NOTICE AND AGENDA

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
will be held at **3:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 17, 2025**
1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room

Notice Regarding Public Participation: For those who may not attend the meeting but wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, please submit any and all comments and written materials to the District via electronic mail at general@syrwd.org. All submittals should indicate **"June 17, 2025 Board Meeting"** in the subject line. Materials received by the District during and prior to the meeting will become part of the post-meeting Board packet materials available to the public and posted on the District's website.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-Agenda matter within the District's jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The District is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any public comment item.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 20, 2025

7. CONSENT AGENDA - All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion without separate discussion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Trustee.

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report
CA-2. Central Coast Water Authority Update

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

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
   a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses
   b) Approval of Accounts Payable

2. Appropriation Limit for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year - Article XIIIB (Proposition 13)
   a) Resolution No. 853: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Pursuant to Article XIIIB of the California Constitution

3. Consider Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026
   a) Final Budget Summary
   b) Resolution No. 854: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and Requesting an Assessment Levy Required to Collect $875,000

4. 2024 Consumer Confidence Report – Annual Water Quality Report Required by Federal and State Regulations

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE LIST: REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM THE DISTRICT

12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: Any member of the Board of Trustees may request to place an item on the Agenda for the next regular meeting. Any member of the public may submit a written request to the General Manager of the District to place an item on a future meeting Agenda, provided that the General Manager and the Board of Trustees retain sole discretion to determine which items to include on meeting Agendas.

13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for **July 15, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.**

14. CLOSED SESSION:
The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 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)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of Litigation By the Agency – One Matter

C. 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.

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SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
MAY 20, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

Trustees Present:	Michael Burchardi Jeff Clay Brad Joos Nick Urton		
Trustees Absent:	Mark Moniot		
Others Present:	Paeter Garcia Kylie Kelleher	Gary Kvistad Dan Drugan	Racel Cota

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted a roll call and reported that four Trustees were present with Trustee Moniot absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Clay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

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

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2025:

The Regular Meeting minutes from April 15, 2025 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2025. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve the April 15, 2025 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda report was provided in the Board packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of April. Several questions were presented by the Board and addressed by Mr. Garcia.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
   a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses
   Ms. Cota announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via email earlier in the day, included in the meeting handout materials, and posted on the District's website.

   Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of December. She stated that the Statement of Revenues and Expenses year-to-date includes figures for the ten months ended April 30, 2025, and budget is on-track. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by $891,725.51 and the year-to-date April 2025 net income was $4,553,831.52.

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

   The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 26537 through 26591 in the amount of $3,427,603.56.

   It was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve the Warrant List for April 16, 2025 through May 20, 2025.

2. Resolution No. 852 - A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Amending the District's Personnel Policy Manual

   Mr. Garcia stated that the proposed updates to the District's Personnel Policy Manual were discussed and approved at the April 15, 2025 Board meeting and that the formal Resolution is included in the Board packet to be approved by roll call vote.

   It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, to adopt Resolution No. 852, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Amending the District's Personnel Policy Manual

   The Motion carried and Resolution No. 852 was adopted by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent:

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

3. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget
   The Board packet included a Staff Report and line-item details for the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget.

   Ms. Cota provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the budget timeline, budget components, revenue and expenditure highlights, , capital improvement projects, reserve funds, and FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget comparison to FY 2024/2025 Adopted Budget. Ms. Cota reported that revenues are anticipated to be sufficient to meet the District's Operations and Maintenance expenses, General and Administrative expenses, Debt Service obligations, Other expenses, and the proposed Capital Improvement Program projects forecasted for FY 2025/2026. She projected a net revenue balance of $2,099,839 to be added to District Reserves to assist with upcoming expenditures related to the adopted regulatory standards for Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6). Ms. Cota stated that the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget assumes that current water rates and charges remain unchanged for the next fiscal year based on the rate schedule set forth in the District's 2016 Rate Study. She reported that the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget also assumes no increase in the $875,000 Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax, even though the authorized limit for FY 2025/2026 is $2,657,934.

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

   Ms. Cota asked that the Board review the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget and provide any additional comments or questions to management by early June for possible incorporation into the FY 2025/2026 Final Budget which will be presented at the June 17, 2025 Board meeting.

   Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation and compliments to District staff for their hard work and collaboration in preparing the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget.

   The Board thanked District staff for their hard work and collaboration in preparing the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget.

4. Setting the Appropriation Limit for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year - Article XIIIB (Proposition 13)
   a) California Department of Finance Calculations for 2025/2026 Appropriation Limitations and Authorization to Post Notice and Make Public the 2025/2026 Appropriation Limitation Calculation

      The Board packet included the May 2025 California Department of Finance letter regarding the FY 2025/2026 Appropriation Limitation Calculation, Price Factor, and Population Information.

Mr. Garcia explained that in connection with establishing an annual appropriation, certain language must be read verbatim into the public record, as follows: "*Pursuant to Section 7910 of the California Government Code, a resolution will be presented for adoption by the Board of Trustees at its Regular meeting on June 17, 2025, which will set the limitations on appropriations for fiscal year 2025/2026 under Article XIIIB of the Constitution of the State of California (Proposition 13), and that the documentation used in determining the appropriation limitations will be available at the District office and on the District's website for examination by the public for at least 15 days prior to the adoption of the proposed resolution.*"

Mr. Garcia explained the materials provided by the California Department of Finance for calculating the FY 2025/2026 appropriation limitation, and how the calculations are applied to the District's Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax limitation. He illustrated that based on the applicable calculations, the District's FY 2025/2026 maximum special assessment amount is $2,657,934. Mr. Garcia noted that although the District is authorized to set the Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax up to the maximum amount, the FY 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget proposes no increase this year, similar to previous years, with the assessment to remain at $875,000. The Board reviewed the information presented and the related Public Notice. Discussion ensued regarding the maximum amount the District could collect versus the proposed FY 2025/2026 amount of $875,000. The consensus of the Board was to keep the Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax amount at $875,000 for FY 2025/2026, but to evaluate the possibility of increasing that amount in future fiscal years as part of the upcoming water rate study.

