

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
will be held at **3:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 16, 2026**
1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room

Notice Regarding Public Participation: For those who may not attend the meeting but wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, please submit any and all comments and written materials to the District via electronic mail at general@syrwd.org. All submittals should indicate "**June 16, 2026 Board Meeting**" in the subject line. Materials received by the District during and prior to the meeting will become part of the post-meeting Board packet materials available to the public and posted on the District's website.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA**
4. **ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-Agenda matter within the District's jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The District is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any public comment item.
6. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 19, 2026**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion without separate discussion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Trustee.
CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report
CA-2. Central Coast Water Authority Update
8. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
 - A. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**
 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
 - a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements - Revenues and Expenses
 - b) Approval of Accounts Payable
 2. Appropriation Limit for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year - Article XIII B (Proposition 13)
 - a) Resolution No. 859: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution

3. Consider Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027
 - a) Final Budget Summary
 - b) Resolution No. 860: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and Requesting an Assessment Levy Required to Collect \$875,000
 4. Draft Ordinance 2026-01: An Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing Regulations and Fines Relating to Water Theft
 5. 2025 Consumer Confidence Report – Annual Water Quality Report Required by Federal and State Regulations
 6. Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District – 2026 Rate Study and Proposed Groundwater Production Charges for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
- 9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
- A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**
1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update
- 10. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**
- 11. CORRESPONDENCE LIST: REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE DISTRICT**
- 12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:** Any member of the Board of Trustees may request to place an item on the Agenda for the next regular meeting. Any member of the public may submit a written request to the General Manager of the District to place an item on a future meeting Agenda, provided that the General Manager and the Board of Trustees retain sole discretion to determine which items to include on meeting Agendas.
- 13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for **July 21, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.**
- 14. CLOSED SESSION:**
The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:
- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**
[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 1 Case]
1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION**
[Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of Litigation By the Agency – Two Matters]
- 15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**
[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

16. ADJOURNMENT

This Agenda was posted at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez, California, and notice was delivered in accordance with Government Code Section 54950 et seq., specifically Section 54956. This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Board reserves the right to change the order in which items are heard. Copies of any staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business on the Agenda are on file with the District and available for public inspection during normal business hours at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez. Such written materials will also be made available on the District's website, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the regularly scheduled meeting. Questions concerning any of the Agenda items may be directed to the District's General Manager at (805) 688-6015. If a court challenge is brought against any of the Board's decisions related to the Agenda items above, the challenge may be limited to those issues raised by the challenger or someone else during the public meeting or in written correspondence to the District prior to or during the public meeting. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any individual needing special assistance to review Agenda materials or participate in this meeting may contact the District Secretary at (805) 688-6015. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will best enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Page left intentionally blank.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
MAY 19, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

Trustees Present: Michael Burchardi (via telephone from remote location listed on the Notice and Agenda)
Jeff Clay
Brad Joos

Nick Urton

Trustees Absent: Mark Moniot

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Racel Cota Kylie Kelleher
Dan Drugan Jessica Diaz Steven Anderson

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted roll call and reported that three Trustees were present in person, Trustee was present via videoconference, and that Trustee Moniot was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Clay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA:

Ms. Cota reported that the Agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the California Government Code commencing at Section 54953, as well as District Resolution No. 340.

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA:

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Clay welcomed any members of the public and offered time for members of the public to speak and address the Board on matters not on the Agenda. There was no public comment. Mr. Garcia reported that no written comments were submitted to the District for the meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2026

The Regular Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2026 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton to approve the April 21, 2026 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

The Motion carried and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 21, 2026 were adopted by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent:

AYES, Trustees:	Brad Joos Nick Urton Mike Burchardi Jeff Clay
NOES, Trustees:	None
ABSENT, Trustees:	Mark Moniot

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board Packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of April. Various topics were discussed among the Board and staff.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried and the Consent Agenda was adopted by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent:

AYES, Trustees:	Brad Joos Nick Urton Mike Burchardi Jeff Clay
NOES, Trustees:	None
ABSENT, Trustees:	Mark Moniot

8. MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses

Ms. Cota announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the District’s website.

Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of April. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot for the ten months ending April 30, 2026. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$831,931.43 and the year-to-date April 2026 net income was \$4,184,684.55, which will be earmarked and utilized for the District’s annual State Water Project which is due in June 2026.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Cota announced that the Warrant List was provided to the Board via email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the District's website.

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 27209 through 27262 in the amount of \$3,983,507.23.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, to approve the Warrant List for April 22, 2026 through May 19, 2026.

The Motion carried and the Warrant List was approved by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent:

AYES, Trustees:	Brad Joos Nick Urton Mike Burchardi Jeff Clay
NOES, Trustees:	None
ABSENT, Trustees:	Mark Moniot

2. Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget

The Board packet included a Staff Report and line-item details for the FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget

Ms. Cota provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the budget timeline, budget components, revenue and expenditure highlights, capital improvement projects, reserve funds, and FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget comparison to FY 2025/2026 Adopted Budget. Ms. Cota reported that revenues are anticipated to fully fund all expense categories, including Operations and Maintenance, General and Administrative, Debt Service, Other Expenses and Special Studies, and a majority of Capital Improvement Project program costs, leaving a projected budget shortfall of \$1,529,669 (resulting entirely from a proposed project to install a new groundwater production well at a cost of approximately \$3,000,000). To achieve a balanced budget, District management proposes a budget transfer from Unrestricted, Board Reserved Funds to Unrestricted Funds of \$1,529,669. She reported that the FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget also assumes no increase in the \$875,000 Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax, even though the authorized limit for FY 2026/2027 is \$2,785,514.

Discussion ensued regarding anticipated revenues from water rates and charges, proposed capital improvement projects, the appropriation limit for a special assessment, and the status of District reserves.

Ms. Cota asked that the Board review the FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget and provide any additional comments or questions to management by early June for possible incorporation into the FY 2026/2027 Final Budget which will be presented at the June 16, 2026 Board meeting.

Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation and compliments to District staff for their hard work and collaboration in preparing the FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget.

The Board thanked District staff for their hard work and collaboration in preparing the FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget.

3. Setting the Appropriation Limit for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year – Article XIII B (Proposition 13)
 - a) California Department of Finance Calculations for 2026/2027 Appropriation Limitations and Authorization to Post Notice and Make Public the 2026/2027 Appropriation Limitation Calculation

The Board packet included the May 2026 California Department of Finance letter regarding the FY 2026/2027 Appropriation Limitation Calculation, Price Factor, and Population Information.

Mr. Garcia explained that in connection with establishing an annual appropriation, certain language must be read verbatim into the public record, as follows: *“Pursuant to Section 7910 of the California Government Code, a resolution will be presented for adoption by the Board of Trustees at its Regular meeting on June 16, 2026, which will set the limitations on appropriations for fiscal year 2026/2027 under Article XIII B of the Constitution of the State of California (Proposition 13), and that the documentation used in determining the appropriation limitations will be available at the District office and on the District’s website for examination by the public for at least 15 days prior to the adoption of the proposed resolution.”*

Mr. Garcia explained the materials provided by the California Department of Finance for calculating the FY 2026/2027 appropriation limitation, and how the calculations are applied to the District’s Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax limitation. He illustrated that based on the applicable calculations, the District’s FY 2026/2027 maximum special assessment amount is \$2,785,514. Mr. Garcia noted that although the District is authorized to set the Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax up to the maximum amount, the FY 2026/2027 Preliminary Budget proposes no increase this year, similar to previous years, with the assessment to remain at \$875,000. The Board reviewed the information presented and the related Public Notice. Discussion ensued regarding the maximum amount the District could collect versus the proposed FY 2026/2027 amount of \$875,000. The consensus of the Board was to keep the Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax amount at \$875,000 for FY 2026/2027, but to evaluate the possibility of increasing that amount in future fiscal years as part of the upcoming water rate study.

Mr. Garcia requested authorization to post and publish the Public Notice setting forth the appropriation limit and calculation factors. He reported that the Public Notice and FY 2026/2027 appropriation limitation calculation would be posted at the District Office, on the District website beginning May 20, 2026, and published in the local newspaper on June 4, 2026 and June 11, 2026.

- b) Review of Draft Resolutions to be presented for adoption at the June 16, 2026 Board Meeting
The Board packet included two draft Resolutions:

1. Draft Resolution: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution
2. Draft Resolution: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and Requesting an Assessment Levy Required to Collect \$875,000

Mr. Garcia reported that each year the draft Resolutions are presented a month in advance of the adoption of the Final Budget in conjunction with the establishment of an appropriations limit, and no action is required at this time. He stated that the two Resolutions would be presented for consideration at the June 16, 2026 Board meeting.

4. Draft Ordinance: An Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing Regulations and Fines Relating to Water Theft

Mr. Garcia reported that water theft is an ongoing and possibly growing problem that undermines the fairness, affordability, water conservation, and financial objectives of the District's water system. He explained that recently enacted California law (SB 394, 2026) establishes stiffer fines for water theft and unauthorized uses of District fire hydrants and other water supply infrastructure, and that the Draft Ordinance would enable ID No.1 to impose higher fines as needed to address cases of water theft and/or related damage to District facilities. The Board and staff discussed ways to inform people about the Draft Ordinance and agreed to bring the Ordinance back for possible Board in adoption in a month or two.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update

Mr. Drugan reported that staff are proactively transitioning the distribution system from State Water supplies back to well supplies due to water quality issues being addressed by CCWA. He noted that staff are actively coordinating with CCWA to determine when the District may shift back to State Water supplies. Mr. Drugan stated that the District recently completed installation of a variable frequency drive at the Mesa Verde Pump Station and that staff are preparing for a minor shutdown at the intersection of Faraday Street and Lindero Street to install new valve improvements.

9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

The Board packet included the Cancellation Notice for the March 26, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area.

Mr. Garcia reported that the next meeting of the EMA GSA is currently scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026.

10. **REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Garcia reported that he and Trustee Joos attended the Annual Santa Ynez Airport Day and hosted an informational booth. The District is also planning to host an informational booth at the Old Santa Ynez Days event in June.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS**
The Correspondence List was received by the Board.

12. **REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**
There were no requests from the Board.

13. **NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**
President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for June 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**
The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:23 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 1 Case]

1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION

[Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - Potential Initiation of Litigation by the Agency - Two Matters]

15. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**
[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 6:40 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A through 14.B, and that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot and Trustee Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board

ATTEST: _____
Jeff Clay, President

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Kylie Kelleher, Executive Administrative Assistant

Page left intentionally blank.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
June 16, 2026

Consent Agenda Report

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. The District's total water production in **May 2026 (367 AF)** was 98 AF higher than total production in **April 2026 (269 AF)**, 39 AF higher than the most recent 3-year running average (2023-2025) for the month of **May (328 AF)**, and 9 AF lower than the most recent 10-year running average (2016-2025) for the month of **May (376 AF)**. **Understandably, this year's May production was higher than the most recent three-year average (where the average was brought down by wet conditions in 2023 and 2024) and instead tracked much closer to the most recent 10-year running average.** As noted in previous Consent Reports, the District's overall demands and production totals generally have been trending below historic levels for domestic, rural residential, and agricultural water deliveries due to water conservation, changing water use patterns, and private well installations.

For the month of **May 2026**, approximately **42.5 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells and approximately **146.5 AF** was produced from the 4.0 and 6.0 cfs well fields in the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from CCWA, the District took delivery of **178 AF** of SWP supplies for the month. According to USBR, approximately **48.6 AF** of SWP deliveries were made to Cachuma for South Coast entities. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **1.80 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Cachuma Reservoir in **May** (ending May 31, 2026) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **750.42'** and end of month storage of **185,387 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the reservoir of **0.04 inches** for the month. Reported reservoir evaporation in **May** was **1,435.6 AF**. Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **June 8, 2026** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **95.2%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **183,781 AF** (Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Rainfall and Reservoir Summary).

When reservoir storage exceeds 100,000 AF, the Cachuma Member Units have usually received a full allocation. Conversely, a 20% pro-rata reduction from the full allocation is scheduled to occur in Water Years beginning at less than 100,000 AF, where incremental reductions may occur at other lower storage levels. In recent years, Reclamation approved a 100% Project allocation for federal WY 2023-2024 based on extraordinary rain conditions that spilled the reservoir in early 2023. The reservoir spilled again in early 2024 and Reclamation issued another 100% Project allocation for federal WY 2024-2025. Based on prevailing reservoir conditions, the Cachuma Member Units requested a 100% Project allocation for WY 2025-2026, which USBR approved. At the beginning of December 2025, ID No.1 held approximately 4,365 AF of contractual Project supplies in the reservoir, including approximately 1,878 AF of prior year carryover supplies and 2,487 AF from the current WY 2025-2026 allocation. Due to spill conditions that occurred again this year, all Cachuma Member Agencies lost their carryover supplies, such that the District currently holds approximately 2,391 AF of contractual Project supplies in Cachuma, comprised of this year's allocation less amounts exchanged thus far with the South Coast Member Units. **By joint letter dated June 5, 2026 the Cachuma Member Units have requested a 100% Project allocation for WY 2026-2027.**

Water releases for the protection of fish and aquatic habitat are made from Cachuma reservoir to the lower Santa Ynez River pursuant to the 2000 Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the 2019 Water Rights Order (WR 2019-0148) issued by the State Board (SWRCB). These releases are made to Hilton Creek and to the stilling basin portion of the outlet works at the base of Bradbury Dam. The water releases required under the NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion to avoid jeopardy to steelhead and adverse impacts to its critical habitat are summarized as follows:

NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion

- *When Reservoir Spills and the Spill Amount Exceeds 20,000 AF:*
 - 10 cfs at Hwy 154 Bridge during spill year(s) exceeding 20,000 AF
 - 1.5 cfs at Alisal Bridge when spill amount exceeds 20,000 AF and if steelhead are present at Alisal Reach
 - 1.5 cfs at Alisal Bridge in the year immediately following a spill that exceeded 20,000 AF and if steelhead are present at Alisal Reach

- *When Reservoir Does Not Spill or When Reservoir Spills Less Than 20,000 AF:*
 - 5 cfs at Hwy 154 when Reservoir does not spill and Reservoir storage is above 120,000 AF, or when Reservoir spill is less than 20,000 AF
 - 2.5 cfs at Hwy 154 in all years when Reservoir storage is below 120,000 AF but greater than 30,000 AF
 - 1.5 cfs at Alisal Bridge if the Reservoir spilled in the preceding year and the spill amount exceeded 20,000 AF and if steelhead are present at Alisal Reach
 - 30 AF per month to “refresh the stilling basin and long pool” when Reservoir storage is less than 30,000 AF

The water releases required under the SWRCB Water Rights Order 2019-0148 for the protection of fish and other public trust resources in the lower Santa Ynez River and to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water are summarized as follows:

SWRCB Order WR 2019-0148

- *During Below Normal, Dry, and Critical Dry water years (October 1 – September 30), releases shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion as set forth above (“Table 1 Flows”).*

- *During Above Normal and Wet water years, the following minimum flow requirements must be maintained at Hwy 154 and Alisal Bridges (“Table 2 Flows”):*
 - 48 cfs from February 15 to April 14 for spawning
 - 20 cfs from February 15 to June 1 for incubation and rearing
 - 25 cfs from June 2 to June 9 for emigration, with ramping to 10 cfs by June 30
 - 10 cfs from June 30 to October 1 for rearing and maintenance of resident fish
 - 5 cfs from October 1 to February 15 for resident fish

- *For purposes of SWRCB Order WR 2019-0148, water year classifications are as follows:*
 - Wet is when Cachuma Reservoir inflow is greater than 117,842 AF;
 - Above Normal is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 117,842 AF or greater than 33,707 AF;
 - Below Normal is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 33,707 AF or greater than 15,366 AF;
 - Dry is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 15,366 AF or greater than 4,550 AF
 - Critical Dry is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 4,550 AF

Based on local rainfall conditions thus far in the new water year, inflows to Cachuma Reservoir have exceeded 33,707 AF and thus have triggered higher fishery release requirements from Bradbury Dam under “Table 2” of State Board Order 2019-0148 (see flow regime above).

CA-2. State Water Project (SWP) and Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Updates.

As previously reported, in 2023 DWR declared a 100 percent SWP Table A allocation for the first time since 2006 (compared to a 5 percent allocation in 2022). In 2024, despite above normal precipitation and snowpack, and above-average storage levels in Lake Oroville, DWR took a conservative approach and limited the final Table A allocation to 40 percent. In 2025, DWR again took a very conservative approach to the Table A allocation, as follows:

- December 2, 2024 – DWR issued an initial 2025 SWP Table A allocation of 5 percent (5%)
- December 23, 2024 – Allocation increased to 15 percent (15%)
- January 28, 2025 – Allocation increased to 20 percent (20%)
- February 25, 2025 – Allocation increased to 35 percent (35%)
- March 25, 2025 – Allocation increased to 40 percent (40%)
- April 29, 2025 – Final Allocation increased to 50 percent (50%)

For the 2026 Water Year, on December 1, 2025 DWR issued a Notice to the State Water Contractors establishing an initial 10 percent (10%) SWP Table A allocation. By Notice dated January 29, 2026 DWR increased the Table A allocation to thirty percent (30%). DWR's January Notice explained the updated allocation as follows:

A series of atmospheric rivers that arrived mid-December and continued until early January provided for above average precipitation and high runoff, contributing to storage increases in California reservoirs. However, the series of storms were warm, snowpack accumulation has been below average, and continuing warm and dry weather in January has resulted in snowpack loss. ... Considering the recent dry and warm conditions and associated forecasts, we will be carefully assessing and evaluating future allocation increases as hydrologic conditions become clearer. ... To determine the available SWP water supplies, DWR considers various factors including SWP contractors' 2026 carryover supplies and demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, near-term and seasonal climate forecasts, SWP operational, contractual, and regulatory requirements set forth in the Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority.

As noted in last month's Consent Report, on May 15, 2026 DWR increased the 2026 SWP Table A allocation to 45 percent. As of June 9, 2026 Lake Oroville storage levels were recorded at 96 percent of total capacity and 118 percent of its historic average for this time of year.

As reflected in meeting agendas for recent meetings of the CCWA Board of Directors, CCWA remains focused on several important issues related to the SWP and SWP deliveries, including but not limited to: SWP operations and supply conditions; pending and proposed water transfers; land subsidence affecting the California Aqueduct; infrastructure improvements; CCWA strategic planning; and the CCWA FY 2026/27 Final Budget. CCWA cancelled its May 2026 Board of Directors meeting, and the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026. The next CCWA Operating Committee is currently scheduled for July 9, 2026.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

May 2026

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE ACRE-FEET		COMPUTED* INFLOW AF.	CCWA INFLOW AF.	PRECIP ON		RELEASE - AF.			EVAPORATION		PRECIP INCHES	
		IN LAKE	CHANGE			RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH		
	752.03	190,301												
1	751.98	190,147	-154	100.7	0.0	0.0	52.7	14.3	142.0	0.0	45.7	0.220	0.00	
2	751.94	190,024	-123	115.9	0.0	0.0	49.2	14.3	136.0	0.0	39.4	0.190	0.00	
3	751.88	189,839	-185	42.2	0.0	0.0	51.0	14.3	135.0	0.0	26.9	0.130	0.00	
4	751.84	189,716	-123	105.4	0.0	0.0	50.2	14.3	137.0	0.0	26.9	0.130	0.00	
5	751.79	189,562	-154	68.3	0.0	0.0	40.9	14.3	134.0	0.0	33.1	0.160	0.00	
6	751.74	189,408	-154	83.0	0.0	0.0	48.4	14.3	135.0	0.0	39.3	0.190	0.00	
7	751.68	189,223	-185	36.0	0.0	0.0	47.7	14.2	126.0	0.0	33.1	0.160	0.00	
8	751.63	189,069	-154	99.9	0.0	0.0	51.6	14.2	124.0	0.0	64.1	0.310	0.00	
9	751.59	188,946	-123	106.9	0.0	0.0	48.4	14.2	126.0	0.0	41.3	0.200	0.00	
10	751.54	188,794	-152	85.2	0.0	0.0	47.3	14.3	126.0	0.0	49.6	0.240	0.00	
11	751.50	188,672	-122	116.6	0.0	0.0	50.9	14.2	126.0	0.0	47.5	0.230	0.00	
12	751.44	188,489	-183	52.9	0.0	0.0	46.9	14.2	115.0	0.0	59.8	0.290	0.00	
13	751.37	188,276	-213	-8.6	0.0	0.0	49.5	14.2	116.0	0.0	24.7	0.120	0.00	
14	751.32	188,123	-153	66.8	0.0	0.0	53.5	14.2	115.0	0.0	37.1	0.180	0.00	
15	751.26	187,941	-182	55.5	0.0	0.0	52.7	14.2	115.0	0.0	55.6	0.270	0.00	
16	751.21	187,788	-153	69.6	0.0	0.0	53.0	14.2	106.0	0.0	49.4	0.240	0.00	
17	751.15	187,605	-183	48.3	0.0	0.0	53.5	14.2	106.0	0.0	57.6	0.280	0.00	
18	751.11	187,483	-122	83.8	0.0	0.0	41.4	14.2	105.0	0.0	45.2	0.220	0.00	
19	751.05	187,301	-182	36.0	0.0	0.0	47.4	14.2	105.0	0.0	51.4	0.250	0.00	
20	751.00	187,148	-153	87.1	0.0	0.0	49.0	14.2	105.0	0.0	71.9	0.350	0.00	
21	750.93	186,935	-213	45.1	0.0	0.0	59.7	14.2	96.0	0.0	88.2	0.430	0.00	
22	750.86	186,722	-213	15.9	0.0	0.0	54.1	14.2	95.0	0.0	65.6	0.320	0.00	
23	750.80	186,539	-183	36.9	0.0	0.0	63.7	14.1	95.0	0.0	47.1	0.230	0.00	
24	750.75	186,386	-153	50.0	0.0	0.0	44.7	14.2	95.0	0.0	49.1	0.240	0.00	
25	750.72	186,295	-91	107.2	0.0	0.0	37.8	14.2	95.0	0.0	51.2	0.250	0.00	
26	750.64	186,051	-244	-42.2	0.0	0.0	45.4	14.2	87.0	0.0	55.2	0.270	0.00	
27	750.60	185,930	-121	77.2	11.8	0.0	53.7	14.1	85.0	0.0	57.2	0.280	0.00	
28	750.55	185,779	-151	-4.0	9.4	7.6	47.6	14.1	86.0	0.0	16.3	0.080	0.03	
29	750.51	185,658	-121	23.1	11.6	2.5	42.7	14.2	87.0	0.0	14.3	0.070	0.01	
30	750.46	185,508	-150	40.0	9.9	0.0	45.7	14.1	85.0	0.0	55.1	0.270	0.00	
31	750.42	185,387	-121	53.5	5.9	0.0	42.6	14.1	87.0	0.0	36.7	0.180	0.00	
TOTALS			-4,914	1,854.2	48.6	10.1	1,522.9	440.4	3,428.0	0.0	1,435.6	6.980	0.04	
AVERAGE		187,766												

Comments: *Computed inflow is the sum of change in storage, releases and evaporation minus precip on the reservoir surface and CCWA inflow.
 Indicated outlet release includes leakage from outlet valves and spillway gates.
 Data based on a 24 hour period ending 0800.



Santa Barbara County - Flood Control District

130 East Victoria Street, Santa Barbara CA 93101 - 805.568.3440 - www.countyofsb.org/pwd

Rainfall and Reservoir Summary

Updated 8am: 6/8/2026

Water Year: 2026

Storm Number: NA

Notes: Daily rainfall amounts are recorded as of 8am for the previous 24 hours. Rainfall units are expressed in inches. All data on this page are from automated sensors, are preliminary, and subject to verification.

*Each Water Year (WY) runs from Sept 1 through Aug 31 and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends
 County Real-Time Rainfall and Reservoir Website link > <https://rain.cosbpw.net>

Rainfall	ID	24 hrs	Storm 0day(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*	AI
Buellton (Fire Stn)	233	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.86	145%	144%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	332	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.17	168%	167%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	208	0.00	0.00	0.01	21.24	124%	123%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	436	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.21	136%	133%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	421	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.88	136%	135%	9.0
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	230	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.90	144%	144%	9.5
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Carneros)	440	0.00	0.00	0.01	23.94	131%	130%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	439	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.22	137%	137%	9.3
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	204	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.97	131%	130%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	212	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.18	149%	148%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	234	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.04	142%	141%	
Santa Maria (City Pub. Works)	380	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.77	119%	118%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	218	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.85	139%	139%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	256	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.30	110%	109%	

Countywide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : 137%

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : 136%

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall calculated assuming no more rain through Aug. 31, 2026 (End of WY2026).

AI (Antecedent Index / Soil Wetness)

6.0 and below = Wet (min. = 2.5)
 6.1 - 9.0 = Moderate
 9.1 and above = Dry (max. = 12.5)

Reservoirs

Reservoir Elevations referenced to NGVD-29.
 **Cachuma is full and subject to spilling at elevation 750 ft.
 However, the lake is surcharged to 753 ft. for fish release water.
 (Cachuma water storage based on Dec 2021 capacity revision)

	Spillway Elev. (ft)	Current Elev. (ft)	Max. Storage (ac-ft)	Current Storage (ac-ft)	Current Capacity (%)	Storage Change Mo.(ac-ft)	Storage Change Year*(ac-ft)
<u>Gibraltar Reservoir</u>	1,400.00	1,398.37	4,490	4,127	91.9%	-129	2,847
<u>Cachuma Reservoir</u>	753.**	750.01	192,978	183,781	95.2%	-1,096	30,614
<u>Jameson Reservoir</u>	2,224.00	2,223.60	4,587	4,541	99.0%	-19	321

[Twitchell Reservoir](#) Twitchell Reservoir level has dropped below the sensor, data no longer available.

[Previous Rainfall and Reservoir Summaries](#)

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-3000
www.countyofsb.org



CHRIS SNEDDON
Director

June 11, 2026

Rain Emerson, Deputy Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1243 "N" Street
Fresno, CA 93721-1813

RE: Cachuma Project Water Year 2026-27 Allocation Request

Dear Ms. Emerson,

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Cachuma Water Service Contract I75r-1802R, as amended by Amendatory Contract No. I75r-1802RB, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency is to submit a yearly allocation request on behalf of the Cachuma Member Units. Enclosed please find a letter from the Member Units dated June 5, 2026 requesting an allocation of 25,714 acre-feet for Water Year 2026-27.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 805-568-3546.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Young
Water Agency Manager

Enclosure: Notice on Behalf of All Cachuma Member Units Specifying Total Quantity of Available Supply Requested for Water Year 2026-27.

CC: Mr. Paeter Garcia, SYRWCD ID#1
Mr. Dave Matson, Goleta Water District
Mr. Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara
Mr. Nicholas Turner, Montecito Water District
Ms. Kelley Dyer, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Ms. Janet Gingras, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
Mr. David Hyatt, US Bureau of Reclamation

AA/EEO Employer

Mostafa Estaji, Transportation

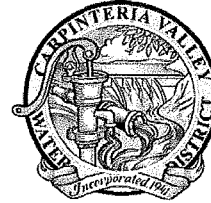
Heather Fletcher, Finance and Administration

Matt Griffin, Flood Control and Water Resources Division

Kevin Thompson, Laguna County Sanitation District

Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Aleksandar Jevremovic, County Surveyor



The Cachuma Project Member Units

Goleta Water District
City of Santa Barbara
Montecito Water District
Carpinteria Valley Water District
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

June 5, 2026

Matthew Young
Santa Barbara County Water Agency, Manager
130 E. Victoria St., Suite 200
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Notice on Behalf of All Cachuma Member Units Specifying Total Quantity of Available Supply Requested for Water Year 2026-27

Dear Mr. Young:

Pursuant to Section 3(a) of the April 14, 1996 Contract Between the United States and Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) Providing for Water Service from the Project, Contract No. 175r-1802R (as amended by Amendatory Contract No. I75r-1802RB ("Master Contract"), the Cachuma Project Member Units acting jointly hereby provide Notice to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency requesting allocation of all Available Supply from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) during Water Year 2026-27, commencing October 1, 2026.

Pursuant to section 1(a):

'Available Supply' shall mean the maximum quantity of Project Water the Contracting Officer is authorized by Federal law, State law, and the Project Water Rights to make available to the Cachuma Member Units during each Water Year pursuant to this contract. The Available Supply in each Water Year does not include the quantity of water the Contracting Officer is required by Federal law, State law, Project Water Rights, and any agreements to which the Contracting Officer and all of the Cachuma Member Units are parties to release from Cachuma Reservoir other than to make Project Water available to the Cachuma Member Units pursuant to this contract.

