# **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, April 18, 2023 In-Person - 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPTION VIA TELECONFERENCE TELECONFERENCE PHONE NUMBER: 1-669-900-9128 MEETING ID: 929 0039 9487# PARTICIPANT ID NO.: 180175# MEETING PASSCODE: 180175#

**Important Notice Regarding Public Participation in This Meeting:** For those who may not attend the meeting in person or teleconference 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 <u>general@syrwd.org</u>. All submittals should indicate "**April 18, 2023 Board Meeting**" in the subject line. Public comments and materials received by the District will become part of the post-meeting Board packet materials available to the public and posted on the District's website. In the interest of clear reception and efficient administration of the meeting, all persons participating via teleconference are respectfully requested to mute their voices after dialing-in and at all times unless speaking.

- 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 SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2023
- 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
- 9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

# A. STATEWIDE STORM EVENTS AND RELATED PROJECT CONDITIONS

- 1. Cachuma Project Update
- 2. State Water Project Update

# B. 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: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS
- **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 <u>May 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.</u>

# **14.** CLOSED SESSION:

To accommodate the teleconferencing component of this meeting, the public access line will be closed for up to fortyfive (45) minutes while the Board of Trustees conducts closed session. Upon conclusion of the closed session, the public teleconference line will be reopened for the remaining Agenda Items.

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 – 2 Cases]

- 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
- 2. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. 21CV02432

# **B.** CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION

[Subdivision (d)(2) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Significant Exposure to Litigation Against the Agency – One Matter]

# 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.

# SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1 MARCH 28, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special 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, March 28, 2023, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

Faraday Street	and via teleconference.	
Trustees Preser	t: Jeff Clay Brad Joos	Michael Burchardi Nick Urton
Trustees Absen	t: Jeff Holzer	
Others Present:	Paeter Garcia Karen King Elisabeth Esposito	Mary Martone Eric Tambini
President the Board		er at 3:02 p.m., he stated this was a Special Meeting of aducted roll call and reported that four Trustees were
	<u>FALLEGIANCE:</u> Clay led the Pledge of Allegiar	nce.
<u>REQUIREN</u> Ms. Marte Agenda fe California	<u>MENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NO</u> one presented the affidavit of p or this meeting. She reported Government Code commencin	<b>BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE</b> DTICE AND AGENDA: posting of the Agenda, along with a true copy of the that the Agenda was posted in accordance with the ng at Section 54953, as well as District Resolution No. of the posting of the Agenda items contained therein.
Contraction of the second s	NS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO The no additions or corrections to	
for memb was no pu	Clay welcomed any members ers of the public to speak and ac	of the public participating remotely and offered time ddress the Board on matters not on the agenda. There orted that no written comments were submitted to the
The Regul	ar Meeting Minutes from Febr	E REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023 uary 21, 2023 were presented for consideration. changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes nges or additions requested.
		conded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice rove the February 21, 2023 Minutes as presented.
7. <u>CONSENT</u> The Conse	AGENDA: ent Agenda Report was provid	ed in the Board Packet.
Mr. Garcia	a reviewed the Consent Agend	a materials for the month of February.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

# 8. <u>MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE</u> FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
- a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements Revenues and Expenses Ms. Martone announced that the Financial Statements were emailed to the Board members that morning and posted on the District's website in the Board packet materials for any members of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

Ms. Martone reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of February. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month and also referenced the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot from July through February. Ms. Martone reported that District expenses exceeded revenues by \$116,683.84 for the month of February and the year-to-date net income was \$2,240,433.09, which will be earmarked and utilized for the District's annual State Water Project payment due in June 2023.

Ms. Martone also informed the Board of the successful efforts of the Administrative staff in working to significantly reduce the District's past due customer balances. She reported that past due balances had increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and recognized staff for their diligence and excellent customer service in working to successfully reduce the arrearages by 90 percent.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Martone announced that the Warrant List was emailed to the Board members that morning and posted on the District's website in the Board packet materials for any members of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25045 through 25103 in the amount of \$967,061.82.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the Warrant List for February 22, 2023 through March 28, 2023.

- **B.** OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
  - 1. Zone 3 Concrete Tank Cleaning and Repair
    - a) Change Order No.1

The Board packet included a February 14, 2023 Change Order No.1 in the amount of \$13,594 from DN Tanks, LLC.

Mr. Eric Tambini discussed the project and explained the change order for alternate items that were included as part of the bid. He reported that DN Tanks completed the cleaning and repair work at the Zone 3 Tank site.

b) Notice of Completion

The Board packet included a Notice of Completion for the Zone 3 Concrete Tank Cleaning and Repair Project.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2       authorization for the General Manager to sign and file the No.         3       the Zone 3 Concrete Tank Cleaning and Repair project.         4       It was MOVED by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton,         5       It was MOVED by Trustee Holzer absent, to approve and a         6       Wanager to sign and file the Notice of Completion with the         7       Manager to Sign and file the Notice of Completion with the         8       Clerk Recorder's Office.	tice of Completion for and carried by a 4-0-0 authorize the General
10		NG SUBJECTS:
11		
12	2 1. Cachuma Project Update	
13	3 The Board packet included the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Lake Cachuma Daily
14	1 And Market	
15		65h.
16		2022-2023 Allocation.
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27	7 2. State Water Project Update	
28		Current and Historical
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31		Article relating to the
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51		nta Ynez River Valley
52 53	2 Groundwater Basin EMA Annual Report Water Year 2022.	
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1		Mr. Garcia reported on the activities related to the EMA GSA. He stated that the GSA
2		met last week on March 23, 2023 where an update was provided on March 2023
3		groundwater levels in the EMA. He indicated that rain events this year are recharging
4		the EMA, yet overall the groundwater levels remain below historic conditions because
5		of the last 10-year drought cycle, thus additional above-average rain years are needed
6	41	for groundwater recovery. Mr. Garcia reported that the GSA Committee also
7		considered revised Draft Policy Options for administering Well Verification requests
8		in the EMA. He indicated that the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Report for the EMA has been finalized
9		and will be submitted to DWR by the April 1 <sup>st</sup> deadline.
10		
11		C. SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
12		1. Draft Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report
13		The Board packet included the Draft Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
14 15		Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions
16		Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District's
17		Draft Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions.
18		He indicated that certain statements in the Draft Report may not be accurate. He also
19		noted that for purposes of groundwater resources in the EMA, much of the information
20		presented in the District's Report is already being prepared and presented in the
21		Annual Reports now required for the EMA under the Sustainable Groundwater
22		Management Act, which raises a question of whether the District's groundwater
23		reporting has become obsolete.
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25	10.	REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS,
26		ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS
27		NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION:
28 29		The Board we det in 1 d d & March 2002 American set from California Chota Transverse
29 30		The Board packet included a March 2023 Announcement from California State Treasurer,
31		Fiona Ma regarding the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), and the March 2023 Family
32		Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.
33		Trustee Burchardi reported that he attended the Santa Ynez Community Services District
34		Board meeting in March and reported on the topics discussed.
35		
36	11.	CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS:
37	19	The Correspondence List was received by the Board.
38		
39	12.	REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:
40		There were no requests from the Board.
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42	13.	NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
43		The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for April 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
44		
45	14.	CLOSED SESSION:
46 47		The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:00 p.m.
48		A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
49		[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 2 Cases]
50		1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources
51		Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of
		Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests
52 53		

1 2 3 4		2. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. 21CV02432
5 6 7 8		B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION [Subdivision (d)(2) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Significant Exposure to Litigation Against the Agency – One Matter]
9 10 11	15.	<u>RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:</u> [Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]
12 13 14		The public participation phone line was re-opened, and the Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:50 p.m.
15 16 17		Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session concerning Agenda Items 14.A.1, 14.A.2, and 14.B and that there was no reportable action from closed session.
18 19 20 21 22 23	16.	ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business, it was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:51 p.m. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
24 25 26		
27 28 29 30 31		Mary Martone, Secretary to the Board ATTEST: Jeff Clay, President
32 33 34 35		MINUTES PREPARED BY:
36 37	Î	King King Banda Individual Antistant
38		Karen King, Board Administrative Assistant

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1 April 18, 2023

### Consent Agenda Report

CA-1. <u>Water Supply and Production Report</u>. Total water production in March 2023 (99 AF) was approximately 17 AF lower than total production in February 2022 (116 AF), 112 AF below the most recent 3-year running average (2020-2022) for the month of March (211 AF), and 122 AF less than the most recent 10-year running average (2013-2022) for the month of March (221 AF). <u>Notably, March 2023 production was the lowest among the last 10 years, with March 2019 being the second lowest at 110 AF</u>. As with February conditions, remarkably low March production is attributable to the extraordinary rain events that have continued to occur in 2023. Generally speaking, however, the District's overall demands and total production have been trending well 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 March 2023, approximately 32 AF was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells, and approximately 67 AF was produced from the 4.0 cfs and 6.0 cfs well fields in the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), the District did not request or take any SWP supplies for the month. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were 1.03 AF.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Lake Cachuma in March (ending March 31, 2023) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at 751.48' with the end of month storage of 188,611 AF. USBR recorded total precipitation at the lake of 5.95 inches for the month. Due to spill conditions occurring from Bradbury Dam, no SWP deliveries were made to the reservoir for South Coast entities. Reported reservoir evaporation in March was 491.2 AF.

Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of April 10, 2023 Cachuma reservoir was reported at 96.7% of capacity, with then-current storage of 186,551 AF (Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Rainfall and Reservoir Summary). At a point when reservoir storage exceeds 100,000 AF, the Cachuma Member Units typically have 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 (and previously have occurred) at other lower storage levels. For the federal WY 2021-2022 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022), USBR issued a 70% allocation, equal to 18,000 AF. ID No.1's 10.31% share of that allocation was 1,855 AF.

In the Fall of 2022 when reservoir conditions were low, the Cachuma Member Units initially requested an approximate 15% Cachuma Project allocation for federal WY 2022-2023. By letter dated September 30, 2022, USBR issued an initial 0% allocation for WY 2022-2023. Based on rain conditions that have since filled and spilled the reservoir, on February 28, 2023 USBR issued a revised 100% Project allocation for WY 2022-2023. ID No.1's share of that allocation is 2,651 AF.

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 Water Resources Control 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:

1

- When Reservoir Spills and the Spill Amount Exceeds 20,000 AF:
  - o 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.
- During Above Normal and Wet water years, the following minimum flow requirements must be maintained at Hwy 154 and Alisal Bridges:
  - 0 48 cfs from February 15 to April 14 for spawning
  - o 20 cfs from February 15 to June 1 for incubation and rearing
  - o 25 cfs from June 2 to June 9 for emigration, with ramping to 10 cfs by June 30
  - 0 10 cfs from June 30 to October 1 for rearing and maintenance of resident fish
  - o 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:
  - o 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
  - o Critical Dry is when Reservoir inflow is less than or equal to 4,550 AF

As of the end of **December 2022**, a total of approximately **49,653.3 AF** of Cachuma Project water had been released under regulatory requirements for the protection of fish and fish habitat below Bradbury Dam since the year after the 2011 spill. For the months of January, February, and March 2023, fish releases, spill releases, and other operational releases have been made from the Cachuma Project. Reclamation is expected to provide an accounting of those releases in the near future.

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

In 2022 the SWP Table A allocation for SWP Contractors was only 5 percent, which translated to 35 AF for ID No.1's share of Table A supplies through CCWA. As previously reported, by Notice to the SWP Contractors dated December 1, 2022, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued an initial 2023 SWP Table A Allocation of 5 percent, along with a provisional allocation of additional SWP supplies to certain Contractors to ensure the needs for human health and safety. In response to this year's hydrologic conditions and resulting storage increases in Lake Oroville, on January 26, 2023 DWR increased the 2023 SWP Table A allocation to 30 percent. On February 22, 2023 the allocation was increased to 35 percent. By notice dated March 24, 2023 the Table A allocation has now been increased to 75 percent. For ID No.1, the increase to 75 percent translates to a current 2023 Table A allocation of 1,650 AF. Of that amount, 525 AF is available to ID No.1 and the remaining 1,125 AF is contracted to the City of Solvang.

As reflected in the February and March 2023 Agendas for meetings of the CCWA Board of Directors and CCWA Operating Committee, CCWA remains engaged in a variety of matters relating to the SWP, including but not limited to: SWP supplies and changed hydrologic conditions; SWP operations and San Luis Reservoir conditions; the 2023 Supplemental Water Purchase Program; current and potential water banking programs; water quality challenges and new facilities to improve those conditions; CCWA's 2023/24 budget preparation; and CCWA succession planning. CCWA and its member agencies also remain engaged in their pending litigation against the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to maintain CCWA sovereignty over important decisions pertaining to SWP supplies. The next regular meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

# Historical Archive and Report Database Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 4/4/2023

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17	750.75	186,386	2,536	7,031.0	0.0	0.0	47.8	8.4	43.0	4,365.0	30.7	0.160	0.00
18	751.29	188,032	1,646	5,870.0	0.0	0.0	45.8	8.4	43.0	4,125.0	2.1	0.011	0.00
19	751.61	189,007	975	5,182.0	0.0	7.7	45.0	8.5	43.0	4,097.0	21.3	0.110	0.03
20	751.47	188,581	-426	4,693.0	0.0	2.5	44.7	8.5	42.0	5,020.0	5.8	0.030	0.0
21	751.13	187,544	-1,037	4,704.0	0.0	167.5	47.1	8.4	43.0	5,791.0	19.3	0.100	0.60
22	751.30	188,063	519	8,467.0	0.0	317.9	46.1	8.5	43.0	8,168.0	0.0	0.000	1.2
23	751.73	189,377	1,314	10,474.0	0.0	66.4	46.4	8.5	45.0	9,115.0	11.7	0.060	0.20
24	751.85	189,747	370	8,532.0	0.0	5.1	45.3	8.5	44.0	8,065.0	3.9	0.020	0.0
25	751.67	189,192	-555	7,496.0	0.0	0.0	47.1	8.5	44.0	7,922.0	29.1	0.150	0.0
26	751.55	188,824	-368	5,920.0	0.0	0.0	45.8	8.5	44.0	6,159.0	31.0	0.160	0.0
27	751.80	189,592	768	5,056.0	0.0	0.0	46.9	8.5	44.0	4,159.0	29.1	0.150	0.0
28	751.89	189,870		4,819.0		0.0		8.5	232.0	4,232.0	23.3	0.120	0.0
29	751.58	188,916				107.1		deres and a second second			19.4	0.100	
30	751.43	188,459				160.4		and a many second s	de la estimate de una trocher erat		25.2	0.130	a
31	751.48	188.611	152			12.7				5,114.0	19.4	0.100	
TOTAL			-1.967	200,203.0		1,500.7			di	196,744.0	491.2	2.551	
AVERA		186 922								(1), 1) (0) (1) (0) (1) (0) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1			

1

— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION

AVERAGE 186,922

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.