Mr. Garcia requested authorization to post and publish the Public Notice setting forth the appropriation limit and calculation factors. He reported that the Public Notice and FY 2025/2026 appropriation limitation calculation would be posted at the District Office, on the District website beginning May 21, 2025, and published in the local newspaper on June 5, 2025 and June 12, 2025.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to authorize the Secretary to the Board to post and publish the Public Notice establishing the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 appropriations limit.

b) Review of Draft Resolutions to be presented for adoption at the June 17, 2025 Board Meeting
The Board packet included two draft Resolutions:

1. Draft Resolution: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing the Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Pursuant to Article XIIIB of the California Constitution

2. Draft Resolution: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and Requesting an Assessment Levy Required to Collect $875,000

   Mr. Garcia reported that each year the draft Resolutions are presented a month in advance of the adoption of the Final Budget in conjunction with the

establishment of an appropriations limit, and no action is required at this time. He stated that the two Resolutions would be presented for consideration at the June 17, 2025 Board meeting.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update
   Mr. Drugan provided an update to the Board regarding several of the District's current projects. He also reported on the District's participation in this year's Airport Day event on May 17th and showed the posterboards that were displayed at the District's informational booth.

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update
   The Board packet included a Notice and Agenda for the April 17, 2025 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA).

   Mr. Garcia and Trustee Joos both attended the April 17, 2025 EMA GSA meeting. The main feature of the meeting was a public hearing on the proposed groundwater extraction fee for the Eastern Management Area. Following the workshop on March 20, 20252025, the rate consultant brought back a thorough rate study and presented it in in great detail at the meeting. Mr. Garcia reported that following the public hearing, the EMA GSA Board authorized publication of the EMA rate study and circulation of public notice regarding the proposed fee. He also noted that the Board adopted a well registration Ordinance for the EMA.

2. EMA GSA Requests for Loan Funding and Extension of Payback Period
   Mr. Garcia discussed the EMA GSA's request for a second reimbursable financial contribution from the four public member agencies of the GSA. He explained that the amount of the District's second contribution would be $23,097.00. Mr. Garcia also explained that the EMA GSA has requested (1) an extended payback period for the reimbursable funding contributions made by the four public agencies, where the funds would be returned by the GSA in Fiscal Years 2027-2030, and (2) confirmation from the District of whether it will request interest to be paid on the District's outstanding contribution amounts, which interest would begin accruing after December 2026 at the annual LAIF rate in accordance with the EMA Joint Powers Agreement. Board discussion ensued.

   It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve an additional reimbursable financial contribution to the EMA GSA in the amount of $23,097, to approve an extended payback period as requested by the EMA GSA, and to confirm that the District will request interest to be paid on the District's outstanding contribution amounts after December 2026 at the rate set forth in the EMA JPA Agreement.

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:

Trustee Burchardi reported that he and Trustee Moniot continue to attend meetings of the Los Olivos CSD, and that the CSD and Los Olivos community are continuing to discuss alternatives for treatment and disposal of commercial and residential wastewater.

A brief conversation ensued regarding expenses arising in the future from DWR and how that will financially impact the District and other members of CCWA.

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

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

13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
President Clay stated that the next Regular Board meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for June 17, 2025 at 3:00p.m.

14. CLOSED SESSION:
The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:29 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 3 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)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of Litigation By the Agency – One Matter]

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

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 6:23 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Items presented on the Agenda. He reported that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

16. ADJOURNMENT:
Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:23 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board

ATTEST:

Jeff Clay, President

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Kylie Kelleher, Executive Administrative Assistant

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
June 17, 2025

Consent Agenda Report

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. The District's total water production in **May 2025 (368 AF)** was 100 AF higher than total production in **April 2025** (268 AF), 31 AF higher than the most recent 3-year running average (2021-2024) for the month of **May** (337 AF), and 14 AF lower than the most recent 10-year running average (2014-2024) for the month of **May** (382 AF). Notwithstanding this moderately above-average production value for May 2025 compared to the most recent 3-year average (likely due to dry conditions in early 2025), generally the District's overall demands and total production have been trending below historic levels for domestic, rural residential, and agricultural water deliveries due to water conservation, changing water use patterns, and private well installations.

For the month of **May 2025**, no water was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells and no water was produced from the Santa Ynez River alluvium. Instead, the District only utilized SWP supplies throughout the month, taking **368 AF** of State water deliveries at the Mesa Verde pumping station, all of which was allocated to Exchange with the South Coast Cachuma Member Agencies. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **2.62 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Lake Cachuma in **May** (ending May 31, 2025) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **743.61'** and end of month storage of **165,595 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the lake of **0.07 inches** for the month. SWP deliveries to the reservoir for South Coast entities were **45.3 AF**. Reported reservoir evaporation in **May** was **1,427.5 AF**.

Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **June 9, 2025** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **85.1%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **164,186 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. In recent years, Reclamation approved a 100% Project allocation for federal WY 2023-2024 based on extraordinary rain conditions that spilled the reservoir in early 2023. The reservoir spilled again in early 2024 and Reclamation issued another 100% Project allocation for federal WY 2024-2025, which began October 1, 2024. As of April 30, 2025 ID No.1 held approximately 3,809 AF of contractual Project supplies in the reservoir, including approximately 1,392 AF of carryover and 2,417 AF of current year allocation.

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

NMFS 2000 Biological Opinion

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

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

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

SWRCB Order WR 2019-0148

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

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

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

Based on local rainfall conditions, inflows to Cachuma Reservoir this water year did not exceeded 33,707 AF and thus did <u>not</u> trigger higher fishery release requirements from Bradbury Dam under "Table 2" of State Board Order 2019-0148.

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

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

> *Although water year 2024 is currently classified as an Above Normal year, the ability to move water supply south through the system this spring continues to be impacted by the presence of threatened and endangered fish species near SWP pumping facilities in the south Delta. The presence of these fish species has triggered state and federal regulations that significantly reduce the pumping from the Delta into the California Aqueduct, which limits the SWP's ability to move and store water in San Luis Reservoir. This reduced pumping is expected to continue into late spring. The SWP is prepared to increase pumping as soon as the fishery conditions and state and federal operating permits allow.*

In 2025, DWR again has taken a very conservative approach to the Table A allocation, as follows:

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

DWR explained the latest Table A increase as follows:

> *Moderate storm events of the last month let to improvements in snowpack and water supply runoff in the Northern Sierra. These conditions, along with a conservative forecast of conditions through the rest of the year, support DWR in increasing the SWP allocation from 40 percent to 50 percent. DWR may revise the SWP allocation if water supply conditions change.*
>
> *To determine the available SWP water supplies, DWR considers such factors as SWP contractors' 2025 demands, existing storage in SWP conservation facilities, estimates of future runoff, SWP operational and regulatory requirements ftom the Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and water rights obligations under the State Water Resources Control Board's authority.*

With Lake Oroville currently at 99 percent of total capacity and 123 percent of its historic average, many believe that DWR should and may increase the final 2025 allocation above 50 percent.