The winter of 2025-26 was wet, with County-wide rainfall currently 136% of "normal water year rainfall." Gibraltar Dam upstream of the Cachuma Project saw 37.9 inches of rainfall in Water year

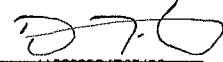
2026-26. After this significant rainfall, the Cachuma Project currently is 95.8% of capacity, with 184,877 acre-feet (AF) of water in storage. This water stored is comprised of the 12,000 AF "minimum pool," water reserved to meet fish release requirements, ANA/BNA stored water for downstream releases, and the Cachuma Member Units' current year's allocation. Given the large amount of unallocated water in storage at the Cachuma Project, the Cachuma Member Units respectfully request that USBR make a full 100% allocation of 25,714 AF of water available in Water Year 2026-27, consistent with the terms of the Master Contract.

This request includes the attached delivery schedules for each respective agency over Water Year 2026-27 and estimate of projected water deliveries (Attachment 1) required by section 3(a) the Master Contract. All such water can and will be put to reasonable and beneficial irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial uses within the Member Units' respective service areas.

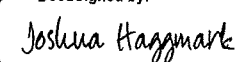
Sincerely,

[Signatures to follow on next page]

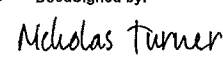
David Matson
General Manager
Goleta Water District

Signed by:
By: 
4A30025C4D97429...

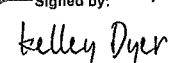
Joshua Haggmark
Water Resources Manager
City of Santa Barbara

DocuSigned by:
By: 
EDFC4813A7F6437...

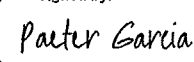
Nicholas Turner
General Manager
Montecito Water District

DocuSigned by:
By: 
1109EC677618477...

Kelley Dyer
General Manager
Carpinteria Valley Water District

Signed by:
By: 
21BAA74F984341F...

Paeter Garcia
General Manager
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

Signed by:
By: 
E0C0041A6C11409...

Cc: Rain Emerson, USBR Deputy Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office for the California-
Great Basin Region

Enclosures:

Attachment 1— Cachuma Member Unit M&I and Agricultural Water Delivery



CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dessi Mladenova, Controller
FROM: Lacey Adam, Senior Accountant
SUBJECT: Monthly Water Deliveries

June 3, 2026

According to the CCWA revenue meters at each turnout, the following deliveries were made during the month of May 2026:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro	132
Lopez.....	171
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	20
Santa Maria.....	527
Golden State Water Co.....	0
Vandenberg.....	346
Buellton	11
Solvang	56
Santa Ynez ID#1	174
Bradbury.....	<u>53</u>
TOTAL	1,490

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 1,521 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro	135
Lopez	175
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	20
Santa Maria.....	493*
Golden State Water Co	45*
Vandenberg	354
Buellton	11
Solvang	57
Santa Ynez ID#1	178
Bradbury	<u>53</u>
TOTAL	1,521

*Golden State Water Company delivered 45 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 45 acre-feet to the City of Santa Maria and a charge in the same amount to the Golden State Water Company.

Notes: Santa Ynez ID#1 water usage is divided into 0 acre-feet of Table A water and 178 acre-feet of exchange water.

The exchange water is allocated as follows

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Exchange Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Goleta	64
Santa Barbara	43
Montecito	43
Carpinteria	<u>28</u>
TOTAL	178

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

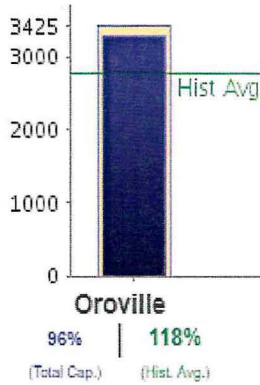
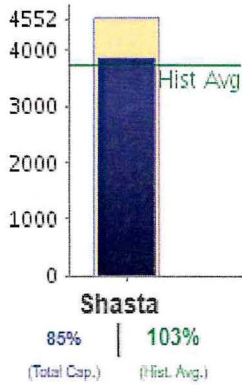
<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	53
Montecito	0
Morehart	0
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	53

cc: Daniel Brooks, Goleta WD
Mike Babb, Golden State WC
Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara
Janet Gingras, COMB
Jeromy Caldera, San Luis Obispo County
Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez RWCD ID#1
Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria
David Trujillo, City of Guadalupe
Kelley Dyer, Carpinteria Valley WD
Mike Alvarado, La Cumbre Mutual WC
Pernell Rush, Vandenberg SFB
Nick Turner, Montecito WD
Jose Acosta, City of Solvang
Rose Hess, City of Buellton

CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:08-JUN-2026

Data as of Midnight: 08-Jun-2026

Change Date:

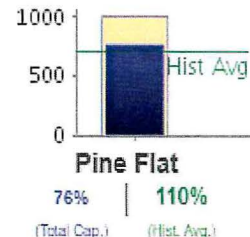
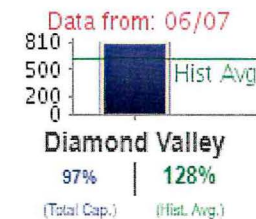
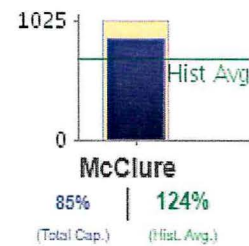
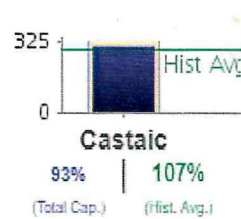
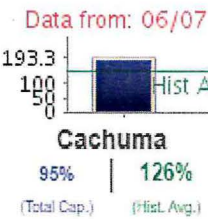
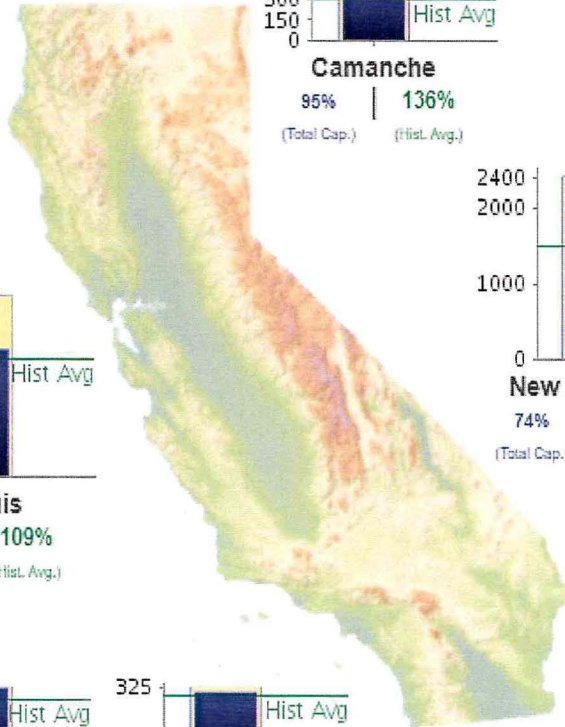
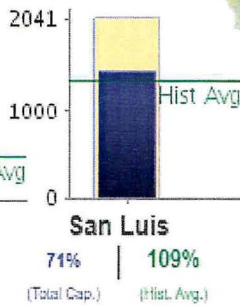
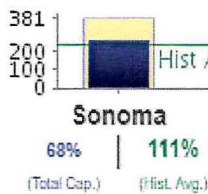
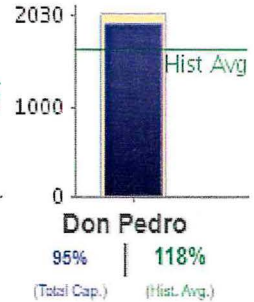
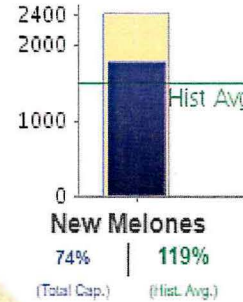
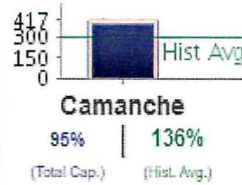
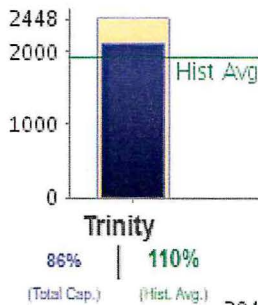


LEGEND

Blue Bar: Storage level for date
 Gold Bar: Total reservoir capacity
 Green Line: Historic level for date.

Capacity (TAF) | Historical Avg Mark

% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.
 (Click res. 3 char. code for details)



[Click to download printable version of current data.](#)

Report Generated: 09-Jun-2026 4:33 PM

The CSI link has been disabled to zoom in, for the lack of historical data.

NOTICE TO STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS**Date: 5/14/2026****Number: 26-05****Subject: DWR Increasing State Water Project Allocation to 45 Percent and Increasing North of Delta Allocation to 60 Percent****From:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Yarbrough", is written over a horizontal line.

**John Yarbrough
Deputy Director, State Water Project
Department of Water Resources**

California experienced record heat and dry conditions in March, which triggered an early snowmelt and increased concern about stored water supply conditions. In contrast, April saw well-above average precipitation which provided additional runoff, improved storage conditions, and helped meet Delta requirements without the need to rely on stored water releases. Because of these improved conditions, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is increasing the State Water Project (SWP) Allocation from 30 percent to 45 percent of most SWP contractors' requested Annual Table A Amounts for 2026 and increasing the North of Delta (NOD) Allocation from 45 percent to 60 percent, as shown in Attachment A – 2026 Allocation.

To determine the available SWP water supplies, DWR considers various factors including SWP contractors' 2026 carryover supplies and demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, near-term and seasonal climate forecasts, SWP operational, contractual, and regulatory requirements set forth in the Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority.

DWR will develop updated water delivery schedules for this allocation by prorating schedules submitted by the SWP contractors in October 2025 (as part of initial requests) or as revised with any subsequent updates. If an SWP contractor foresees any changes to their water delivery schedule, please communicate such changes to DWR in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at John.Yarbrough@water.ca.gov.

Attachment A: 2026 State Water Project Allocation, updated [Date TBD]

Attachment A
2026 STATE WATER PROJECT ALLOCATION
 Updated
 5/14/2026

SWP Contractors	Annual Table A Amount (Acre-Feet) (1)	Approved Table A Allocation (Acre-Feet) (2)	Approved Allocation as a Percentage of Annual Table A Amount (3) = (2)/(1)
<u>FEATHER RIVER</u>			
County of Butte	27,500	20,625	75%
Plumas County FC&WCD	2,700	1,215	45%
City of Yuba City	9,600	5,760	60%
Subtotal	39,800	27,600	
<u>NORTH BAY</u>			
Napa County FC&WCD	29,025	17,415	60%
Solano County WA	47,756	28,654	60%
Subtotal	76,781	46,069	
<u>SOUTH BAY</u>			
Alameda County FC&WCD, Zone 7	80,619	36,279	45%
Alameda County WD	42,000	18,900	45%
Santa Clara Valley WD	100,000	45,000	45%
Subtotal	222,619	100,179	
<u>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</u>			
Oak Flat WD	5,700	2,565	45%
County of Kings	9,305	4,188	45%
Dudley Ridge WD	41,350	18,608	45%
Empire West Side ID	3,617	1,628	45%
Kern County WA	982,730	442,229	45%
Tulare Lake Basin WSD	86,854	39,085	45%
Subtotal	1,129,556	508,303	
<u>CENTRAL COASTAL</u>			
San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD	25,000	11,250	45%
Central Coast Water Authority*	45,486	20,469	45%
Subtotal	70,486	31,719	
<u>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</u>			
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	144,844	65,180	45%
Santa Clarita Valley WA	95,200	42,840	45%
Coachella Valley WD	138,350	62,258	45%
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WA	5,800	2,610	45%
Desert WA	55,750	25,088	45%
Littlerock Creek ID	2,300	1,035	45%
Metropolitan WDSC	1,911,500	860,175	45%
Mojave WA	89,800	40,410	45%
Palmdale WD	21,300	9,585	45%
San Bernardino Valley MWD	102,600	46,170	45%
San Gabriel Valley MWD	28,800	12,960	45%
San Geronio Pass WA	17,300	7,785	45%
Ventura County WPD	20,000	9,000	45%
Subtotal	2,633,544	1,185,096	
TOTAL	4,172,786	1,898,966	~45%

*As of December 16, 2025; formerly Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Get the Facts About the State Water Project Allocation

Published: January 28, 2025

What is a State Water Project allocation?

The State Water Project (SWP) is a system of reservoirs, canals, and pumping plants that was built by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the 1960s to provide water supply, flood control, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Water supplies from the SWP were always intended to fluctuate with California precipitation, which naturally swings between flood and drought. The SWP delivers water to 29 public water agencies based on long-term water supply contracts. Each year, starting in December, DWR announces to those water agencies – called SWP contractors – approximately how much water the project is likely to be capable of delivering in the coming year. Once a month for several more months, DWR assesses the water supply for “allocation” and may update the allocation if conditions warrant. The allocation is expressed as a percentage of the 29 public water agencies’ maximum water supply contract, such as 15 percent or 75 percent. DWR announces the final allocation in May or June, then make deliveries to contractors based on the final allocation and subsequent contractor demands. Current allocation amounts can be found on the [SWP Water Contractors page](#).

How does DWR determine the SWP allocation?

The two biggest factors DWR uses to determine and update the allocation are storage levels in Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir and the amount of runoff projected for the remaining year. The amount of water pumped by the SWP in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a factor in allocation announcements, but there is not a direct correlation between pumping levels and the allocation. More important is the projected runoff, which is based on the amount of precipitation that has fallen since October 1. After mid-February, the SWP allocation also takes into account Sierra Nevada snowpack. In analyzing the available water supply for the allocation, SWP engineers consider DWR’s Bulletin 120, which is updated monthly (Feb – May) and forecasts the volume of water expected to runoff from the state’s major watersheds in the spring and summer. SWP engineers also take into account the various seasonal restrictions on pumping that the SWP must follow to protect threatened and endangered species as well as the flow needed to repel salinity in waterways of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Increasingly, with climate change, DWR also must take into account and plan for the potential for extreme changes in conditions. The last several winters in California have shown that dry spells may be punctuated by big storms, and wet conditions can be interrupted by extremely dry periods. DWR determines allocations conservatively, setting and updating the allocation percentage based on what volume of water engineers are reasonably certain could be delivered even if conditions were abnormally dry the remainder of the winter.

Do all contractors get the same allocation?

Each of the 29 public water agencies that take delivery of SWP water has contracted for a different volume of water, depending upon their needs, but the SWP allocation is uniform across most contractors. In other words, the largest contractor – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, with a maximum contracted volume of 1.9 million acre-feet of water – will get the same percentage of that volume as the smallest contractor, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, which contracts for a total of 2,300 acre-feet. Four contractors north of the Delta: the County of Butte, Solano County WA, Napa County FC&WCD, and the City of Yuba City have special provisions in their respective water supply contracts so that in certain years they receive a slightly higher allocation of SWP water than other contractors.

What is a typical SWP allocation?

Allocations typically start low and then increase through the winter months, depending upon precipitation. For example, in 2016, the December allocation was 10 percent, and the final was 60 percent. In 2024, the allocation started at 10 percent and increased to 40 percent. Full allocation years, or 100 percent allocation, are rare with only one such allocation in the past decade in the extremely wet year of 2023. Historical allocation amounts can be found on the [SWP Water Contractors page](#).

State Water Project
Historical Table A Allocations
1996-2026

YEAR	DATE	ALLOCATION
<i>1996</i>	12/1/1995	75%
	3/4/1996	90%
	3/8/1996	100%
<i>1997</i>	12/2/1996	70%
	2/11/1997	100%
<i>1998</i>	12/1/1997	40%
	1/26/1998	60%
	2/11/1998	80%
	3/11/1998	100%
<i>1999</i>	11/24/1998	55%
	2/10/1999	60%
	3/10/1999	100%
<i>2000</i>	11/30/1999	50%
	2/25/2000	70%
	3/10/2000	100%
	4/20/2000	90%
<i>2001</i>	12/1/2000	40%
	1/31/2001	20%
	3/6/2001	25%
	3/15/2001	30%
	5/4/2001	33%
	5/17/2001	35%
	8/16/2001	39%
<i>2002</i>	11/30/2001	20%
	1/11/2002	45%
	3/22/2002	55%
	3/28/2002	60%
	5/14/2002	65%
	8/23/2002	70%
<i>2003</i>	12/3/2002	20%
	1/16/2003	45%
	3/26/2003	50%
	4/24/2003	70%
	5/16/2003	90%

YEAR	DATE	ALLOCATION
<i>2004</i>	12/1/2003	35%
	1/15/2004	50%
	3/1/2004	65%
<i>2005</i>	12/1/2004	40%
	1/14/2005	60%
	4/1/2005	70%
	4/21/2005	80%
	5/27/2005	90%
<i>2006</i>	11/22/2005	55%
	12/14/2005	65%
	1/17/2006	70%
	3/23/2006	80%
	4/18/2006	100%
<i>2007</i>	11/30/2006	60% ²
<i>2008</i>	11/21/2007	25%
	2/1/2008	35%
<i>2009</i>	10/29/2008	15%
	3/18/2009	20%
	4/15/2009	30%
	5/20/2009	40%
<i>2010</i>	11/30/2009	5%
	2/23/2010	15%
	3/30/2010	20%
	4/22/2010	30%
	5/3/2010	40%
	5/20/2010	45%
	6/22/2010	50%
<i>2011</i>	11/22/2010	25%
	12/16/2010	50%
	1/20/2011	60%
	3/15/2011	70%
	4/20/2011	80%
<i>2012</i>	11/18/2011	60%
	2/21/2012	50%
	4/16/2012	60%
	5/23/2012	65%
<i>2013</i>	11/29/2012	30%
	12/21/2012	40%
	3/22/2013	35%

YEAR	DATE	ALLOCATION
2014	11/19/2013	5%
	1/31/2014	0%
	4/18/2014	5%
2015	12/1/2014	10%
	1/15/2015	15%
	3/2/2015	20%
2016	12/1/2015	10%
	1/26/2016	15%
	2/24/2016	30%
	3/17/2016	45%
	4/21/2016	60%
2017	11/28/2016	20%
	12/21/2016	45%
	1/18/2017	60%
	4/14/2017	85%
2018	11/29/2017	15%
	1/29/2018	20%
	4/24/2018	30%
	5/21/2018	35%
2019	11/30/2018	10%
	1/25/2019	15%
	2/20/2019	35%
	3/20/2019	70%
	6/19/2019	75%
2020	12/2/2019	10%
	1/24/2020	15%
	5/22/2020	20%
2021	12/1/2020	10%
	3/23/2021	5%
2022	12/1/2021	0% ₃
	1/20/2022	15%
	3/18/2022	5%
2023	12/1/2022	5%
	1/26/2023	30%
	2/22/2023	35%
	3/24/2023	75%
	4/20/2023	100%

YEAR	DATE	ALLOCATION
2024	12/1/2023	10%
	2/21/2024	15%
	3/22/2024	30%
	4/23/2024	40%
2025	12/2/2024	5%
	12/23/2024	15%
	1/28/2025	20%
	2/25/2025	35%
	3/25/2025	40%
	4/29/2025	50%
2026	12/1/2025	10%
	1/29/2026	30%
	4/27/2026	30%
	5/14/2026	45%

¹ Presents all allocation announcements for 1996 to the present. Data for earlier years can be found in Bulletin 132 or the 1967-1995 summary.

² The 11/29/06 initial allocation of 60% for 2007 remained unchanged for that year, as documented in Notice to Contractors (NTC) 07-06.

³ The 2022 initial allocation was 0% of Table A, but with water to supply contractor unmet minimum health and safety needs, per NTC 21-07.

Allocations following 2013 settlement agreements

As an outcome of the 2013 settlement agreements, which resulted in water supply contract amendments, Solano County Water Agency, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, City of Yuba City, and County of Butte have special provisions in their respective water supply contracts. In certain years they receive a higher allocation of SWP water than the other contractors.

The following table details Table A allocations for the four affected contractors, beginning 2014.

Year	Date	Butte	Solano Napa Yuba	Other SWP Contractors
2014	11/19/2013	5%	5%	5%
	1/31/2014	0%	0%	0%
	4/18/2014	5%	5%	5%
2015	12/1/2014	~15%	10%	10%
	1/15/2015	~12%	25%	15%
	3/2/2015	~22%	25%	20%
2016	12/1/2015	~15%	15%	10%
	1/26/2016	~18%	20%	15%
	2/24/2016	60%	40%	30%
	3/17/2016	75%	60%	45%
	4/21/2016	100%	75%	60%
2017	11/28/2016	~22%	25%	20%
	12/21/2016	75%	55%	45%
	1/18/2017	100%	85%	60%
	4/14/2017	100%	100%	85%
2018	11/29/2017	~12%	20%	15%
	1/29/2018	~22%	40%	20%
	4/24/2018	60%	40%	30%
	5/21/2018	65%	50%	35%
2019	11/30/2018	~15%	20%	10%
	1/25/2019	~18%	20%	15%
	2/20/2019	65%	40%	35%
	3/20/2019	100%	85%	70%
	6/19/2019	100%	85%	75%
2020	12/2/2019	~15%	20%	10%
	1/24/2020	~12%	25%	15%
	5/22/2020	~22%	30%	20%
2021	12/1/2020	~15%	15%	10%
	3/23/2021	~11%	5%	5%
2022	12/1/2021	0%	0%	0%
	1/20/2022	~18%	25%	15%
	3/18/2022	~11%	15%	5%
2023	12/1/2022	~11%	15%	5%
	1/26/2023	60%	40%	30%
	2/22/2023	65%	45%	35%
	3/24/2023	100%	85%	75%
	4/20/2023	100%	100%	100%
2024	12/1/2023	~15%	15%	10%
	2/21/2024	~18%	30%	15%
	3/22/2024	60%	50%	30%
	4/23/2024	70%	65%	40%

Year	Date	Butte	Solano Napa Yuba	Other SWP Contractors
2025	12/2/2024	~11%	10%	5%
	12/23/2024	~18%	25%	15%
	1/28/2025	~22%	35%	20%
	2/25/2025	65%	55%	35%
	3/25/2025	70%	60%	40%
	4/29/2025	80%	70%	50%
2026	12/1/2025	~15%	20%	10%
	1/29/2026	60%	40%	30%
	4/27/2026	60%	45%	30%
	5/14/2026	75%	60%	45%

052126

Paeter Garcia

From: Central Coast Water Authority <ccwa@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:11 PM
To: Paeter Garcia
Subject: 2025 Urban Water Management Plan



Central Coast Water Authority

Notice of Public Hearing on Central Coast Water Authority's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has prepared its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act.

The CCWA Board of Directors will conduct a Public Hearing to consider adoption of CCWA's final UWMP at 9:00 a.m. on June 25, 2026. The Public Hearing will be held in the CCWA's Robert W. Puddicombe Meeting Room, located at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, CA 93427.

The draft plan can be reviewed via this [link](#).

Central Coast Water Authority
CA

We know your time is valuable and we only want to send information you are interested in. If you decide you no longer want to receive emails from us, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Powered by [Streamline](#).

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

May 20, 2026

TO: CCWA Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Thompson
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Cancellation of May 28, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting

This memo is notice that the CCWA Board meeting scheduled for May 28, 2026 has been canceled.

The next regular meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors is scheduled for June 25, 2026.

Please call me if you have any questions.

PKT

cc: Stephanie Hastings, Brownstein Hyatt Farber and Schreck, LLP
Notice of Meetings Distribution List

2025 Urban Water Management Plan

[Dismiss](#)

[\(/2025-urban-water-management-plan\)](/2025-urban-water-management-plan)

The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has prepared its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act. Please see Notices page under Newsroom for additional information.

[\(/2025-urban-water-management-plan\)](/2025-urban-water-management-plan)



Central Coast Water Authority

[\(https://www.ccwa.com/\)](https://www.ccwa.com/)

[Contact Us \(/contact-us\)](/contact-us)

<input type="text" value="Search..."/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
--	---------------------------------------

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[BOARD MEETINGS \(/BOARD-MEETINGS\)](/board-meetings)

JUN
25
2026

Board Meeting

COPYRIGHT © 2026 CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

255 INDUSTRIAL WAY, BUELLTON CA 93427

TELEPHONE (805) 688-2292

[EMPLOYEE PORTAL \(HTTPS://CCWAPORTAL.SPECIALDISTRICT.ORG/#/\)](https://ccwaportal.specialdistrict.org/#/)

[PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY-POLICY\)](/privacy-policy)

[DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY \(TRANSPARENCY.HTML\)](transparency.html)

[WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT \(ACCESSIBILITY.HTML\)](accessibility.html)

Join our mailing list

2025 Urban Water Management Plan

Dismiss

(/2025-urban-water-management-plan)

The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has prepared its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act. Please see Notices page under Newsroom for additional information.

(/2025-urban-water-management-plan)



Central Coast Water Authority

(<https://www.ccwa.com/>)

[Contact Us \(/contact-us\)](/contact-us)

<input type="text" value="Search..."/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
--	---------------------------------------

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[OPERATING COMMITTEE \(/OPERATING-COMMITTEE\)](/operating-committee)

JUL
9
2026

Operating Committee Meeting

COPYRIGHT © 2026 CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

255 INDUSTRIAL WAY, BUELLTON CA 93427

TELEPHONE (805) 688-2292

[EMPLOYEE PORTAL \(HTTPS://CCWAPORTAL.SPECIALDISTRICT.ORG/#/\)](https://ccwaportal.specialdistrict.org/#/)

[PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY-POLICY\)](/privacy-policy)

[DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY \(TRANSPARENCY.HTML\)](transparency.html)

[WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT \(ACCESSIBILITY.HTML\)](accessibility.html)

Join our mailing list

Page left intentionally blank.

RESOLUTION No. 859

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
ESTABLISHING THE APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XIII B OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 ("District"), Santa Barbara County, California, that:

WHEREAS, the District is required pursuant to Government Code Section 7910 to establish by Resolution its appropriation limit for the 2026/2027 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the documentation used in the determination of said limit has been available to the public at the District office and on the District website for at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of this Resolution and was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District on June 4, 2026 and on June 11, 2026.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, in accordance with information published by the California Department of Finance, the appropriation limit of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, for the 2026/2027 fiscal year is established at \$2,785,514.83.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified President and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Trustees of said District at a Regular Meeting held on June 16, 2026 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSTAIN, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

Jeff Clay, President

ATTEST:

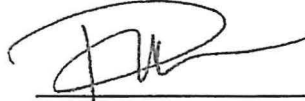
Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No.1
3622 SAGUNTO STREET - P.O. BOX 157
SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460
(805) 688-6015

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 will consider adopting a Resolution setting the limit of appropriations pursuant to Article XIII B of the Constitution of the State of California for fiscal year 2026/2027 at a Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California 93460.

Documentation used in determining said limit is available to the public at the District office located at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez, and on the District's website as of the posted date set forth below.



Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Dated: May 19, 2026

Posted: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at the District Office and on the District website at www.syrwd.org.

Newspaper Publication Dates:
Thursday, June 4, 2026
Thursday, June 11, 2026

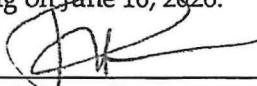
**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**

2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATION LIMITATION CALCULATION

Santa Barbara County population change and California per capita personal income change data published by the State of California Department of Finance (May 2026) are used in computing the 2026/2027 Appropriation Limitation Calculation as follows:

2025/26 Appropriation Limit	\$2,657,934
Per Capita Personal Income Percentage Change over Prior Year	4.95 percent
Population Change over Prior Year Santa Barbara County	-0.14 percent
Per Capita converted to a ratio:	$\frac{4.95 + 100}{100} = 1.0495$
Population converted to a ratio:	$\frac{-0.14 + 100}{100} = 0.9986$
CPI Factor	1.0495
Population Factor	0.9986
CPI Factor X Population Factor	1.0480
1.0480 x \$2,657,934 =	<u>\$2,785,514.83</u>

A Resolution will be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, for adoption of the 2026/2027 Appropriation Limit at a Regular Meeting on June 16, 2026.