# Historical Archive and Report Database Lake Cachuma Daily Operations



# — BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION

# Run Date: 4/13/2023

						April 2023	3						
1		STORAGE	ACRE-FEET	COMPUTED*	CCWA	PRECIP ON		RELEASE	- AF.		EVAPO	RATION	PRECIP
DAY	ELEV	IN LAKE	CHANGE	INFLOW AF.	INFLOW AF.	RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH	INCHES
	751.48	188,611		in the second		and a second second second second second		Same a water and a same	1				
1	751.62	189,038	427	4,793.0	0.0	0.0	29.0	8.5	42.0	4,270.0	16.3	0.080	0.0
2	751.77	189,500	462	4,510.0	0.0	0.0	28.1	8.5	43.0	3,936.0	32.7	0.160	0.0
3	751.85	189,747	247	4,290.0	0.0	0.0	27.6	8.5	43.0	3,943.0	20.5	0.100	0.00
4	751.82	189,654	-93	3,942.0	0.0	0.0	34.4	8.5	42.0	3,944.0	5.7	0.028	0.00
5	751.77	189,500	-154	3,912.0	0.0	0.0	35.7	8.5	43.0	3,942.0	36.8	0.180	0.00
6	751.68	189,223	-277	3,751.0	0.0	0.0	37.2	8.5	43.0	3,937.0	2.5	0.012	0.00
7	751.51	188,703	-520	3,531.0	0.0	0.0	36.6	8.6	43.0	3,928.0	34.7	0.170	0.00
8	751.25	187,910	-793	3,254.0	0.0	0.0	43.2	8.5	42.0	3,917.0	36.6	0.180	0.00
9	751.14	187,575	-335	3,473.0	0.0	0.0	42.2	8.5	43.0	3,682.0	32.5	0.160	0.00
10			-						0.0				
11									0.0				
12	1			1					0.0				
TOTALS	S		-1,036	35,456.0	0.0	0.0	314.0	76.6	384.0	35,499.0	218.3	1.070	0.00
AVERAG	SE	188,983	ing it in a constant of the second	These sectors in the same sectors and	And the second se			E CONCERNIT AND					

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: 4/10/2023 Water Year: 2023 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: > http://www.countyofsb.org/hydrology

Rainfall	ID	24 hrs	Storm Oday(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*
Buellton (Fire Stn)	23.	3 0.00	0.00	0.00	27.70	180%	169%
Cachuma Dam <sub>(USBE</sub>	R) 33.	2 0.00	0.00	0.01	37.23	203%	190%
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	20	8 0.00	0.00	0.00	27.24	172%	160%
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	43	6 0.00	0.00	0.03	14.02	204%	185%
Figueroa Mtn (USFS	Stn) 42	1 0.00	0.00	0.00	41.09	210%	195%
Gibraltar Dam (City F	Facility) 23	0.00	0.00	0.01	59.52	243%	229%
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Car	meros) 44	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.44	173%	162%
Lompoc (City Hall)	43	9 0.00	0.00	0.00	32.57	242%	226%
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	20	4 0.00	0.00	0.01	31.73	224%	209%
San Marcos Pass (US	SFS Stn) 21	2 0.00	0.00	0.00	78.38	248%	234%
Santa Barbara (Count	y Bldg) 23	4 0.00	0.00	0.00	34.82	204%	191%
Santa Maria (City Pub	.Works) 38	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.59	199%	186%
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /	Airport) 21	8 0.00	0.00	0.00	31.85	219%	205%
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	25	6 0.00	0.00	0.00	24.78	179%	166%
and a (i ne bui)	20	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.70	1/9/0	10070
					24.70	207%	10076
County-wide percent	age of "Nor	mal-to-Da	te" rainfa	11 :	24.70		193%
County-wide percent	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wi	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra	<b>te" rainfa</b> r <b>-Year" ra</b> infall calcula	ll : infall : ted	<u>AI (Antece</u> 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0		<b>193%</b> Wetness) in. = 2.5)
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage assuming no more rain	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wi	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End Reservoir Eler **Cachuma is However, the	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula l of WY2023 vations referenc s full and subjec lake is surcharg	ll : iinfall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele	<u>AI (Antece</u> 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water.	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (mi = Moderate bove = Dry (ma	<b>193%</b> Wetness) in. = 2.5)
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wa through Aug. 3 Spillway	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End Reservoir Eler **Cachuma is However, the (Cachuma wa Current	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula l of WY2023 vations referenc s full and subjec lake is surcharg	ll : infall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele ed to 753 ft. for f	<u>AI (Antece</u> 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water.	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (mi = Moderate bove = Dry (ma Storage	<b>193%</b> <u>Wetness)</u> in. = 2.5) ix. = 12.5) Storage
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage assuming no more rain	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wa through Aug. 3 Spillway Elev.	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End **Cachuma is However, the (Cachuma war Current Elev.	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula d of WY2023 vations reference f ull and subjec lake is surcharg ter storage based Max. Storage	ll : iinfall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele ed to 753 ft. for f i on Dec 2021 ca Current Storage	<u>AI (Antece</u> 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water ppacity revision) Current Capacity	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (mi = Moderate bove = Dry (ma Storage Change	<b>193%</b> <u>Wetness)</u> in. = 2.5) ix. = 12.5) Storage Change
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage assuming no more rain Reservoirs	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wa through Aug. 3 Spillway	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End Reservoir Eler **Cachuma is However, the (Cachuma wa Current	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula l of WY2023 vations referenc s full and subjec lake is surcharg ter storage base Max.	ll : infall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele ed to 753 ft. for f d on Dec 2021 ca Current	AI (Antece 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water upacity revision) Current	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (m: = Moderate bove = Dry (ma Storage	<b>193%</b> <u>Wetness)</u> in. = 2.5) ix. = 12.5) Storage
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage assuming no more rain Reservoirs Click on Site for Real-Time Readings	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wa through Aug. 3 Spillway Elev. (ft)	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End **Cachuma is However, the (Cachuma war Current Elev. (ft)	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula d of WY2023 vations reference full and subjec lake is surcharg ter storage base Max. Storage (ac-ft)	ll : iinfall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele ed to 753 ft. for f i on Dec 2021 ca Current Storage	AI (Antece 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water pacity revision) Current Capacity (%)	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (mi = Moderate bove = Dry (ma Storage Change Mo.(ac-ft)	193% Wetness) in. = 2.5) ax. = 12.5) Storage Change Year*(ac-ft)
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage assuming no more rain Reservoirs Click on Site for Real-Time Readings Gibraltar Reservoir	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wa through Aug. 3 Spillway Elev. (ft) 1,400.00	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End Reservoir Elev **Cachuma is However, the (Cachuma wa Current Elev. (ft) 1,399.69	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula d of WY2023 vations reference full and subjec lake is surcharg ter storage base Max. Storage (ac-ft)	ll : iinfall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele ed to 753 ft. for f d on Dec 2021 ca Current Storage (ac-ft) 4,624	AI (Anteces 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water upacity revision) Current Capacity (%) 98.5%	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (mi = Moderate bove = Dry (ma Storage Change Mo.(ac-ft) -83	193% <u>Wetness)</u> in. = 2.5) ax. = 12.5) Storage Change Year*(ac-ft) 3,324
County-wide percent County-wide percent County-wide percentage assuming no more rain Reservoirs Click on Site for	age of "Nor age of "Nor of "Normal Wa through Aug. 3 Spillway Elev. (ft) 1,400.00 753.**	mal-to-Da mal Water ater-Year" ra 1, 2023 (End Reservoir Eler **Cachuma is However, the (Cachuma wa' Current Elev. (ft) 1,399.69 750.92	te" rainfa r-Year" ra infall calcula d of WY2023 vations reference full and subject lake is surcharg ter storage base Max. Storage (ac-ft) 4,693 192,978	ll : iinfall : ted ). ed to NGVD-29. t to spilling at ele ed to 753 ft. for f d on Dec 2021 ca Current Storage (ac-ft) 4,624	AI (Antece 6.0 and b 6.1 - 9.0 9.1 and a evation 750 ft. Tish release water upacity revision) Current Capacity (%) 98.5% 96.7%	207% edent Index / Soil elow = Wet (mi = Moderate bove = Dry (ma Storage Change Mo.(ac-ft) -83	193% <u>Wetness)</u> in. = 2.5) ax. = 12.5) Storage Change Year*(ac-ft) 3,324 115,881

Previous Rainfall and Reservoir Summaries

California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS)

# **CIMIS Daily Report**

Rendered in ENGLISH Units. Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - Sunday, April 2, 2023 Printed on Monday, April 3, 2023

# Santa Ynez - Central Coast Valleys - Station 64

Date	ETo (in)	Precip (in)	Sol Rad (Ly/day)	Avg Vap Pres (mBars)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Air Temp (°F)		lin Rel      A Hum (%)	vg Rel Hum (%)	Dew Point (°F)	Avg Wind Speed (mph)	Wind Run (miles)	Avg Soil Temp (°F)
3/1/2023	0.10	0.31 H	389	8.0	53.2	41.9	46.7	100	50	74	38.9	5.8	138.0	50.8
3/2/2023	0.11	0.15 H	489 R	7.4	63.9	32.8	46.5	100	36	69	36.8	2.3	54.6	50.8
3/3/2023	0.11	0.01	466	9.4	64.6	33.8	46.7	100	55	87	43.0	2.6	63.4	51.0
3/4/2023	0.06 R	0.00	252	9.3	58.0	38.7	46.6	100	52	86	42.6	2.5	60.2	51.6
3/5/2023	0.05	0.22 H	250	10.8	58.6	42.7	49.1	100	70	91	46.5	2.4	58.7	51.7
3/6/2023	0.11 R	0.06 H	442	9.3	59.8	39.7	47.7	100	52	82	42.5	2.6	61.2	52.1
3/7/2023	0.12	0.01 H	484	8.3	61.4	32.8	45.9	100	50	79	39.8	3.1	74.1	52.5
3/8/2023	0.12 R	0.00	453	8.6	60.8	34.4	46.9	100	51	78	40.5	3.3	78.3	52.6
3/9/2023	0.09	0.02	352	9.5	66.1	36.4	49.9	100	49	78	43.1	3.2	76.3	52.7
3/10/2023	0.00 R	0.43 H	54	14.7	58.2	50.2	55.0	100	96	99	54.8	2.0	47.4	53.1
3/11/2023	0.09 R	0.69	341	15.7 Y	70.4	50.9	59.4	100	72	91 Y	56.8 Y	2.2	53.3	53.6
3/12/2023	0.12	0.00	450	14.6	71.1	50.4	58.2	100	60	88	54.8	2.5	60.6	54.9
3/13/2023	0.12	0.00	428	15.2 Y	71.3	52.3	59.1	100	65	89 Y	55.8 Y	2.5	59.5	56.2
3/14/2023	0.00	0.49	72	15.5 Y	59.2	54.8 Y	57.1	100	90	97 Y	56.3 Y	4.9	116.9	57.3
3/15/2023	0.04	0.24 H	217	13.6	57.7	48.8	53.4	100	90	98	52.8	3.6	86.8	57.2
3/16/2023	0.12	0.12 H	471	12.0	65.2	48.3	54.1	100	60	84	49.3	2.4	57.4	57.0
3/17/2023	0.12 R	0.11 H	454	12.2	68.1	44.9	54.6	100	57	84	49.8	1.8	43.5	57.4
3/18/2023	0.12 R	0.06 H	376	8.5	73.1	40.6	56.9	100	23	54	40.3	2.6	63.0	57.8
3/19/2023	0.07	0.02	225	10.9	63.5	50.9	56.5	98	52	70	46.7	3.6	86.8	57.7
3/20/2023	0.06	0.01	246	12.5	62.6	49.9	54.4	100	65	87	50.5	2.7	64.9	57.5
3/21/2023	0.05	1.23	208	10.8	57.0	45.3	50.5	100	72	87	46.6	5.8	139.4	57.3
3/22/2023	0.09	0.56	353	11.1	59.4	44.4	50.5	100	66	89	47.3	2.9	68.6	56.3
3/23/2023	0.08	0.30 H	331	10.6	58.3	42.3	50.5	100	61	85	46.2	3.9	92.4	56.2
3/24/2023	0.16	0.00	577 R	8.1	63.0	41.9	51.1	91	38	64	39.2	5.7	138.0	56.1
3/25/2023	0.17	0.03 H	586 R	7.0	62.6	39.3	50.7	85	35	56	35.5	5.2	123.8	55.7
3/26/2023	0.16	0.01 H	563	7.6	62.7	33.8	48.2	95	38	66	37.3	4.1	97.5	55.4
3/27/2023	0.16 R	0.00	563	6.9	69.4	30.5	48.5	100	22	60	35.1	2.5	60.9	55.2
3/28/2023	0.15	0.02	508	8.1	67.9	33.9	50.4	100	26	65	39.1	3.7	88.4	55.3
3/29/2023	0.09	0.30	385	10.4	59.9	43.6	49.7	100	61	86	45.6	3.1	75.1	55.7
3/30/2023	0.12	0.39 R	477 H	9.6 H	60.7	40.4	48.8 H	100 H	56 H	82	43.6	3.2 H	77.1 H	55.8 H
3/31/2023	0.14 R	0.07 H	514	9.9	63.6	36.8	49.3	100	58	82	44.2	2.9	69.2	55.8
Tots/Avgs	3.10	5.86	386	10.5	62.9	42.2	51.4	99	56	80	45.2	3.3	78.6	54.8

# Santa Ynez - Central Coast Valleys - Station 64

Date	ETo (in)	Precip (in)	Sol Rad (Ly/day)	Avg Vap Pres (mBars)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Rel Hum (%)	Min Rel Hum (%)	Avg Rel Hum (%)	Dew Point (°F)	Avg Wind Speed (mph)	Wind Run (miles)	Avg Soll Temp (°F)	
4/1/2023	0.15	0.00	568	10.1	69.9	37.2	50.1	100	53	82	44.9	3.0	71.2	55.9	
4/2/2023	0.16 R	0.00	600	10.5	66.7	37.2	50.8	100	61	83	45.9	3.9	93.5	56.3	
Tots/Avgs	0.31	0.00	584	10.3	68.3	37.2	50.5	100	57	83	45.4	3.5	82.4	56.1	

	Flag Legend	
A - Historical Average	I - Ignore	R - Far out of normal range
C or N - Not Collected	M - Missing Data	S - Not in service
H - Hourly Missing or Flagged Data	Q - Related Sensor Missing	Y - Moderately out of range
	Conversion Factors	



### CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

### MEMORANDUM

April 11, 2023

то:	Ray Stokes, Executive Director Dessi Mladenova, Controller
FROM:	Christine Forsyth, Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT:	Monthly Water Deliveries

According to the CCWA revenue meters at each turnout, the following deliveries were made during the month of March 2023:

Project Participant Chorro	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Chorro	
López	91.70
Shandon	0.00
Guadalupe	
Santa Maria	
Golden State Water Co	0.41
Vandenberg	0.00
Buellton	
Solvang	
Santa Ynez ID#1	0.00
Bradbury	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	699.27

Due to needed pipeline operations, 17 acre-feet (AF) was accumulated in the pipeline reservoirs in February. These same reservoirs were returned to original levels in early March. In order to reconcile deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 722 AF, the deliveries will be reconciled to 722 + 17 = 739 AF. The allocation of water is based on the total deliveries of February and March combined. This results in the following delivery amounts that will be used for billing purposes:

<u>Project Participant</u> Chorro	Delivery Amount (acre-feet) 
López	
Shandon	0
Guadalupe	
Santa Maria	
Golden State Water Co	
Vandenberg	0
Buellton	
Solvang	
Santa Ynez ID#1	0
Bradbury	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	739

\*Golden State Water Company delivered 0 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 0 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 0 acre-feet of exchange water.

The exchange water is allocated as follows

Project Participant	Exchange Amount (acre-feet)
Goleta	0
Santa Barbara	0
Montecito	0
Carpinteria	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

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

cc: Tom Bunosky, GWD Mike Babb, Golden State WC Rebecca Bjork, City of Santa Barbara Janet Gingras, COMB Craig Kesler, San Luis Obispo County Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez RWCD ID#1 Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria Shannon Sweeney, City of Guadalupe Robert MacDonald, Carpinteria Valley WD Mike Alvarado, La Cumbre Mutual WC Pernell Rush, Vandenberg AFB Nick Turner, Montecito WD Jose Acosta, City of Solvang Rose Hess, City of Buellton

# REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DELIVERY RECORDS AND ASSOCIATED CALCULATIONS

John Brady

Deputy Director, Operations and Engineering Central Coast Water Authority State of California

California Natural Resources Agency

# NOTICE TO STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS



Date: 3/24/2023

Number: 23-07

Subject: Increase of State Water Project 2023 Allocation to 75 Percent

Jed. Craddart

From:

Ted Craddock Deputy Director, State Water Project Department of Water Resources

Above average precipitation from late February to date continues to contribute inflows into State Water Project (SWP) reservoirs and increase the snowpack in the Sierras. Therefore, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is increasing the State Water Project (SWP) allocation from 35 to 75 percent of most<sup>1</sup> SWP contractors' Maximum Annual Table A amounts.