As reflected in recent Agendas for the CCWA Board of Directors meetings, CCWA remains engaged in a variety of matters relating to the SWP, including but not limited to: SWP supplies and related SWP operations; water transfers by CCWA member agencies; and the CCWA FY 2025-2026 Budget. CCWA and its member agencies also remain engaged in pending litigation against the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to maintain CCWA sovereignty over important decisions pertaining to SWP supplies. CCWA's last meeting on May 19, 2025 dealt only with succession planning for the Executive Director position. The next regular meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors is currently scheduled for June 26, 2025.

— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Historical Archive and Report Database

Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 6/10/2025

May 2025

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE ACRE-FEET IN LAKE	STORAGE ACRE-FEET CHANGE	COMPUTED* INFLOW AF.	CCWA INFLOW AF.	PRECIP ON RES. SURF. AF.	RELEASE - AF. TUNNEL	RELEASE - AF. HILTON CREEK	RELEASE - AF. OUTLET	RELEASE - AF. SPILLWAY	EVAPORATION AF.	EVAPORATION INCH	PRECIP INCHES
	744.73	168,741											
1	744.70	168,656	-85	27.6	0.0	0.0	59.5	13.3	15.0	0.0	24.8	0.130	0.00
2	744.68	168,599	-57	29.8	0.0	11.8	50.3	13.3	14.0	0.0	21.0	0.110	0.05
3	744.66	168,542	-57	41.1	0.0	0.0	43.1	13.3	15.0	0.0	26.7	0.140	0.00
4	744.62	168,428	-114	-18.3	0.0	2.4	39.4	13.2	15.0	0.0	30.5	0.160	0.01
5	744.61	168,400	-28	64.2	0.0	0.0	31.6	13.2	15.0	0.0	32.4	0.170	0.00
6	744.58	168,316	-84	21.1	0.0	0.0	36.8	13.3	15.0	0.0	40.0	0.210	0.00
7	744.55	168,232	-84	30.9	0.0	0.0	42.9	13.2	15.0	0.0	43.8	0.230	0.00
8	744.53	168,176	-56	47.3	0.0	0.0	40.8	13.3	15.0	0.0	34.2	0.180	0.00
9	744.50	168,092	-84	41.2	0.0	0.0	46.6	13.2	16.0	0.0	49.4	0.260	0.00
10	744.47	168,008	-84	46.2	0.0	0.0	44.1	13.2	14.0	0.0	58.9	0.310	0.00
11	744.44	167,923	-85	74.0	0.0	0.0	43.4	13.2	15.0	0.0	87.4	0.460	0.00
12	744.40	167,811	-112	17.7	0.0	0.0	44.5	13.2	15.0	0.0	57.0	0.300	0.00
13	744.36	167,699	-112	12.3	0.0	0.0	43.0	13.2	15.0	0.0	53.1	0.280	0.00
14	744.31	167,559	-140	-15.2	0.0	0.0	48.3	13.2	14.0	0.0	49.3	0.260	0.00
15	744.27	167,446	-113	18.9	0.0	0.0	58.2	13.2	15.0	0.0	45.5	0.240	0.00
16	744.22	167,306	-140	7.4	0.0	0.0	71.8	13.2	15.0	0.0	47.4	0.250	0.00
17	744.19	167,194	-112	24.0	0.0	2.3	72.2	13.2	15.0	0.0	37.9	0.200	0.01
18	744.14	167,082	-112	20.9	0.0	0.0	66.9	13.2	15.0	0.0	37.8	0.200	0.00
19	744.10	166,969	-113	2.5	0.0	0.0	40.0	13.2	15.0	0.0	47.3	0.250	0.00
20	744.06	166,857	-112	8.2	0.0	0.0	49.5	13.2	14.0	0.0	43.5	0.230	0.00
21	744.01	166,717	-140	2.1	0.0	0.0	57.2	13.2	15.0	0.0	56.7	0.300	0.00
22	743.98	166,633	-84	89.2	0.0	0.0	63.8	13.2	15.0	0.0	81.2	0.430	0.00
23	743.93	166,492	-141	14.0	0.0	0.0	66.4	13.2	15.0	0.0	60.4	0.320	0.00
24	743.88	166,352	-140	1.9	0.0	0.0	66.6	13.2	15.0	0.0	47.1	0.250	0.00
25	743.84	166,240	-112	35.2	0.0	0.0	65.3	13.2	14.0	0.0	54.7	0.290	0.00
26	743.79	166,099	-141	-6.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	13.1	15.0	0.0	39.5	0.210	0.00
27	743.75	165,987	-112	34.8	0.0	0.0	71.6	13.1	15.0	0.0	47.1	0.250	0.00
28	743.71	165,875	-112	9.0	9.6	0.0	59.1	13.2	15.0	0.0	43.3	0.230	0.00
29	743.67	165,763	-112	-4.8	11.9	0.0	58.2	13.1	14.0	0.0	33.8	0.180	0.00
30	743.64	165,678	-85	42.3	11.9	0.0	60.4	13.1	15.0	0.0	50.7	0.270	0.00
31	743.61	165,595	-83	36.8	11.9	0.0	59.5	13.1	14.0	0.0	45.1	0.240	0.00
TOTALS			**-3,146**	**755.6**	**45.3**	**16.5**	**1,667.7**	**409.2**	**459.0**	**0.0**	**1,427.5**	**7.540**	**0.07**
AVERAGE		**167,249**											

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

Santa Barbara County - Flood Control District

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

Rainfall and Reservoir Summary

Updated 8am: 6/9/2025 **Water Year: 2025** **Storm Number: NA**

Notes: Daily rainfall amounts are recorded as of 8am for the previous 24 hours. Rainfall units are expressed in inches.
All data on this page are from automated sensors, are preliminary, and subject to verification.
*Each Water Year (WY) runs from Sept 1 through Aug 31 and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends
County Real-Time Rainfall and Reservoir Website link ➢ https://rain.cosbpw.net

Rainfall	ID	24 hrs	Storm 0day(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*	AI
Buellton (Fire Stn)	*233*	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.99	42%	42%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	*332*	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.01	45%	45%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	*208*	0.00	0.00	0.02	8.16	47%	47%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	*436*	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	51%	50%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	*421*	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.88	55%	55%	12.3
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	*230*	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.09	46%	46%	12.2
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Carneros)	*440*	0.00	0.00	0.01	10.24	56%	55%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	*439*	0.00	0.00	0.01	8.25	56%	55%	12.5
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	*204*	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.08	53%	53%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	*212*	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.41	62%	62%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	*234*	0.00	0.00	0.01	10.29	56%	56%	
Santa Maria (City Pub.Works)	*380*	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.33	55%	55%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	*218*	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.67	42%	42%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	*256*	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.40	49%	49%	

Countywide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : 51%

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : 51%

Countywide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall calculated assuming no more rain through Aug. 31, 2025 (End of WY2025).