Racel Cota - Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Posted: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at the District Office and on the District Website www.syrwd.org.
Newspaper Publication Dates: Thursday, June 4, 2026 and Thursday, June 11, 2026.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No.1
3622 SAGUNTO STREET - P.O. BOX 157
SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460
(805) 688-6015**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 will consider adopting a Resolution setting the limit of appropriations pursuant to Article XIII B of the Constitution of the State of California for fiscal year 2026/2027 at a Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California 93460.

Documentation used in determining said limit is available to the public at the District office located at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez, and on the District's website as of the posted date set forth below.

Racel Cota
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Dated: May 19, 2026

Posted: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at the District Office and on the District website at www.syrwd.org.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1**

**2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATION
LIMITATION CALCULATION**

2025/26 Appropriation Limit:	\$2,657,934
Per Capita Personal Income Percentage Change over Prior Year:	4.95 percent
Population Change over Prior Year	-0.14 percent
Santa Barbara County:	
Per Capita converted to ratio:	$\frac{4.95 + 100}{100} = 1.0495$
Population converted to ratio:	$\frac{-0.14 + 100}{100} = 0.9986$
CPI Factor:	1.0495
Population Factor:	0.9986
CPI Factor X Population Factor:	1.0480

1.0480 x \$2,657,934 = \$2,785,514.83

A Resolution will be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, for adoption of the 2026/2027 Appropriation Limit at a Regular Meeting on June 16, 2026.

Racel Cota - Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Posted: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at the District Office and on the District Website www.syrwd.org.

Pub dates: Jun 4, 11, 2026
Legal 594676

May 1, 2026

Dear Fiscal Officer:

Price Factor and Population Information

Appropriations Limit

California Revenue and Taxation Code section 2227 requires the Department of Finance to transmit an estimate of the percentage change in population to local governments. Each local jurisdiction must use their percentage change in population factor for January 1, 2026, in conjunction with a change in the cost of living, or price factor, to calculate their appropriations limit for fiscal year 2026–27. Attachment A provides the change in California's per capita personal income and an example for utilizing the factors to calculate the 2026–27 appropriations limit. Attachment B provides the city and unincorporated county population percentage change. Attachment C provides the population percentage change for counties and their summed incorporated areas. The population percentage change data excludes federal and state institutionalized populations and military populations.

Population Percent Change for Special Districts

Some special districts must establish an annual appropriations limit. California Revenue and Taxation Code section 2228 provides additional information regarding the appropriations limit. Article XIII B, section 9(C) of the California Constitution exempts certain special districts from the appropriations limit calculation mandate. Special districts required by law to calculate their appropriations limit must present the calculation as part of their annual audit. Any questions special districts have on this requirement should be directed to their county, district legal counsel, or the law itself. No state agency reviews the local appropriations limits.

Population Certification

The population certification program applies only to cities and counties. California Revenue and Taxation Code section 11005.6 mandates Finance to automatically certify any population estimate that exceeds the current certified population with the State Controller's Office. **Finance will certify the higher estimate to the State Controller by June 1, 2026.** Please note: The prior year's city population estimates may be revised. The per capita personal income change is based on historical data.

If you have any questions regarding this data, please contact the Demographic Research Unit at (916) 323-4086.

/s Erika Li
Attachment

**May 2026
Attachment A**

- A. **Price Factor:** Article XIII B specifies that local jurisdictions select their cost of living factor to compute their appropriation limit by a vote of their governing body. The cost of living factor provided here is per capita personal income. If the percentage change in per capita personal income is selected, the percentage change to be used in setting the fiscal year 2026–27 appropriation limit is:

Per Capita Personal Income

Fiscal Year (FY)	Percentage change over prior year
2026-27	4.95

- B. Following is an example using sample population change and the change in California per capita personal income as growth factors in computing a 2026–27 appropriation limit.

2026–27:

Per Capita Cost of Living Change = 4.95 percent
Population Change = -0.14 percent

Per Capita Cost of Living converted to a ratio: $\frac{4.95 + 100}{100} = 1.0495$

Population converted to a ratio: $\frac{-0.14 + 100}{100} = 0.9986$

Calculation of factor for FY 2026–27: $1.0495 \times 0.9986 = 1.0480$

FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

Attachment B

Annual Percent Change in Population Minus Exclusions*

January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026 and Total Population January 1, 2026

County City	Percent Change 25-26	Population Minus Exclusions 1-1-25	Population Minus Exclusions 1-1-26	Total Population 1-1-26
Santa Barbara				
Buellton	5.44	5,077	5,353	5,353
Carpinteria	-1.02	12,742	12,612	12,612
Goleta	-0.97	32,725	32,409	32,409
Guadalupe	-0.83	8,721	8,649	8,649
Lompoc	-1.06	40,416	39,987	43,073
Santa Barbara	-0.78	85,723	85,055	85,083
Santa Maria	1.51	111,356	113,041	113,041
Solvang	-1.04	5,680	5,621	5,621
Unincorporated	-0.64	137,059	136,175	139,133
Incorporated	0.09	302,440	302,727	305,841
County Total	-0.14	439,499	438,902	444,974

*Exclusions include residents on federal military installations and group quarters residents in state mental instituti1

Page left intentionally blank.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1**

**FY 2026/2027
FINAL
BUDGET**





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Moniot
Division 1

Jeff Clay, President
Division 2

Nick Urton
Division 3

Michael Burchardi, Vice President
Division 4

Brad Joos
Trustee-At-Large

This Budget was prepared under the direction of:

Paeter Garcia, General Manager

Racel Cota, Administrative and Financial Manager

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Drugan, Water Resources Manager

Joe Come', Operations & Maintenance Superintendent

Danny Durbiano, Distribution & Operations Supervisor

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the residential and agricultural customers in the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 service area with reasonably priced, reliable, high quality water supply, and efficient and economical public services.

DISTRICT OVERVIEW, STRUCTURE AND STAFFING

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (District) was formed in 1959 under the Water Conservation District Law of 1931, Division 21, Section 74000 et seq. of the California Water Code (the Act) for the purpose of furnishing water and related water supply services within the District's boundaries. The District has operated continuously since 1959.

Located in the central portion of Santa Barbara County, the District serves the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the City of Solvang on a limited basis. With a service area population of approximately 7,022 (excluding the City of Solvang), the District currently provides water directly to approximately 2,756 municipal and industrial customers (including domestic/residential, commercial, institutional, rural residential, and fire service) and approximately 98 agricultural customers. The District encompasses an area of approximately 10,850 acres (including approximately 1,300 acres within Solvang).

The District obtains its water supplies from the Cachuma Project/State Water Exchange, direct diversions from the Cachuma Project (as needed), contractual deliveries from the State Water Project as a member agency of the Central Coast Water Authority, production from the Santa Ynez Uplands Groundwater Basin, and diversions from the Santa Ynez River alluvium. The District's major activities include acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of works and facilities for the development and use of water resources and water rights, including without limitation, works and facilities to divert, store, pump, treat, deliver, and sell water for reasonable and beneficial uses by the District's customers.

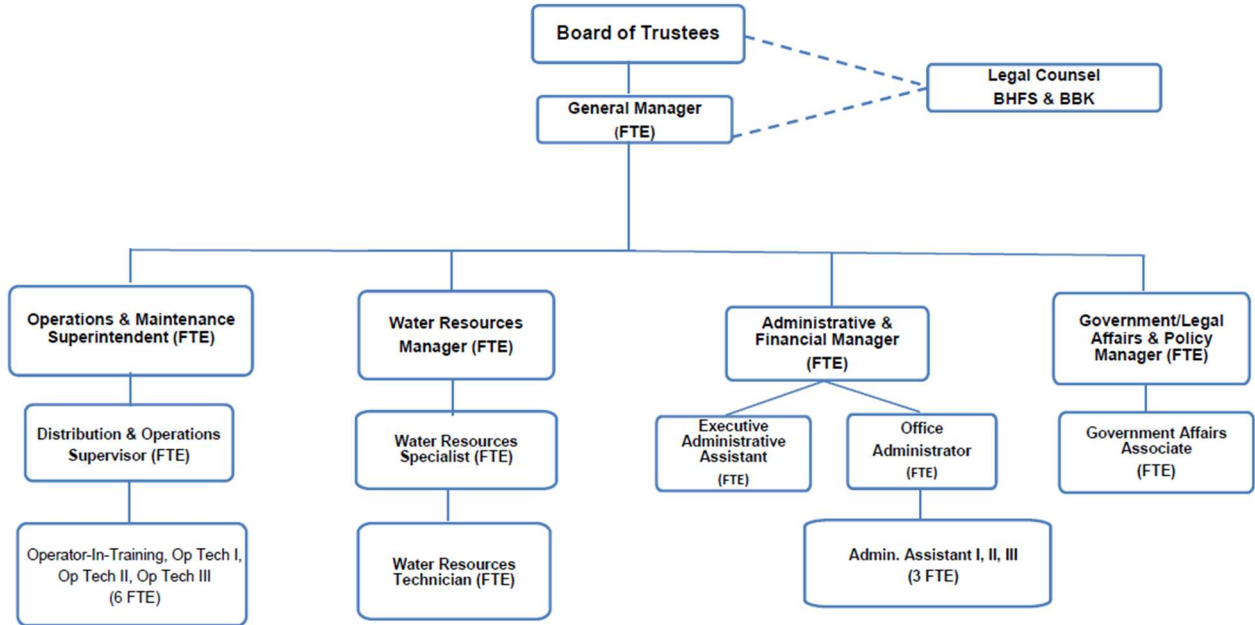
Operational Information

- District Pipelines (in miles) = 92
- Number of Booster Pump Stations = 4 with 11 pumps
- Number of Active Wells = 15
- SWP/ID No.1 Turnout = 5 pumps
- Number of water storage reservoirs/tanks = 4 with a total capacity of 16.7 million gallons
- Current number of approved, funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions = 20

ORGANIZATION CHART

FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



TOTAL POSITIONS = 20
FULL TIME = 20
 Updated 01/2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2026/27

BUDGET PROCESS

The District's annual fiscal year budget is one of the most important documents prepared by management for the Board of Trustees. It outlines the financial accounts and line items reflected in this document and the FY 2026/27 Final Budget describes the annual fiscal year budget beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027.

The development and adoption of the District's annual budget is based on projected revenues and expenditures, as well as identified projects and programs which provide the financial foundation for District activities. The budget serves as a roadmap for ensuring reasonable costs and predictable customer rates and charges. The budget blends advanced revenue forecasting and effective expenditure management with the infrastructure investment needed to deliver safe, reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable water supplies to the communities served by the District.

Through the process of planning and preparing the budget, management compared the 2016 Water Rate Study results with the prior year financial conditions and year-end estimated outcomes, then forecasted the funding needs of the District in order to continue to provide high levels of water service, meet regulatory requirements, and comply with applicable financial obligations throughout the ensuing fiscal year and beyond.

To determine the annual operating budget and capital costs necessary to provide water service, the General Manager works with the Administrative & Financial Manager, Water Resources Manager, Operations & Maintenance Superintendent, and the Distribution & Operations Supervisor to identify and prioritize estimated operating expenditures and capital improvement projects. Once a Preliminary Budget is prepared, it is presented to the public and the Board of Trustees at a public meeting to provide an opportunity for questions, modifications, and directions to staff to finalize the budget for Board approval at a subsequent public meeting. The Final Budget provides a necessary foundation for the District's general and administrative, operations, and maintenance programs, debt service obligations, and other financial commitments and service objectives for the coming fiscal year.

REPORTING BASIS

The District utilizes the accrual basis for budgeting purposes and for accounting and financial reporting. The accrual method recognizes revenues and expenses in the period in which they are earned and incurred. The accrual method conforms to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) practice for financial reporting.

The District reports its activities as an enterprise fund. This method of reporting is used to account for operations that are financed and administered in a manner similar to a private business enterprise. The costs of providing water and services to customers on a continuing basis (including the replacement of existing assets) should be financed or recovered primarily through user rates and charges and the costs are borne by the customers who are receiving the benefit of the assets.

The FY 2026/27 Final Budget was developed from the Uniform System of Accounts for Water Utilities which includes a set of tables providing details for revenue and expenditure categories of the District. **The tables contained in this Report are intended to be reviewed in connection with the FY 2026/27 Final Budget document.**

The accounting for the budget is supported by the QuickBooks accounting system which is verified annually by an independent audit performed by Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP. The budget tables show categories of the operating revenues as compared to operating expenditures along with debt service and special studies expenditures, including but not limited to compliance with various state and federal regulatory requirements applicable to fisheries protection in the Lower Santa Ynez River, compliance with water rights orders issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, and implementation of contractual requirements. Historically, the District's operating expenses and Capital Improvement Project program are to be fully funded by operating revenues, and as necessary and appropriate from reserve funds. The Capital Improvement Project expenditures can be funded by a combination of operating revenues and reserves.

BUDGET AND RESERVE FUND BACKGROUND

The District's 2016 Water Rate Study, inclusive of the approved Water Rate Schedule, was adopted by the District's Board of Trustees on December 13, 2016 and became effective on February 1, 2017. The Water Rate Study and Schedule provide the foundation for incrementally increased revenues over a five-year period. Rates were developed to meet operating expenses, debt service obligations, capital improvement projects (partially), and other planned expenditures. The Water Rate Study also includes a Reserves analysis and a plan for adding to the District's reserve funds over time to allow for recovery of reserve deficits that occurred over the previous six-year period. The last rate adjustment pursuant to the Water Rate Schedule went into effect on July 1, 2021 and remains in effect for the FY 2026/27 budget cycle. The FY 2026/27 Final Budget proposes to fully fund all expense categories, including Operations and Maintenance (O&M), General and Administrative (G&A), Debt Service, Other Expenses and Special Studies, and a majority of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program costs, leaving a projected budget shortfall of \$1,529,669 (resulting entirely from a proposed project to install a new groundwater production well at a cost of approximately \$3,000,000). To achieve a balanced budget, District management proposes a budget transfer from Unrestricted, Board Reserved Funds to Unrestricted Funds of \$1,529,669. Further explanation is provided in the CIP section below.

Below are the past fiscal year and the most current fiscal quarter-end Reserve balances based on actual accounting and audit information.

Table 1

RESERVE BALANCES

	June 30, 2025	March 31, 2026
<u>BOARD RESERVED</u>		
Debt Repayment Obligation	\$587,247	\$560,271 ¹
Repair & Replacement	\$8,507,435	\$10,026,021
Plant Expansion	\$10,458,199	\$12,739,079
Subtotal	\$19,552,881	\$23,325,371
<u>RESTRICTED RESERVE</u>		
Dev. Fee; SY Septic	\$109,212	\$109,212
State Water Project Reserve ²	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

1. This amount represents a Debt Payment Obligation reserve balance for 9-months of current FY 2025-26. The year-end reserve amount in this category will change on June 30, 2026 to reflect payments for the SWP payment due on June 1st, and the USBR Safety of Dams Repayment Contract payment.
2. One year set aside payment established to guarantee ID No.1's contractual debt obligation in the event of a default by the City of Solvang.

BUDGET IN DETAIL

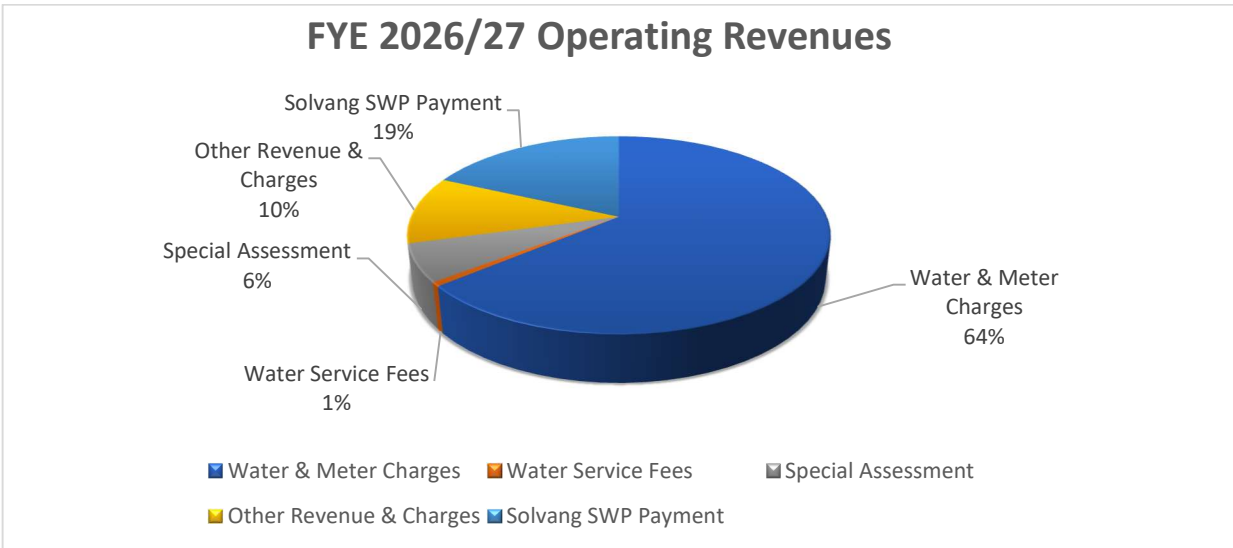
The specific revenue and expenditure categories of the budget account for the adopted water rates and revenues, prior year audit data, and financial account information. The categories are displayed using actual 9-month revenue and expenditure data from the current fiscal year and are also projected to show the fiscal year-end figures (June 30, 2026). This information is used as part of the evaluation to develop the FY 2026/27 Final Budget.

The FY 2026/27 Final Budget of \$14,243,915 reflects an overall 2.00% increase compared to the projected June 30, 2026 year-end results. As noted above, the FY 2026/27 Final Budget assumes that water rates remain static based upon the last rate increase that went into effect on July 1, 2021. The water rates are applied to forecasted water sales and meter charges in FY 2026/27 based on actual sales and charges in the current and prior fiscal years. The budget also assumes no increase in the \$875,000 Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax, even though the authorized limit for FY 2026/27 is \$2,785,514. Other factors such as capital facilities charges and interest income are integral parts of the forecast. The information below shows that budgeted revenues will meet projected operating expenditures and debt service obligations and result in a projected net revenue balance of \$4,071,831. This revenue balance will fund the Other Expenses and Special Studies categories as further detailed in the Final Budget, leaving a balance of \$2,504,831 in net operating revenues, which will fund the majority of the proposed \$4,034,500 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Program for FY 2026/27, leaving a projected budget shortfall of \$1,529,669. As discussed above District management proposes a budget transfer from Unrestricted, Board Reserve Funds to Unrestricted Funds of \$1,529,669 to fund a major capital project (new groundwater production well) to help bolster the District’s water supply resilience.

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

The District operates according to cost of service, with revenues derived primarily from water sales, fixed monthly service charges, other water services, and the special tax assessment. For the FY 2026/27 Final Budget, the total operating revenues are projected at \$14,243,915 including the SWP revenue of \$2,588,182 from the City of Solvang. Projected total revenues are \$11,655,733 without the SWP pass-through payment. Table 2 below summarizes the distribution of the District’s projected revenue sources for FY 2026/27.

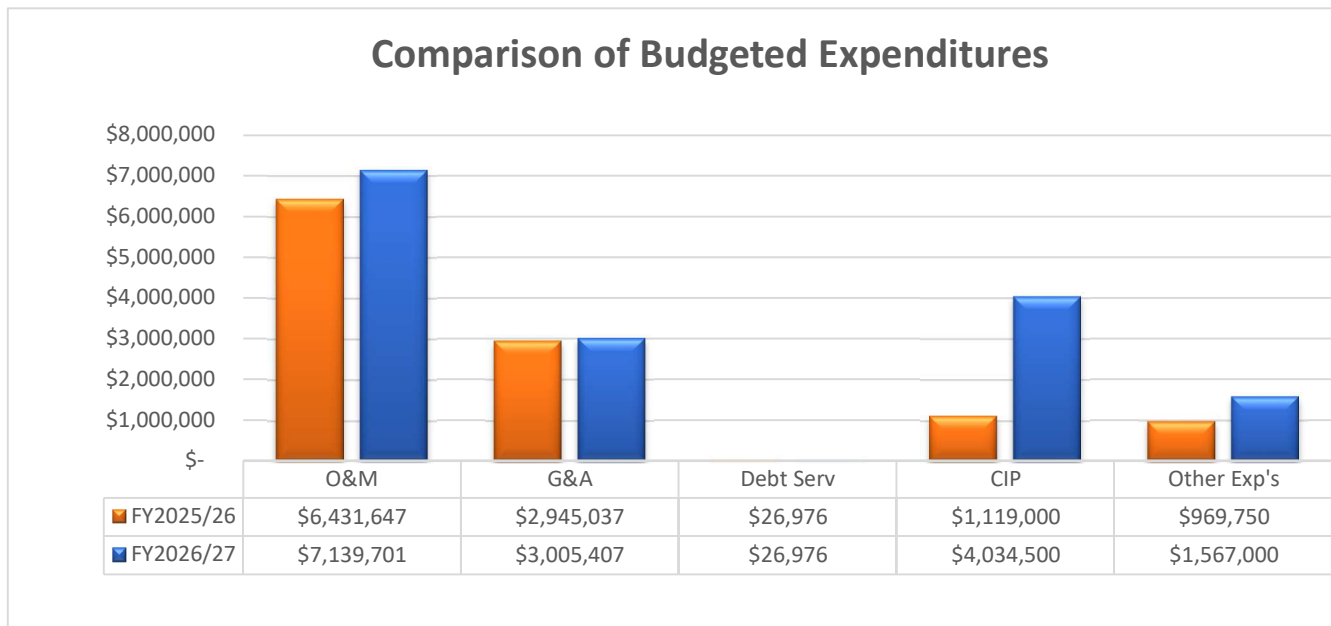
Table 2



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

Based on the FY 2026/27 Final Budget, the District’s projected water sales and other operating revenues, including the proposed FY 2026/27 special tax assessment, will fully fund the overall operating expenditures, including all categories of Operation & Maintenance, General & Administrative, and Debt Service, and result in a net revenue balance of \$4,071,831. This net balance of operating revenues is proposed to fund the District’s Other Expenses and Special Studies categories as further detailed in the Final Budget. Thereafter, a net revenue balance of \$2,504,831 is proposed to fund the majority of the District’s FY 2026/27 CIP program. Table 3 below shows all budgeted expenditure categories for FY 2026/27 in comparison to the previous fiscal year.

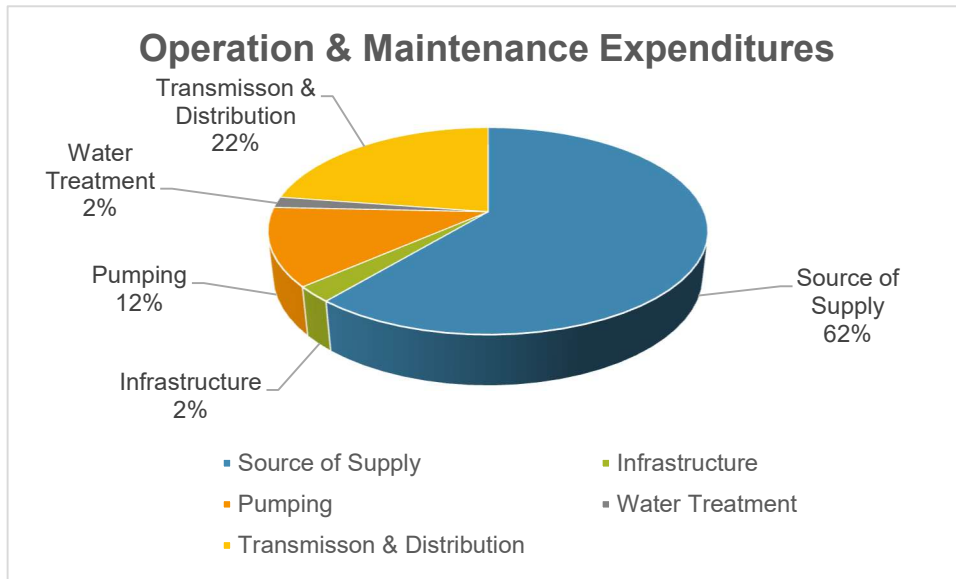
Table 3



EXPENDITURES - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

The overall budget for O&M expenditures for FY 2026/27 is \$708,054, which is 11.01 percent higher than last year’s FY 2025/26 budget figure. The Source of Supply category shows the largest cost increase, which relates to increased charges by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for State Water Project (SWP) deliveries to the District and the City of Solvang in the amounts of \$349,271 and \$190,813, respectively. The Infrastructure, Pumping, and Water Treatment costs are also projected to increase by \$112,500 as the result of increasing electrical utility rates. The Transmission & Distribution cost increase of \$40,222 in comparison to the FY 2025/26 budget is attributable to needed upgrades to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Finally, ACWA JPIA premiums for health, dental, and vision coverage are anticipated to have an inflationary increase of 5 percent for each coverage plan.

Table 4



EXPENDITURES - GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION (G&A)

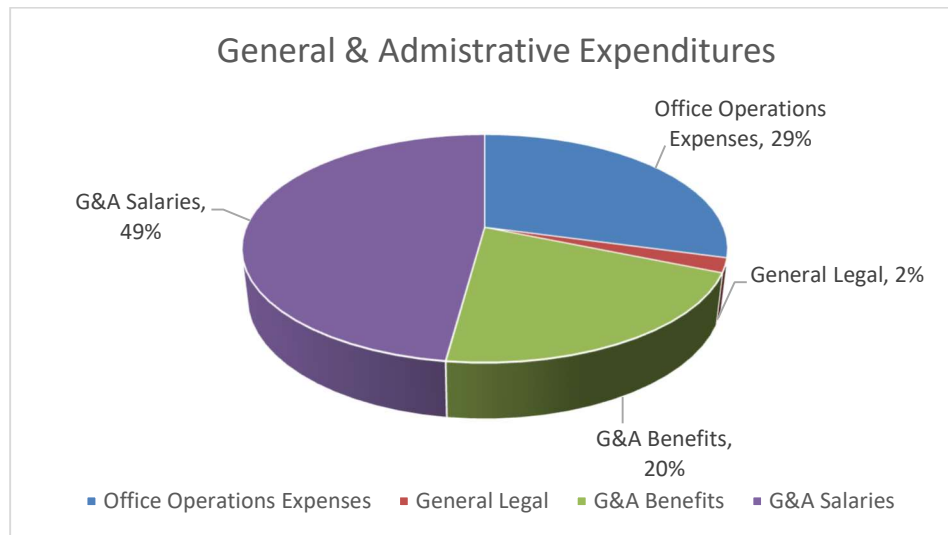
The overall budget for G&A expenditures for FY 2026/27 increased by \$60,370 (2.05%) compared to last year’s FY 2025/26 budget.

Administrative expenses, including dues and subscriptions, miscellaneous service contracts, various utilities, and liability insurance are projected to increase slightly due to inflationary and vendor cost increases related to the current economic climate.

Other increases to this expense category are tied to annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and merit increases to employee salaries in accordance with the District’s adopted Personnel Policy Manual and Salary Schedule, which in turn affect retirement and payroll tax expenses. The District-wide COLA is being proposed at 3.9% for FY 2026/27. The COLA is consistent with industry standards and is based on the Consumer Price Index 12-month calculation data (May-April). The COLA factor is derived from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics through averaging the most recent 12-month indexes compared to the prior year for all urban wage earners and clerical workers for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area of California.

Table 5 below illustrates the distribution of costs for the G&A expense categories.