In determining available SWP supplies, DWR has considered several factors including SWP contractors' projected 2023 demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, SWP operational and regulatory requirements from the federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority. DWR may revise the SWP allocation if warranted depending on the rest of the year's hydrologic conditions and available SWP water supplies.

DWR will develop the 75 percent water delivery schedules by prorating the existing schedules submitted by the Contractors in October 2022 (as part of initial requests), including any subsequent updates that may have been provided to DWR. If a contractor foresees any changes to their water delivery schedule, please communicate such changes to DWR in a timely manner.

With the 2023 SWP allocation above 40 percent, according to the "Draft Guidelines for State Water Project Allocation for Human Health and Safety Need Pursuant to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Attachment A presents these allocations.

State of California

Article 18a of Water Supply Contracts," dated March, 28, 2022, SWP contractors with a 2022 *SWP HH&S balance* shall schedule a portion of their 2023 Table A allocation as payback to DWR of their 2022 *SWP HH&S balance*.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact John Leahigh, Assistant Division Manager, Water Management, SWP Division of Operations and Maintenance, at (916) 902-9876.

Attachment A: Updated 2023 SWP Allocation Table

# Attachment A 2023 State Water Project Allocation Updated 3/24/2023

SWP Contractors	Maximum Table A Amount (Acre-Feet)	Initial Table A Request Amount (Acre-Feet)	Approved Table A Allocation (Acre-Feet)	Approved Allocation as a Percetage of Initial Request	
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (3)/(2)
FEATHER RIVER					
County of Butte		27,500	27,500	27,500	100%
Plumas County FC&WCD		2,700	2,700	2,025	75%
City of Yuba City		9,600	9,600	8,160	85%
	ubtotal	39,800	39,800	37,685	
NORTH BAY				- 12,020A	
Napa County FC&WCD		29,025	29,025	24,672	85%
Solano County WA		47,756	47,756	40,593	85%
S	ubtotal	76,781	76,781	65,265	
SOUTH BAY					
Alameda County FC&WCD, Zone	7	80,619	80,619	60,465	75%
Alameda County WD		42,000	42,000	31,500	75%
Santa Clara Valley WD		100,000	100,000	75,000	75%
	ubtotal	222,619	222,619	166,965	*********
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY			,		
Oak Flat WD		5,700	5,700	4,275	75%
County of Kings		9,305	9,305	6,979	75%
Dudley Ridge WD		41,350	41,350	31,013	75%
Empire West Side ID		3,000	3,000	2,250	75%
Kern County WA		982,730	982,730	737,048	75%
Tulare Lake Basin WSD		87,471	87,471	65,604	75%
	ubtotal	1,129,556	1,129,556	847,169	
CENTRAL COASTAL	abtotal	-,,	.,,		
San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD	)	25,000	25,000	18,750	75%
Santa Barbara County FC&WCD		45,486	45,486	34,115	75%
	ubtotal	70,486	70,486	52,865	·······
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA		,	,	,- ••	
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA		144,844	144,844	108,633	75%
Santa Clarita Valley WA		95,200	95,200	71,400	75%
Coachella Valley WD		138,350	138,350	103,763	75%
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WA		5,800	5,800	4,350	75%
Desert WA		55,750	55,750	41,813	75%
Littlerock Creek ID		2,300	2,300	1,725	75%
Metropolitan WDSC		1,911,500	1,911,500	1,433,625	75%
Mojave WA		89,800	89,800	67,350	75%
Palmdale WD		21,300	21,300	15,975	75%
San Bernardino Valley MWD		102,600	102,600	76,950	75%
San Gabriel Valley MWD		28,800	28,800	21,600	75%
San Gorgonio Pass WA		17,300	17,300	12,975	75%
Ventura County WPD		20,000	20,000	15,000	75%
	ubtotal	2,633,544	2,633,544	1,975,159	
	astotul				
TOTAL		4,172,786	4,172,786	3,145,108	75%

# Historical Archive and Report Database

# Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 4/4/2023

						March 202	3						
		STORAGE	ACRE-FEET	COMPUTED*	CCWA	PRECIP ON	RELEASE - AF.				EVAPO	VAPORATION	PRECIP
DAY	ELEV	IN LAKE	CHANGE	INFLOW AF.	INFLOW AF.	RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH	INCHES
	752.12	190,578							1				
1	752.05	190,363	-215	6,041.0	0.0	156.4	35.1	8.5	229.0	6,124.0	15.6	0.080	0.61
2	752.12	190,578	215	6,646.0	0.0	0.0	35.2	8.4	227.0	6,139.0	21.5	0.110	0.00
3	751.73	189,377	-1,201	5,202.0	0.0	0.0	32.8	8.5	226.0	6,116.0	19.4	0.100	0.00
4	751.17	187,666	-1,711	4,583.0	0.0	0.0	33.8	8.4	229.0	6,009.0	13.5	0.070	0.00
5	751.19	187,697	31	4,256.0	0.0	111.8	34.0	8.4	229.0	4,056.0	9.7	0.050	0.44
6	751.13	187,544	-153	4,058.0	0.0	27.9	32.4	8.5	226.0	3,970.0	1.9	0.010	0.11
7	751.00	187,148	-396	3,873.0	0.0	0.0	40.9	8.4	231.0	3,964.0	25.0	0.130	0.00
8	750.76	186,417	-731	3,515.0	0.0	0.0	46.2	8.4	222.0	3,950.0	19.2	0.100	0.00
9	749.79	183,488	-2,929	2,728.0	0.0	0.0	44.8	8.5	229.0	5,359.0	15.2	0.080	0.00
10	748.94	180,949	-2,539	7,406.0	0.0	0.0	46.4	8.3	226.0	9,647.0	16.9	0.090	0.00
11	750.13	184,513	3,564	12,034.0	0.0	0.0	45.3	8.3	230.0	8,186.0	0.0	0.000	0.00
12	750.28	184,965	452	8,895.0	0.0	0.0	43.8	8.0	218.0	8,160.0	13.4	0.070	0.00
13	749.91	183,850	-1,115	7,308.0	0.0	0.0	42.6	8.4	227.0	8,137.0	7.6	0.040	0.00
14	747.83	177,670	-6,180	6,904.0	0.0	46.4	42.6	8.3	227.0	12,821.0	31.5	0.170	0.19
15	748.05	178,318	648	11,696.0	0.0	310.9	45.3	8.2	226.0	11,079.0	0.0	0.000	1.27
16	749.91	183,850	5,532	10,773.0	0.0	0.0	44.5	8.3	117.0	5,062.0	9.5	0.050	0.00
17	750.75	186,386	2,536	7,031.0	0.0	0.0	47.8	8.4	43.0	4,365.0	30.7	0.160	0.00
18	751.29	188,032	1,646	5,870.0	0.0	0.0	45.8	8.4	43.0	4,125.0	2.1	0.011	0.00
19	751.61	189,007	975	5,182.0	0.0	7.7	45.0	8.5	43.0	4,097.0	21.3	0.110	0.03
20	751.47	188,581	-426	4,693.0	0.0	2.5	44.7	8.5	42.0	5,020.0	5.8	0.030	0.01
21	751.13	187,544	-1,037	4,704.0	0.0	167.5	47.1	8.4	43.0	5,791.0	19.3	0.100	0.66
22	751.30	188,063	519	8,467.0	0.0	317.9	46.1	8.5	43.0	8,168.0	0.0	0.000	1.25
23	751.73	189,377	1,314	10,474.0	0.0	66.4	46.4	8.5	45.0	9,115.0	11.7	0.060	0.26
24	751.85	189,747	370	8,532.0	0.0	5.1	45.3	8.5	44.0	8,065.0	3.9	0.020	0.02
25	751.67	189,192	-555	7,496.0	0.0	0.0	47.1	8.5	44.0	7,922.0	29.1	0.150	0.00
26	751.55	188,824	-368	5,920.0	0.0	0.0	45.8	8.5	44.0	6,159.0	31.0	0.160	0.00
27	751.80	189,592	768	5,056.0	0.0	0.0	46.9	8.5	44.0	4,159.0	29.1	0.150	0.00
28	751.89	189,870	278	4,819.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	8.5	232.0	4,232.0	23.3	0.120	0.00
29	751.58	188,916	-954	4,858.0	0.0	107.1	42.3	8.5	252.0	5,597.0	19.4	0.100	0.42
30	751.43	188,459	-457	5,736.0	0.0	160.4	32.4	8.5	251.0	6,036.0	25.2	0.130	0.63
31	751.48	188,611	152	5,447.0	0.0	12.7	27.9	8.5	138.0	5,114.0	19.4	0.100	0.05
TOTAL	S	and a state of the second	-1,967	the second	0.0	1,500.7	1,301.3	261.0	4,870.0	196,744.0	491.2	2,551	5.95
AVERA	CE	186 922		(a. (1), a) - bits ( ) () (a. a)() (a. a)(a)(a)		A - to a to from A		Committee of a construction				······	the second second

AVERAGE 186,922

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.

— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION



# Historical Archive and Report Database Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 4/13/2023

						April 2023	3						
	STORAGE ACRE-FEET			COMPUTED*	CCWA	CCWA PRECIP ON		RELEASE - AF.			EVAPORATION		PRECIP
DAY	ELEV	IN LAKE	CHANGE	INFLOW AF.	INFLOW AF.	RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY	AF.	INCH	INCHES
	751.48	188,611		and the second sec	n normanian and and	and the second			a second a second s	n anna a' stàiteann ann ann ann an C	1		1
1	751.62	189,038	427	4,793.0	: 0.0'	0.0	29.0	8.5	42.0	4,270.0	16.3	0.080	0.00
2	751.77	189,500	462	4,510.0	0.0	0.0	28.1	8.5	43.0	3,936.0	32.7	0.160	0.00
3	751.85	189,747	247	4,290.0	0.0	0.0	27.6	8.5	43.0	3,943.0	20.5	0.100	0.00
4	751.82	189,654	-93	3,942.0	0.0	0.0	34.4	8.5	42.0	3,944.0	5.7	0.028	0.00
5	751.77	189,500	-154	3,912.0	0.0	0.0	35.7	8.5	43.0	3,942.0	36.8	0.180	0.00
6	751.68	189,223	-277	3,751.0	0.0	0.0	37.2	8.5	43.0	3,937.0	2.5	0.012	0.00
7	751.51	188,703	-520	3,531.0	0.0	0.0	36.6	8.6	43.0	3,928.0	34.7	0.170	0.00
8	751.25	187,910	-793	3,254.0	0.0	0.0	43.2	8.5	42.0	3,917.0	36.6	0.180	0.00
9	751.14	187,575	-335	3,473.0	0.0	0.0	42.2	8.5	43.0	3,682.0	32.5	0.160	0.00
10									0.0				
11									0.0				
12				i fa la cal la classica e	and and the second	the state of the state of the			0.0				
TOTAL	S		-1,036	35,456.0	0.0	0.0	314.0	76.6	384.0	35,499.0	218.3	1.070	0.00
AVERA	GE	188,983	1			· ····································							

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.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

SCC-440 2.2.4.21

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Matthew Young Deputy Public Works Director Santa Barbara County Water Agency 130 East Victoria Street, Suite 200 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 mcyoung@countyofsb.org

# Subject: Cachuma Project Updated Allocation for Water Year 2023 (WY 2023) (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023) – Contract No. I75r-1802RA (Contract) – Cachuma Project, California

Dear Mr. Young:

I apologize for my delay in responding to your letter dated January 23, 2023, regarding the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's (Water Agency) "Cachuma Project Water Year 2022-23 Mid-Year Allocation Request," which also enclosed the Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) letter dated January 20, 2023.

The Member Units letter requests a full allocation of 25,714 acre-feet based on current reservoir level of storage. The Water Agency also requests that a full 25,714 acre-feet of Available Supply be allocated due to the above normal rainfall received this winter.

Pursuant to Article 3(b) of the Contract, this letter serves as notice of the WY 2023 updated allocation for the Cachuma Project. Based on current reservoir levels and forecast data, the Project Water being made available to the Member Units out of the Available Supply in Cachuma Reservoir is 100% of the contract total, which equals 25,714 acre-feet.

Please also be advised that all previously stored carryover of both Project Water and Non-Project water was fully evacuated from Lake Cachuma as a result of recent storm events that included Spillway Gates and Outlet Works releases.

If you should have any questions, please contact Rain Emerson, Acting Contracts Branch Chief at (559) 262-0350, via email at remerson@usbr.gov or for the hearing impaired at TDD (800) 877-8339.

Sincerely, Michael P. Jackson MICHAEL JACKSON Michael P. Jackson, P.E. Area Manager

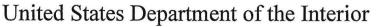
Enclosure: Santa Barbara County Water Agency Correspondence – Cachuma Project Water Year 2022-2023 Mid-Year Allocation Request Dated January 23, 2023

cc's continued next page.

**INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN** 

CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*, OREGON\*

\* PARTIAL



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION South-Central California Area Office 1243 N Street Fresno, CA 93721-1813



cc's continued from previous page.

cc: Ms. Janet Gingras Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board 3301 Laurel Canyon Road Santa Barbara, CA 93105 jgingras@cachuma-board.org

Mr. Robert McDonald Carpinteria Valley Water District 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue Carpinteria, CA 93013 bob@cvwd.net

Mr. John McInnes Goleta Water District 4699 Hollister Avenue Goleta, CA 93110 jmcinnes@goletawater.com (all w/enclosure) Mr. Nicholas Turner Montecito Water District 583 Ysidro Road Montecito, CA 93150 nturner@montecitowater.com

Mr. Joshua Haggmark City of Santa Barbara 630 Garden Street Santa Barbara, CA 93102 jhaggmark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Mr. Paeter Garcia Santa Ynez River Water Conversation District Improvement District No. 1 P.O. Box 157 Santa Ynez, CA 93460 pgarcia@syrwd.org



Santa Barbara County Public Works Department

Flood Control \* Water Agency \* Project Clean Water 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 PH (805) 568-3440 FAX (805) 568-3434 http://cosb.countyofsb.org/pwd/water

SCOTT D. MCGOLPIN Director WALTER RUBALCAVA Deputy Director

January 23, 2023

Mr. Michael Jackson, PE, Area Manager South-Central California Area Office United States Bureau of Reclamation 1243 "N" Street Fresno, CA 93721-1813

RE: Cachuma Project Water Year2022-2023 Mid-Year Allocation Request

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Cachuma Water Service Contract 175r-1802R as amended by Amendatory Contract No. 175r-1802RA, in the allocation letter for Water Year 2022-2023 dated September 1, 2022, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) requested the right to make a mid-year allocation request should the winter bring inflow that yielded additional Project Water.

As you are aware, this winter we have received above normal rainfall and several high intensity storms that have produced considerable runoff and additional water available for the Cachuma Member Units (Member Units). On January 20, 2023, the Water Agency received the enclosed letter from the Member Units requesting a full allocation based on available supply. On behalf of the Member Units, the Water Agency requests that a full 25,714 acre-feet of Available Supply be allocated for Water Year 2022-2023.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 805-568-3436.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Young, Water Agency Manager

Enclosure: Revised Notice on Behalf of All Cachuma Member Units Specifying Total Quantity of Available Supply Requested for Water Year 2022-23

CC: Ms. Janet Gingras, COMB Mr. Paeter Garcia, SYRWCD ID#1 Mr. John McInnis, Goleta Water District Mr. Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara Mr. Nicholas Turner, Montecito Water District Mr. Robert McDonald, Carpinteria Water District



# 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

January 20, 2023

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

### RE: Revised Notice on Behalf of All Cachuma Member Units Specifying Total Quantity of Available Supply Requested for Water Year 2022-23

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. 175r-1802RA (September 28, 2020) ("Master Contract")), the Cachuma Project Member Units acting jointly hereby provide a Revised Notice to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency requesting allocation of all Available Supply from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) during the remainder of Water Year 2022-23, which commenced October 1, 2022.