AI (Antecedent Index / Soil Wetness)
6.0 and below = Wet (min. = 2.5)
6.1 - 9.0 = Moderate
9.1 and above = Dry (max. = 12.5)

Reservoirs

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

Click on Site for Real-Time Readings	Spillway Elev. (ft)	Current Elev. (ft)	Max. Storage (ac-ft)	Current Storage (ac-ft)	Current Capacity (%)	Storage Change Mo.(ac-ft)	Storage Change Year*(ac-ft)
Gibraltar Reservoir	1,400.00	1,396.09	4,693	3,850	82.0%	3,119	615
Cachuma Reservoir	753.**	743.27	192,978	164,186	85.1%	-867	-20,539
Jameson Reservoir	2,224.00	2,222.69	4,848	4,687	96.7%	-17	-90
Twitchell Reservoir	Twitchell Reservoir level has dropped below the sensor, data no longer available.						

Previous Rainfall and Reservoir Summaries

CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dessi Mladenova, Controller — June 3, 2025

FROM: Lacey Adam, Senior Accountant

SUBJECT: Monthly Water Deliveries

According to the CCWA revenue meters at each turnout, the following deliveries were made during the month of May 2025:

Project Participant	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Chorro	162
Lopez	39
Shandon	0
Guadalupe	31
Santa Maria	484
Golden State Water Co.	0
Vandenberg	307
Buellton	31
Solvang	70
Santa Ynez ID#1	368
Bradbury	54
TOTAL	**1,546**

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 1,561 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

Project Participant	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Chorro	**164**
Lopez	**39**
Shandon	**0**
Guadalupe	**31**
Santa Maria	**444***
Golden State Water Co	**45***
Vandenberg	**310**
Buellton	**31**
Solvang	**71**
Santa Ynez ID#1	**372**
Bradbury	**54**
TOTAL	**1,561**

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

Notes: Santa Ynez ID#1 water usage is divided into 0 acre-feet of Table A water and 372 acre-feet of exchange water.

The exchange water is allocated as follows

Project Participant	Exchange Amount (acre-feet)
Goleta	134
Santa Barbara	89
Montecito	89
Carpinteria	60
TOTAL	**372**

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

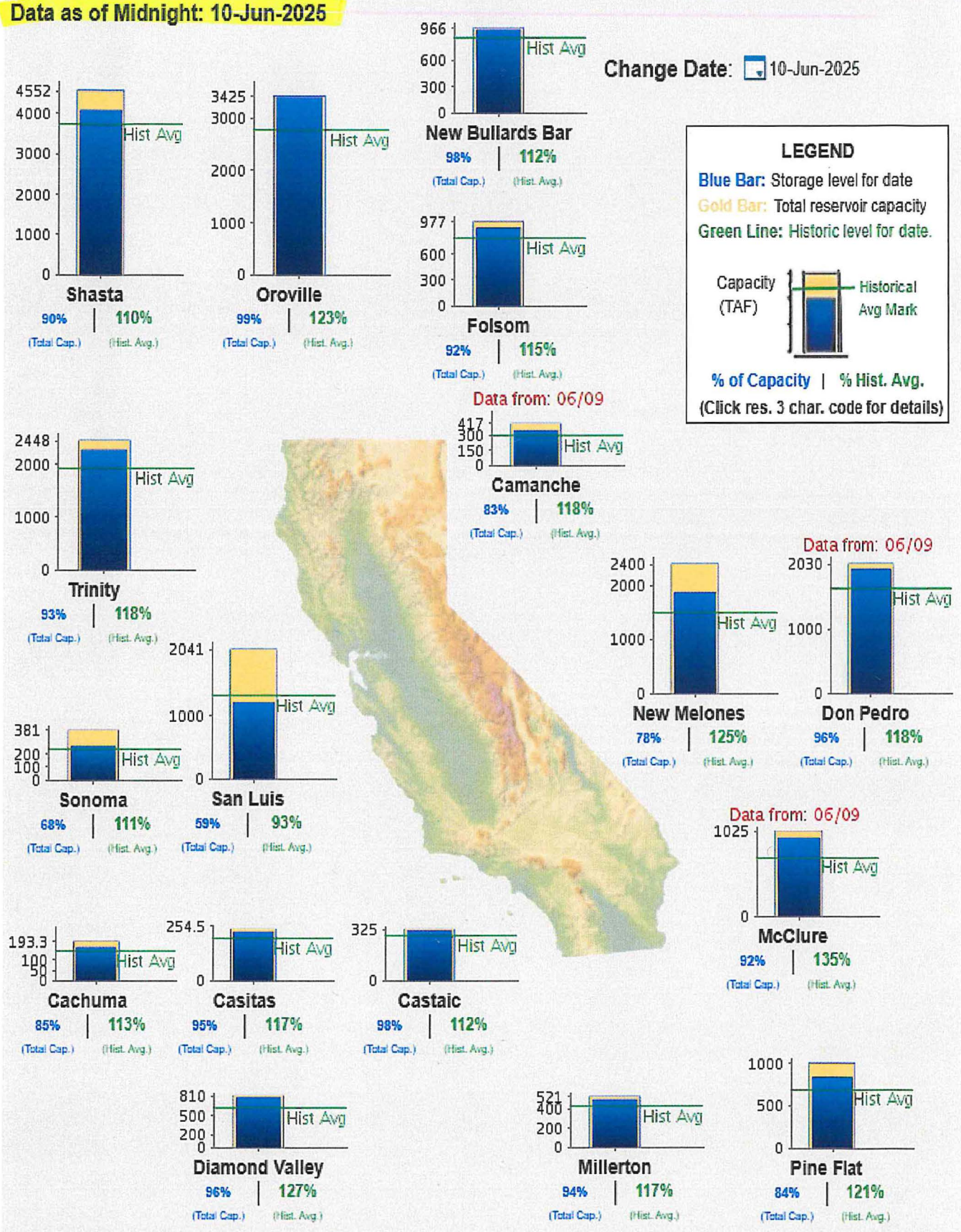
Project Participant	Delivery Amount (acre-feet)
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	47
Montecito	0
Morehart	7
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	0
TOTAL	**54**

cc: Daniel Brooks, GWD
Mike Babb, Golden State WC
Joshua Haggmark, 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
Todd Bodem, City of Guadalupe
Robert MacDonald, Carpinteria Valley WD
Mike Alvarado, La Cumbre Mutual WC
Pernell Rush, Vandenberg SFB
Nick Turner, Montecito WD
Jose Acosta, City of Solvang
Rose Hess, City of Buellton

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CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:10-JUN-2025

Data as of Midnight: 10-Jun-2025



Click to download printable version of current data.