Table 5



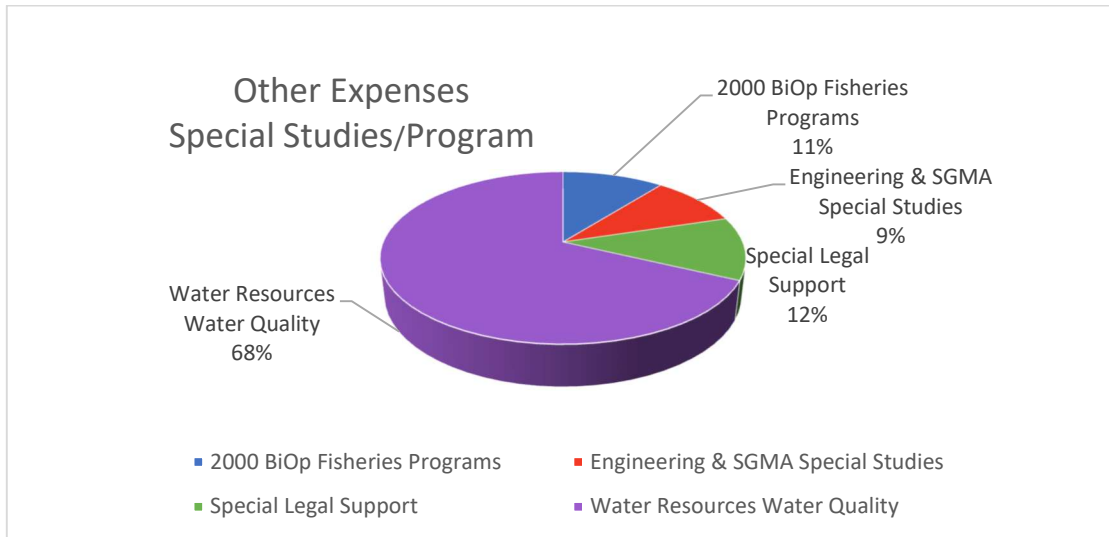
DEBT SERVICE

The District’s Debt Service category for FY 2026/27 includes the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Safety of Dams repayment obligation (principal and interest) which remains constant for a 50-year term at \$26,976 per year, which term expires in 2052. As detailed above, the FY 2026/27 operating revenues, inclusive of the special tax assessment, are projected to fully fund the District’s operating expenses plus debt service.

OTHER EXPENSES AND SPECIAL STUDIES

For FY 2026/27, the budgeted amount of \$1,567,000 in the Other Expenses category will be funded by the net revenue balance of \$4,071,831. The FY 2026/27 budget for Other Expenses is \$597,250 more than what was budgeted in FY 2025/26, with the Cr6 Implementation Plan and Other Treatment & Supply Projects having the largest increase of \$665,000, which is partially offset by decreases in other cost components. Notably, the FY 2026/27 Final Budget prominently includes funding for professional services needed to implement the District’s Cr6 Compliance Plan, treatment options and feasibility studies for wells that may be affected by the new MCL, additional well exploration and replacement capacity studies, and public outreach to District customers in relation to the Cr6 regulation and long-term water supply planning. Table 6 below illustrates the distribution of costs for the Other Expenses and Special Studies categories.

Table 6



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

Infrastructure planning and investment are critical to the ongoing reliability of the District’s water production and distribution system. In years past, the District’s CIP program was seriously compromised by shortfalls in operating revenues caused by outdated water rates and a multi-year suspension on the levy of a special tax assessment. Those shortfalls required incremental drawdowns of District reserves simply to meet annual operating expenses and debt service. Consequently, monies were not available to fund the CIP program, and needed capital improvements to the District’s aging water system were deferred.

However, following the 2016 Rate Study, operating revenues have been able to meet and exceed operating expenses, and net revenues have been available to fund the District’s Debt Service and Other Expenses (including Special Studies) and then contribute to building reserves and/or funding the CIP program. The CIP items include projects needed for replacements, betterments, upgrades, and repairs of the District water supply, production, and distribution system.

For FY 2026/27, a total of \$4,034,500 is budgeted for the CIP program. This amount is \$2,915,500 more than the \$1,119,000 CIP budget in FY 2025/26. Of particular note, the majority of the CIP program for FY 2026/27 will be funded from the District’s projected net revenues of \$2,504,831 (after funding Other Expenses and Special Studies). The funding balance of \$1,529,669 would require a transfer from the District’s Unrestricted, Board Reserves.

Account 900332 (\$50,000) – District Building (Rollforward Project) – Several years ago this account was budgeted as a higher amount to include the combination of a steel building to house a water treatment and control system for the District’s office wells, along with a garage bay for District equipment and needed expansion and upgrade of field crew quarters. The FY 2026/27 Final Budget includes funding to finalize architectural and engineering design modifications for a new District building to provide a District-designated Board Room, conference rooms, and various administrative and employee workspace.

900372 (\$14,500) – Office Computers, Furniture & Equipment – The FY 2026/27 Final Budget for this account includes \$2,000 for office workstations and \$4,500 for network switches reaching the end of their reliable lifespan. The remaining \$8,000 is budgeted to modernize the District’s back up and disaster recovery platform to a cloud-based solution from its current tape-based backup system for data protection and archival storage. Datto Backup and Disaster Recovery (BDR) is an automatic off-site replication of the District’s work files and programs. It is a comprehensive solution designed to protect and restore critical data. Datto BDR keeps systems running during failures, automatically backs up files and programs to an off-site server, and performs frequent backups to help mitigate data loss. The District’s backup system currently requires manual intervention and has slower speeds and higher risks than the cloud-based solution.

900376 (\$190,000) – Communications/Telemetry and SCADA (Rollforward Project) – The FY 2026/27 Final Budget includes \$165,000 to conduct a comprehensive radio transmission survey and upgrade for the District’s entire service area. The District’s water distribution system, including reservoirs, wells, and booster pump stations, is operated by utilizing an electronically secure Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, an indispensable feature of virtually all modern water systems. Generally speaking, the SCADA system electronically monitors, displays, and communicates critical water system data and parameters, such as reservoir levels and production velocities in wells and pump stations. SCADA also enables District personnel to remotely control operational changes to key infrastructure throughout the system. Because the SCADA system functions through radio communications, the effectiveness of those communications can be limited by the age and functionality of supporting radio equipment, signaling devices, signaling locations, surrounding topography, and other factors. The District’s existing radio and signaling equipment is significantly outdated and our overall radio transmission capabilities have not been evaluated for many years. Consequently, the District’s SCADA system is not performing at an optimal level. District staff have consulted with several industry professionals who advise that a comprehensive radio transmission survey for the entire service area can be used to identify equipment, location, and other technological upgrades to improve the functionality of the District’s telemetry and SCADA system.

This project includes \$25,000 for procurement and installation of a new secured backup server configured to host a virtualized environment. The District currently operates its SCADA system on a single server, with a separate workstation serving as a limited backup. This configuration is outdated and the existing hardware is approaching the end of its reliable lifespan. The virtual server will provide a redundant operating platform, allowing the District to maintain SCADA functionality during operating system patching, software upgrades, or in the event of a primary system failure.

900378 (\$10,000) – Major Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment – The FY 2026/27 Final Budget of \$10,000 in this account is for the acquisition and replacement of major tools and shop equipment, including a shop compressor, industrial grade shelving, equipment racks, organizational bins, and storage improvements.

900350 (\$3,000,000) – Upland Wells - As part of the District’s Water Supply Portfolio and Treatment Alternatives strategy, including efforts to address the State’s recently adopted drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium (Cr6), this CIP project is budgeted to construct a new/replacement groundwater production well within the District, which plans are being closely coordinated with hydrogeologic and engineering studies to optimize production capacity within desired water quality parameters.

900200 (\$175,000) – Pump & Motor Replacement – Pumps and motors serve as indispensable components of the District’s infrastructure and are essential for water supply and operational reliability. Due to continuous usage and wear over time, these assets are subject to deterioration and eventual failure. Unforeseen breakdowns can disrupt operations, leading to downtime, increased maintenance costs, and decreased water supply reliability. Funds under this account will be utilized as situations arise that dictate the replacement of failed pumps and/or motors that occur during the fiscal year.

900106 (\$80,000) – Rehabilitation/Replacement of Mains/Laterals/Valves and Fire Hydrants – The FY 2026/27 Final Budget for this account includes \$40,000 for the replacement of mainline valves that are found to be broken or rendered inoperable during the District’s ongoing valve maintenance and replacement program. Additionally, \$40,000 is budgeted to replace certain fire hydrants within the District’s system.

900379 (\$50,000) – Infrastructure Security – Over the last several years, the District has been upgrading and installing new features at various locations to enhance the security of District water supplies and water supply infrastructure. For FY 2026/27, the Final Budget amount of \$50,000 will be used to acquire and install additional security measures at certain locations within the District’s service area, including but not limited to security fencing, camera devices, and alarm systems.

900373 (\$220,000) – Fleet Vehicle Replacement – This account includes funds for the purchase of one replacement fleet vehicle (valve truck). This vehicle will replace an existing 1998 model that is undersized, underequipped, and at the end of its reliable service life (125,750 miles) for valve maintenance and exercising activities that are critical to the District’s water supply activities and responsibilities. A new valve operating platform will enable the District to implement a more robust valve maintenance program (including systemwide data aggregation and integration for all District valves), while also ensuring adequate and reliable equipment for conducting routine and emergency shutdowns. Further, new and more modernized valve operating equipment results in lower risk of breaking or damaging valves during operating and exercising activities.

Truck mounted valve operating platforms are specialized units and not widely available. Staff research indicates that truck mounted platforms are currently available from only two manufacturers in the United States (Pres Tech and Wachs). The smallest platform produced by Wachs requires a 1.5-ton truck for the size and weight of its equipment, which is oversized for the District’s needs and comes at a higher price, starting at approximately \$275,000 or more. On the other hand, Pres Tech offers a more compact platform that can be installed on a 3/4-ton truck (which is better for accessing some locations in our rural area) with equipment that is more suitable for the District’s needs. Additionally, Pres Tech is a sole source vendor that sells a truck with all the related equipment as a single package, whereas purchasing through Wachs would require the District to acquire and purchase the

components separately. A new operating platform will also enhance field ergonomics and operational safety for our field technicians.

900171 (\$40,000) – 4.0 CFS Well Field – For FY 2026/27, the Final Budget includes an updated pump and motor for Well 18 in the District’s 4.0 CFS wellfield. The lower Santa Ynez River alluvium remains a key component of the District’s water supply portfolio and these improvements are needed to ensure the ongoing sufficiency and reliability of public water supplies throughout the District’s service area.

900102 (\$205,000) – Zone 1, 2, 3 Reservoirs (Partial Rollforward Project) – For FY 2026/27, \$150,000 is budgeted for the installation of power service at the Zone 2 Reservoir site including a \$35,000 rollover from FY 2025/26. Currently this site is not equipped with power, which requires all facilities (including the reservoir mixers and telemetry/SCADA equipment) to be run with solar devices. Installing new electrical service for the Zone 2 Reservoir site will enable the District to utilize higher-power mixing devices and enhance the functionality of communication, security, and maintenance activities for this property. This category also includes \$50,400 for needed enhancements to the ventilation screens at the Zone 1 and Zone 2 reservoir sites. Each reservoir site contains 84 screens, for a total of 168 screens and wood frames to be retrofitted due to age and deferred maintenance.

If additional CIP expenditures are needed, proposed funding would come from the Repair and Replace and/or Plant Expansion Reserves. Alternatively, the projects could be deferred or re-prioritized.

FY 2026/27 FINAL BUDGET CONCLUSION

The FY 2026/27 Final Budget revenues of **\$14,243,915** are projected to be sufficient to meet total O&M expenses, G&A expenses, and Debt Service obligations of **\$10,172,084** with a net revenue balance of **\$4,071,831**. This net revenue balance of \$4,071,831 will be used to fund the \$1,567,000 of Other Expenses for special studies, engineering, design, legal, and consulting work to maintain protection and preservation of the District’s water rights and to ensure compliance with various regulatory orders and requirements applicable to the District’s rights and water supply portfolio, including but not limited to state-mandated water quality standards and fishery protections applicable to the Cachuma Project in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Orders and the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. The remaining net revenue balance of **\$2,504,831** will be used to fund the majority of the District’s FY 2026/27 CIP program of **\$4,034,500** as detailed above. To fund the remaining balance, District management proposes a budget transfer from Unrestricted, Board Reserved Funds to Unrestricted Funds in the amount of \$1,529,669 which would result in a balanced budget for the FY 2026/27 Final Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 860 approving and adopting the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Final Budget and proposed collection of an assessment levy of \$875,000 for Fiscal Year 2026/27.



Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1
FINAL BUDGET FY 2026-27

REVENUE Account No.	FY 25/26 Budget			FY 25/26 9-Month Revenues			Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026	Final Budget FY26/27	Variance from 2025/26 Budget
	Service & Sales								
601000	Agriculture Water Sales & Meter Charges	\$ 1,352,413	\$ 742,945	\$ 1,069,086	\$ 1,268,667	\$ (83,746)			
602000	Domestic Water Sales & Meter Charges	\$ 4,809,941	\$ 3,777,183	\$ 5,165,005	\$ 5,063,363	\$ 253,422			
602100	Rural Res/Lmt'd Ag Sales & Meter Charges	\$ 2,486,242	\$ 1,846,462	\$ 2,562,176	\$ 2,484,574	\$ (1,668)			
602200	Cachuma Park Water Sales	\$ 19,575	\$ 13,678	\$ 19,204	\$ 19,575	\$ 0			
606000	Water Sales to City of Solvang	\$ 77,553	\$ 145,639	\$ 161,219	\$ 77,553	\$ 0			
608000	Water Sales - On-Demand	\$ 27,442	\$ 12,488	\$ 16,472	\$ 27,442	\$ 0			
611500	Fire Service Charges	\$ 135,539	\$ 98,866	\$ 131,515	\$ 140,884	\$ 5,345			
604000	Temporary Water Sales	\$ 20,175	\$ 2,613	\$ 5,675	\$ 20,175	\$ 0			
	Subtotal Water Sales	\$ 8,928,880	\$ 6,639,874	\$ 9,130,352	\$ 9,102,233	\$ 173,353			
611100	New Services Fees	\$ 60,000	\$ 46,233	\$ 46,233	\$ 60,000	\$ 0			
611200	Activation/Reconnection Fees	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,125	\$ 10,413	\$ 15,000	\$ 0			
611900	New Fire Service Fees	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,000	\$ 0			
612400	Penalties	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,093	\$ 15,276	\$ 15,000	\$ 0			
	Subtotal Service	\$ 96,000	\$ 65,451	\$ 71,922	\$ 96,000	\$ 0			
	Assessments, Fees & Other Revenue								
627000-627200	Special Assessment	\$ 875,000	\$ 465,583	\$ 875,000	\$ 875,000	\$ 0			
628000-630300	Interest Income	\$ 1,162,500	\$ 905,480	\$ 1,207,306	\$ 1,463,000	\$ 300,500			
625200	Application Fees/Special Services	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,800	\$ 12,624	\$ 13,000	\$ 0			
611600	Capital Facilities Charges	\$ 75,000	\$ 93,856	\$ 93,856	\$ 75,000	\$ 0			
620006	Reimbursed Field Labor	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,133	\$ 1,416	\$ 5,000	\$ 0			
620008	Reimbursed Admin. Labor	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ 0			
624000	Other Misc Revenues	\$ 37,000	\$ 12,925	\$ 17,547	\$ 24,000	\$ (13,000)			
634100	Insurance Claims	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,000	\$ 0			
890100	Solvang SWP Payment	\$ 2,397,369	\$ 2,166,049	\$ 2,554,839	\$ 2,588,182	\$ 190,813			
	Subtotal Assessment & Fees	\$ 4,567,369	\$ 3,654,826	\$ 4,762,788	\$ 5,045,682	\$ 478,313			
	TOTAL	\$ 13,592,249	\$ 10,360,151	\$ 13,965,062	\$ 14,243,915	\$ 651,666			

EXPENDITURES OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Account No.	Source of Supply	FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures			Final Budget FY26/27	Variance from 2025/26 Budget
		FY 25/26 Budget	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026	Expenditures		
703000	Cachuma Project (USBR) Water Purchase	\$ 235,200	\$ 127,544	\$ 220,474	\$ 255,820	\$ 20,620
703200	Cachuma Project Renewal/Environmental Fund	\$ 25,181	\$ 16,754	\$ 23,049	\$ 24,809	\$ (372)
704000	State Water Charge- District Payment	\$ 1,079,117	\$ 228,243	\$ 885,475	\$ 1,428,388	\$ 349,271
860000	State Water Project - City of Solvang pymt	\$ 2,397,369	\$ 2,166,049	\$ 2,554,839	\$ 2,588,182	\$ 190,813
705000	Ground Water Charges - SYRWCD	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,823	\$ 20,823	\$ 40,000	\$ 0
705500	Ground Water Charges - EMA GSA - SGMA	\$ 50,000	\$ 26,277	\$ 35,037	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
706000	Cloudseeding Program	\$ 12,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 12,500	\$ 0
707000	River Well Field Licenses (4.0cfs, 6.0cfs, Gallery)	\$ 27,000	\$ 18,344	\$ 23,887	\$ 27,000	\$ 0
	Subtotal Source of Supply	\$ 3,866,367	\$ 2,604,034	\$ 3,763,584	\$ 4,426,699	\$ 560,332
	Infrastructure					
711000	Maintenance of Wells	\$ 50,000	\$ 29,547	\$ 35,442	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
712000	Maintenance of Mains	\$ 85,000	\$ 76,716	\$ 80,452	\$ 85,000	\$ 0
713000	Maintenance of Reservoirs	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,650	\$ 13,650	\$ 15,000	\$ 0
714000	Maintenance of Structures	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,395	\$ 1,695	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
	Subtotal Infrastructure	\$ 155,000	\$ 118,308	\$ 131,239	\$ 170,000	\$ 15,000
	Pumping					
726000	Pumping Expense - Power	\$ 750,000	\$ 675,483	\$ 874,788	\$ 862,500	\$ 112,500
730000	Maintenance of Pump Structures/Stations/Equip	\$ 20,000	\$ 33,224	\$ 34,055	\$ 20,000	\$ 0
732000	Maintenance of Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Subtotal Pumping	\$ 770,000	\$ 708,707	\$ 908,843	\$ 882,500	\$ 112,500
	Water Treatment					
744000	Chemicals	\$ 85,000	\$ 42,499	\$ 58,499	\$ 75,000	\$ (10,000)
748000	Maintenance of Treatment Structures/Equipment	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,274	\$ 1,774	\$ 3,000	\$ 0
748100	Water Treatment/Sampling/Monitoring Equipment	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,200	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
749000	Water Analysis	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,352	\$ 14,019	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)
	Subtotal Water Treatment	\$ 108,000	\$ 63,225	\$ 81,492	\$ 98,000	\$ (10,000)
	Transmission & Distribution					
751000	Field Service Labor	\$ 806,426	\$ 543,256	\$ 706,233	\$ 790,863	\$ (15,563)
755000	PERS - Retirement	\$ 228,158	\$ 193,844	\$ 214,650	\$ 279,726	\$ 51,568
775401	ACWA - Health Benefits	\$ 280,930	\$ 179,331	\$ 253,314	\$ 278,258	\$ (2,672)
775201	ACWA - Delta Dental	\$ 15,053	\$ 8,331	\$ 12,201	\$ 10,983	\$ (4,070)
775301	ACWA - Vision	\$ 1,735	\$ 908	\$ 1,373	\$ 1,482	\$ (253)
775501	ACWA - Standard Life	\$ 2,553	\$ 1,802	\$ 2,355	\$ 2,265	\$ (288)
799500	Uniforms	\$ 22,000	\$ 14,116	\$ 17,645	\$ 22,000	\$ 0
752000	Work Materials & Supplies	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,034	\$ 9,847	\$ 10,000	\$ 0
752100	Safety Equipment	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,286	\$ 4,286	\$ 6,000	\$ (3,000)
753000	SCADA Maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ 29,851	\$ 31,344	\$ 35,000	\$ 15,000
754000	Small Tools	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,767	\$ 4,767	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
754100	Small Tool Repair	\$ 2,000	\$ 629	\$ 850	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
755000	Transportation (Vehicle Maintenance/Fuel)	\$ 70,000	\$ 38,259	\$ 51,650	\$ 70,000	\$ 0
756000	Meter Service (New)	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,064	\$ 14,150	\$ 15,000	\$ 0
756100	Meter and Service Repair	\$ 12,000	\$ 8,413	\$ 9,675	\$ 12,000	\$ 0
757000	Road Contracts	\$ 2,800	\$ 64	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,800	\$ 0
758100	Meter Reading System (Sensus) (Neptune)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,001	\$ 12,488	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,000
759000	Maintenance of Structures and Improvements	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (2,500)
760000	Fire Hydrants Maintenance	\$ 2,000	\$ 384	\$ 1,984	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
761000	Back Flow Devices Testing	\$ 125	\$ 0	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 0
762000	Backhoe/Generators Maintenance	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,455	\$ 15,000	\$ 0
	Subtotal Transmission & Distribution	\$ 1,532,280	\$ 1,062,440	\$ 1,359,042	\$ 1,572,502	\$ 40,222
	TOTAL	\$ 6,431,647	\$ 4,556,714	\$ 6,244,200	\$ 7,149,701	\$ 718,054

EXPENDITURES G&A		FY 25/26 Budget		FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures		Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026		Final Budget FY26/27		Variance from 2025/26 Budget	
Account No.	General & Administrative										
773000	Elections	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	25,000
6560	Payroll/Accounting Expenses	\$	4,000	\$	0	\$	3,512	\$	4,000	\$	0
774000	ACWA Workers Comp Ins	\$	29,595	\$	19,607	\$	24,508	\$	29,595	\$	0
775000	PERS - Retirement G & A	\$	268,683	\$	201,420	\$	222,226	\$	234,593	\$	(34,090)
775400	ACWA - Health Benefits	\$	324,123	\$	223,825	\$	299,948	\$	351,404	\$	27,281
775200	ACWA - Delta Dental	\$	16,008	\$	10,403	\$	13,303	\$	18,606	\$	2,598
775300	ACWA - Vision	\$	2,117	\$	1,488	\$	1,918	\$	1,905	\$	(212)
775500	ACWA - Standard Life	\$	2,999	\$	2,158	\$	2,768	\$	2,422	\$	(577)
777100	Management & Administrative Salaries	\$	1,409,839	\$	930,259	\$	1,209,337	\$	1,474,982	\$	65,143
778000	Education, Training & Travel	\$	20,000	\$	13,412	\$	17,436	\$	20,000	\$	0
779000	Dues & Subscription	\$	39,200	\$	28,298	\$	36,831	\$	39,200	\$	0
780000	Office Maintenance	\$	8,000	\$	5,684	\$	6,812	\$	8,000	\$	0
799525	Gardening Service	\$	3,000	\$	2,100	\$	2,800	\$	3,000	\$	0
781000	Office Supplies	\$	15,500	\$	7,708	\$	11,562	\$	15,500	\$	0
781100	Computer Supplies, Software, Training	\$	6,000	\$	5,640	\$	7,341	\$	7,500	\$	1,500
782000	Postage & Printing	\$	57,000	\$	43,686	\$	57,113	\$	57,000	\$	0
783000	Utilities	\$	21,000	\$	17,068	\$	17,068	\$	21,000	\$	0
784000	Telephone	\$	20,000	\$	13,075	\$	17,425	\$	23,000	\$	3,000
785000	Services(USA, Website, Security, Answering Services)	\$	21,000	\$	13,129	\$	17,479	\$	21,000	\$	0
785100	Government Fees (County, State, Local)	\$	19,000	\$	19,413	\$	20,244	\$	20,500	\$	1,500
786000	ACWA Liability Insurance	\$	168,879	\$	110,027	\$	145,658	\$	140,000	\$	(28,879)
787000	Payroll Taxes - Federal and State	\$	169,544	\$	103,769	\$	134,899	\$	159,000	\$	(10,544)
788000	Audit & Accounting	\$	40,000	\$	27,951	\$	37,268	\$	40,000	\$	0
789000	Legal - General	\$	50,000	\$	13,574	\$	18,099	\$	50,000	\$	0
	BHFS	\$	10,000	\$	3,200	\$	4,266	\$	10,000	\$	0
	Stradling	\$	20,000	\$	287	\$	1,674	\$	15,000	\$	(5,000)
790000	Consulting - General/Professional	\$	55,000	\$	25,332	\$	33,422	\$	55,000	\$	0
791000	Consulting - Planning/Research	\$	1,700	\$	6	\$	1,693	\$	1,700	\$	0
792000	Customer Debt - Write Offs	\$	67,350	\$	50,143	\$	62,134	\$	77,000	\$	9,650
793000	Office Equipment/Computer Service Contracts	\$	29,000	\$	27,100	\$	32,800	\$	33,000	\$	4,000
797000	Trustee Fees	\$	45,000	\$	37,269	\$	0	\$	45,000	\$	0
799000	Processing Fees, Admin. Expenses, Medical Costs	\$	1,500	\$	0	\$	200	\$	1,500	\$	0
799600	Customer Refunds	\$	2,945,037	\$	1,957,031	\$	2,461,744	\$	3,005,407	\$	60,370
	Subtotal General & Administrative	\$	2,945,037	\$	1,957,031	\$	2,461,744	\$	3,005,407	\$	60,370
	TOTAL	\$	2,945,037	\$	1,957,031	\$	2,461,744	\$	3,005,407	\$	60,370

SUBTOTAL EXPENDITURES		FY 25/26 Budget		FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures		Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026		Final Budget FY26/27		Variance from 2025/26 Budget	
G&A/O&M	TOTAL										
\$	\$	\$	9,376,684	\$	6,513,745	\$	8,705,944	\$	10,155,108	\$	778,424
	TOTAL	\$	9,376,684	\$	6,513,745	\$	8,705,944	\$	10,155,108	\$	778,424

DEBT SERVICE		FY 25/26 Budget		FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures		Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026		Final Budget FY26/27		Variance from 2025/26 Budget	
Account No.	Debt Service										
717000	USBR SOD Repayment (Principal & Interest)	\$	26,976	\$	17,984	\$	26,976	\$	26,976	\$	0
	Subtotal Debt Service	\$	26,976	\$	17,984	\$	26,976	\$	26,976	\$	0
	TOTAL	\$	26,976	\$	17,984	\$	26,976	\$	26,976	\$	0

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		FY 25/26 Budget		FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures		Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026		Final Budget FY26/27		Variance from 2025/26 Budget	
	G&A/O&M/DEBT SERVICE TOTAL	\$	9,403,660	\$	6,531,729	\$	8,732,920	\$	10,182,084	\$	778,424

SUBTOTAL REVENUE BALANCE		FY 25/26 Budget		FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures		Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026		Final Budget FY26/27		Variance from 2025/26 Budget	
	OPERATING REVENUES LESS OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$	4,188,589	\$	3,828,422	\$	5,232,142	\$	4,061,831	\$	(126,758)

OTHER EXPENSES

Account No.	Special Studies/Programs	FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures			Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026	Final Budget FY26/27	Variance from 2025/26 Budget
		FY 25/26 Budget					
Fisheries Program							
825800	BiOp Implementation	\$ 60,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 0	
825401	BiOp Studies/Consultation (Stetson/Hanson)	\$ 50,000	\$ 7,434	\$ 16,767	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	
800201	BiOp/Reconsultation/ESA (BBK)	\$ 40,000	\$ 19,858	\$ 19,858	\$ 40,000	\$ 0	
826101	SWRCB Order/Studies (Stetson/Hanson)	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,940	\$ 19,840	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	
826201	SWRCB Order/Studies (BBK)	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,593	\$ 7,593	\$ 7,500	\$ 0	
825402	SWRCB Hearings Support (Stetson/Hanson)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
800101	SWRCB Hearings Support (BBK)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Special Programs							
825500	Hydrology SYR; Cachuma Water, RiverWare (Stetson)	\$ 1,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,500	\$ 0	
825601	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	\$ 750	\$ 189	\$ 189	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	
825600	Water Conservation Program/RWEP	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,494	\$ 4,494	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,000	
Subtotal Studies/Programs		\$ 174,750	\$ 96,508	\$ 128,741	\$ 177,000	\$ 2,250	
Legal & Engineering Services							
800202	Interagency Involvement	\$ 5,000	\$ 511	\$ 511	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	
800205	SWP Water Management Case	\$ 110,000	\$ 34,504	\$ 39,504	\$ 0	\$ (110,000)	
800500	Unanticipated or Extraordinary Special Legal BHFS	\$ 50,000	\$ 8,424	\$ 9,424	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	
	BBK	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,494	\$ 6,494	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	
800301	Downstream Water Rights & Studies	\$ 25,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,000	\$ (15,000)	
800300	Easements, Survey & Water Projects	\$ 65,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 110,000	\$ 45,000	
800102	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,471	\$ 16,471	\$ 20,000	\$ (5,000)	
Subtotal Legal/Engineering		\$ 330,000	\$ 64,404	\$ 72,404	\$ 265,000	\$ (65,000)	
Non Recurring Expenses/Projects							
826000	CR6 Implementation Plan/Other Treatment & Supply Projects	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,488	\$ 3,488	\$ 965,000	\$ 665,000	
825700	Water Rate Study	\$ 75,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 75,000	\$ 0	
850500	USBR Cachuma Project Contract/Studies	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	
800203	River Water Right Proceedings (BHFS)	\$ 25,000	\$ 387	\$ 387	\$ 40,000	\$ 15,000	
800204	River Water Right Proceedings (Stetson/Hanson)	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	
825900	Water System Study (Stetson)	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 20,000	\$ (30,000)	
Subtotal Non-Annual		\$ 465,000	\$ 3,875	\$ 3,875	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 660,000	
TOTAL		\$ 969,750	\$ 164,787	\$ 205,020	\$ 1,567,000	\$ 597,250	

TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES

Account No.	Special Studies/Programs	FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures			Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026	Final Budget FY26/27	Variance from 2025/26 Budget
		FY 25/26 Budget					
TOTAL		\$ 969,750	\$ 164,787	\$ 205,020	\$ 1,567,000	\$ 597,250	

BUDGET BALANCE		FY 25/26 Budget			FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures		Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026		Final Budget FY26/27		Variance from 2025/26 Budget	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	13,592,249	\$	10,360,151	\$	13,965,062	\$	14,243,915	\$	651,666		
TOTAL O&M EXPENDITURES	\$	(6,431,647)	\$	(4,556,714)	\$	(6,244,200)	\$	(7,149,701)	\$	718,054		
TOTAL G&A EXPENDITURES	\$	(2,945,037)	\$	(1,957,031)	\$	(2,461,744)	\$	(3,005,407)	\$	60,370		
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$	(26,976)	\$	(17,984)	\$	(26,976)	\$	(26,976)	\$	0		
Subtotal Net Revenue	\$	4,188,589	\$	3,828,422	\$	5,232,142	\$	4,061,831	\$	(126,758)		
TOTAL Other Expenses (Spec Study/Legal/Eng/NARES)	\$	(969,750)	\$	(164,787)	\$	(205,020)	\$	(1,567,000)	\$	597,250		
Subtotal	\$	3,218,839	\$	3,663,635	\$	5,027,122	\$	2,494,831	\$	(724,008)		
Budget Balance	\$	3,218,839	\$	3,663,635	\$	5,027,122	\$	2,494,831	\$	(724,008)		

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Account No.	Plant Expansion	FY 25/26 Budget			FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures			Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026			Final Budget FY26/27			Variance from 2025/26 Budget		
900332	District Building	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	
900333	Cr6 Water Treatment Facilities	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	
900372	Office Computers, Furniture & Equipment	\$	20,000	\$	8,110	\$	13,610	\$	13,610	\$	14,500	\$	14,500	\$	(5,500)	
900318	Meter Replacement/Utility Billing	\$	5,000	\$	3,260	\$	3,260	\$	3,260	\$	0	\$	0	\$	(5,000)	
900371	Office Bldg/Shop Improvements	\$	177,000	\$	0	\$	177,000	\$	177,000	\$	0	\$	0	\$	(177,000)	
900376	Communication/Telemetry Equipment (SCADA)	\$	165,000	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	190,000	\$	190,000	\$	25,000	
900181	ESRI CAD-GIS System; Equipment	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	
900378	Fleet CAD-GIS System; Equipment	\$	10,000	\$	1,310	\$	9,310	\$	9,310	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	0	
900378	Major Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment	\$	15,000	\$	4,500	\$	0	\$	0	\$	3,000,000	\$	3,000,000	\$	2,985,000	
900350	Uplands Wells	\$	15,000	\$	4,500	\$	0	\$	0	\$	3,000,000	\$	3,000,000	\$	2,985,000	
	Sub-Total - Plant Expansion Projects	\$	392,000	\$	17,180	\$	203,180	\$	203,180	\$	3,264,500	\$	3,264,500	\$	2,872,500	
	Repair & Replace															
900200	Pumps & Motor Replacement	\$	175,000	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	175,000	\$	175,000	\$	0	
900106	Rehab/Replace/New-Trans. Mains/Laterals/Valves	\$	115,000	\$	1,201	\$	55,522	\$	55,522	\$	80,000	\$	80,000	\$	(35,000)	
900170	6.0 CFS Well Field	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	
900335	SWP Pump Station/Pipeline	\$	22,000	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	(22,000)	
900379	Infrastructure Security	\$	13,000	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$	37,000	
900373	Fleet Vehicle Addition & Replacement	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	220,000	\$	220,000	\$	220,000	
900171	4.0 CFS Well Field	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	40,000	\$	40,000	\$	40,000	
900195	Refugio 2 BPS	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	
900196	Alamo Pintado BPS	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	
900197	Refugio 3 BPS	\$	195,000	\$	221,250	\$	221,250	\$	221,250	\$	0	\$	0	\$	(195,000)	
900198	Meadowlark BPS	\$	167,000	\$	39,023	\$	39,023	\$	39,023	\$	0	\$	0	\$	(167,000)	
900102	Zone 1, 2, 3 Reservoirs	\$	40,000	\$	4,970	\$	4,970	\$	4,970	\$	205,000	\$	205,000	\$	165,000	
	Subtotal Repair & Replace Projects	\$	727,000	\$	286,444	\$	320,765	\$	320,765	\$	770,000	\$	770,000	\$	43,000	
	Grand Total Capital Improvement Projects	\$	1,119,000	\$	283,624	\$	523,945	\$	523,945	\$	4,034,500	\$	4,034,500	\$	2,915,500	

TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

		FY 25/26 Budget			FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures			Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026			Final Budget FY26/27			Variance from 2025/26 Budget		
TOTAL		\$	1,119,000	\$	283,624	\$	523,945	\$	523,945	\$	4,034,500	\$	4,034,500	\$	2,915,500	

RESERVE BALANCE

Account No.	FY 25/26 Budget	FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026	Final Budget FY26/27	Variance from 2025/26 Budget
DISBURSEMENT OF REMAINING BUDGET BALANCE					
271800	\$ 3,218,839	\$ 3,663,635	\$ 5,027,122	\$ 2,494,831	\$ (724,008)
272000	\$ (727,000)	\$ (266,444)	\$ (320,765)	\$ (770,000)	\$ 43,000
3900	\$ (392,000)	\$ (17,180)	\$ (203,180)	\$ (3,264,500)	\$ 2,872,500
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,539,669	\$ (1,539,669)
	\$ (1,119,000)	\$ (283,624)	\$ (523,945)	\$ (2,494,831)	\$ 1,375,831
	\$ 2,099,839	\$ 3,380,011	\$ 4,503,176	\$ 0	

TOTAL BUDGET

	FY 25/26 Budget	FY 25/26 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2026	Final Budget FY26/27	Variance from 2025/26 Budget
TOTAL	\$ 13,592,249	\$ 10,360,151	\$ 13,965,062	\$ 14,243,915	\$ 651,666

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 860

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027
AND REQUESTING AN ASSESSMENT LEVY REQUIRED TO COLLECT \$875,000**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (“District”), Santa Barbara County, California, that:

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1960 a Special Election was held and voters approved a contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Contract No. 14-06-200-8253 (“Contract”), for the purpose of providing an adequate system of water supply, storage and distribution facilities, mains and appurtenances, and lands and easements necessary presently and prospectively for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Article 18(b) of the Contract requires the District to cause to be levied ad valorem taxes and assessments to fulfill its obligations; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to incur and pay the costs of the continuing operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and betterment of the project works; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, is required to forward to the Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor of the County of Santa Barbara an estimate, in writing, of the amount of ad valorem tax assessment money needed for the purposes of the District for the ensuing fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, and any reserve funds; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with information published by the California Department of Finance, the appropriation limit of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 for fiscal year 2026/2027 is established at \$2,785,514.83 and the District adopted Resolution No. 859 on June 16, 2026 establishing said appropriation limit for fiscal year 2026/2027 pursuant to Government Code Section 7910; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the District’s fiscal year 2026/2027 appropriation limit of \$2,785,514.83, and notwithstanding the financial projections from the District’s 2016 Water Rate Study that the District would collect an assessment levy in the amount of \$875,000 in fiscal year 2017/2018, and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2018/2019, and \$1,125,000 in fiscal year 2019/2020, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2020/2021, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2021/2022, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2022/2023, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2023/2024, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2024/2025, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2025/2026, and \$1,250,000 in fiscal year 2026/2027, the District has limited its assessment amount to \$875,000 for fiscal years 2017/2018 through 2025/2026, and it has been determined that an assessment levy of \$875,000 for fiscal year 2026/2027 will provide sufficient funds to meet the needs of the District as stated above; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered a budget for the fiscal year 2026/2027.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, that the Secretary to the Board is hereby authorized and directed to forward to the Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor of the County of Santa Barbara, in writing, a request for an assessment levy of \$875,000 for the fiscal year 2026/2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Final Budget as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated by this reference is hereby approved and adopted for the fiscal year 2026/2027.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified and acting President and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Trustees of said District at a Regular Meeting held on the 16th day of June 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSTAIN, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

Jeff Clay, President

ATTEST:

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

ORDINANCE NO. XXX

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS AND FINES RELATING TO WATER THEFT**

WHEREAS, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No.1 (“District”) is responsible for providing safe, sufficient, reliable, and affordable water service to its customers and for managing and protecting the District’s public water system infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, water is one of California’s most important resources, especially as the state continues to face the challenges of recurring drought conditions

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the unauthorized use and diversion of District water supplies, and the unauthorized use of and tampering with District meters, fire hydrants, and other forms of water theft is a growing problem which jeopardizes the fairness, affordability, and financial integrity of the District’s water system, undermines water conservation, causes revenue losses to the District, damages District facilities, and endangers public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, water theft from fire hydrants can present particularized public health and safety hazards, including reduced water pressure for firefighting, potential contamination of potable water supplies, and physical damage to hydrants, pipelines, and other critical water supply infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, newly adopted State law, including but not limited to California Government Code Sections 53069.45 and 53069.46 (SB 394), authorize local agencies that provide water service to adopt ordinances prohibiting water theft and unauthorized use of water agency facilities, and imposing administrative fines or penalties for violations of such ordinances; and

WHEREAS, California Penal Code Section 498 authorizes criminal prosecution for the unauthorized use of, diversion from, connection to, or tampering with District water supplies or water supply facilities, in addition to other unauthorized acts; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Directors finds that adoption of this Ordinance is necessary to deter and penalize unauthorized use of the District public water supplies and water supply facilities, protect District assets, and help protect an equitable distribution of costs among those lawful and authorized users of District water supplies and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Title and Purpose

This Ordinance shall be known as the “Water Theft Ordinance of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1.”

The purpose of this Ordinance is to further enable the District to preserve and protect District water supplies and water supply infrastructure from theft, unauthorized use, tampering, potential contamination, damage, and unnecessary costs, and to establish administrative procedures for the imposition, enforcement, collection, and administrative review of fines established by this Ordinance in accordance with applicable provisions of California law.

SECTION 2. Authority

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to California Government Code Sections 53069.45 and 53069.46; California Civil Code Sections 1882.1, 1882.2, and 1882.3; California Penal Code Section 498; and the District’s Rules and Regulations and enabling act.

SECTION 3. Prohibited Acts Constituting Water Theft

It shall be unlawful and shall constitute water theft for any person to do any of the following:

- (a) Divert, or cause to be diverted, water from any component of the District’s water system without specific prior authorization from the District and without paying all applicable charges for District water and services.
- (b) Make, or cause to be made, any connection or reconnection to any component of the District’s water system, including but not limited to any District water meter, pipeline, fire hydrant, or other appurtenance without specific authorization from the District and without paying all applicable charges for District water and services.
- (c) Prevent any District water meter or other device used in determining the amount of water provided by the District from accurately performing its measuring function by tampering, interference, damage, bypass, alteration or other means.
- (d) Connect to, divert water from, cause water to be diverted from, tamper or interfere with, damage, bypass, or alter any District fire hydrant, hydrant meter, or fire detector check without specific prior authorization from the District and without paying all applicable charges for District water and services. Any such activity shall constitute an unauthorized connection to a District fire hydrant.
 - a. Notwithstanding the generality of Section 3(d) above, in accordance with California Civil Code section 1882.1(f), a public agency having firefighting or emergency response responsibilities during a fire, with approval from incident command or the authority having jurisdiction over the active fire incident, shall be considered to have authorization from the District to use District fire hydrants during an active fire incident; provided, therefore, in the absence of an

active fire incident, a public agency having firefighting or emergency response responsibilities or any other person, entity, or agency shall not be considered to have authorization from the District to use any District fire hydrant without specific prior authorization from the District.

- (e) Commit, authorize, solicit, aid, abet, assist, permit, cause, or attempt any of the above acts to occur.

SECTION 4. Administrative Penalties

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 53069.45 and 53069.46, the following administrative fines may be imposed by the District for violations of this Ordinance:

Violation Type	First Violation	Second Violation	Third or Subsequent Violation
Water Theft By Meter Tampering	Up to \$130	Up to \$700	Up to \$1,300
Water Theft By Other Means – Not Including Fire Hydrants	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$2,000	Up to \$3,000
Water Theft By Unauthorized Connection To A Fire Hydrant	Up to \$2,500	Up to \$5,000	Up to \$10,000

Each day that a violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate violation subject to a separate administrative fine. The District’s General Manager shall determine applicable fines imposed under this Ordinance in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

SECTION 5. Additional Recovery by the District

In addition to administrative fines established by this Ordinance, the District may impose additional costs, fines, penalties, and charges in connection with water theft violations, including but not limited to those set forth in the District’s Rules and Regulations, as follows:

- (a) Charges for water taken or diverted in violation of this Ordinance; and
- (b) All District costs to repair or replace damaged meters, valves, fire hydrants, or other water system facilities, including but not limited to all applicable labor, materials, administrative, consulting, expert, and legal costs; and
- (c) All investigation, enforcement, administrative, consulting, expert, and legal costs incurred by the District to implement and enforce terms of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. Service Termination and Restoration

The District may in its sole and absolute discretion immediately discontinue water service to any person, entity, agency, premises, or property involved in a violation of this Ordinance, where water service shall not be restored unless and until, as determined by the District's General Manager, the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) All violations are corrected; and
- (b) All costs, fines, penalties, and charges are paid in full or in accordance with terms and conditions accepted by the District; and
- (c) Adequate safeguards are in place to protect public health and safety, the District's water supplies, and its water supply system, and to prevent further violation(s) of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. Hardship Waiver Requests

Any person, entity, or agency upon whom a fine described in Government Code Section 53069.45 is imposed under this Ordinance may, within fifteen (15) calendar days a written notice of violation and imposition of fine by the District, submit a written request to the District for a hardship waiver, which request may include supporting documentation and must demonstrate that payment of the full amount of the fine would impose an undue financial burden on the responsible party. Written requests for a hardship waiver shall not apply to and are not available for fines described in Government Code Section 53069.45 and Section 3(d) and Section 4 of this Ordinance relating to water theft from an unauthorized connection to a District fire hydrant. Timely requests for a hardship waiver will be reviewed and determined by the District's General Manager, who will provide written notification of the determination to the requesting party.

SECTION 8. Appeal Procedure

A written appeal of any determination, fine, or decision issued by the District's General Manager pursuant to this Ordinance may be submitted to the District's Board of Trustees within fifteen (15) calendar days of the issuance of such determination, fine, or decision being appealed. For purposes of this Section 8, the determination, fine, or decision being appealed shall be deemed received by the appealing party five (5) calendar days after being issued by the District, and an appealing party's written appeal shall be deemed submitted by said party on the postmarked date if delivered by mail, and on the date of transmittal if delivered by electronic mail or personal service to the District's office during normal business hours. Upon receiving a written appeal, the District will schedule the matter to be heard by the Board of Trustees at an upcoming Board meeting. Written notice of the date, time, and place of the appeal to be heard by the Board will be provided to the appealing party. The decision of the Board shall be final and conclusive, subject to judicial review under Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5.

SECTION 9. Additional Remedies

This Ordinance supplements, and does not limit, any civil or criminal remedies available to the District under applicable law. Violations may be referred to local authorities for prosecution under Penal Code Section 498 or pursued for civil enforcement to recover damages and penalties. In accordance with Civil Code Section 1882.2, in any civil action brought by the District to recover damages in connection with any violation of this Ordinance, the District may recover as damages three times the amount of actual damages plus the cost of suit and reasonable attorney’s fees.

SECTION 10. Public Reporting

Members of the public are encouraged to report suspected water theft to the District by contacting the District office in person, by calling the District office/hotline day or night at (805) 688-6015, or via electronic mail at general@syrrwd.org. All reports shall be treated as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION 11. Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance or its application is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the District’s Board of Trustees.

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

Jeff Clay, President

ATTEST:

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Page left intentionally blank.



2025 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Published June 2026

**Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District,
Improvement District No.1**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Division 1	Mark Moniot
Division 2	Jeff Clay
Division 3	Nick Urton
Division 4	Michael Burchardi
At Large	Brad Joos

Office Location:
3622 Sagunto Street
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 157
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Phone No.: (805) 688-6015
Fax No.: (805) 688-3078

Website: www.syrwd.org

2025 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (District)

To All District Customers:

This Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) provides a summary of the water quality results from sampling of the District's water supply wells, distribution system, and State Water Project supplies for the 2025 calendar year. As a public water purveyor to the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the City of Solvang (wholesale), the District operates under a permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Pursuant to its Water Supply Permit and California Safe Drinking Water regulations, the District routinely tests all of its water supplies obtained from wells according to a comprehensive DDW list of potential contaminants and other constituents. State Water Project supplies received by the District are similarly tested by the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA). The results of sampling and monitoring efforts for the 2025 calendar year are included in this report, along with additional information regarding your water supplies.

District Water Sources Used in 2025:

1) Groundwater – 16 supply wells

In 2025, the District operated seven (7) of its wells to produce groundwater from the Santa Ynez Upland groundwater basin. The Upland basin encompasses approximately 130 square miles within the Santa Ynez Valley east of Buellton. The District wells in the Upland basin range in depth from approximately 500 feet to over 1,300 feet.

The District also operated nine (9) of its wells to produce water from the subsurface alluvial portion of the lower Santa Ynez River. The River alluvium is separated from the Upland basin by a barrier of impermeable rocks and soils. The District's River wells are constructed to a depth of approximately 70 feet or less.

2) Surface Water – State Water Project

Surface water served by the District comes from the State Water Project. The District's entitlement from the Cachuma Project is exchanged for an equal amount of State Water under an exchange agreement with water agencies on the south coast of Santa Barbara County. In addition to the exchanged Cachuma water, the District also receives State Water directly by entitlement through CCWA. Surface water from the California Aqueduct is treated at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant in San Luis Obispo County prior to entering the 143 mile-pipeline in route to the District's Mesa Verde Pumping Plant in Santa Ynez.

Drinking Water Source Assessments

The 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act established the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program to assess all sources of drinking water for vulnerability to contamination and to establish source protection programs. The District has evaluated each of its well locations in accordance with the program guidelines. According to the program, possible contaminating activities (PCAs) in the Upland basin and the River alluvium include septic systems, agricultural drainage, the application of agricultural chemicals, other wells (active and abandoned), upstream contaminant sources, and surface runoff from roads. For the 2025 reporting period, the only contaminant associated with these PCAs detected in any of the wells was nitrate (reported as $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$). Nitrate was detected in seven (7) Upland wells, with concentrations ranging from 0.95 to 5.8 parts per million (ppm). Annual monitoring of all active supply wells is required to ensure that nitrate concentrations remain below the 10 ppm Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs or MCLGs (see below) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to make drinking water aesthetically pleasing (i.e., protect the taste, odor, and appearance of the water). MCLs are set by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that potentially affect health along with their monitoring, reporting, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at the established MCL.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded in drinking water delivered to the customer.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting (DLRs): The minimum concentration a certified laboratory must detect for a given analytical parameter to comply with State regulations.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Potential Contaminants in Source Water

Federal regulation requires the following information to be included in this report. Because it is general information, it does not necessarily apply to the drinking water provided by the District. Information specific to your drinking water is found in the summary table on pages 3 and 4 below.

Generally, sources of tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater supplies. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that could be present in source water include the following:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring, or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that require specific levels of protection for public health.

Analytical Results

The following summary table of analytical results lists the range and average concentrations of regulated contaminants (and other water quality constituents) that were detected during the most recently required sampling applicable to the 2025 reporting period for each source and constituent listed. The table also shows results of the District's required distribution system sampling. Chemicals not detected are not included in the report. DDW sampling requirements allow for source monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year. Therefore, some of the data listed in the table, though representative of the source water quality, are more than a year old.

SAMPLING RESULTS: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STANDARDS

Parameter	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	State DLR	Range Average	Drinking Water Source		Major Sources in Drinking Water
						State Water	Ground Water	

PRIMARY STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards

CLARITY

Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity ^a	NTU	TT=<1 NTU every 4 hours			Range	0.04 - 0.12	NA	Soil runoff
		TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU			%	100%	NA	

INORGANICS

Aluminum	mg/L	1	0.6	0.05	Range	ND - 0.056	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment technologies
					Average	ND	ND	
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	2	Range	ND	ND - 3.2	Erosion of natural deposits; orchard runoff; from glass/electronics production wastes
					Average	ND	0.6	
Barium	ppb	1000	2000	100	Range	ND	ND - 120	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	14	
Chromium (Total)	ppb	50	(100)	10	Range	ND	ND - 21	Erosion of natural deposits; steel, pulp mills, and chrome plating wastes
					Average	ND	4	
Chromium, Hexavalent	ppb	10	0.02	0.1	Range	ND	ND - 24	Discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	4	
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.1	Range	ND	ND - 0.33	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for tooth health
					Average	ND	0.21	
Nickel	ppb	100	12	10	Range	ND	ND - 11	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
					Average	ND	1	
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	0.4	Range	ND	ND - 5.8	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage
					Average	ND	1.2	
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	ppm	10	10	--	Range	ND	ND - 5.8	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage
					Average	ND	1.2	
Perchlorate	ppb	6	1	1	Range	ND	ND - 2.4	Inorganic chemical used in the manufacturing of propellants; Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	0.1	
Selenium	ppb	50	30	5	Range	ND	ND - 8.6	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	1.7	
Thallium	ppb	2	0.1	1	Range	ND	ND - 1.6	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	0.1	

RADIONUCLIDES

Gross Alpha ^b	pCi/L	15	NA	3	Range	ND	ND - 7.2	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	2.3	
Uranium ^c	pCi/L	20	0.5	1	Range	ND	1.6 - 5.6	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	3.4	

SECONDARY STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards

Chloride	ppm	500	NA	--	Range	26 - 155	13 - 52	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	68	31	
Color	ACU	15	NA	--	Range	ND	ND - 3	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Average	ND	0.2	
Corrosivity (Aggressive Index) ^d	none	non-corrosive	NA	--	Range	12	11.7 - 12.6	Balance of hydrogen, carbon, & oxygen in water, affected by temperature & other factors
					Average	12	12.3	
Iron	ppb	300	NA	100	Range	ND	ND - 190	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
					Average	ND	18.8	
Odor Threshold	TON	3	NA	1	Range	ND	1 - 2	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Average	ND	1	
Specific Conductance	µmho/cm	1600	NA	--	Range	243 - 684	780 - 1100	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
					Average	470	948	
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	0.5	Range	29	33 - 270	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
					Average	29	199	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1000	NA	--	Range	260	420 - 730	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
					Average	260	616	
Lab Turbidity (ID No.1) Turbidity (State Water)	NTU	5	NA	--	Range	ND - ND	ND - 1.60	Soil erosion/runoff
					Average	0.05	0.47	
Zinc	ppb	5000	NA	50	Range	ND	ND - 69	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
					Average	ND	4	

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS

Alkalinity (Total) as CaCO ₃ equivalents	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	52 - 104	250 - 360	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	68	284	
Boron	ppb	NA	NL=1,000	100	Range	NC	ND - 360	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; wastewater, and fertilizers/pesticides
					Average	NC	196	
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	16	35 - 110	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	16	82	

2025 Annual Water Quality Report - Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No.1

Parameter	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	State DLR	Range Average	Drinking Water Source		Major Sources in Drinking Water
						State Water	Ground Water	

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS

Hardness (Total) as CaCO ₃	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	42 - 146	320 - 490	Leaching from natural deposits
					Average	90		
Heterotrophic Plate Count ^e	CFU/mL	TT	NA	--	Range	0 - 1	NA	Naturally present in the environment
					Average	0		
Magnesium (Total)	mg/L	NA	NA	0.1	Range	12	41 - 97	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	12		
pH	pH Units	NA	NA	--	Range	7.7 - 8.8	7.3 - 7.9	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	8.4		
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	2.7	1.9 - 2.8	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	2.7		
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	60	36 - 61	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	60		
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) ^f	ppm	TT	NA	0.30	Range	1.5 - 3	NA	Various natural and manmade sources
					Average	2.1		
Vanadium	ppb	NA	NL=50	3	Range	NC	ND - 19	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
					Average	NC		

FEDERAL UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE^g--Detected

Lithium	ppb	NA	NA	--	Range	ND	ND - 62.2	Leaching from natural deposits
					Average	ND		

Distribution System Water Quality

ORGANIC CHEMICALS

Total Trihalomethanes ^h	ppb	80	NA	NA	Range	32 - 71	2.4 - 64.4	By-product of drinking water treatment
					Highest LRAA	56		
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	1,2 ^j	Range	9.5 - 24	ND - 33.8	By-product of drinking water treatment
					Highest LRAA	19.8		

DISINFECTION

Total chlorine residual CCWA Distribution	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	--	Range	0.05 - 3.64	--	Measurement of the disinfectant used in the production of drinking water
					Average	2.90		
Free/total chlorine residual ID No.1 Distribution	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	--	Range	--	0.6 - 3.52	Measurement of the disinfectant used in the production of drinking water
					Average	--		

Abbreviations and Notes

Footnotes:

- (a) Turbidity (NTU) is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system. Monthly turbidity values for State Water are listed in the Secondary Standards section.
- (b) Gross alpha particle activity monitoring required every nine years for State Water; more frequent monitoring is required for some groundwater based on detected levels. Reported average and range are from most recent sampling of all supply wells.
- (c) Uranium monitoring is dependent on measured gross alpha particle activity.
- (d) The District's Water Supply Permit, issued by DDW, requires monitoring of the asbestos levels in the distribution system in the areas that contain asbestos cement pipes whenever the aggressive index (AI) of the water served to the public is below 11.5.
- (e) Pour plate technique -- monthly averages.
- (f) TOCs are taken at the State Water treatment plant's combined filter effluent.
- (g) The US EPA collects nationally representative drinking water data to support future regulatory determinations and, as appropriate, the development of national primary drinking water regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- (h) Compliance based on the LRAA of distribution system samples. Values reported are the range of all sample results and highest locational running annual average.
- (i) Monochloroacetic Acid has a DLR of 2.0 ug/L while the other four Haloacetic Acids have DLR's of 1.0 ug/L.

Abbreviations

- ACU = Apparent Color Units
- CCWA = Central Coast Water Authority
- CFU/ml = Colony Forming Units per milliliter
- DLR = Detection Limit for the Purpose of Reporting
- ID No.1 = Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1
- LRAA - Locational Running Annual Average
- NA = Not Applicable
- NC = Not Collected
- ND = Non-detect
- ng/L = nanograms per liter
- NL = Notification Level
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- pCi/L = PicoCuries per liter
- ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- SI = saturation index
- TON = Threshold Odor Number
- µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

Distribution System Monitoring: Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) and Lead & Copper Rule (LCR)

This Water Quality Report reflects the most recent changes in regulatory drinking water requirements. As of July 1, 2021 all water systems are required to comply with the State Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), which adds the requirements of the federal RTCR (effective since April 1, 2016) to the State Total Coliform Rule (TCR). Like the TCR, the new RTCR maintains the purpose of protecting public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these defects must be corrected by the water system. District bacteriological monitoring in 2025 confirmed compliance with both the state and federal RTCR requirements. There were no MCL exceedances for total coliform or E. coli bacteria, as noted in the table below.

The Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) is a regulation designed to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper in drinking water. Sampling requirements are specified in the LCR, CCR, Title 22 and are based on the population served. Samples are obtained from a representative sampling of customer's internal plumbing. Representative sampling for lead and copper is required once every three years. The data summary displayed in the table below is from data obtained in June of 2024. The next scheduled sampling for lead and copper is in the summer of 2027.