On September 1, 2022, the Cachuma Member Units submitted a joint Notice to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency specifying the total available supply requested for Water Year 2022-23. In that letter, the Cachuma Member Units reserved the right to submit a revised allocation in the event the Cachuma Project experienced significant inflow during the winter to account for any increased water availability.

There is currently an estimated 184,116 acre-feet (AF) in storage in the Cachuma Project with lake levels rising, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency has projected that Lake Cachuma may spill in the coming weeks. This level of storage supports, and the Cachuma Member Units hereby request, a full allocation of 25,714 AF of Available Supply in Water Year 2022-23 to meet the Cachuma Member Units' request. 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.

This Revised Notice incorporates by reference the delivery schedules for each respective agency over Water Year 2022-23 and estimate of projected water deliveries previously submitted with the September 1, 2023 Notice.

Sincerely,

[Signatures to follow on next page]

John McInnes General Manager Goleta Water District By: John McInnes

Joshua Haggmark Water Resources Manager City<u>of Senta Bar</u>bara

Joshua Haggmark By:

Nicholas Turner General Manager Montegito Water District

By: Mcholas Turner

Robert McDonald General Manager Carpint<u>gria Malley</u> Water District

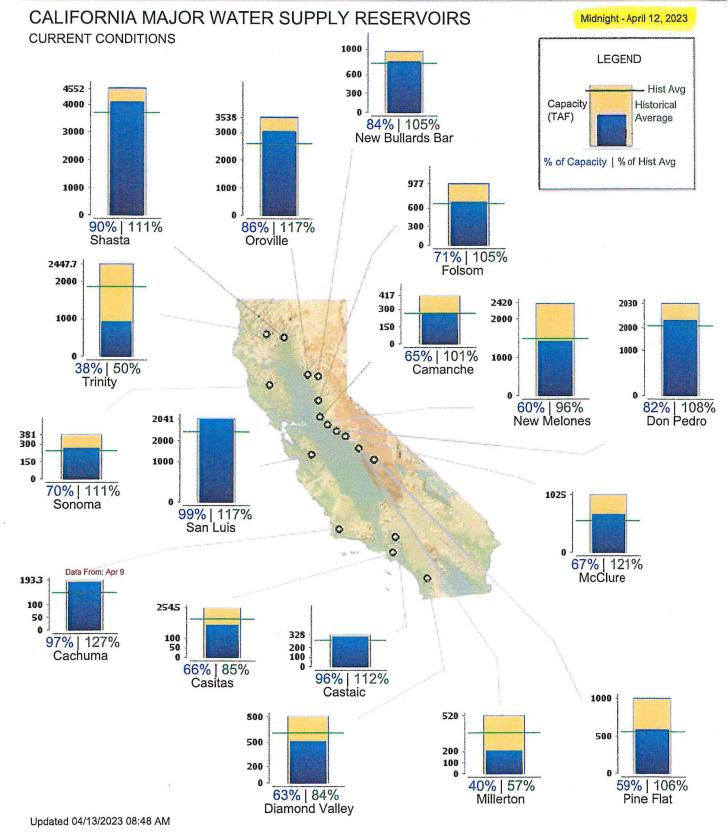
By: Robert McDonald

Paeter Garcia General Manager Santa Ypezs Biver, Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1

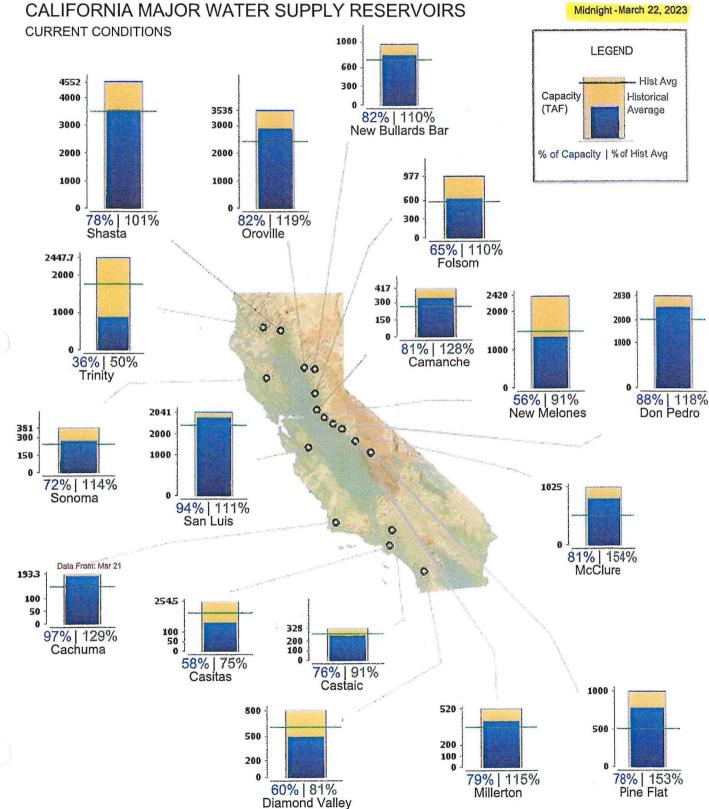
Parter Garcia By: -E0C0041A0C11409...

Cc: Michael Jackson, PE, Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office, United States Bureau of Reclamation

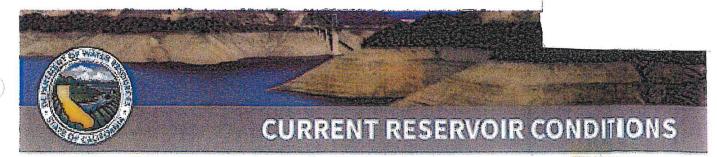
# Agenda Item 9 A2

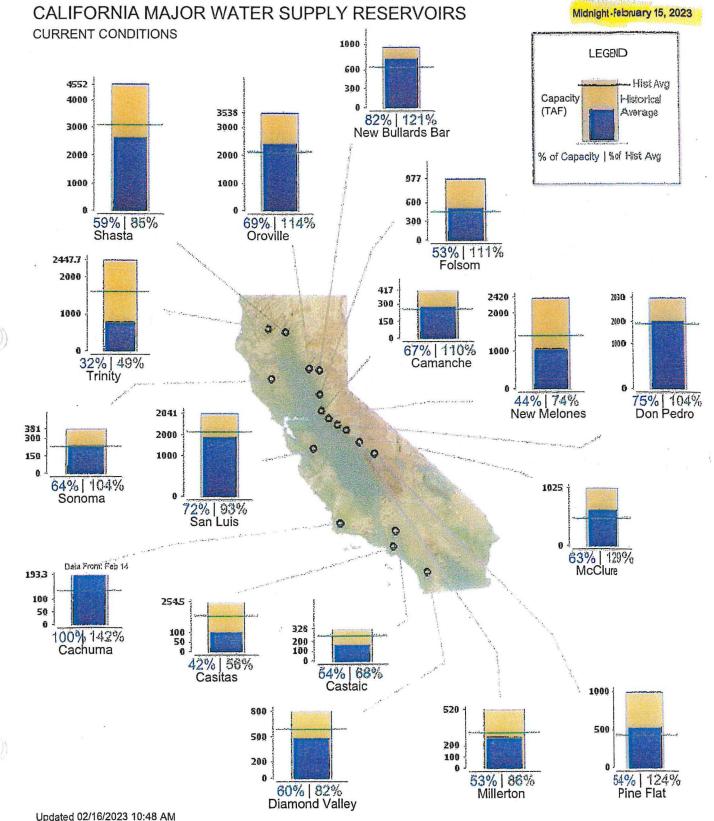


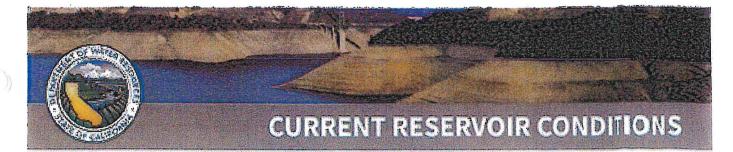
# CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

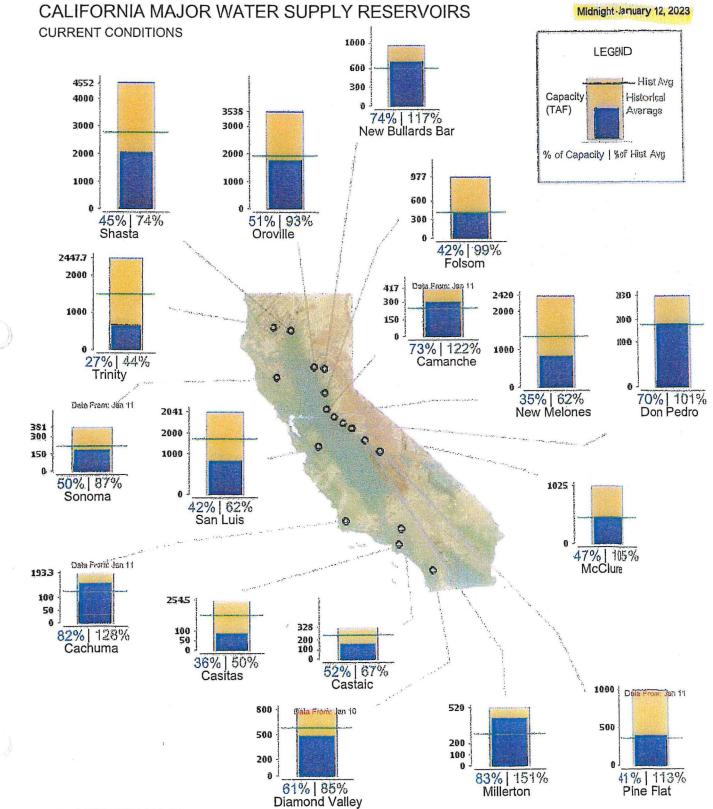


Updated 03/23/2023 01:48 PM



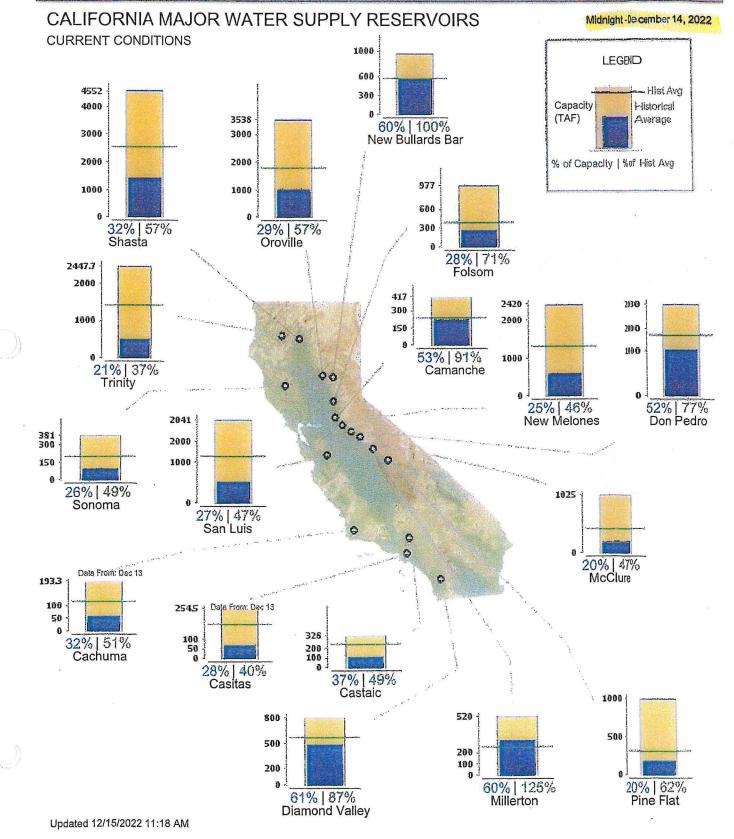






Updated 01/13/2023 11:48 AM

# CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



State of California

# NOTICE TO STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS



Date: 3/24/2023

Number: 23-07

Subject: Increase of State Water Project 2023 Allocation to 75 Percent

Jed Craddad

From:

Ted Craddock Deputy Director, State Water Project Department of Water Resources

Above average precipitation from late February to date continues to contribute inflows into State Water Project (SWP) reservoirs and increase the snowpack in the Sierras. Therefore, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is increasing the State Water Project (SWP) allocation from 35 to 75 percent of most<sup>1</sup> SWP contractors' Maximum Annual Table A amounts.

In determining available SWP supplies, DWR has considered several factors including SWP contractors' projected 2023 demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, SWP operational and regulatory requirements from the federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority. DWR may revise the SWP allocation if warranted depending on the rest of the year's hydrologic conditions and available SWP water supplies.

DWR will develop the 75 percent water delivery schedules by prorating the existing schedules submitted by the Contractors in October 2022 (as part of initial requests), including any subsequent updates that may have been provided to DWR. If a contractor foresees any changes to their water delivery schedule, please communicate such changes to DWR in a timely manner.

With the 2023 SWP allocation above 40 percent, according to the "Draft Guidelines for State Water Project Allocation for Human Health and Safety Need Pursuant to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Attachment A presents these allocations.

State of California

Article 18a of Water Supply Contracts," dated March, 28, 2022, SWP contractors with a 2022 SWP HH&S balance shall schedule a portion of their 2023 Table A allocation as payback to DWR of their 2022 SWP HH&S balance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact John Leahigh, Assistant Division Manager, Water Management, SWP Division of Operations and Maintenance, at (916) 902-9876.

Attachment A: Updated 2023 SWP Allocation Table

# Attachment A 2023 State Water Project Allocation Updated 3/24/2023

SWP Contractors	Maximum Table A Amount (Acre-Feet)	Initial Table A Request Amount (Acre-Feet)	Approved Table A Allocation (Acre-Feet)	Approved Allocation as a Percetage of Initial Request
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (3)/(2)
FEATHER RIVER				
County of Butte	27,500	27,500	27,500	100%
Plumas County FC&WCD	2,700	2,700	2,025	75%
City of Yuba City	9,600	9,600	8,160	85%
Subtotal	39,800	39,800	37,685	
NORTH BAY				
Napa County FC&WCD	29,025	29,025	24,672	85%
Solano County WA	47,756	47,756	40,593	85%
Subtotal	76,781	76,781	65,265	
SOUTH BAY				
Alameda County FC&WCD, Zone 7	80,619	80,619	60,465	75%
Alameda County WD	42,000	42,000	31,500	75%
Santa Clara Valley WD	100,000	100,000	75,000	75%
Subtotal	222,619	222,619	166,965	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY				
Oak Flat WD	5,700	5,700	4,275	75%
County of Kings	9,305	9,305	6,979	75%
Dudley Ridge WD	41,350	41,350	31,013	75%
Empire West Side ID	3,000	3,000	2,250	75%
Kern County WA	982,730	982,730	737,048	75%
Tulare Lake Basin WSD	87,471	87,471	65,604	75%
Subtotal	1,129,556	1,129,556	847,169	
CENTRAL COASTAL				
San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD	25,000	25,000	18,750	75%
Santa Barbara County FC&WCD	45,486	45,486	34,115	75%
Subtotal	70,486	70,486	52,865	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA				
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	144,844	144,844	108,633	75%
Santa Clarita Valley WA	95,200	95,200	71,400	75%
Coachella Valley WD	138,350	138,350	103,763	75%
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WA	5,800	5,800	4,350	75%
Desert WA	55,750	55,750	41,813	75%
Littlerock Creek ID	2,300	2,300	1,725	75%
Metropolitan WDSC	1,911,500	1,911,500	1,433,625	75%
Mojave WA	89,800	89,800	67,350	75%
Palmdale WD	21,300	21,300		75%
San Bernardino Valley MWD	102,600	102,600	76,950	75%
San Gabriel Valley MWD	28,800	28,800	21,600	75%
San Gorgonio Pass WA	17,300	17,300	12,975	75%
Ventura County WPD	20,000	20,000	15,000	75%
Subtotal	2,633,544	2,633,544	1,975,159	
TOTAL	4,172,786	4,172,786	3,145,108	75%

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CAPITOL ALERT

**Capitol Alert** 

# Where will California's record snowpack melt into floods? It's complicated

**BY ARI PLACHTA** 

UPDATED APRIL 12, 2023 12:49 PM



X



A farming ranch is surrounded by floodwater in the old Tulare Lake basin area of Kings County south of Corcoran in March. CRAIG KOHLRUSS ckohlruss@fresnobee.com



Only have a minute? Listen inste... Powered by Trinity Audio 00:00

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After months of <u>heavy rain</u> across California and record snow in the southern Sierra Nevada, state officials warn that melting snow could turn into flooding as the state's skies turn sunnier this spring and summer.