Report Generated: 11-Jun-2025 5:04 PM

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

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CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA

Chairman – Eric Friedman
Vice Chairman – Jeff Clay

Monday, May 19, 2025
9:00 AM
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 286 532 200 859 1 Passcode: zo3eq6qz
or by dialing +1 323-484-5095,and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 631 689 281#

Please note: public participation by video call or telephone is for convenience only and is not required by law. If technical interruptions to the video call/telephone occur, the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting and participants are invited to take advantage of the other participation options above.

Public Comment on agenda items may occur via video call or telephonically, or by submission to the Board Secretary via email at lfw@ccwa.com no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In your email, please specify (1) the meeting date and agenda item (number and title) on which you are providing a comment and (2) that you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting. If you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting (as either general public comment or on a specific agenda item), please limit your comments to no more than 250 words.

Every effort will be made to read comments into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Please also note that if you submit a written comment and do not specify that you would like this comment read into the record during the meeting, your comment will be forwarded to Board members for their consideration.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available on the CCWA internet web site, accessible at https://www.ccwa.com.

★ indicates written report

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. Individual Speakers may be limited to five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen minutes.)

III. Reports from Board Members for Information Only

IV. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

V. Date of Next Regular Meeting: June 26, 2025

VI. Closed Session

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT
Gov't Code Section 54957
Title: Executive Director

VII. Return to Open Session

A. Report on Closed Session Actions (if any)

VIII. Adjournment

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

BOARD MEETINGS (/BOARD-MEETINGS)

JUN
26
2025

Board Meeting

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255 INDUSTRIAL WAY, BUELLTON CA 93427

TELEPHONE (805) 688-2292

RESOLUTION NO. 853

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1 ESTABLISHING THE APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XIIIB OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

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

WHEREAS, the District is required pursuant to Government Code Section 7910 to establish by Resolution its appropriation limit for the 2025/2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the documentation used in the determination of said limit has been available to the public at the District office and on the District website for at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of this Resolution, and was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District on June 5, 2025 and on June 12, 2025.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, in accordance with information published by the California Department of Finance, the appropriation limit of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, for the 2025/2026 fiscal year is established at $2,657,934.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified President and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Trustees of said District at a Regular Meeting held on June 17, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSTAIN, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

_____

Jeff Clay, President

ATTEST:

_____

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 will consider adopting a Resolution setting the limit of appropriations pursuant to Article XIIIB of the Constitution of the State of California for fiscal year 2025/2026 at a Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California 93460.

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

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Dated: May 21, 2025

Posted: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the District Office and on the District Website at www.syrwd.org.

Newspaper Publication Dates:
Thursday, June 5, 2025
Thursday, June 12, 2025

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1

2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATION LIMITATION CALCULATION

Santa Barbara County population change and California per capita personal income change data published by the State of California Department of Finance (May 2025) are used in computing the 2025/2026 Appropriation Limitation Calculation as follows:

2024/25 Appropriation Limit	$2,481,499
Per Capita Personal Income Percentage Change over Prior Year	6.44 percent
Population Change over Prior Year Santa Barbara County	0.63 percent
Per Capita converted to a ratio:	$\frac{6.44 + 100}{100} = 1.0644$
Population converted to a ratio:	$\frac{0.63 + 100}{100} = 1.0063$
CPI Factor	1.0644
Population Factor	1.0063
CPI Factor X Population Factor	1.0711
1.0711 x $2,481,499 =	**$2,657,934**

A Resolution will be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, for adoption of the 2025/2026 Appropriation Limit at a Regular Meeting on June 17, 2025.

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Posted: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the District Office and on the District Website at www.syrwd.org.

Newspaper Publication Dates: Thursday, June 5, 2025 and Thursday, June 12, 2025

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Improvement District No. 1
3622 Sagunto Street – PO Box 157
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
(805) 688-6015

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No . I will consider adopting a Resolution setting the limit of appropriations pursuant to Article XIIIB of the Constitution of the State of California for fiscal year 2025/2026 at a Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California 93460.

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

Racel Cota
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Dated: May 21, 2025

Posted: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the District Office

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No.1
2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATION LIMITATION CALCULATION

2024/25AppropriationLimit	$2,481,499
Per Capita Personal Income Percentage Change over Prior Year	6.44 percent
Population Change over Prior Year Santa Barbara County	0.63 percent
Per Capita converted to a ratio	6.44 + 100 = 1.0644 100
Population converted to a ratio:	0.63 + 100 = 1.0063 100
Population converted to a ratio:	0.63 + 100 = 1.0063 100
CPI Factor	1.0644
Population Factor	1.0063
CPI Factor X Population Factor	1.0711
1.0711 X $2,481,499 =	**$2,657,934**

A Resolution will be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No . 1, for adoption of the 2025/2026 Appropriation Limit at a Regular Meeting on June 17, 2025.

Racel Cota - Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Posted: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the District Office and on the District Website at www.syrwd.org.

Newspaper Publication Dates: Thursday, June 5, 2025 and Thursday, June 12, 2025

Pub dates: Jun 5, 12, 2025
Legal 479235

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

FY 2025/2026
FINAL
BUDGET

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Moniot
Division 1

Jeff Clay, President
Division 2

Nick Urton
Division 3

Michael Burchardi, Vice President
Division 4

Brad Joos
Trustee-At-Large

This Budget was prepared under the direction of:

Paeter Garcia, General Manager

Racel Cota, Administrative and Financial Manager

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Drugan, Water Resources Manager

Joe Come', Operations & Maintenance Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

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

DISTRICT OVERVIEW, STRUCTURE AND STAFFING

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

Located in the central portion of Santa Barbara County, the District serves the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the City of Solvang on a limited basis. With a service area population of approximately 7,022 (excluding the City of Solvang), the District currently provides water directly to approximately 2,624 municipal and industrial customers (including domestic/residential, commercial, institutional, rural residential, and fire service) and approximately 97 agricultural customers. The District encompasses an area of approximately 10,850 acres (including approximately 1,300 acres within Solvang).