SAMPLING RESULTS: DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MONITORING							
Microbiological Contaminants	No. of Samples Required ¹	No. of Samples Collected	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	156	208	(In a month) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	156	208	(In a month) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E. coli	0	Human and animal fecal waste
2024 Lead & Copper	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Lead (ppb) ²	20	0	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits	
Copper (ppm)	20	0.240	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	

Notes:

1. Three bacteriological samples per week are required based on the number of District service connections, as specified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Chapter 15, Title 22 (Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring). The District optionally monitors bacteria at a fourth location weekly to ensure representative sampling of the entire distribution system.
2. In 2018, the District sampled for lead in both public and private school water systems within the District's service area. See "Additional Information Regarding your Drinking Water" in this report for more information.

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Surface Water Supply – The State Water Project

As indicated above, all surface water from the State Water Project that was used by the District in 2025 was obtained from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), an agency formed in 1991 to finance, construct, and operate State Water treatment and delivery facilities on behalf of all Santa Barbara County participants in the State Water Project. Runoff from the northern Sierra Nevada watershed travels more than 500 miles through the rivers, pipelines, and aqueducts that make up the State Water Project before reaching the District's Mesa Verde Pumping Station. State Water is treated by CCWA at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant (PPWTP), located in San Luis Obispo County. The PPWTP was designed and constructed to treat all State Water served to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. CCWA conducts weekly testing of the treated State Water at numerous locations along its 143-mile pipeline. For more information about the treatment and delivery of State Water, please visit the CCWA website at www.ccwa.com.

As a reminder, State Water delivered to the District is disinfected with chloramines by CCWA as the final step in the raw water treatment process. **While chloramines do not pose a health hazard to the general population, they can be dangerous to people undergoing kidney dialysis unless the chloramines are reduced to acceptable levels.** Dialysis patients should already be aware of this concern and should take the proper precautions when receiving dialysis treatment. **Additionally, chloraminated water is toxic to fish.** Local pet stores and fish suppliers can be contacted regarding the necessary treatment of chloraminated water to ensure it is safe for fish.

Cross-Connection Control Program

As many of our residential, commercial, and agricultural customers know, the District requires the installation and maintenance of backflow prevention devices where an actual or potential cross-connection exists to protect and ensure safe water quality within the District's potable distribution system. District Resolution No. 482 and the District's Cross-Connection Control Program ensure compliance with DDW regulatory requirements and help guard against the contamination of water within our distribution system. For additional information regarding this program, please contact the District office at (805) 688-6015.

Additional Information Regarding Your Drinking Water

Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6)

Chromium is a naturally occurring metal commonly found in ore deposits and various rock formations within the San Rafael Mountains, which comprise a significant source of runoff to the Santa Ynez Upland basin where several of the District's groundwater wells are located. Due to the geologic characteristics of the region, chromium, including its hexavalent form (Cr6), is naturally present in some of the District's Upland groundwater sources.

In April 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for Cr6. This is a state-mandated standard and is the most stringent Cr6 requirement in the nation and throughout the world. Indeed, the federal drinking water standard for total chromium is 100 ppb, and prior to adoption of the new Cr6 standard, California's MCL for total chromium was 50 ppb. California is now the only state in the nation to have a specific drinking water standard for Cr6. The new MCL of 10 ppb officially went into effect in October 2024 and provides a three-year implementation period for the District to ensure compliance. Several water providers in the state have filed a legal challenge against the Cr6 MCL and that litigation is pending. While recent sampling has shown that Cr6 levels in two of the District's Upland basin wells exceed the new MCL, this is not a result of any new form of water quality degradation in the area. Again, the presence of Cr6 in the Upland basin is not caused by any industrial, commercial, or other human activity, but instead occurs naturally in rock formations of the San Rafael mountains. As noted, chromium (hexavalent) was detected at levels that exceed the chromium (hexavalent) MCL in two District wells, both of which have been removed from active service at this time. While a water system of our size is not considered in violation of the chromium (hexavalent) MCL until after October 2027, we are working to address this exceedance and comply with the MCL. Specifically, we are investigating groundwater treatment and other alternatives to meet this new standard.

Risks of Lead in Drinking Water

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Nationwide, a primary cause for lead in drinking water is from materials and components associated with old service lines and home plumbing that contain lead. In 2018, the District conducted a survey of all water service lines within its distribution system and concluded that no lead service lines were ever installed or used by the District. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing

components in your home that are not owned or installed by the District. According to DDW, water users can minimize the potential for lead exposure from their private plumbing pipes and fixtures by flushing their tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Lead in Schools

Amendments to the California Health and Safety Code in October 2017 required community water systems to perform lead testing within their service area boundaries at all public school sites (kindergarten – 12th grade) constructed prior to January 1, 2010. All testing results were required to be reported to the State by July 1, 2019. In the spring of 2018, the District contacted all public and private schools within the District's service area to offer lead testing for potable water sources (e.g., faucets, drinking fountains, cooking facilities) on each of the school sites. All of the public schools and nearly all of the private schools within the District's service area participated in the Lead Testing Program. All sampling of participating school sites was completed and reported to the State in the fall of 2018. Analytical results for all lead testing conducted in both public and private school water systems were below the Action Level (AL) of 15 ppb. All results were reported directly to the schools and to the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Recommendation for Customers with Special Water Needs

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers regarding the potential risks of drinking water supplies. USEPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline, as referenced above.

Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) – Electronic Delivery

Similar to last year, this 2025 report is available electronically on the District's website, which minimizes printing and mailing costs, and reduces paper consumption. Hard copies of the report are available at the District office and will be mailed or emailed upon request.

Attention Landlords and Other Property Managers

The District recommends that landlords and other property managers provide this report to tenants and display the report in a public location such as a lobby, laundry room, or community room. If you would like to receive additional copies of this report, please contact the District office at (805) 688-6015.

Public Participation

If you are interested in learning more about your water supply, District customers and other members of the public are invited to attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Trustees on the third Tuesday of each month, at 3:00 p.m. Meetings are typically held at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Conference Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez. For more information, please contact the District office at (805) 688-6015 or visit the District's web site at www.syrwd.org. The District appreciates this opportunity to communicate our efforts in delivering reliable, high quality drinking water to District customers. We are interested in any questions or suggestions you may have pertaining to this report. For more information, please contact Dan Drugan, Water Resources Manager, at (805) 688-6015.

Our Mission Statement: *To provide the residential and agricultural customers in the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 service area with a reasonably priced, reliable, high quality water supply, and efficient and economical public services.*

Information in Spanish

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse con Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No. 1 al numero de telefono (805) 688-6015 para asistirlo en español.

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District

2026 Rate Study

Draft Report

May 12, 2026

Santa Ynez River

WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Paeter Garcia

From: Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District <sywcd@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Paeter Garcia
Subject: Rate Study FY 2026-2027

Santa Ynez River

WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Each year, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District hires an independent rate consultant to prepare a Rate Study Report for the Board of Directors to use when determining groundwater production rates per zone for the upcoming fiscal year, in compliance with Proposition 26.

May 15, 2026: Released for public review - 2026 Rate Study Report for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, Public Review Draft, dated May 12, 2026

[Download 2026 Rate Study Report for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, Public Review Draft, dated May 12, 2026](#)

In accordance with Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Ordinance 2026-01: Groundwater Charge Ordinance, approved and adopted May 15, 2026 (link to document is provided below), no later than the 30th day before the hearing on the annual rate study, the annual rate study is published on the District's website and a copy made available for public inspection at the District office.

Download ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01: Groundwater Charge Ordinance, Approved and Adopted May 15, 2026

On June 15, 2026 (or later but no later than June 30, 2026): Public Hearing on the rate study will be held. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for June 15, 2026.

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
3669 Sagunto St, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, CA, 93460

We know your time is valuable and we only want to send information you are interested in. If you decide you no longer want to receive emails from us, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Powered by [Streamline](#).

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Page left intentionally blank.



June 5, 2026

VIA FIRST CLASS AND ELECTRONIC MAIL (ATHOMPSON@SYRWCD.COM)

Larry Lahr, President Board of Directors
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, California 93460

HONORARY
TRUSTEE:
Harlan J. Burchardi
1969-2020

TRUSTEES:

DIVISION 1
Mark Moniot

DIVISION 2
Jeff Clay

DIVISION 3
Nick Urton

DIVISION 4
Michael Burchardi

TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE
Brad Joos

GENERAL MANAGER
Paeter E. Garcia

RE: SYRWCD Proposed FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Charges

Dear President Lahr and Board of Directors:

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (ID No.1) hereby submits the following comments regarding the May 12, 2026 "2026 Rate Study - Draft Report" (Rate Study) issued by the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), which sets forth SYRWCD's proposed groundwater extraction charges for Fiscal Year 2026/2027.

For many years, SYRWCD has devised, adopted, and imposed groundwater production charges that are constitutionally infirm. This year SYRWCD has sank to a new low. Perhaps recognizing the vulnerability of its charges, and in an aggressive attempt to safeguard its revenues, SYRWCD has announced a frontal attack on all water rights throughout its boundaries. Despite years of claiming that its charges are in place to "protect" water rights, SYRWCD now asserts:

"The rates and charges recommended in this study are not considered taxes under Proposition 26 because the costs bear a fair and reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity. **The specific privilege granted to those who pay the groundwater charge is the right to extract groundwater from within the District's boundaries, which is granted only to those who pay for that right.**" (Rate Study, p. 6.)

In other words, according to SYRWCD, landowners, mutual water companies, cities, water districts, and others who reside within the SYRWCD boundaries do not have water rights unless those rights are granted by SYRWCD, and where those water rights are only granted upon payment to SYRWCD. That claim is absurd and damages legally-established water rights held throughout the Valley.

As further set forth below, SYRWCD's proposed groundwater production charges for FY 2026-2027 fail to comply with the requirements of Proposition 26 and should not be adopted until the infirmities are corrected. Moreover, SYRWCD should delete from its records and refrain from any and all future statements that attack, threaten, undermine, or mischaracterize the legal water rights held by those who produce water within SYRWCD.

P.O. BOX 157 • 3622 SAGUNTO STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460
(805) 688-6015 • FAX: (805) 688-3078 • WWW.SYRWCD.ORG

I. SYRWCD's Proposed Groundwater Charges for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Fail to Comply with Applicable Constitutional Requirements

Article XIII C, section 1(e) of the California Constitution, commonly referred to as Proposition 26, provides that SYRWCD's groundwater charges constitute a "tax" subject to voter approval unless the charges fit within an enumerated exception for certain types of exactions. Similar to previous years, SYRWCD's proposed groundwater charges do not fit within any of the exceptions set forth in Article XIII C, section 1(e) and thus should not be adopted at this time.

SYRWCD's pump charge in Zone E presents a particular problem in that it creates two classes of groundwater pumpers within the Eastern Management Area (EMA) portion of the Basin, sometimes referred to as the Santa Ynez Uplands. Pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the entirety of the EMA is currently subject to comprehensive groundwater management by the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA), which is expressly designated by SGMA as the exclusive sustainable groundwater management agency for all portions of the EMA. Among various other groundwater management actions, the EMA GSA has established and levies a groundwater production charge on those who extract groundwater within the EMA.

The problem is that SYRWCD continues to claim its own groundwater management authority over a portion of the EMA, which portion is designated by SYRWCD as its "Zone E." SYRWCD contends that it carries out essential regulatory and groundwater management functions in Zone E and thus it imposes its own groundwater pump charge against well owners in Zone E who already must pay the separate groundwater pump charge imposed by the EMA GSA. However, the facts show that SYRWCD does not provide or grant any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who are forced to pay SYRWCD's Zone E pump charge that is not provided generally to those in the EMA who pump groundwater outside Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.

For reasons set forth herein and in previous comments and objections submitted to SYRWCD, the 2026 Rate Study and SYRWCD's proposed groundwater charges for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 do not comport with applicable legal standards, including but not limited to the requirements of Proposition 26.¹ The 2026 Rate Study acknowledges the key requirements of Proposition 26 as applied to SYRWCD's proposed groundwater charges, as follows:

¹ Please refer to comment letters and email correspondence from ID No. 1 to SYRWCD such as those dated June 23, 2022, June 28, 2022, January 31, 2023, April 26, 2023, June 2, 2023, June 6, 2023, April 23, 2024, June 19, 2024, January 31, 2025, April 23, 2025, June 17, 2025, July 31, 2025, and February 2, 2026, all of which are incorporated herein by reference

Proposition 26, codified in the California Constitution as Article XIII C, was approved by voters in 2010 to require a supermajority vote to pass new taxes. Furthermore, Proposition 26 expanded the definition of "tax." Under the new definition, a tax is any levy, charge, or action of any kind imposed by a local government. Any fees or charges that are not exempted in the language of Proposition 26 are considered taxes and subject to voter approval.

Under Proposition 26, local water agencies must demonstrate their fees and charges are not taxes by showing that they fall within one of the exceptions in Proposition 26, which include, among others, the following:

(e) As used in this article, "tax" means any levy, charge, or exaction of any kind imposed by a local government, except the following:

(1) A charge imposed for a specific benefit conferred or privilege granted directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the government of conferring the benefit or granting the privilege.

(2) A charge imposed for a specific government service or product provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of providing the service or product.

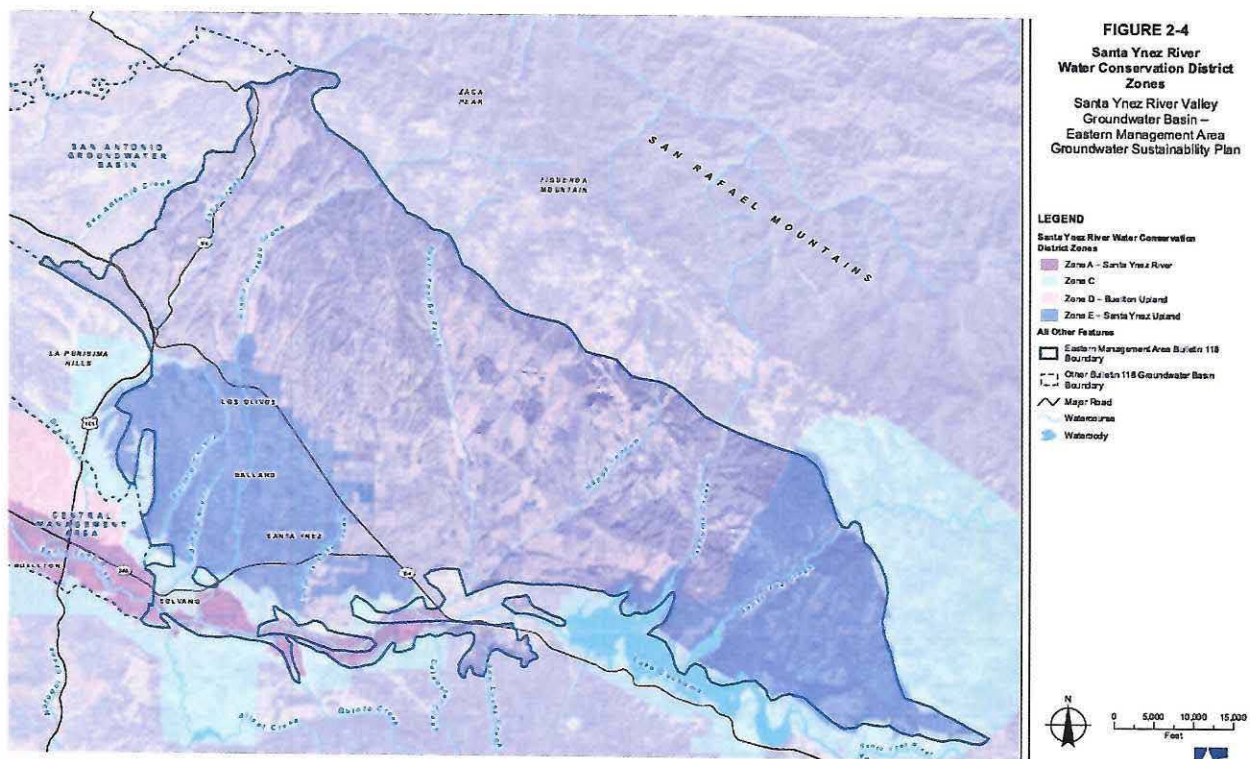
(3) A charge imposed for the reasonable regulatory costs to a local government for issuing licenses and permits, performing investigations, inspections, and audits, enforcing agricultural marketing orders, and the administrative enforcement and adjudication thereof.

In order not to be considered a tax, Prop 26 requires that local agencies must demonstrate "that the amount is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity." (Rate Study, pp. 5-6.)

As noted above on Page 1 above, SYRWCD ongoing decision to impose a pump charge against those who extract groundwater from within SYRWCD's "Zone E" portion of the Eastern Management Area (EMA) creates two classes of groundwater pumpers within the EMA, as further depicted and explained below.

The image below depicts the overall boundaries of the EMA (outlined with a blue line) and shows the portions of the EMA that fall within SYRWCD's Zone E (two blue-shaded areas).² The first class of pumpers – those who produce groundwater within the Zone E portion of the EMA – are subject to two groundwater pump charges: (1) the pump charge that applies to all producers throughout the EMA which is levied by the EMA GSA as the exclusive sustainable groundwater management agency for the entire EMA (including Zone E), and (2) the Zone E pump charge imposed by SYRWCD which applies only to those who pump within Zone E.

The second class of pumpers – those who produce groundwater outside of Zone E – are only subject to one groundwater pump charge as established by the EMA GSA.



The fundamental problem with SYRWCD's Zone E pump charge is that it does not fit within applicable Proposition 26 exceptions described above, namely (1) the Zone E charge is not imposed for a specific benefit conferred or privilege granted directly to those who pump groundwater within Zone E and pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump groundwater outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge, and (2) the charge is not imposed for a specific service or product provided directly to those who pump groundwater within Zone E and who pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump groundwater outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge. Because SYRWCD's Zone E charge does

² EMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Figure 2-4.

not fit within an applicable Proposition 26 exception, the charge constitutes a "tax" under Article XIII C that is subject to voter approval.

The 2026 Rate Study notes that SYRWCD has levied groundwater pump charges since 1979 and asserts that that charges are "to help recover its costs, including the costs of protecting, augmenting, conserving, and enhancing water rights and water supplies within the District." (Rate Study, p. 3.) The Rate Study then claims to identify various cost-incurring activities that are carried out by SYRWCD staff, consultants, and legal counsel, which costs must be recovered by SYRWCD through imposition of its groundwater pump charges, including the Zone E charge. According to the Rate Study, SYRWCD's governmental activities and services which give rise to its groundwater pump charges include the following:

- Investigate, forecast and report on surface water and groundwater conditions within the District, including, estimates of surface water use, imported water purchased by contract; groundwater use, volume of groundwater overdraft; and amount of groundwater in storage. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - These facts and figures prepared by SYRWCD are then published in its Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Conditions, which Report is made available to the general public at no charge. This does not provide a specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.
- Plan, schedule, and administer the release of water from Bradbury Dam for the satisfaction and benefit of downstream water rights and water quality, including determining the timing, location, volume and rate of flows needed to recharge the river alluvium and the Lompoc Plain for the Above Narrows Account ("ANA") and Below Narrows Account ("BNA"), as provided in State Water Resources Control Board Order No. WRO 2019-0148 and the 2002 Settlement Agreement, which describe in detail the District's role to protect and augment water supplies within the District. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - These activities pertain exclusively to portions of the lower Santa Ynez River (SYRWCD Zones A and B), and therefore these activities do not provide any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within Zone E and must pay the Zone E charge. To this end, the 2026 Rate Study specifies that these activities and costs thereof are not applicable to Zone E and not part of the Zone E pump charge. (See, e.g., Rate Study, pp. 16-19.)
- Coordinate and provide advance warning to District constituents downstream of Bradbury Dam regarding impending storm operations, minimizing potential damage to downstream assets along the lower Santa Ynez River. (Rate Study, p. 4.)

- These activities pertain exclusively to portions of the lower Santa Ynez River (SYRWCD Zones A and B), and therefore these activities do not provide any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within Zone E and must pay the Zone E charge. To this end, the 2026 Rate Study specifies that these activities and costs thereof are not applicable to Zone E and not part of the Zone E pump charge. (See, e.g., Rate Study, pp. 16-19.)
- Review and contribute to the preparation of, and compliance with, applicable biological assessments and opinions, including associated consultations, revisions, and replacements, for the protection of endangered species in the Santa Ynez River, in a manner that assures that downstream water rights and water quality in the basin and downstream of Bradbury Dam are augmented, conserved, and protected. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - These activities pertain exclusively to portions of the lower Santa Ynez River (SYRWCD Zones A and B), and therefore these activities do not provide any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within Zone E and must pay the Zone E charge. To this end, the 2026 Rate Study specifies that these activities and costs thereof are not applicable to Zone E and not part of the Zone E pump charge. (See, e.g., Rate Study, pp. 16-19.)
- Require registration of groundwater production facilities and require, collect, record, and maintain reports of each individual groundwater producer's production within the District (since 1979) as part of its groundwater production reporting program. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - Well registration and production data for individual well facilities within Zone E has already been possessed and provided by those required to report such data to SYRWCD. Furthermore, SYRWCD has made well registration and production data for Zone E available to the EMA GSA at no charge. (See Rate Study, p. 4: "Support all three GSAs' implementation of their [GSPs] to achieve their respective groundwater sustainability goals. This includes providing groundwater production and other data to support GSA activities, as requested by the GSAs, and data collected by the District as part of its groundwater production reporting program.") Indeed SYRWCD often boasts that the EMA GSA is a primary beneficiary of SYRWCD's well registration and reporting activities in Zone E. Accordingly, these SYRWCD activities do not provide a specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge. These and other factors demonstrate that SYRWCD's Zone E charge fails to comport with Proposition 26.

- Additionally, as noted above, SGMA has legally established the EMA GSA as the exclusive sustainable groundwater management agency for the entire EMA, and the GSA is legally responsible and accountable to the State for various groundwater management activities throughout all upland groundwater areas of the EMA, including Zone E. (Water Code § 10723.8(d).) Pursuant to its SGMA authorities, the EMA GSA has adopted Ordinance No. 2025-01 which requires all new and existing groundwater wells throughout the entire EMA to be registered with the EMA. The EMA GSA has also adopted Ordinance No. 2025-03 which requires a metering device to be installed on all non-exempt groundwater wells throughout the entire EMA and requires all groundwater production in the EMA to be reported to the GSA. This structure begs the question of why SYRWCD continues to impose its Zone E charge on only a sub-class of pumpers in the EMA for duplicative well registration, data collection, and annual reporting activities in Zone E which the EMA GSA is now responsible for carrying out for the entire EMA, including Zone E. Only one agency needs to conduct this work, and only one groundwater production charge should apply to pumpers in the EMA.
- Provide technical and legal expertise to the District's constituents to protect downstream water rights. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - These activities pertain exclusively to portions of the lower Santa Ynez River (SYRWCD Zones A and B), and therefore these activities do not provide any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within Zone E and must pay the Zone E charge. To this end, the 2026 Rate Study specifies that these activities and costs thereof are not applicable to Zone E and not part of the Zone E pump charge. (See, e.g., Rate Study, pp. 16-19.)
- Participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan process to promote regional water management strategies to ensure sustainable and reliable water supplies, including the protection of agriculture. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process is inherently general in nature. To whatever extent SYRWCD has participated in IRWMP, SYRWCD has never advanced, obtained, constructed, or implemented any project or project funding through IRWMP that is specific to Zone E or any other Zone within SYRWCD. And to whatever extent SYRWCD asserts that its participation in IRWMP has provided any type of benefit to groundwater supplies in the Santa Ynez Uplands area (i.e., the EMA), SYRWCD must admit that the benefit is general in nature and inures equally and indistinguishably to all groundwater producers throughout the EMA. Native groundwater supplies in the EMA do not exist as two separate supplies, where one

supply is confined within or corresponds to the boundaries of Zone E and the remaining supplies exist outside the boundaries of Zone E. Instead, circumstances affecting the native groundwater conditions of the EMA apply to all those who pump from that supply. Accordingly, any SYRWCD activities related to the IRWMP program do not provide a specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.

- Coordinate and support integrated watershed management within the Santa Ynez Basin, as a member agency of all three GSAs in the Basin, and as one of the largest and longest standing water-resource management agencies in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - Similar to the IRWMP activities described above, to whatever extent SYRWCD claims these activities provide a benefit to groundwater supplies in the Santa Ynez Uplands area (i.e., the EMA), SYRWCD must admit that the benefit is general in nature and inures equally and indistinguishably to all groundwater producers throughout the EMA. Native groundwater supplies in the EMA do not exist as two separate supplies, where one supply is confined within or corresponds to the boundaries of Zone E and the remaining supplies exist outside the boundaries of Zone E. Instead, circumstances affecting the native groundwater conditions of the EMA apply to all those who pump from that supply. Accordingly, SYRWCD cannot demonstrate that any of its claimed activities related to “integrated watershed management” as a member of the EMA GSA provides any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.
- Support all three GSAs' implementation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to achieve their respective groundwater sustainability goals. This includes providing groundwater production and other data to support GSA activities, as requested by the GSAs, and data collected by the District as part of its groundwater production reporting program. (Rate Study, p. 4.)
 - As related to the EMA, here SYRWCD admits that its activities and related costs are being directed generally to support implementation of the EMA GSP and help the EMA GSA achieve its sustainability goal and complete various other GSA activities. To whatever extent SYRWCD claims that its activities in support of the EMA GSA provide a benefit to groundwater supplies or groundwater producers in the EMA, that benefit is general in nature and inures equally and indistinguishably

to all groundwater producers throughout the EMA. The EMA GSA is the exclusive sustainable groundwater management agency for the entire EMA and its statutory obligations and responsibilities for groundwater management apply throughout the entire EMA, including SYRWCD's Zone E. Accordingly, the EMA GSA's implementation of the EMA GSP, along with its data collection, reporting, and other activities to ensure compliance with SGMA benefit all groundwater producers in the EMA, including those outside of Zone E. Because SYRWCD's activities and related costs to support the EMA GSA and provide groundwater production and other data to the EMA are being applied generally and on an equal basis to all groundwater producers in the EMA, SYRWCD cannot demonstrate that its SGMA-related activities and costs in the EMA provide any specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.

- Develop and submit grant applications and administer over \$6.5M in grant funding as Grantee on behalf of the three GSAs to support SGMA activities in the Basin. (Rate Study, p. 5.)
 - Again, as related to the EMA, here SYRWCD admits that its activities and related costs are being applied on behalf and in support of the EMA GSA generally, and in a way that provides the same benefit, privilege, service, or product to all groundwater producers throughout the EMA. Yet only those who pump groundwater within the Zone E portion of the EMA are paying for SYRWCD's activities and related costs. State grant funding made available to the EMA GSA has been awarded to support the EMA GSA's implementation of various SGMA-related activities that benefit the entire EMA and all groundwater producers therein. Because SYRWCD's grant-related activities and related costs are being applied generally and on an equal basis to benefit the EMA GSA and all groundwater producers in the EMA, SYRWCD cannot demonstrate that its activities provide a specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.

In addition to the specific activities addressed above (Rate Study, pp. 4-5), SYRWCD makes several other general assertions in an unsuccessful effort to show that its proposed pump charges satisfy the requirements of Proposition 26. For example, the Rate Study claims: "Without the protection, conservation, and augmentation of the Santa Ynez River by the District through various activities, including the District's continued advocacy for and making and coordination of releases of Santa Ynez River water downstream of Cachuma Project's Bradbury Dam ... there would be additional pumping of groundwater from the upland groundwater zones adjacent to the

Santa Ynez River zones (Zones A and B.)” (Rate Study, p. 3.) This statement fails to show that SYRWCD’s Zone E charge is a “non-tax” exaction under the provisions of Proposition 26. First, the alleged benefit to Upland groundwater zones based on activities in the River zones is hypothetical and contingent on myriad legal, practical, financial, infrastructure, and other factors. Among other substantive requirements, Proposition 26 expressly requires a non-tax charge to be imposed for a specific benefit, privilege, service, or product provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged. Hypothetical benefits do not qualify for an exemption. In addition, as applied to Zone E, the alleged/hypothetical benefit to upland groundwater conditions would benefit all groundwater producers in the entire EMA because, as described above, circumstances affecting the native groundwater conditions of the EMA apply to all those who pump from that supply, not just those in Zone E. Accordingly, with regard to the proposed Zone E charge, the alleged benefit described by the Rate Study does not provide a specific benefit, privilege, service, or product directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and must pay the Zone E charge that is not provided to those who pump outside of Zone E and do not pay the Zone E charge.