The Tulare Lake and San Joaquin River basins, which already saw storm flooding this year, are of particular concern. But specific predictions remain elusive despite new forecast data, as water managers continue to crunch numbers.

What's clear is that runoff from melting snow could surge to dangerous levels with higher than expected temperatures, particularly in Southern California. And if residents of the Golden State have come to expect anything, it's weather that deviates from historical averages.

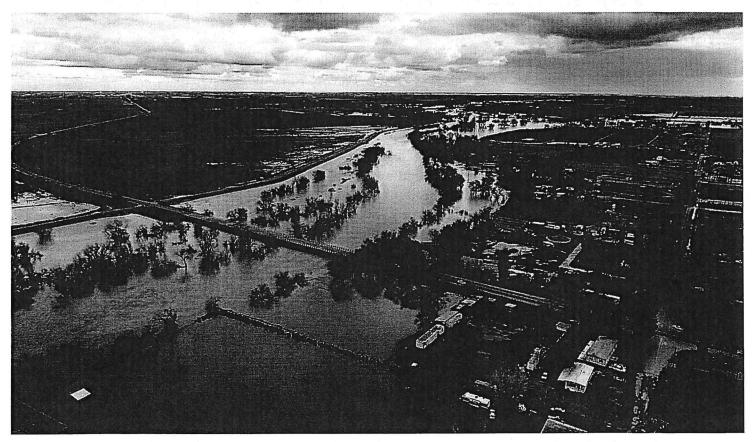
"For any data that a forecast produces, there's uncertainty in future conditions," said David Rizzardo, hydrology manager at the Department of Water Resources. "For these last ten years we've seen a lot of extremes... forecasting procedures are trying to adapt to that."

Northern California rivers, including the American and the Sacramento, are forecast for a typical wet year with sustained high flows based on more than 100% of historical average runoff. The region simply has more water infrastructure — dams and reservoirs that captured much of the wet season's downpour, said Jeffrey Mount, senior fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California Water Policy Center.

It's the San Joaquin Valley waterways in the state's south that are now in uncharted territory, with runoff expected reach over 400% of historical averages along the Kern River. Runoff flows could be nearly as high in the Tulare Lake Basin, according to <u>runoff forecast data</u> from the Department of Water Resources.

Before making modeled predictions for where exactly melting snow could turn into flooding, officials said they need more data on reservoir operations and agricultural water needs across the state's tightly managed water system. But Mount cautions against putting trust in those forecasts.

"What we know is there will be extensive flooding. It's going to be big and highly disruptive but will slowly unfold and hopefully not kill anybody," Mount said. "But because were at the edge of our models, they're not going to be very good... When we have extremes, either very wet or very dry, we often discover the weaknesses in our models."



Some residents living on Ash Avenue were flooded by the San Joaquin River in Patterson, Calif. Photographed Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Andy Alfaro *aalfaro@modbee.com* 

As of Tuesday, the National Weather Service's River Forecast Center <u>shows</u> that the San Joaquin River at Modesto, Vernalis, Patterson, Newman and Stevinson is above monitor stage, indicating a potential to approach flood conditions.

Rapidly melting snow is one cause of potential flooding, but water released from dams can also compound already high river flows. The town of Hanford south of Fresno, for example, is under a <u>flood advisory notice</u> because of a dam floodgate release.

Managers of California's intricate network of reservoirs and canals are now attempting to strike a balance between moving enough water and not too much. The goal is to make room for snow melt while preserving fullness for future dry periods.

The Department of Water Resources data will be handed off to dam operators, including the federal Army Corps of Engineers, who will compare it to historic patterns to decide when and where to release water from full reservoirs.

Those decisions will also be driven by information on water demand from cities and agriculture, said Jenny Fromm, chief of the Corps water management section. She said to expect releases from dams in the San Joaquin and Tulare watersheds throughout the spring, and even into the summer, to create space in reservoirs in anticipation of melting snow.

"It's the rock and a hard place with the reservoirs. Do you release that water and make a little bit more room for the potential of more snow and rain?" said Jeremy Arrich, manager of the DWR flood management division. "But if we release the water and don't fill that reservoir we'd be under a lot of pressure for the opposite side."

DWR said after reservoir managers and irrigation districts make their estimates, the agency can begin to forecast and prepare for flooding in particular parts of the state and make preparations to protect public safety and property.

"Once we understand a good depiction of what is at risk, overlaying that with some of these thresholds and triggers will help us get to the point where we know where to where to focus resources," said Arrich. State officials recommended that residents of the San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin pay attention to local emergency responders and plan evacuation routes in case of flooding. But weather is the ultimate arbiter, said state climatologist Michael Anderson.

It's the long periods of high temperatures in May and June that will melt <u>record</u> <u>snow</u> at peak rates. After a warmer week, mild temperatures are expected over the next several days in Sacramento and across Central California, according to the National Weather Service.

"This is a pattern that we'll see in April, where you get these warm periods and then some cooling as we pivot out of our wet season and move towards our dry season," said state climatologist Michael Anderson.

"How this year plays out will depend on the weather, how quickly we warm up and how much sunshine gets on that pack to get it ready to melt."

This story was originally published April 12, 2023, 6:00 AM.



Ari Plachta is a political enterprise reporter with a focus on environmental issues for The Sacramento Bee. Before reporting on drought for the Los Angeles Times and schools for the L.A. Daily News, she got her

#### NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

### GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

### HELD AT

### SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT 1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA (IN PERSON ONLY, NO REMOTE OR TELECONFERENCE OPTION)

#### AT 06:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

#### AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

- III. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee's jurisdiction. The total time for all public comment shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public comment item.)
- IV. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of January 26, and February 23, 2023
- V. Review and Consider Request for EMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 in the EMA for APN 141-440-011 Kylix Sanjo Cota
- VI. Receive update on March 2023 Water-Levels for the EMA
- VII. Review Revised Draft Policy Options for Well Verification Requests
- VIII. Consider approving and submitting the Second Annual Report for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin to DWR
- IX. Update on Required Conflict of Interest Form 700 Filings
- X. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA
- XI. EMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items
- XII. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and 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 Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

# Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

(https://www.santaynezwater.org/)

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THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

EMA GSA COMMITTEE MEETINGS (/EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-MEETINGS)

# APR EMA GSA Committee Regular 27 Meeting, 6:30 pm

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April 5, 2023

Brett Marymee, Chairman EMA GSA Art Hibbits, Chairman CMA GSA Chris Brooks, Chairman WMA GSA

c/o William (Bill) Buelow Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District 3669 Sagunto St. Suite 101 Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: GSA Committee Agricultural Representation

Gentlemen,

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, a nonprofit California corporation representing approximately 500 agricultural and associate members in Santa Barbara County, is concerned with the lack of agricultural representation on all 3 GSA committees representing the Santa Ynez River Water Basin.

Our members grow a wide variety of crops along with livestock operations within the basin that rely on groundwater that is integral to their operations and the local economy. Our farmers lead in adoption of low volume irrigation methods, such as drip, subsurface and micro irrigation systems.

It is estimated that in a wet year with above average precipitation, agriculture uses 30% of the available groundwater for irrigation, while in a dry year that share could increase to 50%.

Given agriculture's vested interest in maintaining a sustainable water supply in the Santa Ynez River Basin, we believe it is imperative that a representative from agriculture serves on each of the three current GSA Committees, with all members utilizing an equal voting structure. We understand the Santa Ynez Water Group has been actively involved in this process to date and would support candidates vetted by them to serve on the 3 GSA committees.

Sincerely,

/helo are

Sheldon Bosio, President. Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

### **Paeter Garcia**

From:	Doug Circle <doug@circlevision.com></doug@circlevision.com>
Sent:	Monday, March 13, 2023 10:20 AM
То:	Matt Young; Bill Buelow; kwalsh@syrwcd.com; Paeter Garcia; Jose Acosta; Brett
	Marymee; bjoos@srwd.org; Mark Infanti; jhartmann@countyofsb.org; Elizabeth Orona;
	ajs@cityofbuellton.com; Art Hibbits; cbrooks@vvcsd.org; sjordan@syrwcd.com;
	j_ball@ci.lompoc.ca.us
Subject:	Santa Ynez Water Group Representation
Attachments:	SYWG Member List for GSA (2023.03.13).pdf

Over the past several months, the Santa Ynez Water Group (SYWG) has been working with individual GSA Committee member agencies regarding the overall governance of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). As part of that work, it has been requested that the SYWG inform each of the GSAs within the Basin regarding SYWG's membership.

Attached, you will find a list of SYWG's members. While this list does not include each member's name, it does include each member's acreage, crop type, and location in the Basin. You will see that our membership includes a vast majority of the agricultural landowners who rely on groundwater throughout the Basin. And these numbers are only growing.

SYWG believes that the Basin will be best served by including an agricultural representative in a participatory roll in governance.

If you nave any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Stay Healthy, Hungry, Humble, and Hopeful!

Douglas R. Circle President / CEO Circle Vision, LLC 17772 17th Street, Suite 107 Tustin, CA 92780 T 714.630.0299 D 657.444.5317 F 714.630.2399 C 714.742.1444 doug@circlevision.com

### Santa Ynez Water Group (SYWG) 501(c)6 Nonprofit As of : 3/3/23

Acres	Сгор Туре	GSA Area
792	Vine	EMA
100	Horse - Vine	EMA
21	Vine	EMA
58	Vine	EMA
55	Vine	EMA
10	Vine	EMA
335	Vine	EMA
200	Row crop	EMA
6300	Pasture, range	EMA
21.3	Vlne	EMA
67	Row crop	EMA
14	Vine	EMA
187	Horse	EMA
175	Vine	EMA
178	Vine	EMA
36.5	Vine	EMA
14.06	Vine	EMA
32	Vine	EMA
15	Vine	EMA
600	Vine	EMA
9210.86		
23	Vine	CMA
200	Vine	CMA
161	Vine	CMA
30	Horse	CMA
50	Vine	CMA
150	Horse - Vine	CMA
500	Vine	CMA
1114		
33	Vine	WMA
40	Vine	WMA
1338.6	Row crop	WMA
40	Vine	WMA
44	Vine	WMA
2000	Row crop	WMA
53	Vine	WMA
3548.6		

Subtotal of Acres: 13873.46 Acres of Vines: 3500.86 Acres of Row crop: 3605.6 Acres of Horses:

#### 467

### Acres of Pasture:

6300

Coastal Vineyard Care Associates is a member of SYWG and is authorized to act on behalf of the following parcels:

Acres	Crop Type	GSA Area
40.42	Vine	EMA
11.21	Vine	EMA
7.07	Vine	EMA
43.94	Vine	EMA
36.32	Vine	EMA
31.99	Vine	EMA
11.76	Vine	EMA
204.78	Vine	EMA
91.43	Vine	EMA
18.04	Vine	EMA
1.87	Vine	EMA
45.43	Vine	EMA
97.63	Vine	EMA
14.6	Vine	EMA
116.48	Vine	EMA
326.09	Vine	EMA
26.14	Vine	EMA
14.74	Vine	EMA
33.96	Vine	EMA
19.58	Vine	EMA
59.18	Vine	EMA
18.58	Vine	EMA
3	Vine	EMA
6.82	Vine	EMA
81.57	Vine	EMA
22.57	Vine	EMA
18.95	Vine	EMA
33.45	Vine	EMA
18.06	Vine	EMA
26.03	Vine	EMA
22.3	Vine	EMA
200	Vine	EMA
84.95	Vine	EMA
9.78	Vine	EMA
8.04	Vine	EMA
5.87	Vine	EMA
16.83	Vine	EMA
18.76	Vine	EMA
12.17	Vine	EMA
12.36	Vine	EMA
5.72	Vine	EMA
13.65	Vine	EMA
7.24	Vine	EMA

Acres	Crop Type	GSA Area
11.12	Vine	EMA
26.63	Vine	EMA
1.38	Vine	EMA
172.37	Vine	EMA
23.56	Vine	EMA
1	Vine	EMA
70.51	Vine	EMA
15	Vine	EMA
26.92	Vine	EMA
2.78	Vine	EMA
2.84	Vine	EMA
14.06	Vine	EMA
79.23	Vine	EMA
3.1	Vine	EMA
128.46	Vine	EMA
2478.32		
Acres	Crop Type	GSA Area
25.12	Vine	CMA
12.81	Vine	CMA
10.15	Vine	CMA
48.08		
Acres	Crop Type	GSA Area
6	Vine	WMA
23.93	Vine	WMA
60.82	Vine	WMA
29.53	Vine	WMA
12.13	Vine	WMA
1	Vine	WMA
97.31	Vine	WMA
212.79	Vine	WMA
133.03	Vine	WMA
50.81	Vine	WMA
2.97	Vine	WMA
20.77	Vine	WMA
236.37	Vine	WMA
92.12	Vine	WMA
4.65	Vine	WMA
97.87	Vine	WMA
4.5	Vine	WMA
6.63	Vine	WMA
15.26	Vine	WMA
225.93	Vine	WMA
38.54	Vine	WMA
1372.96		

Total Additional Acreage: 3899.36

### Santa Ynez Water Group Grand Total Acres 17,772.82

Total EMA Acres 11,689.18 Total CMA Acres 1,162.08 Total WMA Acres 4,921.56



Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture





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

# Winter Storms Provide Relief, Challenges for California Farmers In the interior West, record snow impacts ranchers

A relentless series of immense "atmospheric river" storm events has generated near-record snowpack in California's winter storms in March and a massive Sierra snowpack. DWR now expects to deliver 75 percent of requested water

> supplies, up from 35 percent announced in February. The increase translates to an additional 1.7 million acre-feet of water for the 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

"California continues to experience weather whiplash, going from extreme drought to at least 19 atmospheric rivers since late December. It really demonstrates that in times of plenty, we need to move as much water into storage as is feasible," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "We've been able to manage the system to the benefit of communities, agriculture and the environment. It's certainly been a welcome improvement

events has generated near-ro Sierra Nevada Mountains and saturated millions of acres of lowland areas, which will equate to improved water supplies for millions of Californians.

It also spells disaster for many California communities hit with destructive flooding and damage to agricultural land that farmers say will be costly to address and could take months before they can farm again. And, further inland, severe winter storms have created "once in a lifetime" blizzard conditions that are wreaking havoc on ranching operations in the Rockies and Great Plains.



California Department of Water Resources staff conduct the fourth snow survey of the season at Phillips Station on April 3, 2023. Photo courtesy of California DWR.

California Water Supplies Get Huge Boost

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) in late March announced a significant boost in the forecasted State Water Project (SWP) deliveries this year due to continued following the three driest years on record for California." DWR on April 3 conducted the fourth snow survey of the

season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 126.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 54 inches, which is 221 percent of average for this location on April 3.

**Continued on Page 2** 

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## California Water Supplies Get Huge Boost (Cont'd from Page 1)

"This year's result will go down as one of the largest snowpack years on record in California," said Sean de Guzman, manager of DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit.

The Bureau of Reclamation in late March also announced an increase in Central Valley Project 2023 water supply allocations. Since making initial allocations in February, Shasta Reservoir, the cornerstone of the Central Valley Project, increased from 59% to 81%, and San Luis Reservoir, the largest reservoir south-of-Delta, from 64% to

97%.