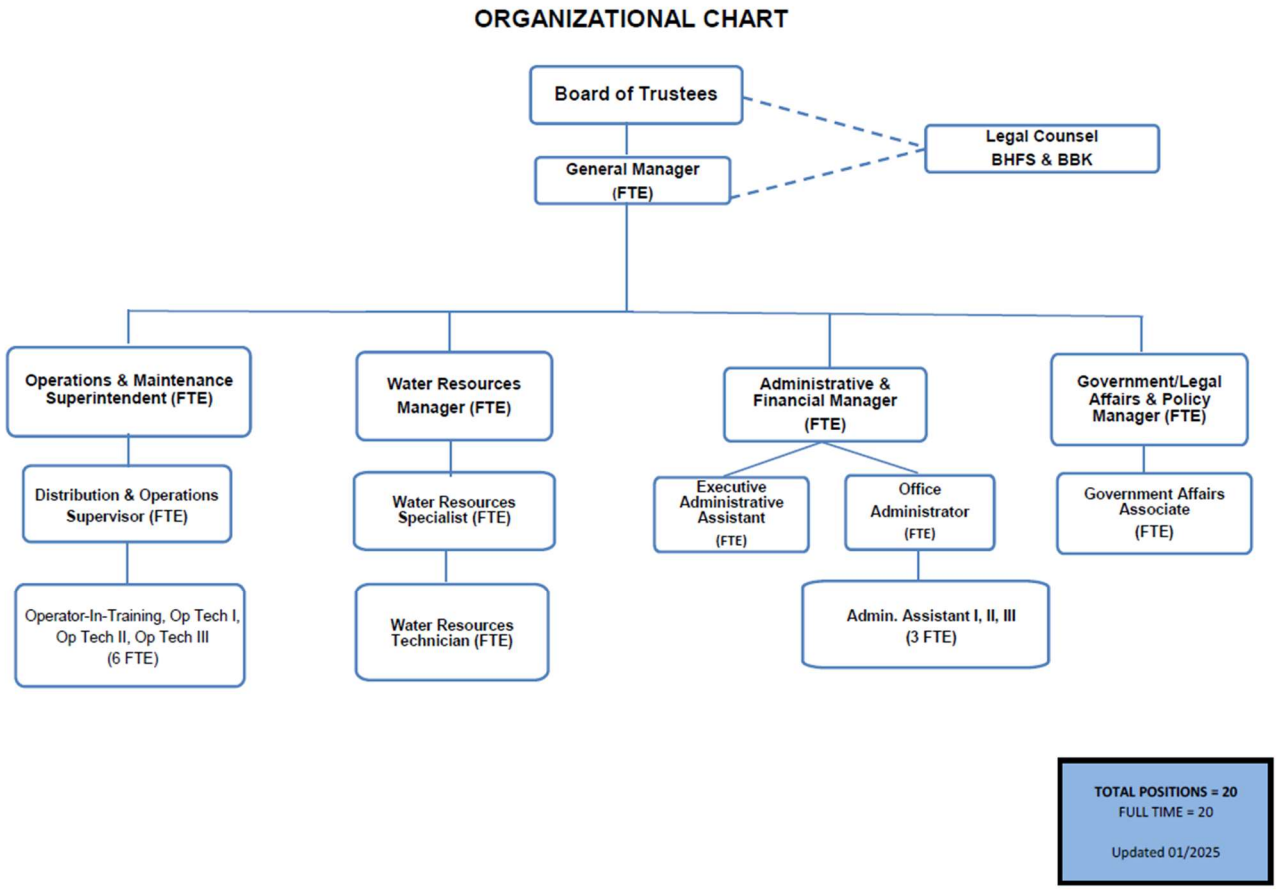
The District obtains its water supplies from the Cachuma Project/State Water Exchange, direct diversions from the Cachuma Project (as needed), contractual deliveries from the State Water Project as a member agency of the Central Coast Water Authority, production from the Santa Ynez Uplands Groundwater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

Operational Information

- District Pipelines (in miles) = 92
- Number of Booster Pump Stations = 4 with 11 pumps
- Number of Active Wells = 17
- SWP/ID No.1 Turnout = 5 pumps
- Number of water storage reservoirs/tanks = 4 with a total capacity of 16.7 million gallons
- Current number of approved, funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions = 20

ORGANIZATION CHART

FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2025/26

BUDGET PROCESS

The District's fiscal year budget is one of the most important documents prepared by management for the Board of Trustees. The financial accounts and line items reflected in this document and the FY 2025/26 Final Budget describe the annual fiscal year budget beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026.

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

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

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

REPORTING BASIS

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

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

The FY 2025/26 Final Budget was developed from the Uniform System of Accounts for Water Utilities which includes a set of tables providing details for revenue and expenditure categories of the District. **The tables contained in this Report are intended to be reviewed in connection with the FY 2025/26 Final Budget document**.

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

BUDGET AND RESERVE FUND BACKGROUND

The District's 2016 Water Rate Study, inclusive of the approved Water Rate Schedule, was adopted by the District's Board of Trustees on December 13, 2016 and became effective on February 1, 2017. The Water Rate Study and Schedule provide the foundation for incrementally increased revenues over a five-year period. Rates were developed to meet operating expenses, debt service obligations, capital improvement projects (partially), and other planned expenditures. The Water Rate Study also includes a Reserves analysis and a plan for adding to the District's reserve funds over time to allow for recovery of reserve deficits that occurred over the previous six-year period. The last rate adjustment pursuant to the Water Rate Schedule went into effect on July 1, 2021 and remains in effect for the FY 2025/26 budget cycle. The FY 2025/26 Final Budget proposes to fully fund all expense categories, including Operations and Maintenance (O&M), General and Administrative (G&A), Debt Service, Other Expenses and Special Studies, and Capital Improvement Project program costs, leaving a net balance of $2,099,839.

