal court judgment
- Improves fish passage and modernizes fish screens
- Expected to increase groundwater recharge by 5,000-8,000 acre-feet per year



Extraction Barrier & Brackish Water Treatment: \$51 million

Beneath the Oxnard Plain, seawater is moving inland. This project supports stopping that intrusion.

- Helps stop seawater intrusion into freshwater underground water basins
- Required under the region's state-mandated Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Turns impaired groundwater into a usable local supply

HOW IT WORKS ←

The bond measure would authorize up to \$350 million in general obligation bonds, repaid over 30 years through a property tax assessment. United Water has already secured grants and low-interest federal financing. The bond measure, if approved, would bridge the gap that secured funding cannot cover.

For the average homeowner that would be approximately \$121 per year, or about \$10 per month. Renters would incur no direct new tax. All bond funds are legally restricted to voter-approved purposes and subject to independent annual audits.



To learn more, visit **everydropeveryvote.org** to check out United Water's Bond Report which details the projects, funding strategy, and full fiscal analysis. **Or scan here.** →





Frequently Asked Questions

WATER SUPPLY, CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY BOND MEASURE

WHAT IS A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND?

A general obligation bond is a way for a public agency to borrow money upfront to pay for capital projects, then repay that money over time through a dedicated property tax assessment. Think of it like a home mortgage. The agency borrows what it needs today and repays it in predictable annual installments through a tax levied on property within the district. Voters would need to approve a bond measure before any funds can be raised or spent.

WHAT CAN BOND FUNDS BE USED FOR? WHAT'S EXPLICITLY OFF LIMITS?

Bond funds may only be used for capital projects, specifically the construction, improvement, and related costs of capital projects described in the bond measure. California law is explicit about what bond proceeds cannot be used for. Bond funds may not be spent on employee salaries or benefits, day-to-day operating expenses, routine maintenance, administrative costs, or any purpose not described in the voter-approved measure. Every dollar raised through the bond must go directly toward building capital projects and associated bond costs as authorized by voters, nothing else.

HOW AND WHEN WILL THE TAX IMPACT MY PROPERTY TAX BILL?

If the bond measure is approved, the tax would first appear on property tax bills in fiscal year 2028. It would be collected annually through the Ventura County property tax roll, the same bill property owners already receive each year. The estimated annual rate is approximately \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value, which works out to about **\$121 per year, or roughly \$10 per month**, for the average homeowner. The tax is expected to remain in place for 30 years, through fiscal year 2057.

I RENT. DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

Renters are not subject to any direct new tax from this measure. General obligation bonds are repaid through property taxes levied on property owners of record, but property owners might pass on the tax in the form of rent increases. Renters will, however, benefit directly from the water supply reliability and groundwater protections these projects deliver.

WHAT IF UNITED WATER GETS MORE GRANT FUNDING. DOES THE TAX GO DOWN?

Yes, potentially. The bond measure authorizes United Water to issue up to \$350 million in bonds, but **United Water is not required to issue the full amount**. If additional grants, loans, or appropriations are secured, fewer bonds may need to be

issued, which could reduce the total tax burden on property owners. United Water is committed to continuing to pursue every available outside funding source throughout the life of these projects.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BOND DOESN'T PASS?

The priority projects still need to be completed. The regulatory mandates, court orders, and groundwater sustainability obligations will not go away. Without bond funding, United Water would face a difficult choice: *raise rates or risk the permanent loss of critical water supply capacity through regulatory enforcement actions and court sanctions.*

HOW MANY VOTES DOES IT TAKE TO PASS?

Under California law, a general obligation bond measure for a special district, like United Water, requires approval by **two-thirds (66.67%)** of voters casting a ballot on the measure.

HOW DO I KNOW THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT AS PROMISED?

All expenditures would be subject to independent annual audits, and United Water's Board of Directors retains full oversight of bond issuance and spending. United Water is committed to **regular public reporting on project progress** and budget performance throughout the life of the bond program.

WHEN CAN I VOTE?

The measure will appear on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot. Registered voters within United Water Conservation District's service area are eligible to vote. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in Ventura County ahead of Election Day. You can also vote in person at your designated polling location on November 3. To register to vote or check your registration status, visit **venturavote.org**.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS MEASURE?

United Water will be holding community meetings across the District in the coming months to walk through the bond measure, the projects it funds, and what it means for property owners and residents. Check **everydropeveryvote.org** for meeting dates and locations as they are announced. You can also read United Water's Bond Report, a detailed public document prepared under the California Water Code.

HAVE A QUESTION NOT ANSWERED HERE?

Email us directly at **info@unitedwater.org** and a member of our team will get back to you.