Based on the encouraging hydrology and forecasting, Reclamation announced that irrigation water service and repayment contractors north and south of the Delta would see allocations increased to 80% from 35% of their contract total.

Water Westlands District (Westlands) was one of the districts receiving the initial 35% allocation and were pleased to see the total upped to 80%

"For farmers and our Westside communities who have dealt with drought, and a 0% allocation these past two years, being in a position to have certainty of additional water supplies for the year to come will help them recuperate, hire and retain staff, and bolster their ability to continue feeding the world," said Jose Gutierrez, Westlands' interim general manager, at the time of the announcement.

While many farmers have already made planting decisions based on the initial allocation, the increase will enable farmers to reduce or temporarily eliminate groundwater pumping as well as recharge the aquifer.

Friant Division contractors' water supply is delivered from Millerton Reservoir on the upper San Joaquin River and categorized by Class 1 (the first 800,000 acre-feet of available water supply) and Class 2 (the next amount of available water supply up to 1.4 million acre-feet). Reclamation announced that Class 1 remained at 100%. Class 2 was previously increased from 20% to 70% on March 7.

#### Too Much of a Good Thing?

As the saying goes, "when it rains, it pours", and in this case, the damage caused by the storms has threatened California's vast agricultural production, which produces more than one-third of the nation's vegetables and three-quarters of the country's fruits and nuts, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

California Farm Bureau's Ag Alert reported that relentless storms brought destructive flooding to many California communities, such as in Tulare County near Exeter, where floodwater in citrus groves brought several feet of mud and debris.

Farmers say recovery will be costly and it will take months before they can return to farming.

"I saw drip lines strung out across the road because of the force of the water flowing through the orchard," Tulare County dairy and citrus farmer Tom Barcellos told Ag Alert. " It's going to be wet, muddy and full of silt for a long time."

Severe storms brought floodwater to Monterey County, displacing residents and damaging crops, such as berries in hoop houses above, west of Salinas near the Salinas River.

> Monterey County Farm Bureau estimates crop damage from the storms to exceed \$336 million.

Governor Gavin Newsom on April 3rd announced that the White House has approved California's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to further support the state's all-ofgovernment emergency response and recovery efforts amid severe storm impacts throughout the state.

"This declaration brings in more vital resources as we continue to work in lockstep with local, state and federal partners to support communities that have been turned upside down by these storms," said Governor Newsom. "First responders and state personnel are on the ground in hard-hit regions across California to assist the ongoing response and recovery."

The excess rain and floodwaters that have taken their toll on farms across the state could translate into higher food prices at the supermarket AccuWeather).

California's agriculture industry isn't just crucial for the country but also for the world's food supply. The state is the country's largest agricultural exporter and the nation's sole exporter of many

commodities such as almonds, artichokes, dates, garlic and much more, according to the California Agricultural Statistics Review 2020-2021.

"Here in California, we feed the world, not just the country," dairy farmer Johnny Dykstra told AccuWeather.

The damage caused by the multiple rounds of storms could affect the availability of these exports. While grocery prices are holding steady for now, they could rise in the coming weeks if crop losses or equipment damage worsen.

#### Water Managers Prep to Mitigate for Spring Flooding

All of that snow in the Sierra Nevada will start melting soon, and water managers on both sides of the mountain range are preparing for the deluge.

In response to record breaking snowpack conditions in the Sierra Nevada, the Bureau of Reclamation is working with

**Continued on Page 12** 

Page 2

San Joaquin Valley Tom Barcellos and his crew clear debris from under a bridge to keep floodwaters flowing. Photo courtesy of **Tom Barcellos.** 



# **Alliance Advances 2023 Farm Bill Platform**

While Congress is currently away from Washington on Easter recess, the Senate Agriculture Committee is preparing to ramp-up farm bill activity as policy ideas and support for those ideas is garnered and assessed.

"When it comes to public policy, if you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu. And we want you at the table," House Agriculture Committee Chair "GT" Thompson recently told an audience attending a recent Farm Bill listening session in Waco. "You don't want us writing this Farm Bill just listening to the voices inside the Beltway of Washington."

The Family Farm Alliance has been working with its allies in agriculture and the conservation community to advance its platform, which focused primarily on the farm bill's conservation title.

"We'll looking to fine-tune USDA conservation programs that deliver cross-sector benefits to farming and ranching and conservation," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "These programs need to deliver measurable conservation outcomes in a simple way, without harming environmental interests or program integrity."

The farm bill is an omnibus, multiyear law that is typically renewed about every five years. With enactment of the omnibus spending bill in December 2022, lawmakers laid the groundwork for battles to come in the next farm bill. The current farm bill expires at the end of September.

#### **Capitol Hill Politics**

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-Ark.), are finalizing a schedule that will drive discussion of major priorities and funding issues. Key spending challenges that have already surfaced include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and increasing reference prices in the Price Loss Coverage program.

SNAP eats up 80 percent of the farm bill's spending but must be hammered out to secure Democrat support for the farm bill. Republicans want to see expanded work requirements in SNAP, which will be strongly resisted by Democrats like Senator Stabenow.

"We cannot go backward at a time when our farmers and families need us most," Senator Stabenow said last month.

Senator Boozman, meanwhile, has called for more vigorous USDA enforcement of work requirements and for states to "no longer be allowed to game the system" through work requirement waivers, according to POLITICO.

Republicans on the House Ag Committee said during a hearing earlier this year that a new farm bill directly addresses federal regulations that they say are impeding production.

"[T]his administration continues to promote nonsensical regulations and policies that create needless uncertainty for farmers, ranchers and working families, further limiting our ability to meet the growing food demands of our nation and the world," Committee Chairman GT Thompson (D-PA) said in his opening comments at the hearing.

Chairman Thompson and other House Ag Committee

leaders do not believe sufficient resources are dedicated by Congress for the farm bill. For the 10-year budget window of fiscal years 2024 to 2033, all federal spending contained within the 12 titles of the farm bill is projected to account for less than two percent of the entire federal budget.

"When broken down further, the farm safety net commodity programs and crop insurance combined—is projected to account for a mere two-tenths of one percent of federal spending", Chair Thompson and ranking member David Scott (D-Ga.), wrote in a letter last month to the Budget Committee, asking for more resources to enact the 2023 farm bill.

The farm bill supports America's food and agriculture sectors, which in 2022 accounted for direct, indirect, and induced output of more than 43 million jobs, \$2.3 trillion in wages, \$718 billion in tax revenue, \$183 billion in exports, and \$7.4 trillion in economic activity.

"We would challenge any Member of Congress to identify other legislation that can take credit for a similar return on investment of federal support," the Committee leaders wrote.

It remains to be seen whether the Budget Committee will grant their wish (*POLITICO*).

#### Family Farm Alliance Engagement on 2023 Farm Bill

The Alliance began ramping up its own Farm Bill advocacy efforts last year, working with conservation partners, developing testimony for Congressional hearings, and working with its members to prioritize its energies in the farm bill debate.

"Earlier this year, we put together our Farm Bill wish lists for Congressional offices and committees," said Mr. Keppen. "Once again, the Alliance will work closely on this with its partners in the Western Agriculture and Conservation Alliance -the "WACC" – on the conservation title."

Last month, the WACC finalized its Farm Bill platform, which, among other things, puts priority on improving implementation of the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations ("PL-566") and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, encouraging active management for grazing, and seeking to provide better and faster conservation program technical assistance and compliance.

The Alliance has also been working with Western Growers and several Western state Farm Bureaus to push more agcentric priorities, starting with Western Senators and Ag Committee Members.

"Our key priorities working with our ag partners are PL-566, forest restoration, and pushing for the need to ensure that USDA conservation dollars – if they are directed at climate – are not solely focused on soil carbon but rather multiple benefits that help with water resiliency," said Mr. Keppen.

Josh Maxwell, GOP consultant to the House Agriculture Committee, spoke at the February 2023 Family Farm Alliance annual conference in Reno, and shared his experiences and answered questions about the 2023 Farm Bill.

"The 2018 Farm Bill was one of the friendliest to Western farmers and ranchers, in part due to the efforts of the WACC and organizations in this room," he said.

# Alliance Supports Senator Bennet's Protect the West Act ....and other Forest Health Developments on Capitol Hill

The Family Farm Alliance last month formally supported legislation introduced by Colorado Democrat Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) that would create a USDA-managed \$60 billion Outdoor and Watershed Restoration Fund for investments in Western forest and watershed restoration programs.

Under the Protect the West Act of 2023, a new Restoration Fund Advisory Council would allocate the money for various projects in the West. The legislation would assign \$20 billion for direct payments to state and local governments, tribal nations, special districts and nonprofit organizations.

The other \$40 billion would go to state and tribal nations to address the wildfire mitigation backlog and other projects.

Senator Bennet's office reached out to the Alliance earlier this year to discuss suggestions to improve the bill from the last Congress.

"America desperately needs solutions to the catastrophic wildfire and forest health crisis decimating our federal lands and forests year after year," said Subcommittee Chairman Tom Tiffany (R-WI). "The four forestry bills the Federal Lands Subcommittee held a hearing on today will cut red tape, put an end to frivolous litigation, address the Biden border crisis by cutting off illegal marijuana cultivation from cartels on our federal lands, and save lives and land through wildfire prevention."

Forest Service Chief Randy Moore at the hearing vowed to boost timber harvests across the national forest system.

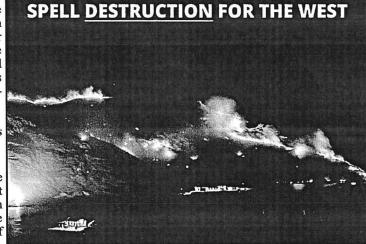
House Bill Introduced to Allow Continued Use of Firefighting Chemicals

A litigious environmentalist group is suing the U.S. Forest

"The revised, newly introduced legislation incorporates all of our recommendations," said Alliance President Patrick O'Toole, a sheep and cattle rancher from Wyoming. "We have identified the problems and funded the solutions. Now is the time for implementation."

#### Forest Health Hearings on Capitol Hill

Wildfire was back on the congressional agenda last month with hearings on forest policy and on the climbing economic costs of Western wildfires. The Senate Budget Committee heard from experts in prescribed fire, climate change and other issues surrounding wildfire policy, while the newly formed House Agriculture Subcommittee on



Imagery used by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) to underscore legislation he introduced last month in the House. "When these infernos start, time is of the essence and every tool is needed to save lives, property, and prevent the blaze from getting out of control," Rep. LaMalfa said. Source: www.facebook.com/RepLaMalfa.

Forestry held its first hearing on the upcoming five-year farm bill.

The Senate hearing — entitled "Burning Issue: the Economic Costs of Wildfires" - shed some light on wildfires' implications for insurance and lending, as well as on-theground impacts in places like New Mexico.

The House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands heard testimony on three bills that represent a more intensive approach to preventing and fighting wildfires, as well as a Democratic bill to restrict private individuals' use of national forests to grow marijuana.

retardant into waters, including entering a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement with [EPA]," the Justice Department said in a recent brief in environmentalists' lawsuit alleging that without a permit, such spraying violates the CWA.

However, because of the need to obtain a federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and as many as 47 state permits, the process is expected to take about two and a half years. If the injunction is granted and fire retardant is not available for use in the 2023 fire year, fire-

Continued on Page 6

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Service (USFS) under the **AERIAL FIRE RETARDANT BAN WOULD** 

Clean Water Act (CWA) to require a permit to use fire retardant and has requested an injunction on the use of fire retardant until the USFS receives this permit, which could take years.

Republicans in Congress are pushing a bill to exempt the practice from such permit requirements.

A court case in the Federal District Court of Montana is being litigated that could ban the use of aerial fire retardants nationwide during the coming 2023 fire season, placing western communities who routinely experience wildland fires at risk.

"The Forest Service has commenced the process to obtain Clean Water Act permits that will authorize the discharge of aerial fire

## House Republicans Pass Energy Bill with Permitting Reform

House Republicans passed a sprawling energy bill late last month, intended to restore energy independence. *The Lower Energy Costs Act* (H.R. 1) focuses on increasing domestic energy production, reversing policies advanced by the Biden administration, and boosting production and processing of critical minerals. It also includes important permitting process reforms for all industries.

"Today is a great day in America – the House has delivered a bill that will grow our economy, bolster our national security, reduce global emissions, and make the United States more competitive with the passage of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act," said Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CALIFORNIA).

The bill passed by a 225-204 vote, with four Democrats joining Republicans to pass the bill and one Republican legislator voting against.

H.R. 1 includes the "BUILDER Act of 2023," legislation from Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA), would shorten the time allowed to complete environmental reviews and to file lawsuits challenging those reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BUILDER Act would limit to one and two years the length of NEPA environmental assessments and impact statements, respectively. It would also place a deadline of 120-days for parties to file lawsuits related to projects.

"Why are more and more Americans unable to afford groceries, utility bills, refueling cars and other necessities?" Rep. Graves asked. "Why are we dependent on other countries that hate America for the same products and resources that we have right here in America? This bill works to address these problems and more." We've been working with GOP staff at the House Natural Resources Committee for the past year on ways to modernize implementation of NEPA. We are always looking for ways to clarify ambiguous provisions, align NEPA with relevant case law, reflect modern technologies, optimize interagency coordination, and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process.

The BUILDER Act could garner bipartisan support as renewable energy as well as traditional energy projects are slowed due to NEPA process delays. Water infrastructure projects are also sometimes delayed by the NEPA process. The GOP package, including the NEPA reforms, was approved by the Committee and will be taken up by the full House later this spring, even though House Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee remain staunchly opposed to the package. The package may also pick up other bills from various House committees in the process.

But most Democrats and the White House dismissed the Republican bill as reviving fossil fuel-centric policies or gutting environmental permitting processes.

"For anyone who is being lured into thinking there are opportunities for negotiations on this bill, do not be naive," Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-ARIZONA) said on the House floor prior to the vote. "This performative permitting reform is not a bipartisan solution, not even a starting point for one. This is just another decades old request from polluters to make their operations cheaper and easier while making Americans' lives harder and more costly."

The bill likely won't advance in the Democratically controlled Senate.

### **BOR Awards \$585M of IIJA Funds to Repair Aging Water Infrastructure**

During an April 5 visit to the Imperial Dam near Yuma (ARIZONA), Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau, Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator Mitch Landrieu, and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton announced a nearly \$585 million investment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for infrastructure repairs on water delivery systems throughout the West. Funding will go to 83 projects in 11 states to improve water conveyance and storage, increase safety, improve hydro power generation and provide water treatment.

"Many of our members' projects made the list," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "The Aging Infrastructure Account was included as part of a proposal advanced by over 230 water, ag and urban organizations in 2021, during IIJA negotiations."

That coalition was led by a steering committee that included the Alliance, Association of California Water Agencies, California Farm Bureau Federation, National Water Resources Association and Western Growers.

The visit to the Colorado River Basin's Imperial Dam – which is receiving \$8.24 million in fiscal year 2023 – is part of the Biden-Harris administration's Investing in America tour to highlight the opportunities that IIJA are creating.

"These projects have been identified through a rigorous process and is a testament to the Bureau of Reclamation's commitment to deliver water to future generations," said Commissioner Touton. "As we manage through changing climate, we must look to the safety of our projects to ensure that we can continue to provide clean, reliable water to communities, irrigators, and ecosystems across the west."

The projects selected for funding are found in all the major river basins and regions where Reclamation operates. Among the 83 projects selected for funding are efforts to increase canal capacity, replace equipment for hydropower production and provide necessary maintenance to aging project buildings. Projects will be funded in 11 Western states.