The Rate Study incorrectly claims that SYRWCD’s boundaries “include the entire watershed of the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries below Gibraltar drainage basin and excepting portions of the government land.” (Rate Study, p. 3.) While perhaps certain boundaries were initially proposed for SYRWCD, the current boundaries do not include the entire Santa Ynez River watershed below Gibraltar drainage. It is not clear why SYRWCD would assert that its boundaries are greater than they are.³

For years, SYRWCD has claimed that its Zone E charge is for “essential regulatory activities in managing, protecting, conserving, augmenting, replenishing, and enhancing the water supplies for users within the District, including groundwater resources within the District.” Yet SYRWCD does not actually manage, protect, conserve, augment, replenish, or enhance groundwater supplies in any way that is specific to groundwater users or supplies in the Zone E portion of the EMA. Instead, and as noted above, SYRWCD’s Zone E activities are limited to keeping a well registration list, collecting groundwater production data, and preparing an annual report that is available to the general public. To that end, SYRWCD itself claims that the EMA GSA (hence the

³ The Rate Study also asserts the Santa Barbara County LAFCO recognizes SYRWCD’s sphere of influence to be the entire Santa Ynez River Watershed and its tributaries. Aside from contradicting a previous statement in the Rate Study, this statement regarding SYRWCD’s sphere of influence seems irrelevant to its proposed pump charges. Particularly now that the EMA GSA serves as the exclusive sustainable groundwater management agency for the entire EMA, including Zone E, it seems highly unlikely that LAFCO would authorize the expansion of SYRWCD’s boundaries into the EMA, as SYRWCD’s duplication of services and charges in the EMA is unfair and unnecessarily burdensome.

entire pumper class in the EMA) is a direct beneficiary of such Zone E activities because the GSA uses that data to comply with its SGMA obligations for the entire EMA.

As explained above, SYRWCD has not demonstrated that it provides any specific benefits, privileges, or services directly to those who pump within the Zone E portion of the EMA and who must pay the Zone E charge that are not also provided and/or made generally available to those who pump outside of Zone E and not required to pay the Zone E charge. Rather, to whatever extent any of SYRWCD's governmental activities or services may confer benefit in Zone E, that benefit inures equally and/or generally to all groundwater pumpers in the entire EMA, yet only those who pump within Zone E must pay the SYRWCD charge. This prevents the Zone E charge from fitting within the Proposition 26 exceptions set forth in Article XIII C, section 1(e). (See Rate Study, p. 5-6.) Furthermore, and due in part to this inequity created by the Zone E charge, SYRWCD has not met its burden to show that its Zone E and other Zone pump charges are limited to the reasonable costs of the respective Zone E activities, or that the costs and pump charges being allocated to Zone E and other Zones bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity. These problems demonstrate that the Zone E and other Zone charges fail to meet the requirements of Proposition 26.⁴

Setting aside the legal infirmities of the Zone E pump charge, ID No.1 does not understand why SYRWCD remains fixed on double-charging a subset of groundwater producers in the EMA. Pursuant to SGMA, the EMA GSA is deemed to be the exclusive sustainable groundwater management agency for the EMA, including Zone E of the SYRWCD. (Water Code § 10723.8(d).) As part of that exclusive role, and as required by SGMA, the EMA GSA is comprehensively responsible for groundwater management in the EMA, including but not limited to monitoring and reporting on groundwater conditions, making annual groundwater use estimates, forecasting groundwater storage and overdraft, determining the amount of dewatered storage in the EMA, registering groundwater wells in the EMA, and preparing annual reports, including the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Annual Reports that have been prepared and adopted by the EMA GSA and submitted to DWR. Moreover, as noted above, pursuant to its SGMA authorities the EMA GSA has adopted Ordinance No. 2025-01 which requires all new and existing groundwater wells throughout the entire EMA to be registered with the EMA. The EMA GSA has also adopted Ordinance No. 2025-03 which requires a metering device to be installed on all non-exempt groundwater wells throughout the entire EMA and requires all groundwater production in the EMA to be reported to the GSA. Notwithstanding SYRWCD's asserted authorities to do so, ID No.1 questions why SYRWCD continues to undertake duplicative efforts in the EMA that are now the legal responsibility of, and already being carried out by, the EMA GSA. SYRWCD is a

⁴ See Cal. Const., art. XIII C; see also, *Newhall County Water District v. Castaic Lake Water Agency* (2016) 243 Cal.App.4th 1430, 1441; *City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District* (2017), 3 Cal.5th 1191

voting member of the EMA GSA and easily can participate in groundwater management responsibilities and decision-making alongside the other members of the GSA Board.

This question is particularly vexing because all of SYRWCD's costs for its Zone E activities are being imposed on only a subset of groundwater pumpers in the EMA (those subject to the Zone E charge) who receive no specific, direct, or additive benefit that is not being received by those in the EMA who do not pay the Zone E charge. Pumpers in the "Zone E portion of the EMA" should not have to pay two pump charges while all other pumpers in the EMA only pay one charge.

These duplication of service and ratepayer equity issues should be important to SYRWCD.

II. The Conservation District Has Issued a Direct Legal Threat to All Water Right Holders within the Con District Boundaries

SYRWCD has announced a frontal attack on all water rights throughout its boundaries. Despite years of claiming that its charges are in place to "protect" water rights, SYRWCD now asserts:

"The rates and charges recommended in this study are not considered taxes under Proposition 26 because the costs bear a fair and reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity. The specific privilege granted to those who pay the groundwater charge is the right to extract groundwater from within the District's boundaries, which is granted only to those who pay for that right." (Rate Study, p. 6.)

In other words, according to SYRWCD, landowners, mutual water companies, cities, water districts, and others who reside within the SYRWCD boundaries do not have water rights unless those rights are granted by SYRWCD, and where those water rights are only granted upon payment to SYRWCD. That claim is legally flawed and damaging to local water rights. It is also inconsistent with several other statements in the Rate Study that characterize SYRWCD's role as helping protect water rights, not attacking them. (See, e.g., Rate Study, pp. 3-4.)

SYRWCD's claim that it "grants" the rights to extract groundwater from within its boundaries has zero basis in law or fact. Indeed SYRWCD has no basis to grant or otherwise confer a water right, permit, license, or other water right authorization. SYRWCD does not itself possess any type or quantity of groundwater, surface water, developed water, or imported water rights that are used to recharge, replenish, supplement, or augment water supplies within SYRWCD. Similarly, SYRWCD has not incurred any costs to develop or acquire water rights, and thus does not have any water right costs to reasonably and proportionately allocate by way of a Proposition 26-compliant pump charge for granting any water rights. Rather, those who extract water within SYRWCD do so pursuant to water rights they assert individually or collectively, where such rights are not issued or granted by SYRWCD, do not require a permit or license that is issued or granted by SYRWCD, and are not derivative of payment of any charge to SYRWCD.

Any attempt by SYRWCD to liken its Zone E charges to those levied by the United Water Conservation District or the Santa Clara Valley Water District is legally and factually flawed. In fact, nothing decided in the cases of City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District (2017) 3 Cal.5th 1191, City of San Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District (2022) 79 Cal.App.5th 110, Great Oaks Water Company v. Santa Clara Valley Water District (2025) 170 Cal.App.4th 956, or any other reported California case stands for SYRWCD's asserted proposition that the specific privilege granted to those who pay SYRWCD's groundwater production charges for Zones A, B, C, D, E, or F is the right to extract groundwater from within the District's boundaries, which is granted only to those who pay for that right. (Rate Study, p. 6.) While SYRWCD may refer to remedies that may be available against those who do not pay its pump charges, those remedies does not equate to SYRWCD granting or not granting water rights within its boundaries.

Notably, the Rate Study itself states the following: "The District has, since 1979, levied groundwater charges on all public and private operators of groundwater-producing facilities registered within the District to help recover its costs, including the costs of protecting, augmenting, conserving, and enhancing water rights and water supplies within the District." (Rate Study, p. 3.) According to SYRWCD's allegation above, the benefit and privilege provided from the groundwater charge is the right to extract groundwater from within the District's boundaries, which is granted only to those who pay for the right. (Rate Study, p. 6) Thus, how did landowners, mutual water companies, cities, water districts, and others who produce water within the SYRWCD boundaries develop, establish, exercise, and maintain their legal water rights prior to 1979, prior to when they began paying pump charges to SYRWCD? And to the extent SYRWCD claims that it somehow "grants" legal water rights to pump water within its boundaries, what is the source of that granting authority? What is the nature of all water rights that have been "granted" by SYRWCD? What are their quantities? What are their priorities? What are their relative relationships in terms of SYRWCD's claimed responsibility of protecting all of them equally and at the same time?

ID No.1's production of water in the Santa Ynez Uplands or water in the lower Santa Ynez River does not require a water right, permit, or other grant or approval from SYRWCD. ID No.1 has developed its legal rights to water pursuant to applicable provisions of California water law and policy, including but not limited to Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution, the California Water Code, membership in the Central Coast Water Authority, and vested contractual arrangements. ID No.1 has invested tens of millions of dollars (and more) in asserting, developing, exercising, perfecting, and maintaining a diverse set of water rights that are used to provide retail water services to the communities of Santa Ynez, Ballard, Los Olivos, the Chumash Band of Mission Indians, and the City of Solvang on a limited (wholesale) basis, including domestic, agricultural, commercial, institutional, fire protection, emergency, and related uses supporting human health and safety. SYRWCD's claim that the water rights held by ID No.1 are derived and dependent on our payment of pump charges imposed by SYRWCD for its governmental services

appears tantamount to a trespass upon and/or interference with ID No.1's legally established water rights.

III. ID No.1 Reserves the Right to Submit Additional Written and Verbal Comments and Objections to the Rate Study and Proposed FY 2026/27 Pump Charges

SYRWCD's recently adopted Ordinance No. 2026-01 improperly purported to establish a legal "exhaustion requirement" that does not apply to groundwater extraction charges adopted under Proposition 26 (Cal. Const., art. XIII C, section 1(e)). Thus, notwithstanding SYRWCD's attempt to establish a June 5, 2026 deadline for submitting comments on the Rate Study and proposed FY 2026/27 pump charges, ID No.1 reserves the right to submit additional written and verbal comments and objections to the Rate Study and proposed charges after June 5th.

First, SYRWCD appears to have acted outside its statutory authority in adopting Ordinance 2026-01. Section 3 of the Ordinance refers to claimed sources of authority for its enactment, i.e., Water Code sections 74650, 74501, and 74508, yet those Water Code sections do not apply to or authorize what the Ordinance purports to govern. Water Code Section 74650 speaks only to acting by ordinance "in exercising [SYRWCD] powers under this division over lands, structures, and facilities in which the district has a real property interest." As adopted, Ordinance No. 2026-01 does not concern the exercise of Conservation District powers over "land, structures, or facilities in which the district has a real property interest." Next, Water Code section 74501 states that SYRWCD "may make contracts and do all acts necessary for the full exercise of its powers." That Section says nothing about ordinances, and to the extent the general authority to "do all acts necessary" may concern the authority to adopt ordinances, that general authority is subject to the specific statutory limitations that Section 74650 (above) imposes on the SYRWCD's ability to act by ordinance. Finally, Water Code section 74508 says nothing about ordinances, and instead only states that SYRWCD may adopt groundwater charges in the manner prescribed in Section 75500 et seq. Those sections do not prescribe any manner or procedure for acting by ordinance.

Aside from being improperly adopted, Ordinance No. 2026-01 purports to adopt substantive and procedural requirements without legal basis. For example, Section 8 of the Ordinance attempts to establish an "exhaustion requirement" by providing that no person may bring a judicial action or proceeding alleging noncompliance with the California Constitution or other applicable law for any groundwater charge levied by SYRWCD unless that person submits "timely" written objections to the groundwater charge specifying the grounds of alleged noncompliance. Section 6 of the Ordinance states that written comments on the Rate Study must be received by the Conservation District by 5:00 on the 10th day before the hearing on the Rate Study, and any written comments alleging the proposed groundwater charges would not comply with the California Constitution or any other law must specify the grounds for alleging noncompliance.

This language shows that Ordinance 2026-01 is an attempt to capture the new “exhaustion requirements” under Government Code section 53759.1. However, the express language of Section 53759.1 states that the requirements of that statute apply only to the adoption of property-related fees or charges under Proposition 218 (Cal. Const., art XIII D, sections 4 and 6). Here, the SYRWCD Rate Study unequivocally provides that the proposed pump charges at issue are being adopted under Proposition 26, not Proposition 218. Therefore, the new “exhaustion requirements” established by Government Code section 53759.1 do not apply to adoption of the SYRWCD pump charges. Furthermore, Government Code section 53759.1 established numerous other requirements that an agency must follow when attempting to establish an exhaustion requirement for property related fees or charges under Proposition 218, including a specific requirement to make available to the public a proposed fee or assessment no less than 45 days prior to the deadline for a ratepayer to submit an objection. (See, e.g., Govt. Code § 53759.1(c).) Sections 5, 6, and 8 of the Conservation District’s Ordinance No 2026-01 fail to comply with the public review and comment procedures established by Government Code section 53759.1. In short, no constitutional or statutory “exhaustion requirement” exists under California law that ratepayers must follow in connection with an agency’s adoption of a groundwater pump charge under Proposition 26. SYRWCD is not authorized to create and impose that type of “local law” pursuant to its Ordinance No. 2026-01.

For all the foregoing reasons, SYRWCD should honestly evaluate the unfairness of its Zone E pump charge and its infirmity under Proposition 26. As communicated for the last couple years, ID No.1 believes that SYRWCD can resolve the above-mentioned Proposition 26 problems by not applying a pump charge in Zone E, which according to the 2026 Rate Study and other SYRWCD records will not materially affect SYRWCD’s revenue requirements. This type of conservative and collaborative decision by SYRWCD to not apply a pump charge in Zone E and forego a small fraction of its revenues is a prudent compromise to ensure compliance with the requirements of Proposition 26. Because of the very unique issue presented by Zone E (discussed above), a decision to not apply the Zone E pump charge would not ascribe any error in SYRWCD rate setting and may be resolved in a way that would not disturb SYRWCD’s pump charges in any of its other Zones. Moreover, the decision would resolve ID No.1’s ongoing dispute with the Zone E charge.⁵

⁵ To the extent ID No.1 may bring a successful legal challenge against SYRWCD’s pump charges, including but not limited to the Zone E charge, ID No.1 reserves the right to seek an award of its attorney fees and costs in accordance with the California private attorney general statute, California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, and/or related catalyst theory. This applies equally to any potential legal challenge that ID No.1 may be forced to bring in seeking a declaration of legal water rights based on assertions and characterizations set forth in SYRWCD’s 2026 Rate Study.

SYRWCD, Board of Directors

June 5, 2026

Page 16

Thank you for considering these comments. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any related issues, please feel free to contact me at (805) 688-6015 or via email at pgarcia@syrwd.org.

Very truly yours,



Paeter E. Garcia
General Manager

cc: ID No.1 Board of Trustees
Jessica Diaz, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Steve Anderson, Best Best & Krieger
Lutfi Kharuf, Best Best & Krieger

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

HELD AT
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA
4:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: +1 469-998-7311, 209762335# or via the Web at: [Join the meeting now](#)

“Join a Meeting” - Meeting ID 294 811 517 405 Meeting Passcode: 4nNRT3

*** Please Note ***

The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption or unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued. Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board’s jurisdiction. The time for public comment allotted for each individual shall not exceed three minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public comment item.)
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes for the February 26, 2026 EMA GSA Special Board Meeting.
 - b. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes for the March 13, 2026 SYRVGB Joint Management Area Board Meeting.
 - c. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List for February-April 2026.
4. Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting Report-Out
5. Action Items
 - a. Review and consider approval of First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with MLJ Environmental for Well Registration and Reporting Platform.
 - b. Review and consider approval of First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with GSI Water Solutions for Monitoring Network Improvement Hydrogeologic Support Services.
 - c. Review and consider approval of EMA GSA FY 2026-27 budget.
 - d. Review and consider approval of easement for monitoring well with Chamberlin Ranch.

- e. Review and consider approval of Resolution adopting the EMA GSA Bylaws.
 - f. Review and consider approval of Resolution Authorizing Groundwater Extraction Fee Charges to be Collected on the Tax Roll.
 - g. Review and consider approval of reimbursement to Walking M. Ranches for groundwater extraction fee overpayment associated with misreported production.
 - h. Review and consider approval of Fourth Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Confluence Engineering Solutions for Executive Director Support Services.
6. Informational Items
- a. Receive presentation from GSI on Spring 2026 water level data for the EMA.
 - b. Prop 68 Grant and EMA GSA Initiatives Update
 - i. Stantec work plan for DWR Facilitation Support Services
7. Consider Date/Time and Need for Future Regular and/or Special Meetings of the EMA GSA.
- a. Next Basin-Wide Joint Special Meeting Friday, June 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM at Buellton City Council Chambers.
 - b. Next EMA GSA CAG Meeting Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM.
 - c. Next EMA GSA Regular Board Meeting Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 4:00 PM at SYCSD Meeting Room.
8. Board of Directors Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items
9. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted at least 72 hours prior to the regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and ema-SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency at (805) 457-5065. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EASTERN
MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN AUTHORIZING THE
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE CHARGES TO BE
COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

WHEREAS, as authorized by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) may impose fees on the extraction of groundwater from the basin to fund the costs of groundwater management; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2022, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Eastern Management Area GSA (“EMA GSA”) for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, a Joint Powers Authority under California law, adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the EMA GSA; and

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA caused an independent consultant to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Fee Study (“Rate Study”) setting the fee structure necessary to sustainably manage the EMA GSA and fund the implementation of the EMA GSA’s GSP; and

WHEREAS, the EMA Board received, reviewed and adopted the Rate Study on April 22, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2025, the EMA GSA caused the legally required notices to be mailed to the parcels upon which the groundwater extraction fee was proposed; and

WHEREAS, notice of the groundwater extraction fee and the Rate Study providing the basis of the fee was published and noticed pursuant to California Government Code section 53759.1(c); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on June 26, 2025, at which time the Board heard and considered all objections and protests to the proposed groundwater extraction fee; and

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of the public hearing and tallying of filed protests, the Board adopted EMA GSA Ordinance No. 2025-02 finding: compliance with the applicable law; implementing the proposed groundwater extraction fee for Fiscal Year Ending (“FYE”) 2026; and, adopting the following rate schedule

Line	Fiscal Year	Effective Date	Proposed Rates
1	FY 2026	July 2025	\$39.50
2	FY 2027	July 2026	\$41.50
3	FY 2028	July 2027	\$43.60
4	FY 2029	July 2028	\$45.80
5	FY 2030	July 2029	\$48.10

; and

WHEREAS, EMA GSA Ordinance 2025-02 sets the maximum per acre-foot charge for the groundwater extraction fee for Fiscal Year Ending (“FYE”) 2027 at \$41.50 per acre-foot:

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA Executive Director recommends that the FYE 2027 groundwater extraction fee be set at \$41.50 per acre-foot, which is within the limits set forth in and authorized by Ordinance 2025-02 for FYE 2027 and consistent with the EMA GSA budget requirements for FYE 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it would be most efficient to collect the FYE 2027 groundwater extraction fee (including unbilled amounts from the prior year(s)) imposed on the parcels included on the County tax roll.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FOUND AND ORDERED as follows:

1. **FYE 2027 Groundwater Extraction Fee.** The groundwater extraction fee for FYE 2027 is hereby set at \$41.50 per acre-foot.
2. **Preparation of Report.** The EMA GSA staff shall prepare and file a written report (“Report”) containing the following information:
 - (a) the groundwater extraction fee per acre-foot charge for FYE 2027, which is within the limits set forth in Ordinance 2025-02;
 - (b) a list of each parcel subject to the Fee in FYE 2027; and
 - (c) the calculated groundwater extraction fee for each parcel for FYE 2027.
3. **Request for Collection.** Pursuant to Water Code section 10730, subdivision (d), the EMA GSA requests that the groundwater extraction fee, including any unbilled amounts from the prior fiscal year(s), be collected by the County of Santa Barbara in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes. This Resolution hereby serves as the order by the EMA GSA to the County Auditor-Controller of Santa Barbara County (“Auditor-Controller”) to place the groundwater extraction fee on the Santa Barbara County tax roll.

4. **Compliance with Auditor-Controller's Requirement.** The EMA GSA Executive Director staff is directed to file with the Auditor-Controller, a copy of this resolution and such other documentation as the Auditor-Controller requires for placing a fee on the tax roll. The EMA GSA will comply or has complied with all of the requirements to place the groundwater extraction fee on the tax roll, including, but not limited to, the requirements set forth in correspondence or other communication received from the Auditor-Controller, executing any agreement(s) and amendments to agreement(s) to place the groundwater extraction fee on the tax roll, executing a Proposition 218 compliance certificate, and submitting the Fixed Charge Data File in the specified format using the data from the Report.
5. **Authorization.** The EMA GSA Executive Director staff is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents, to do any and all things, and to take any and all actions that may be necessary or advisable, in their discretion, in order to effect the purposes and intent of this resolution. All actions heretofore taken by officers, employees, and agents of the EMA GSA, including, but not limited to, the Executive Director staff, that are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this resolution are hereby approved, confirmed, and ratified.
6. **All the foregoing**, being on motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, is authorized by the following roll-call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said EMA GSA as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 28th day of May 2026.

WITNESS my hand this 28th day of May 2026.

Secretary of the Board of Directors



(<https://www.ema-santaynezwater.org/>)

[Contact EMA \(/contact-us\)](/contact-us)

Santa Ynez Basin
(<http://santaynezwater.org>)

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
Eastern Management Area
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Search...

Search

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[EMA GSA JPA BOARD MEETINGS \(/EMA-GSA-JPA-BOARD-MEETINGS\)](/EMA-GSA-JPA-BOARD-MEETINGS)

JUN
12
2026

EMA GSA JPA Board Joint GSAs Special Meeting, 9:00 AM - CANCELED

The Joint GSAs Special Meeting scheduled for Friday, June 12 at 9:00 AM is CANCELED.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GSA

P.O. BOX 7098, LOS OSOS CA 93412

[PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY-POLICY\)](/PRIVACY-POLICY)

[DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY \(TRANSPARENCY.HTML\)](TRANSPARENCY.HTML)

[WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT \(ACCESSIBILITY.HTML\)](ACCESSIBILITY.HTML)

POWERED BY STREAMLINE (<HTTP://WWW.GETSTREAMLINE.COM/>) | [SIGN IN \(HTTPS://WWW.EMA-SANTAYNEZWATER.ORG/USERS/SIGN_IN?DESTINATION=%2F2026-06-12-EMA-GSA-JPA-BOARD-JOINT-GSAS-SPECIAL-MEETING-9-00-AM-CANCELED\)](HTTPS://WWW.EMA-SANTAYNEZWATER.ORG/USERS/SIGN_IN?DESTINATION=%2F2026-06-12-EMA-GSA-JPA-BOARD-JOINT-GSAS-SPECIAL-MEETING-9-00-AM-CANCELED)

Join our mailing list

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY WESTERN HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

OLD SANTA YNEZ DAYS

7TH ANNUAL

RODEO



RIDER:
ROCKER STEINER
STOCK CONTRACTOR:
EMPIRE RODEO

SATURDAY & SUNDAY,

JUNE 20-21, 2026

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, WESTERN WEAR & GEAR VENDORS, FOOD, GAMES, BEER & WINE

SATURDAY: GATES OPEN AT 12PM | MAIN EVENT BEGINS AT 5PM
SUNDAY: GATES OPEN AT 11PM | MAIN EVENT BEGINS AT 3PM

SANTA ★ YNEZ
CHUMASH
SAN CARLOS
PROPERTY NEAR
MEADOWVALE
& HIGHWAY 246



SYVRODEO.COM



Page left intentionally blank.

Monthly Briefing

A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News

MAY 2026 • Issue #286

Board Member Quote of the Month



“Colorado River irrigated agriculture should not be left behind in the discussions and solutions for dealing with a highly stressed river and watershed. High priority Colorado River water rights must be respected while recognizing that all users must make sacrifices to ultimately protect this incredibly important resource at whatever level Mother Nature ultimately provides. Lower priority users, such as Central Arizona Project agriculture, over the last three years, have seen their Colorado River supplies mostly disappear due to twenty plus years of drought and the application of shortage guidelines. The predictable result has been fallowing between 50–80% of the irrigation acres previously dependent on CAP water in central Arizona, with devastating economic and environmental consequences. State and Federal funding has sought to mitigate some of the damage to the irrigation districts and local communities resulting from loss of the Colorado River supplies. Much more needs to

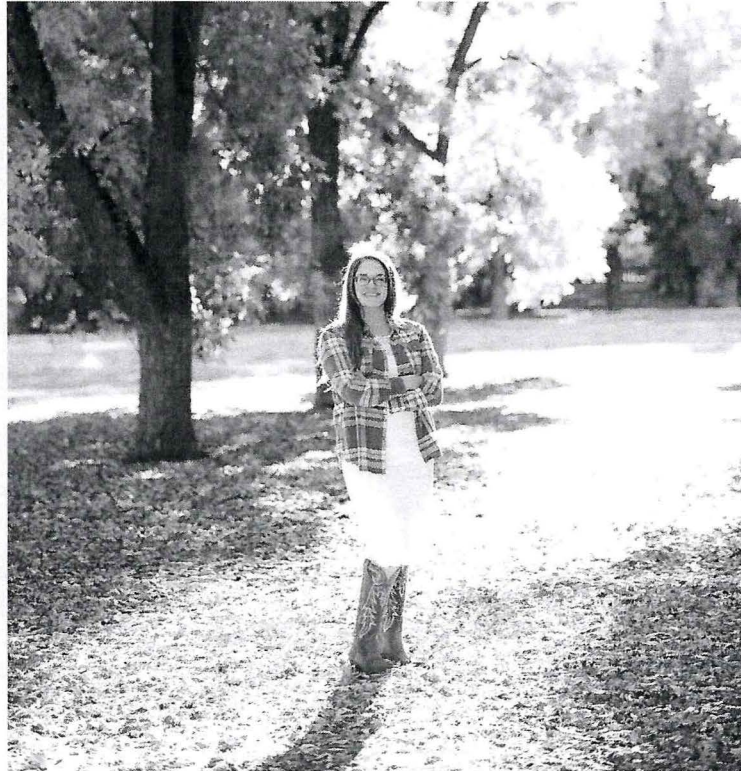
be done. This is particularly true at the Federal level to avoid stranding hundreds of millions of federal and local dollars of investment in state-of-the-art irrigation water distribution systems designed to deliver water. For these reasons, and many others, Central Arizona Project irrigation districts signed onto the Alliance letter of May 13, calling for significant new and continuing Federal investment in the Colorado River Basin. Such transformative investments would not only help to protect agriculture, but will also support significant municipal and tribal interests as well. Possible solutions include infrastructure for storage, development and delivery of non-Colorado River supplies as well as increased conservation, which is not a solution by itself.”

–Paul Orme, Immediate Past President

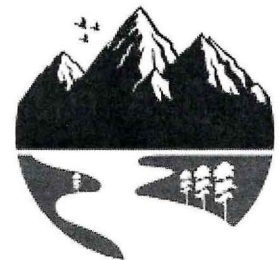
<u>A Defining Moment for Western Water.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Building the Case for Long-Term Western Water Investment.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>From Washington to California: Advancing the Case for Western Water Infrastructure.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>USDA Reorganization, Funding Shifts, and the Growing Debate Over Long-Term Resilience.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Farm Bill Finally Advances, But Major Senate Hurdles Remain.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Public Lands Rule Rescinded, Restoring Focus on Multiple Use Across the West.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>ESA Reform Debate Intensifies as Congress and the Administration Push for Change.....</u>	<u>12</u>

A Defining Moment for Western Water

Alliance Testifies in DC



Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director of the Alliance, testifies May 19 before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries at a hearing titled “The Federal Reclamation Program’s Next Century.” For the Family Farm Alliance and the farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and rural communities it represents across the West, the hearing represents far more than another policy discussion in Washington, D.C. It is an opportunity to make the case that the future of the American West — and the nation’s food security — depends upon bold investment in water infrastructure and a federal government willing to move at the pace of the crisis.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

Barncastle’s testimony focuses on a simple but urgent message: the West cannot conserve its way out of every water challenge. While conservation and efficiency remain essential, they are no longer enough on their own to bridge the growing gap between water supply and water demand across much of the region. Farmers and water managers are already implementing innovative projects that improve efficiency, modernize aging systems, recharge aquifers, expand

storage, and stretch limited supplies further than ever before. What is missing is the ability to deploy those solutions quickly and at the scale required.