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

Table 1 **RESERVE BALANCES**

	June 30, 2024	March 31, 2025
BOARD RESERVED		
Debt Repayment Obligation	$614,223	$587,247[1]
Repair & Replacement	$7,390,060	$8,580,532
Plant Expansion	$8,672,492	$10,458,199
Subtotal	**$16,676,775**	**$19,625,978**
RESTRICTED RESERVE		
Dev. Fee; SY Septic	$109,212	$109,212
State Water Project Reserve[2]	$3,000,000	$3,000,000

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1. This amount represents a Debt Payment Obligation reserve balance for 9-months of current FY 2024-25. The year-end reserve amount in this category will change on June 30, 2025 to reflect payments for the SWP payment due on June 1, and the USBR Safety of Dams Repayment Contract payment.
2. One year set aside payment established to guarantee ID No.1's contractual debt obligation in the event of a default by the City of Solvang.

BUDGET IN DETAIL

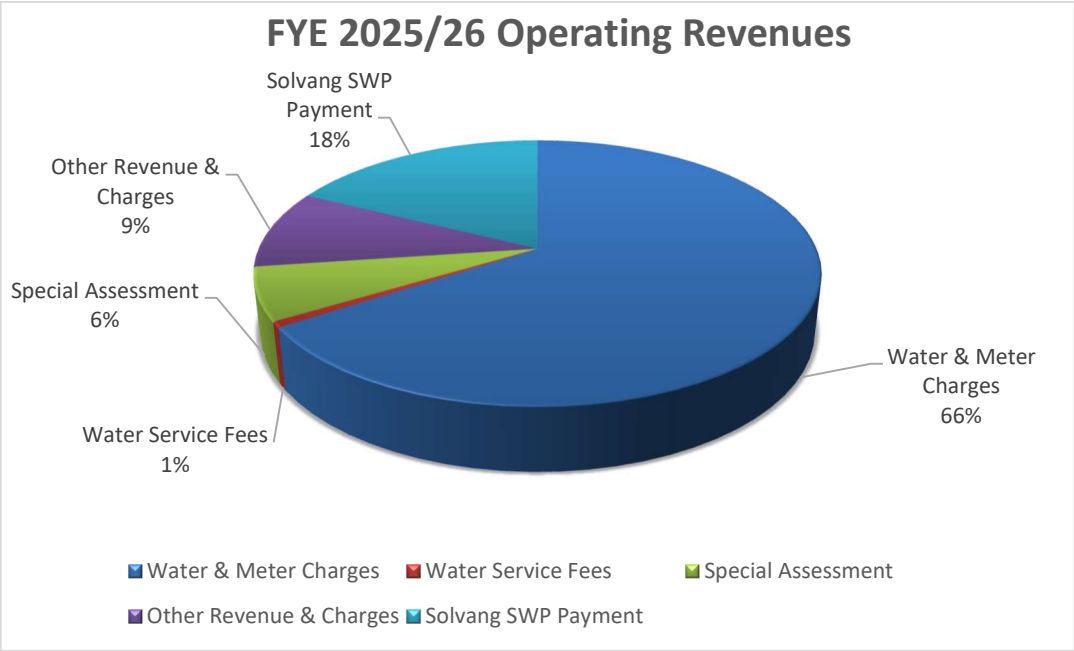
The specific revenue and expenditure categories of the budget account for the adopted water rates and revenues, prior year audit data, and financial account information. The categories are displayed using actual 9-month revenue and expenditure data from the current fiscal year and are also projected to show the fiscal year-end figures (June 30, 2025). This information is used as part of the evaluation to develop the FY 2025/26 Final Budget.

The FY 2025/26 Final Budget of $13,592,249 reflects an overall 3.76% decrease compared to the projected June 30, 2025 year-end results and is 5.15% more than the financial projections adopted as part of the 2016 Water Rate Study. As noted above, the FY 2025/26 Final Budget assumes that water rates remain static based upon the last rate increase that went into effect on July 1, 2021. The water rates are applied to forecasted water sales and meter charges in FY 2025/26 based on actual sales and charges in the current and prior fiscal years. The budget also assumes no increase in the $875,000 Special Assessment/Ad Valorem Tax, even though the authorized limit for FY 2025/26 is $2,657,934. Other factors such as capital facilities charges and interest income are integral parts of the forecast. The information below shows that budgeted revenues will meet projected operating expenditures and debt service obligations and result in a projected net revenue balance of $4,188,589. This revenue balance will fund the Other Expenses and Special Studies categories as further detailed in the Final Budget, leaving a balance of $3,218,839 in net operating revenues, which will fully fund the proposed $1,119,000 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Program for FY 2025/26, leaving a net balance of $2,099,839 which will contribute to the District's reserves.

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

The District operates according to cost of service, with revenues derived primarily from water sales, the special tax assessment, fixed monthly service charges, and other water services. For the FY 2025/26 Final Budget, the total operating revenues are projected at $13,592,249 including the SWP revenue of $2,397,369 from the City of Solvang. Actual projected total revenues are $11,194,880 without the SWP pass-through payment. Table 2 below summarizes the distribution of the District's projected revenue sources for FY 2025/26.