The IIJA includes \$8.3 billion for Reclamation water infrastructure projects over five years to advance drought resilience and expand access to clean water for families, farmers and wildlife. The investment will repair aging water delivery systems, secure dams, complete rural water projects, and protect aquatic ecosystems. Detailed information on Reclamation programs and funding provided in the IIJA is available on Reclamation's website: <u>https://www.usbr.gov/bil/</u>

April 2023

### Monthly Briefing

# **Alliance Rep Testifies at House Subcommittee Hearing**

Oregon Republican Rep. Cliff Bentz chaired his first hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries (WWF) last month on the importance of multi-purpose water management across the country.

"Today's hearing is one of many that will address the es-

sential need for long term water storage solutions across the West," he said in his opening statement.

Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen testified at the hearing, where he underscored the importance of properly balancing management of the anticipated historic Western snowmelt this year, ensuring transparency and accountability in federal water decision-making, and suggested a new way of doing business regarding Endangered Species implementation in the West.

> "Solutions can

reached that address the true stressors on fish in a way that doesn't take away water supplies from farmers and ranchers," Mr. Keppen told the Subcommittee.

he

While conflicts over water resources have existed longterm, federal policies and non-elected government agency staff have exacerbated some of these conflicts and threatened economies, the environment and ways of life.

"Cities, other states, farmers, ranchers, refuges, and rural homeowners, all of whom are heavily dependent on access to

water, are being put in harm's way at the expense of bad science and bad policy," said Chairman Bentz.

The March 8 hearing explored those threats while focusing on solutions.

Other witnesses joining Mr. Keppen at the hearing were Scott Corwin (Executive Director, Northwest Public Power

Association), Martha Guyas (Southeast Fisheries Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association) and Amy Cordalis, a long-time advocate for, and member of, the Yurok Tribe in northern California.

The Alliance developed extensive written testimony for the Subcommittee prior to the hearing. Mr. Keppen's spoken, 5-minute statement focused on: the huge snowpack in California, and the importance of managing that in a way that sends most of it out to the ocean with minimal environmental benefits and no benefits for human uses.

He also discussed the multi-decade failure of the flowcentric management scheme employed by federal agencies to "protect" fish on the West coast, and why now is not the time for our government to be taking farmland out of production.

"For the time being, this Nation needs our farmers and ranchers to produce food and fiber," said Mr. Keppen. "Laws and regulations need to be updated to mandate accountable and transparent results from diverting water away from Western farms and creating man-made droughts."

## House Fire Retardant Bill (Cont'd from Page 4)

fighters and individuals living in forested areas would be in greater danger.

Last month, Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CALIFORNIA) and Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WASHINGTON) introduced H.R. 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023, which creates a CWA exemption for federal, state, local, and tribal firefighting agencies so they can continue to use fire retardant to fight wildfires.

"Fire retardant is an essential tool in wildland firefighting, especially in the West. Not only is it absurd to try to take away that tool, it's flat out dangerous," said Rep. LaMalfa. "These regressive environmentalists are scared that a little bit of fire retardant could get into our rivers while we're fighting another million-acre fire."

Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WYOMING) has introduced

a companion bill in the Senate.

Fire retardant is an essential tool used to contain or slow the spread of wildfires. Currently, the Forest Service and other agencies are operating under the assumption that a NPDES permit is not required for the use of fire retardant because the regulations specifically state that fire control is a "non-point source silvicultural activity" and communications from EPA dating back to 1993 indicated a permit is not required.

"Wildfires are a serious threat to life and property throughout the Western United States. Our firefighters need all possible tools to contain any damage caused," said Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WYOMING). "Out of touch ecoactivists filing lawsuits to stop the use of aerial fire retardants cannot be allowed to threaten the safety of our citizens, first responders, wildlife, livestock, and forests."



Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen responds to a question at

the March 8 Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee hearing.

Photo courtesy of House Committee on Natural Resources.

# House Subcommittee Conducts Oversight Hearing on Storage

Several witnesses with ties to the Family Farm Alliance last month testified at a House Committee on Natural Resources, Water, Wildlife and Fisheries (WWF) Subcommittee oversight hearing titled "Why We Need to Store More Water and What's Stopping Us".

Witnesses included William Bourdeau (Vice-Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, CA), Tricia Hill (Klamath Water Users Association, OR), Andy Mueller (General Manager, Colorado River Water Conservation District), and Joshua Sewell (Taxpayers for Common Sense).

Mr. Bourdeau serves on the Alliance board of directors, Mr. Mueller is an Alliance Advisory Committee Member, and Ms. Hill and KWUA are members of the Family Farm Alliance.

Over the past three years, much of the western United States has experienced prolonged, persistent drought and below-average precipitation. Those years have been some of California's driest on record. These extreme drought conditions have significantly depleted reservoirs and water storage. Now, California is experiencing extremely high precipitation levels, yet does not have the necessary infrastructure in place to store the excess water. Much of it is washing out to sea as a result, either though San Francisco Bay or the mouth of the Klamath River, which was addressed by Mr. Bourdeau and Ms. Hill, respectively, at the hearing.

Mr. Bourdeau spoke about the immense amount of water being flushed out into the ocean amid the recent storms to start the year, citing information from the Bureau of Reclamation that on a single day in March Shasta Reservoir captured 145,000 acre-feet of water, but on the same day California lost 200,000 acre-feet of water to the ocean.

"While it is difficult to compare ourselves to the generations that came before us, we have the chance to implement meaningful change that will enhance the quality of life for generations to come," Mr. Bourdeau said. "We need to identify the best projects and avoid over-studying, undue delays and build a better system. My hope is that today's critical discussion on the future of the west and water infrastructure will pave the way for such transformative steps and a better future for generations to come."

Ms. Hill urged the Subcommittee to "take a hard look" at how water is being managed in the Klamath Basin, which encompasses parts of California and Oregon.

"The details and the decisions being made that I could not go into detail in my testimony would, quite literally, shock you," she said. "Fish science has gone out the window as apportionment of Klamath Basin water has become a tool of politics, not wildlife and fisheries management. The backbone of this nation's food supply and food security—irrigated agriculture in the West—is being broken for no good reason."

The hearing also showcased the need for managing the watersheds in Western national forests to increase water supplies and improve forest health.

Mr. Mueller reported that on the slopes across Colorado's high country, the snow-water equivalent of 2023 winter storms soared past the seasonal averages of the last thirty years. However, he also warned that Colorado experienced a similarly robust snowpack in 2011 and 2019, but both followed closely on the heels of 2012 and 2020, which were "brutally dry" years.

"Managing a system where the only certainty is uncertainty means looking both at long term and short-term solutions," Mr. Mueller testified. "In the long term, one of the largest variables over which we have any control is the health of our forests and their ability to collect, filter and convey water. In the short term, accessible and easily adaptable storage solutions mean that our communities, our agriculture and rivers can continue to thrive year to year."

### **OpenET Bill Would Create New Federal Program to Track Water Use in the West**

A bipartisan coalition of Western lawmakers last week reintroduced their "Open Access Evapotranspiration Data (OpenET) Act," filed as H.R. 4832 and S. 2568 in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to create a new program in the USGS at the Department of the Interior that could be used to track water lost to evaporation and transpiration from soil, crops and vegetation in a river basin.

Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), whose district includes parts of Las Vegas, sponsored the House bill along with Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Reps. Burgess Owens (R-UT) and Chris Stewart (R-UT). Bill sponsors say that data could prove crucial to many drought-stricken river basins in the West, including the Colorado River Basin.

"It's absolutely necessary that we get the most use out of the water we already have. That starts with giving states more consistent, accessible, and accurate data," said Rep. Stewart, whose district includes the burgeoning St. George area. "This legislation will allow us to be more prudent with our current resources and plan for the future of our communities." Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) introduced the bill in the Senate.

Evapotranspiration can be tracked with satellites and weather stations, although critics of the legislation argue that making such data widely available to the public using federal resources, which is made possible by the OpenET legislation, must be subject to existing data privacy and data quality laws as well as be peer-reviewed for accuracy.

"We share the concerns expressed by other agricultural producers in the West regarding S. 2568, which would inject major federal funding into the OpenET program," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "We stand ready to work with the sponsors of these and similar proposals to ensure they do not have unintended consequences for Western agriculture and water management."

"Hopefully, the OpenET discussions will lead to opportunities where we can generate political interest that drives science to get things right on things like the relatively unknown shallow groundwater / surface water relationship in many areas of the Upper Colorado River Basin," he added.

mechanism for Congress to

The CRA allows for a sim-

ple majority to overturn recent

government's ability to pursue

earlier so the Senate vote sent

it to the President's desk. Ear-

As reported in E&E Daily,

the White House warned that

out a clear definition" of what

"The increased uncertainty

caused by H.J. Res. 27 would

including for agriculture, local

economies, and downstream

communities," President

threaten economic growth,

streams, rivers and other waterways are covered as waters

scrapping the WOTUS rule "would leave Americans with-

lier this month, as expected,

President Biden vetoed the

a similar rule. The House ap-

proved the CRA resolution

overturn this action in the

rules, but also hinders the

# Congress and Courts Slap Down Biden WOTUS Rule As Expected, President Vetoes Congressional Resolution

Both chambers of Congress last month passed a resolution

tives passage of the Joint Resolution, which provides a useful

future."

resolution.

of the U.S.

against the Biden Administration's recently finalized "waters of the

U.S." (WOTUS) rule, while a federal judge stayed the rule's implementation in two Western states. However, President Joe Biden on April 6 vetoed the resolution, and the bill now heads back to Capitol Hill, where critics of the Biden rule lack the votes to override the presidential veto.

Congress Moves to Overturn Biden WOTUS Rule

The Senate late last month approved 53-43 a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution against the Biden Administration's recently finalized Clean Water Act "waters of the United States", or WOTUS, rule.

Many in the agricultural community and their political

supporters believe the new WOTUS rule vastly expands regulatory jurisdiction beyond just returning to the pre-2015 regulations and guidance as proposed, at a time when the Supreme Court has yet to issue an opinion in *Sackett v. EPA*, which will directly impact the rule.

"By voting to overturn President Biden's waters rule, we are sending a clear, bipartisan message that Congress, even a divided one, will defend working Americans in the face of executive overreach," said Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), who introduced the Senate resolution. "I'm proud to lead my colleagues in standing up for farmers and ranchers, landowners and builders, and energy and infrastructure workers across the United States."

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Sens. Kyrsten Sinema (I-ARIZONA), Jon Tester (D-MONTANA), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NEVADA) and Jacky Rosen (D-NEVADA) joined Republicans in supporting the measure.

Industry leaders and associations representing rural America – including the Family Farm Alliance - released statements in response to the earlier House passage of the joint resolution.

"Over the past two decades, we have engaged in a variety of ping-pong administrative efforts-now spanning four different presidential administrations - all of them aimed at clarifying the interpretation of the Clean Water Act," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "We applaud the Western Caucus' leadership and the House of Representa-



Republican Senator Shelley Moore Capito—a vocal critic of the Biden Administration's WOTUS rule—speaks at an event earlier this month in her home state of West Virginia. Photo source: Office of Senator Capito.

Biden said.

Republicans like Senator Capito disagreed.

"By vetoing this Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval, President Biden is ignoring the will of a bipartisan majority in Congress, leaving millions of Americans in limbo, and crippling future energy and infrastructure projects with red tape," said Senator Capito.

#### Court Stays Biden WOTUS Rule in Idaho and Texas

A federal judge in Texas has put the Biden Administration's newly finalized WOTUS rule on hold in two states while many are calling for the rule to be stayed nationwide until a much-anticipated Supreme Court ruling is decided later this year.

Judge Jeffrey Brown handed the states of Texas and Idaho a victory in their fight to head off the new WOTUS rule. Judge Brown, a Trump appointee, found Texas and Idaho were able to show "irreparable harm because they will expend unrecoverable resources--monetary and otherwise--complying with a rule unlikely to withstand judicial scrutiny."

"Certainly, the court agrees with the defendants that federally regulating some interstate waters may be necessary to carry out Congress's intent to protect the nation's waters, but

**Continued on Page 12** 

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# Colorado River Basin Congressional Coalitions Take Shape .....And Other Colorado River News

Twelve House lawmakers from the six Basin states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah have formed a new caucus focused on the Colorado River Basin, where more than two decades of drought threaten water supplies and hydropower production. The Wyoming congressional delegation has yet to join. The caucus is jointly led by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-COLORADO) and Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-ARIZONA).

"As the Representative of the headwaters of the Colorado River, I'm honored to be joined by colleagues from the Upper and Lower Basin States in launching the Congressional Colorado River Caucus," Rep. Neguse said.

In the Senate, Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-COLORADO) has likewise been convening an informal group of Colorado River Basin Senators to work on Basin issues.

The Colorado River supplies water to some 40 million individuals (about twice the population of New York) and irrigates 5.5 million acres of agricultural land but is experiencing the worst drought in a thousand years according to scientific data.

Shrinking reservoirs that store and distribute the river water according to 100-year-old multi-state compact and various court directives, known as the "law of the river," now sit at record low levels, jeopardizing power production at the Glen Canyon and Hoover dams and endangering water deliveries downstream. The Interior Department is currently reviewing how it can update the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, a set of rules that dictate how much water is withdrawn from each reservoir based on its current surface elevation. A draft is expected to be released this April.

Challenges with Upper Basin System Conservation Program

Western Slope basins that feed the Colorado River have seen above-average snowpack this year, and some areas of the Colorado River Basin have reported record levels of snow, according to Natural Resources Conservation Service data. The challenge will be not to squander it. (*The Colorado Sun*)

"The challenge that the basin states face is, what will people do in response to this gift, this tremendous success?" said Chuck Cullom, executive director of the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC), an interstate water administration agency. "Are we going to squander it? Or are we going to store it and rebuild resiliency in this potentially once-in-adecade, potentially once-in-a-century, type of runoff?"

A new, federally funded conservation program overseen by the UCRC - set up to pay farmers and ranchers to let fields go dry - is off to a rocky start in Colorado.

The Bureau of Reclamation wants to conserve water in the Upper Colorado River Basin by giving farmers and ranchers cash to let their fields lie fallow. However, the interstate agency running the program isn't offering these producers enough money to quit farming voluntarily, local water interests say. "Farmers and ranchers know the cost of food," said Greg Peterson, executive director of the California Ag Water Alliance. "They know what it costs them to produce it and the offers to fallow for a price per acre usually fall far short."

Troy Waters is a fifth-generation farmer in Grand Valley, Colorado. He recently told *Business Insider* that he fears his way of life will turn to dust and blow away in the wind like dried-out topsoil.

"There ain't nobody in this valley that's gonna stop farming for \$150 an acre-foot," Waters said. "I think they put out that program hoping nobody would really participate."

Local water districts are also raising concerns. Aspen Journalism recently reported that Colorado West Slope water managers say they are being cut out of the process to review and approve applications for the recently funded System Conservation Program within their boundaries. But it now appears that the districts' role will be limited to providing input to the Upper Colorado River Commission on the applications, for which limited public information has been released.

"I think that was disturbing to us because it was a reversal of a commitment that had been made in early December by the commissioner," said Andy Mueller, the General Manager of the Colorado River District. "There is a complete lack of process within our state reviewing this program or the potential impacts to other water users. ... There is no analysis done whatsoever to protect communities."

#### **Cloud Seeding Funding Redoubled**

Further down river, the Southern Nevada Water Authority last month voted to accept a \$2.4 million grant from Reclamation to fund cloud seeding in Upper Basin states.

"The research that's come out over the last 10 years or so really seems to have convinced them that cloud seeding is a legitimate way to increase snowpack and subsequent water resources," said Frank McDonough, a scientist at the nonprofit Desert Research Institute.

The grant from Reclamation will be spread out over two years, temporarily doubling financial support for the Upper Basin cloud seeding from outside parties, according to the Associated Press.

#### White House Announces New Colo. River Investments

Earlier this month, senior officials from the White House and Interior traveled to the Lower Basin states to highlight the Administration's investments in drought resilience and collaboration with Colorado River Basin states, Tribes, water managers, farmers, irrigators, and other stakeholders.