“The people closest to the ground already know what needs to be done. What they need is a federal government willing to partner with them, remove unnecessary barriers, and invest in the infrastructure necessary to secure the future of the West.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

The testimony calls for major reforms to federal permitting and environmental review processes that routinely delay critical water projects for years — sometimes decades — even when projects have broad local support and clear drought resilience benefits. It also urges Congress to fully implement the Department of the Interior’s recent efforts to streamline project delivery and empower local water agencies and irrigation districts to take on greater responsibility for project implementation.

Most importantly, the testimony frames Western water infrastructure as national security infrastructure.

For more than a century, federal investment in reservoirs, canals, diversion systems, and hydropower facilities transformed the arid West into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Today, those same systems are under immense pressure from drought, changing hydrology, aging infrastructure, regulatory complexity, and growing operational demands. According to the Alliance, the solution is not retreat — it is reinvestment.

That message carries special significance for Barncastle personally. One of her great-grandfathers helped build one of the nation’s earliest Bureau of Reclamation projects during the formative years of Western water development. At the time, the idea of constructing massive dams and irrigation systems in the arid West was considered unrealistic by many critics. Yet previous generations chose to think big, invest boldly, and build infrastructure capable of sustaining communities and agriculture for generations. Today’s challenges demand that same level of vision.

Across the West, local water managers are advancing innovative projects ranging from precision irrigation technology and canal improvements and automation to groundwater recharge, recycled water systems, expanded storage, and watershed restoration. These are not theoretical concepts — they are practical solutions already delivering measurable results. But without long-term federal

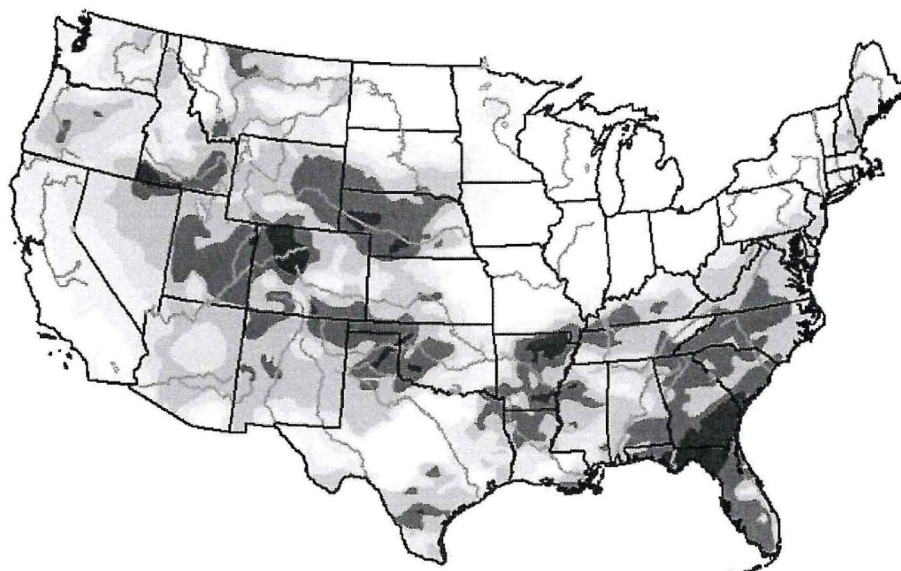
investment and regulatory certainty, many communities simply cannot deploy projects quickly enough to meet worsening drought conditions.

“This is not about asking for handouts. This is about ensuring that the people who feed this country have the tools and infrastructure necessary to continue doing so for the next hundred years.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

For the Family Farm Alliance, this hearing is about ensuring Congress understands both the urgency of the moment and the scale of the opportunity ahead. The West was built by people willing to invest in the future. The question now is whether the nation is prepared to do it again.

Building the Case for Long-Term Western Water Investment



U.S. Drought Monitor, May 12, 2026

In recent weeks, the Family Farm Alliance has intensified its advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., sending multiple coalition letters to Congress calling for increased and stabilized federal funding streams to address the growing water crisis across the American West. The message from water users, farmers, conservation organizations, hydropower interests, Tribal representatives, and local

communities has been remarkably consistent: the West can no longer afford a “crisis-to-crisis” approach to water management.

The first letter, sent to congressional appropriators in late April, urged lawmakers to provide robust Fiscal Year 2027 funding for Bureau of Reclamation programs, including the highly successful WaterSMART Grant Program, while also advancing emergency drought funding to help Western communities respond to one of the driest years on record. The letter emphasized that the West’s water challenges are no longer temporary emergencies but structural realities requiring long-term investment and modernization.

The Alliance and its partners warned Congress that continued drought, aging infrastructure, declining reservoir storage, and shifting hydrology now threaten far more than agricultural production alone. Water scarcity increasingly affects food security, energy reliability, municipal supplies, economic stability, affordability, and national resilience.

“Water infrastructure is no longer just a regional issue. This is about protecting the nation’s domestic food supply, stabilizing rural economies, and ensuring future generations can continue producing food in the American West.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

The letter specifically called for sustained investment in programs that have already demonstrated measurable success on the ground. WaterSMART-funded projects alone now conserve an estimated 1.7 million acre-feet of water annually while leveraging non-federal investment at more than a two-to-one ratio. Across the West, these projects are modernizing canals, improving drought resilience, automating systems, increasing groundwater recharge capacity, and helping local communities stretch limited supplies further than ever before.

However, Alliance leaders emphasized that demand for these programs now far exceeds available funding. Highly qualified projects with broad local support continue to go unfunded each year, even as communities face mounting infrastructure costs and worsening drought conditions.

The second coalition letter, sent May 13 to congressional leadership overseeing natural resources and energy policy, focused specifically on the rapidly intensifying crisis in the Colorado River Basin. That letter included more than 70 signatories representing an unusually broad coalition of agricultural organizations, municipal water providers, Tribal interests, hydropower stakeholders, conservation groups, infrastructure advocates, and local communities from across the Basin.

The coalition called on Congress to provide at least \$2 billion in near-term federal funding to stabilize the Colorado River system while also establishing a durable long-term funding mechanism dedicated to drought resilience, conservation, infrastructure modernization, and water supply innovation.

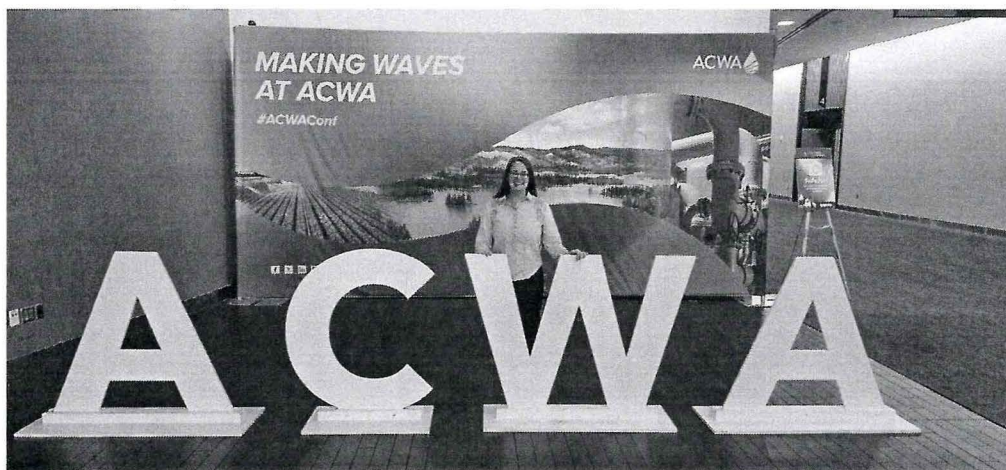
“Emergency funding may help communities survive the current season, but survival is not the same thing as resilience. We need long-term infrastructure investment that allows the West to adapt and thrive under changing conditions.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

The Alliance continues to advocate for an “all-of-the-above” approach that combines conservation with infrastructure modernization, new storage, groundwater recharge, watershed restoration, recycling, desalination, precipitation enhancement, forecasting technology, and streamlined project delivery. Underlying all of these efforts is a broader argument that echoes throughout the West today: previous generations built the modern West by investing boldly in water infrastructure, often in the face of skepticism and uncertainty. The current generation now faces a similar moment of decision.

For the Family Farm Alliance and its partners, the question before Congress is no longer whether investment is needed — but whether the nation is willing to act before temporary drought emergency becomes permanent decline.

From Washington to California: Advancing the Case for Western Water Infrastructure



Last month, Samantha Barncastle traveled to California to participate in the Spring Conference of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), where she spoke before multiple policy development committees and participated in a panel discussion focused on the Bureau of Reclamation’s ongoing realignment initiative and federal project delivery reform efforts.

The trip came at a pivotal moment for Western water policy. Between escalating drought conditions, proposed federal budget cuts, and ongoing efforts to modernize how the federal government works with local water managers, discussions throughout the conference centered on one overarching reality: the West can no longer afford slow-moving systems and short-term thinking.

Federal Budget Proposals Raise Serious Questions

Much of the discussion at ACWA focused on the Trump Administration’s proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Interior Department budget and its implications for Western water users. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum spent much of April defending a proposed budget that would reduce the Department of the Interior’s discretionary funding by roughly 13 percent, including major reductions to water and conservation programs relied upon throughout the West. The proposal would cut the Bureau of Reclamation’s budget to approximately \$1.27 billion while eliminating programs such as WaterSMART grants and Title XVI water recycling funding — programs that many Western communities view as essential tools for drought resilience and infrastructure modernization.

Additional proposed reductions affecting Western water interests include cuts to U.S. Geological Survey water science programs, endangered species conservation funding, wetlands programs, and core Bureau of Land Management accounts. While Secretary Burgum argued that efficiencies and reduced waste would offset the impacts of the cuts, water managers throughout the West continue to express concern that the scale of the region’s water challenges requires more investment, not less.

“The scale of the challenge now outpaces the scale of current investment. The West cannot continue trying to solve structural water shortages with temporary funding and fragmented implementation.”
Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

Reclamation Realignment: Turning Policy into Action



ACWA Panelists

A major focus of the Alliance’s participation at the ACWA conference — and a central priority for the Alliance over the past year — has been the Bureau of Reclamation’s realignment initiative and implementation of Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3446. Barncastle joined a panel alongside Ian Lyle (ACWA), Greg Morrison (NWRA), and Edward Young (BOR) to discuss ongoing efforts to streamline project delivery, reduce bureaucratic duplication, and empower local entities to take on greater responsibility for project implementation, operations, and procurement.

Over the past year, the Family Farm Alliance and the National Water Resources Association have worked directly with leadership at the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of the Interior to help shape this initiative. That work recently culminated in the completion of a revised NEPA implementation memorandum now being distributed from Reclamation’s Washington, D.C. office to field staff across the West.

The memorandum outlines a significantly more flexible framework for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, including expanded use of categorical exclusions, increased reliance on applicant-prepared NEPA documents, narrower and more focused effects analyses, and greater use of existing environmental reviews to avoid duplicative work.



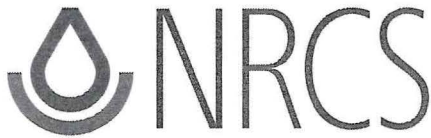
“This initiative is really about trust. The people operating these systems every day already have the expertise and practical knowledge to move projects efficiently. The federal government needs to function as a partner ensuring risk is properly managed in a way that also enables implementation of projects — not a bottleneck that delays it.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

The Alliance also recently distributed a “Reclamation Opportunity Flyer” encouraging members to proactively engage with their local Reclamation offices about opportunities to expand local roles in project delivery, procurement, operations, and maintenance. The Alliance continues working closely with Reclamation leadership to monitor implementation and address concerns as they emerge.

USDA Reorganization, Funding Shifts, and the Growing Debate Over Long-Term Resilience

As the federal government continues broader efforts to streamline operations and shift more responsibility closer to local communities, the Family Farm Alliance is closely monitoring major developments within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that could significantly impact farmers, conservation programs, and drought resilience efforts across the West.



Over the past several months, USDA has been moving forward with a sweeping departmental reorganization designed to decentralize decision-making and relocate staff away from Washington, D.C. into regional “hub” offices throughout the country. However, the transition is occurring at the same time USDA agencies are already facing significant staffing shortages and operational strain. Agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have experienced substantial workforce attrition, leaving some field offices severely understaffed and, in some cases, struggling to maintain core services.

For Western water users, these concerns are especially significant because many drought resilience and infrastructure modernization efforts depend heavily upon functioning USDA partnerships and timely technical support. At the same time, Congress and the Administration continue negotiating Fiscal Year 2027 funding levels that signal a broader tightening of federal agricultural and conservation spending priorities.

“We are seeing an overwhelming preference for direct payments to farmers rather than long-term system improvements. Emergency assistance absolutely matters, but if we can modernize delivery systems, improve conveyance, expand storage, and build infrastructure capable of adapting to changing hydrology, we reduce the need for emergency relief in the first place. And at the end of the day, farmers largely prefer to keep farming, not be paid to lay out.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

On one hand, the Alliance welcomed several recent announcements that provide meaningful support for producers facing severe drought conditions. NRCS recently

announced up to \$200 million in additional Agricultural Conservation Easement Program funding to help preserve working agricultural lands through voluntary easements and conservation partnerships. USDA also expanded Supplemental Disaster Relief Program payments for farmers impacted by natural disasters in 2023 and 2024, increasing payment rates and extending application deadlines to help producers navigate complex claims.

That concern remains particularly relevant regarding USDA's stalled Water Saving Commodities Program. Despite completion of the Administration's review process, the 18 awarded projects across the West remain in limbo awaiting implementation. The Alliance continues actively advocating for release of those funds, arguing that system-level investments in irrigation modernization and water delivery efficiency are essential components of long-term drought resilience.

To help elevate these concerns, the Alliance recently joined the Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition in sending a letter to USDA leadership urging a more comprehensive, "all-of-the-above" drought response strategy. The coalition's recommendations included releasing Water Saving Commodities Program awards, strengthening drought-focused conservation programs, improving implementation of irrigation modernization authorities under the Farm Bill, supporting watershed and PL-566 projects, and creating an interagency water coordination effort focused specifically on Western drought resilience.

Farm Bill Finally Advances, But Major Senate Hurdles Remain



After years of delays and repeated short-term extensions, Congress finally made significant movement on a new Farm Bill this spring as the House of Representatives narrowly passed a five-year package, H.R. 7567, by a 224-200 vote. The legislation would reauthorize major farm safety net, conservation, forestry, and rural development programs through 2031 and marks the first major step toward replacing the long-expired 2018 Farm Bill.

Passage of the bill followed months of intense negotiations over a wide range of controversial issues, including pesticide liability protections, California Proposition 12, ethanol policy, conservation funding, and reforms to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Several of the most

contentious provisions were ultimately removed or delayed in order to secure enough support for House passage.

“Producers need certainty anywhere they can get it. Farmers and ranchers are already navigating enormous economic and environmental pressures well beyond their control. Modernizing and stabilizing these programs matters, especially for conservation, drought resilience, and rural infrastructure.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

However, significant challenges remain before a final bill can become law. Attention has now shifted to the Senate, where John Boozman, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has emphasized that any final package will require bipartisan support to clear the Senate’s 60-vote threshold. Senate Democrats are already calling for revisions to SNAP cost-sharing provisions enacted through last year’s reconciliation package, while additional disputes over conservation funding, pesticide policy, ethanol, and nutrition programs are expected to complicate negotiations further.

Despite those obstacles, Senate leadership continues expressing cautious optimism that a bipartisan agreement can still be reached later this year. Still, another short-term extension of the 2018 Farm Bill remains a very real possibility if negotiations stall once again. For Western agriculture, the outcome will help shape not only commodity and conservation policy, but also the federal government’s long-term approach to drought resilience, watershed health, and rural economic stability.

Public Lands Rule Rescinded, Restoring Focus on Multiple Use Across the West

Western agricultural and water interests saw a significant policy shift this month as the Bureau of Land Management officially rescinded the Biden Administration’s Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, commonly referred to as the “Public Lands Rule.” The rule, finalized in 2024, expanded BLM authority to prioritize conservation leasing and “landscape health” across federal lands. Supporters argued the policy would improve ecosystem resilience, while critics warned it risked fundamentally shifting BLM away from its longstanding “multiple-use” mandate.

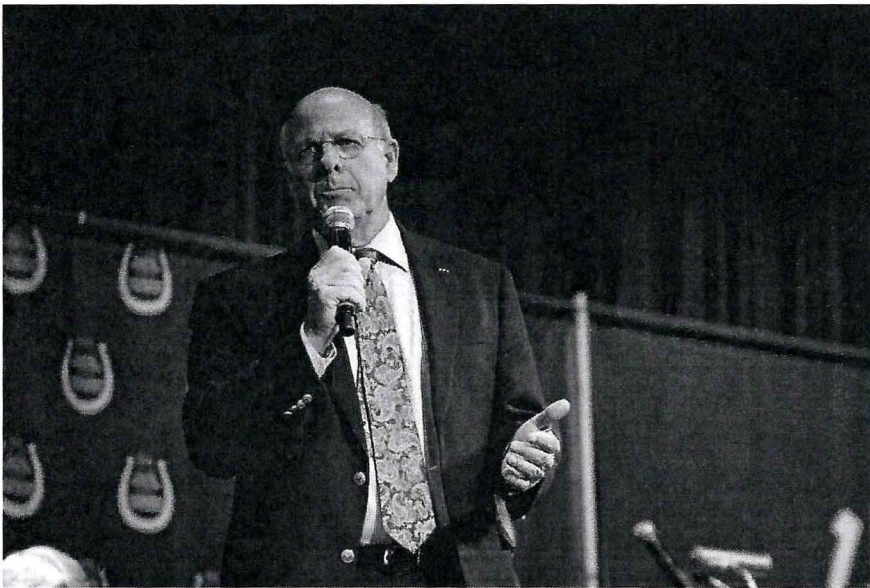
The Family Farm Alliance formally supported rescission of the rule and submitted comments to the Federal Register pointing out that the policy created legal and regulatory uncertainty for water users, ranchers, irrigation districts, and adjacent agricultural operations. The Alliance emphasized that

many Western water delivery systems directly interface with federal lands through canals, conveyance facilities, watershed access, storage infrastructure, grazing allotments, and operational easements.

“The issue was never whether conservation matters — it absolutely does. The concern was whether the federal government was creating new layers of uncertainty that could undermine collaborative management, water infrastructure operations, and the ability of local communities to continue stewarding these landscapes productively.”

Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

The Alliance’s comments urged BLM to reaffirm the agency’s statutory obligation to manage lands for multiple use and sustained yield, including grazing, recreation, water infrastructure, energy development, and other productive uses alongside producer-led conservation objectives. The Alliance has long pointed out that complete lack of use is not proper management of public lands and can lead to devastating effects like wildfire and structural damage in post-fire conditions, especially in the headwaters of each watershed.



For irrigation districts and agricultural water users throughout the West, the decision is viewed as an important step toward restoring predictability and reinforcing collaborative, locally driven management approaches.

Related: Steve Pearce, former Congressman from New Mexico’s second Congressional District, was recently confirmed by the

Senate as the new Director of BLM

ESA Reform Debate Intensifies as Congress and the Administration Push for Change

Efforts to modernize implementation of the Endangered Species Act intensified this spring as both Congress and the Trump Administration advanced significant proposals aimed at reforming how the law affects water infrastructure, agriculture, energy development, and project delivery across the

West. For the Family Farm Alliance and many Western water users, the conversation is not about eliminating species protections — it is about creating a system that is more transparent, more collaborative, and more effective at balancing environmental goals with the realities facing rural communities and water infrastructure operators.

Congressional ESA Reform Efforts Face Political Turbulence



Chairman Bruce Westerman

The largest legislative proposal under consideration this year has been H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act,” led by Bruce Westerman and House Natural Resources Committee leadership. The bill would make changes to ESA implementation, including requiring economic impact analysis during species listing decisions, narrowing certain habitat protections, limiting some litigation pathways, and streamlining permitting and consultation requirements that often delay infrastructure and water management projects for years. However, House leadership ultimately pulled the legislation from floor consideration after internal Republican disagreements emerged.

Although delayed, congressional leaders have indicated negotiations will continue and that portions of the legislation could reemerge later this year. The Alliance formally supported H.R. 1897, arguing that the current implementation of the ESA too often creates uncertainty, delays infrastructure modernization, and encourages endless litigation without delivering measurable recovery outcomes for species.

The Administration Moves Forward Administratively

At the same time Congress debates legislative reform, the Trump Administration has continued pursuing parallel administrative changes through federal rulemaking and executive actions. Most

notably, the Administration recently invoked the rarely used “God Squad” exemption process for the first time in more than three decades — a move that immediately triggered litigation and national debate over the future scope of ESA authority.

Bringing Water Contractors Into the Consultation Process

Another of the most closely watched ESA proposals for Western irrigation districts this year is H.R. 8259, the “Federal Water Projects Consultation Improvement Act of 2026,” introduced by Cliff Bentz. The legislation focuses specifically on improving transparency and collaboration during ESA Section 7 consultations involving Bureau of Reclamation water projects. Importantly, the bill does not alter the ESA’s underlying legal standards or species protections. Instead, it seeks to ensure that irrigation districts, water contractors, and affected communities have a formal opportunity to participate in consultations that directly impact water deliveries and project operations.

Among those testifying before Congress was Elizabeth Nielsen, who serves on the Alliance Advisory Committee. Testifying on behalf of the Klamath Water Users Association, Nielsen emphasized that local irrigation managers and water contractors possess critical operational expertise that is too often excluded from the consultation process.

A Push for Transparency and Practical Outcomes

Building on congressional efforts, the Alliance recently transmitted a formal letter to Timothy R. Petty urging the Administration to administratively implement the core framework of H.R. 8259 through Secretarial Order authority even before Congress acts legislatively. The letter urges that water

“Those closest to the ground often understand these systems best. Irrigation managers, water contractors, local operators, and producers are not obstacles to conservation — they are essential partners in finding workable solutions that protect species while also sustaining rural communities and food production.”

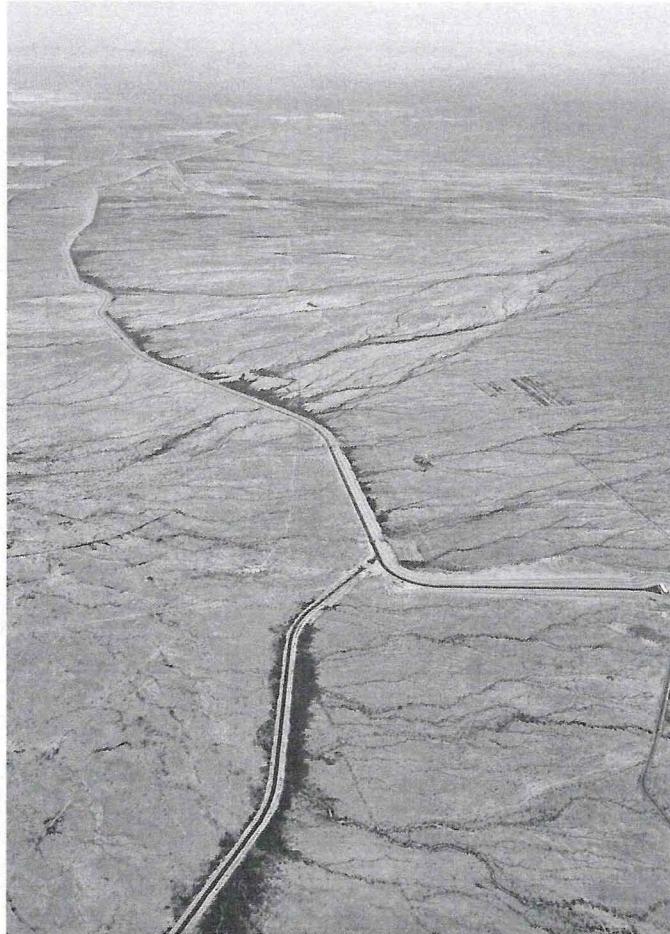
Samantha Barncastle, Executive Director

contractors should no longer be treated as passive observers during ESA consultations affecting federal water projects.

The Alliance continues to emphasize that long-term species recovery and water reliability are not mutually exclusive goals. For many Western water users, the broader ESA reform conversation ultimately comes down to one central question: whether federal agencies will continue relying on opaque, adversarial processes that create uncertainty and conflict, or whether they will move toward a

more open and collaborative framework that delivers practical, measurable results for both species and communities.

Drought Is No Longer a Future Threat: It Is Reshaping the West Right Now



Recent aerial view of the CAP Canal in Arizona

As the Family Farm Alliance prepares to brief members of the Congressional Western Caucus later this month on the heels of testimony delivered to the House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, one message is becoming increasingly unavoidable across every Western basin: drought in the American West is no longer episodic. It is structural, intensifying, and forcing difficult decisions about the future of food production, economic stability, energy reliability, affordability, and water security across the country.

From the Colorado River Basin to California’s Central Valley, from the Rio Grande to Idaho, and all across the West, the challenges facing Western water users are growing faster than the systems designed to manage them. But so too are the opportunities — if policymakers are willing to think at the scale the moment demands.

The Colorado River Basin Faces a Critical Moment



Large data center surrounded by fallowed land

Hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River Basin continue deteriorating following one of the driest winters on record and an exceptionally warm spring across the Rocky Mountain headwaters. Forecasts for Lake Powell inflows have dropped to as low as 13–29% of average, with some projections describing conditions as among the worst ever recorded for the system.

Federal officials now warn Glen Canyon Dam could approach minimum power pool elevations later this summer, threatening both hydropower generation and downstream operational stability. Basin-wide storage remains only about 36% full, while agricultural producers throughout the Upper Basin are already facing reduced allocations, field fallowing, herd reductions, and irrigation curtailments.

The federal government has responded with emergency drought operations, including reduced releases from Lake Powell and emergency transfers from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Lower Basin states have proposed additional conservation measures supported by federal funding. Yet negotiations over long-term post-2026 operating rules remain deeply divided.

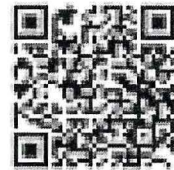
The underlying reality is clear: conservation alone will not solve the West's growing water imbalance. Recent studies examining cities like Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Denver concluded that while conservation programs have successfully reduced demand, those gains are unlikely to fully offset long-term climate pressures and declining river supplies. Larger-scale infrastructure and supply solutions will almost certainly be required alongside conservation efforts.

DONOR SUPPORT

What's The Secret to our Success? Grassroots Members Like You

Join our membership of agricultural producers, agribusiness, water purveyors, supporting industries, local governments, and community members. Your membership will strengthen our advocacy and connect you to cutting-edge research, analysis, and insight on the policies impacting agricultural water.

We encourage you to visit the **RESOURCES** page on our website: www.familyfarmalliance.org to view Reports, Insightful Monthly Briefings and Information Water Reviews. We believe our accomplishments and activities speak for themselves. While you're there, join our email list to be kept up-to-date on our efforts on your behalf.



LEARN MORE 

Defending Western Irrigated Agriculture

The Family Farm Alliance is a powerful advocate for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in seventeen Western states. The Alliance is a focused organization. **Everything we do supports one mission — to ensure the availability of reliable and affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers.**

Pge left intentionall blank.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST**JUNE 2026**

1. May 15, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Regular Board Meeting on May 20, 2026.
2. May 18, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Los Olivos Community Services District Community Workshop on June 3, 2026.
3. May 18, 2026 – District sent a Can and Will Serve Letter to one customer.
4. May 18, 2026 – District sent a Superseding Can and Will Serve Letter to one customer.
5. May 20, 2026 - District received the Notice of Meeting Cancellation from the Central Coast Water Authority Board meeting scheduled for May 28, 2026.
6. May 22, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Board Meeting on May 28, 2026.
7. May 27, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Wastewater Committee Meeting on June 2, 2026.
8. May 27, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Finance Committee Meeting on June 2, 2026.
9. May 28, 2026 – District received the Updated Agenda for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Board Meeting on May 28, 2026.
10. June 5, 2026 – District received the Cancellation Notice for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Meeting on June 12, 2026.
11. June 6, 2026 – District received the Notice and Agenda for the Los Olivos Community Services District Regular Board Meeting on June 10, 2026.