The Administration announced new investments for watersaving projects and other conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin that will "immediately yield hundreds of thou-

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# White House Advances Plans to Combat Climate Change

The United Nations (U.N.) and the White House continue to fan fears of dire global consequences resulting from climate change. President Biden is taking aggressive action to address climate challenges, one of the four pillars of his 2020 election platform.

The U.N. last month rolled out its "World Water Development Report 2023", which found that 26 percent of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water, and 46 percent lacks access to basic sanitation. Continued climate change will cause seasonal shortages in countries that currently have enough water and will make other water-short regions even worse off, the report finds.

Without action to address the problem of water scarcity, "there definitely will be a global crisis," said Richard Connor, the report's lead author, at a news conference to launch the report.

At a fundraiser in Rancho Santa Fe (CALIFORNIA) last month, President Joe Biden warned his allies that future generations stand to suffer devastating consequences of climate change if global temperatures aren't kept in check (E&E News PM).

"Our grandchildren and great grandchildren are either going to live lives that are decent and honorable and good, or they're going to be in real trouble," Biden said, according to a transcript released by the White House. "We're at an inflec-

tion point in human history," Biden said at the fundraiser.

The President backed up his words last at White month's House Conservation in Action Summit. where his Office of Science and Technology Policy released a series of new resources for federal and local government agencies working to combat climate change and adapt to



its impacts. The new tools include a report to help manage flood risk, a guide to help agencies adapt to climate change, and an "action plan" aimed at making it easier for communities to access climate information.

"Last year, on Earth Day, I signed an executive order to protect America's forests and to harness the power of nature in the fight against climate change," President Biden said at the event. "I'm here today to talk about the incredible progress that we've made."

The announcement also included a new framework that's intended to bolster communities' resilience to issues such as natural disasters and aging infrastructure. The Administration also released its first-ever Ocean Climate Action Plan, which is intended to find ocean-based solutions to climate change.

The White House also released the 2022 America the Beautiful Annual Report to update progress on achieving conservation of 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. The report notes actions that impact the West, including:

- Launch of the "National Nature Assessment";
- Establishment of Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Advisory Committee;
- Public comment period on development of the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas;
- NOAA development of Fisheries Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy currently being revised and finalized;
- Inflation Reduction Act provision of \$2.6 billion to NO-AA for increasing resilience to climate change, including through targeted research, conservation, restoration, and protection measures for coastal and marine habitats, fisheries, and marine mammals; and
- Launch of the America the Beautiful grant challenge, which resulted in \$91 million for 55 conservation projects.

Additionally, the White House Council on Environ-

airspaces to sustain biodiversity and enable wildlife adaptation to environmental changes." This guidance has already generated concerns with farmers and ranchers and elected officials with recommendation that

"connectivity and wildlife corridors" should be considered in areas including energy development planning and permitting and energy infrastructure management, ocean planning, port management and development, transportation planning and use management, and recreation and tourism management.

"Men and women on the ground - not bureaucrats in D.C. know their land and water best, and should at the very least be closely consulted," said House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.). "I intend to request a full account from DOI on what went into these rushed and seemingly politically-motivated decisions."

### Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on Navajo Nation's Water Rights

The U.S. Supreme Court last month heard arguments in a case that could alter the battle over tribal water rights in the Western U.S. During the almost two-hour oral argument, it appeared a majority on the nine-justice court could allow the Navajo Nation's claim that the federal government has a duty to address the Native American tribe's water rights.to move forward in a limited form, with much depending on the vote of conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

"The panel seemed pretty divided and Justice Barrett could well be the swing vote," said Family Farm Alliance General Counsel Norm Semanko, who listened to the argument. "If the Court rules for the Navajo Nation, I think they will try to trim back the ruling as much as possible to avoid creating a new, general duty to all tribes, or opening the floodgates to additional litigation."

For more than 20 years, the Navajo Nation has fought for access to water from the lower Colorado River, which flows directly alongside the reservation's northwestern border. Drought-restricted water deliveries from the river to the seven states under the Colorado River Compact of 1922 along with court decisions and a 1944 Treaty with Mexico (known as the "law of the river") have drained reservoirs to their lowest levels since they first filled due to the drought. The seven states have yet to find consensus on how to cut water use and allow the river to recover while averting disastrous conditions if reservoir levels were to fall below outlets for power production and even downstream flows.

But the Navajo Nation, where a third of their people are without access to clean drinking water, says it has not been able to fully represent its own interests in disputes over its claims to Colorado River water. Instead, they say they've been blocked in court by the federal government, which says it represents tribal interests in water disputes.

"How did we get here, in this country, in the twenty-first century?" attorneys for the Navajo Nation wrote in a brief to the high court docketed Feb. 1. "Broken promises." While both the Nation and the U.S. government agree that Indian reservations, including the Navajo Nation, have a right to water, the Supreme Court now must decide how far the federal government's responsibilities go in reserving that right, including building infrastructure to deliver that water across 27,000 square miles of Southwestern desert.

"For a court to impose an enforceable duty where Congress has not 'expressly accept[ed]' one would thus undermine Congress's role in 'implement[ing] national policy respecting the Indian tribes," the Department of Interior wrote.

The basin states have also filed briefs opposing the Nation's claims, arguing that a decision in favor of the Navajo Nation would create even more burdens on the over apportioned river and take water away from their populations and economies. Arizona objected to the Navajo Nation's assertion that they have an unquantified federal reserved water right to the Lower Colorado River.

"As long as any lower court has the potential to issue a ruling that directs the Secretary [of the Interior] to take an action that manages the [Colorado River] system differently than it currently is, under what we call the Law of the River, there is a risk that the vested water right holders with more than 60 years of rights are jeopardized," Arizona argued.

The Alliance board of directors in December 2022 moved to join an *amicus* ("friend of the court") brief with other Western water groups in support of plaintiffs in *Interior Department v. Navajo Nation.* The amicus brief argues that: 1) Reliable and secure water rights are crucial to the social, economic, and legal health of the West; 2) If the Navajo Nation's lawsuit Is allowed to proceed, other users' water rights will necessarily be curtailed or at least thrown into doubt; and 3) Recognizing breach-of-trust claims like the Navajo Nation's could threaten the stability of water rights elsewhere in the West.

The Western water users' *amicus* brief was mentioned by Justice Kavanaugh during the questioning, as he pointed out how this case could impact the settled expectations around a water system that is already fully allocated.

### White House Makes Colorado River Announcement (Cont'd from Page 9)

sands of acre-feet of water savings".

"These water savings will grow rapidly in the years ahead as additional, longer-term water efficiency infrastructure and resilience strategies come online," the White House said in a statement.

These investments include:

- Up to \$36 million for water conservation in the Coachella Valley.
- \$20 million for four small surface water storage and groundwater storage projects in California and Utah, including one near the Salton Sea.
- Over \$54 million for repairs to aging infrastructure to improve water delivery, including \$8.3 million for the Imperial Dam.

• Expanded drought-focused outreach and technical assistance to communities in the Colorado River Basin.

Interior Deputy Secretary Tommy Bourdeau addressed the Administration's decision to provide up to \$233 million in water conservation funding for the Gila River Indian Community.

"Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, we have historic, once-in-a-generation investments to expand access to clean drinking water for families, farmers and Tribes," said Deputy Secretary Beaudreau. "In the wake of record drought throughout the West, safeguarding Tribal access to water resources could not be more critical. These types of agreements will support Tribal communities through essential water infrastructure projects and support water conservation in the Colorado River System."

## Court Stays Biden Rule in Two Western States (Cont'd from Page 8)

the court is not convinced that the Act's text supports unrestrained federal jurisdiction over all interstate waters," Judge Brown ruled.

Two separate lawsuits in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas had argued that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers should have to wait for the upcoming *Sackett v. EPA* decision before implementing the new regulation. One was brought by state officials and one by industry members. However, the judge denied the industry associations' plea to stop the rule nationwide.

In other litigation news, a federal court found that the State of Kentucky and business groups had not met the high bar for an injunction stopping the rule while litigation against it proceeds. The WOTUS regulation is now in effect across the country, except for Texas and Idaho.

The Supreme Court's upcoming *Sackett* decision could potentially limit the reach of the Clean Water Act, in conflict with the Biden WOTUS rule. That decision is expected by early this summer.

EPA is signaling it plans to vigorously defend the measure.

The rule "is informed by the text of the relevant provisions of the Clean Water Act and the statute as a whole, as well as the scientific record, relevant Supreme Court case law, input from public comment, and the agencies' experience and technical expertise after more than 45 years of implementing the longstanding pre-2015 regulations defining waters of the United States, is the best interpretation of the Clean Water Act," the agency said in a response to a request for comment by *Inside EPA*.

# Water Managers Prep for Spring Floods (Cont'd from Page 2)

Churchill County, city of Fallon, and Truckee-Carson Irrigation District to implement proactive measures to help mitigate flooding this spring.

"Public safety is our number one focus when making operational decisions," said Jack Worsley, Reclamation's Lahontan Basin Area Manager. "We are in regular communication with our local partners as well as the state of Nevada to ensure our actions are aligned in managing the unprecedented amount of snowmelt anticipated this year."

A precautionary emergency declaration was made in early March by both Churchill County and the city of Fallon to establish the Emergency Operations Center in preparation for flood mitigation efforts due to elevated snowpack. Snow water equivalent in the Carson Basin is at 294% of median as of April 4.

#### **Blizzards Hammer Rocky Mountains, Great Plains**

In the Northern Plains, blizzard-like conditions brought heavy snowfall to eastern Wyoming, northwestern Nebraska, and the Dakotas. Widespread improvements were made on the U.S. Drought Monitor map including areas of California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico in response to excellent snowpack conditions across many of the drainage basins in the region.

In Nevada and Utah, current snow-water equivalent percentages are well over 200% of median for several basins, including the Central Lahontan, Central Nevada Desert Basins, Great Salt Lake, Lower Green, Upper Colorado-Dolores, and Upper Colorado-Dirty Devil, according to the NRCS SNOTEL network.

In Arizona and New Mexico, snowpack levels are above normal, especially in the ranges of northern and central Arizona. In Arizona, the total reservoir system for the Salt and Verde River system is currently 100% full as compared to 72% full at the same time last year, according to the Salt River Project. For the Colorado River system, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is reporting (April 4) Lake Mead at 28% full and Lake Powell at 23% full.

Agricultural operations in Idaho, the Dakotas and Wyoming have also been significantly impacted by recent snowstorms. Over 26 inches of snow fell on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Casper (WYOMING), an all-time daily snowfall record for any day of the year, dating back to 1937.

Family Farm Alliance President Patrick O'Toole, whose family operates a large sheep and cattle ranch straddling the Colorado-Wyoming border, has spent much of the past month struggling to each his animals, and is searching literally for greener pastures, as the snow has increased reliance on dwindling hay and forage supplies.

"This has been unprecedented," said Mr. O'Toole. "The impact on our animals and wildlife has been horrific, which will become apparent once the snow starts to melt."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from these adverse weather events.

"These recent winter storms have taken their toll on livestock producers in Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming leaving producers with snow removal costs as well as increased feed expenses," said Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. "We stand with our producers who have worked tirelessly in these severe conditions to keep livestock fed and to protect crops from Mother Nature's wrath. We know these storms have left damage in their wake, and I'm glad that USDA offers a strong portfolio of disaster assistance programs available to help."

Impacted producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure, and livestock losses and damages.

## Lawsuit Filed to Withhold Water from Farms in the Klamath Basin

The Yurok Tribe, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Institute for Fisheries Resources have filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop any agricultural water deliveries from the Klamath River until all Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements are met for listed salmon, whales, and sucker fish. The legal action is part of a 2019 lawsuit against the federal Bureau of Reclamation

(Reclamation) and NO-AA Fisheries.

Reclamation operates the Klamath Project, which provides irrigation water to about 200,000 acres of farmland in southern Oregon and Northern California as well as water to two National Wildlife Refuges. But the operations cannot threaten the survival of endangered species.

The agency must consider sometimes competing water needs for threatened coho salmon in the Klamath River (important to the Yurok and other tribes in the lower basin), and two species of endangered sucker fish in Upper Klamath Lake (important

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) pictured here (center) at the Klamath Project A Canal headgates, met with local water users and elected officials last month. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary.

to the Klamath Tribe in the upper basin).

"The lawsuit appears to be based on anger about a modest, short-term reduction in Klamath River flows that was merely prudent water management," said Paul Simmons, the executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA), which represents farmers, ranchers and irrigation districts in the Klamath Basin. "The plaintiffs effectively are asking the court to write a new biological opinion for the Klamath Project and to micromanage the Klamath River to plaintiffs' exact specifications."

NOAA Fisheries further claim that Southern resident or-

cas are also affected because they depend on Klamath River salmon for prey. Three consecutive years of drought have prompted Reclamation to adopt a more flexible management strategy for the Klamath Project, but this year has so far provided over 150% of average snowpack and normal precipitation that feeds water supply the lake and river system.

Klamath Project irrigators are anxiously awaiting their

nxiously awaiting their annual water allocation and hoping the large snowpack will equate to a more normal supply despite the lawsuit. But during the last several years, Project irrigation and refuge deliveries were drastically cut due to dry conditions and competing ESA requirements.

"KWUA has the unavoidable perception that Project management is being driven by a search for the least politically objectionable decision among parties focused on instream water uses," KWUA President Ben Duval wrote in a letter earlier this year to Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant.

Local water users were afforded an opportunity to

air their concerns directly with the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OREGON) when she visited the Klamath Basin last month. Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen participated in a meeting hosted by KWUA and a brief tour of the A Canal headgates and fish screen in Klamath Falls.

"I think everyone appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Secretary, but the intent was to focus on the message of the producers, who have had their supplies severely restricted to meet ESA fishery needs in the last three years," said Mr. Keppen. "We'll find out soon if their concerns were addressed."

# **DONOR SUPPORT**

Make your tax-deductible gift to the Alliance today! Grassroots membership is vital to our organization. Thank you in advance for your loyal support.

If you have questions, please call our fundraising coordinator, Jane Townsend, at (916)206-7186 OR EMAIL jane@familyfarmalliance.org



Family Farm Alliance P.O. Box 1705 Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423

- March 20, 2023 Notice and Agenda received from the Central Coast Water Authority for the March 23, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
- 2. March 22, 2023 Notice and Agenda received from Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the March 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
- 3. March 24, 2023 Notice received from State Water Contractors regarding State Water Contractors Respond to Increased Allocation of State Water Project Supplies 35% up to 75%
- 4. March 24, 2023 Notice received from Central Coast Water Authority regarding Notice to State Water Project Contractors No. 23-07 "Increase of State Water Project 2023 Allocation to 75 Percent"
- 5. March 24, 2023 Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District regarding the March 28, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting
- 6. March 27, 2023 Notice received from County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development of Pending Approval of Land Use Permit for Old Santa Ynez Day Chumash Festival/Rodeo
- 7. March 29, 2023 Letter from District to Santa Barbara County Clerk regarding submittal of Form 700 for one Trustee
- 8. March 30, 2023 Memorandum received from Central Coast Water Authority regarding FY 2021/2022 Rate Coverage Calculation Requirement
- 9. March 31, 2023 Letter received from California Water Boards State Water Resources Control Board regarding Audit Requirement for Federal Awards
- 10. April 4, 2023 Notice and Agenda received from Los Olivos Community Services District regarding the April 7, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting
- 11. April 5, 2023 Letter from District to thirty-five customers regarding backflow testing requirement
- 12. April 5, 2023 Letter from District to State Controller's Office/Financial Audits Bureau regarding Single Audit Exemption for FY June 30, 2022
- 13. April 6, 2023 Transmittal from District to Central Coast Water Authority regarding ID No.1's submittal of FY 2021/2022 Rate Coverage Calculation
- 14. April 7, 2023 Notice and Agenda received from Los Olivos Community Services District regarding April 12, 2023 Regular Board of Directors Meeting
- 15. April 7, 2023 Transmittal from District to Bureau of Automotive Repair regarding Annual Reporting for FY 2023 Government Fleet Smog Check Program