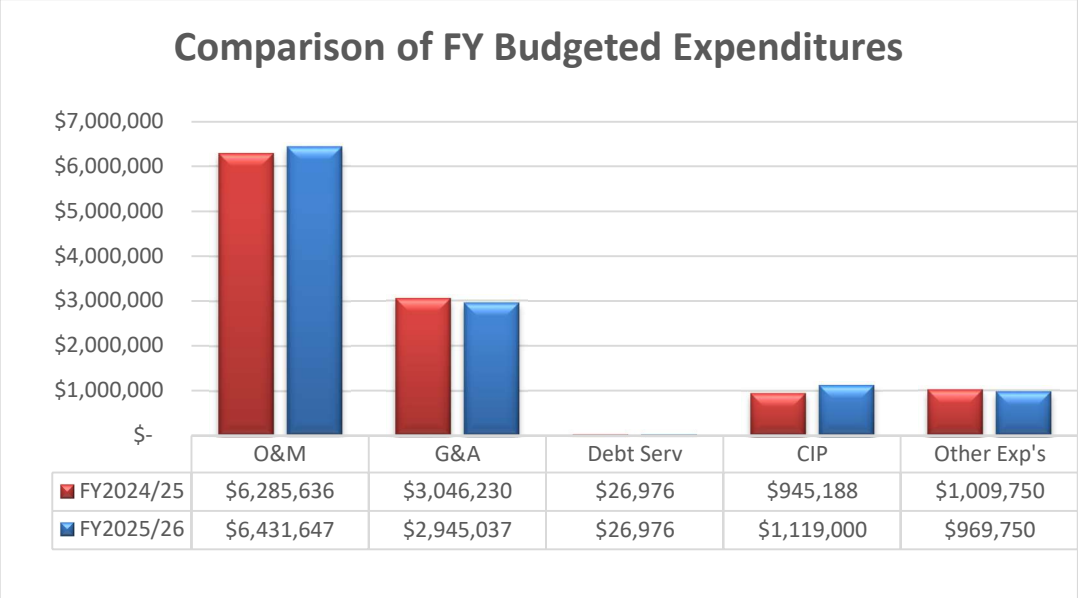
Table 2



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

Based on the FY 2025/26 Final Budget, the District's projected water sales and other operating revenues, including the FY 2025/26 special tax assessment, will fully fund the overall operating expenditures, including all categories of Operation & Maintenance, General & Administrative, and Debt Service, and result in a net revenue balance of $4,188,589. This net balance of operating revenues is proposed to fund the District's Other Expenses and Special Studies categories as further detailed in the Final Budget. Thereafter, a net revenue balance of $3,218,839 is proposed to fully fund the District's FY 2025/26 CIP program. Table 3 below shows all budgeted expenditure categories for FY 2025/26 in comparison to the previous fiscal year.

Table 3

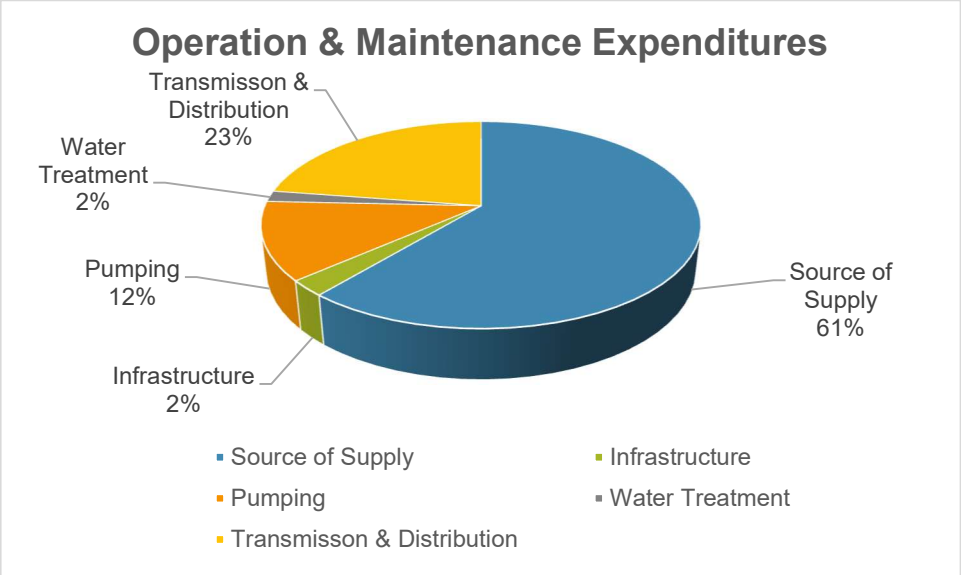


	O&M	G&A	Debt Serv	CIP	Other Exp's
FY2024/25	$6,285,636	$3,046,230	$26,976	$945,188	$1,009,750
FY2025/26	$6,431,647	$2,945,037	$26,976	$1,119,000	$969,750

EXPENDITURES - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

The overall budget for O&M expenditures for FY 2025/26 is $146,011 (2.3%) more than last year's FY 2024/25 budget, with multiple factors collectively attributable to the increase from the prior year. The Source of Supply category is comparable to the prior year with an overall increase of $12,447. Some notable changes in this category include a decrease of $132,431 in fixed CCWA/DWR costs, an increase of $99,909 for the City of Solvang's SWP passthrough expenses for the year, and the addition of groundwater pumping charge expenses that will be payable to the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The Infrastructure, Pumping, and Water Treatment are comparable to the prior year and have minimal increases. Transmission & Distribution has an increase of $102,564 from FY 2024/25 budget attributable to increases in retirement and benefits. ACWA JPIA premiums for health, dental, and vision coverage are anticipated to have an inflationary increase of 5% for each coverage plan.

Table 4



EXPENDITURES - GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION (G&A)

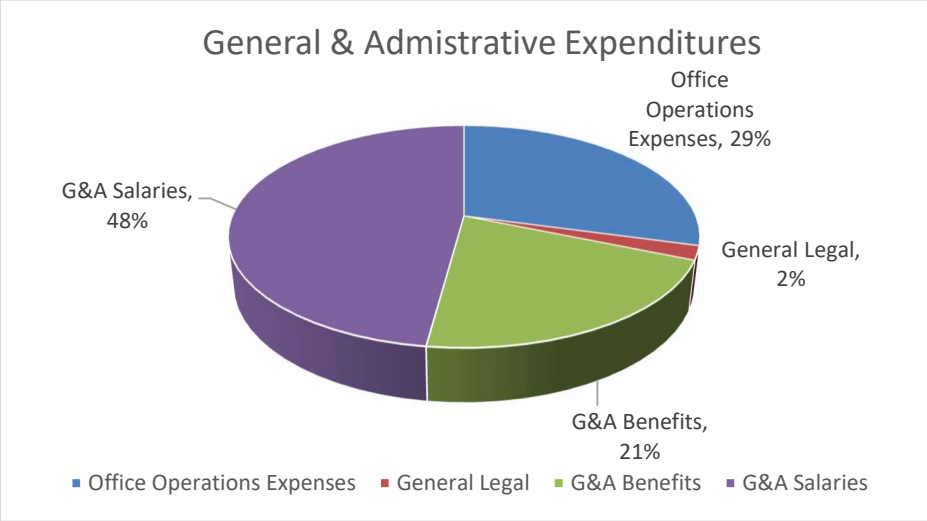
The overall budget for G&A expenditures for FY 2025/26 decreased by $101,193 (3.3%) compared to last year's FY 2024/25 budget.

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

Other increases to this expense category are tied to Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and merit increases to employee salaries in accordance with the District's adopted Personnel Policy Manual and Salary Schedule, which in turn affect retirement and payroll tax expenses. The District-wide COLA is being proposed at 3.1% for FY 2025/26. The COLA is consistent with industry standards and is based on the Consumer Price Index 12-month calculation data (April-March). The COLA factor is obtained by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics through averaging the most recent 12-month indexes compared to the prior year for all urban wage earners and clerical workers for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area of California.

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

Table 5



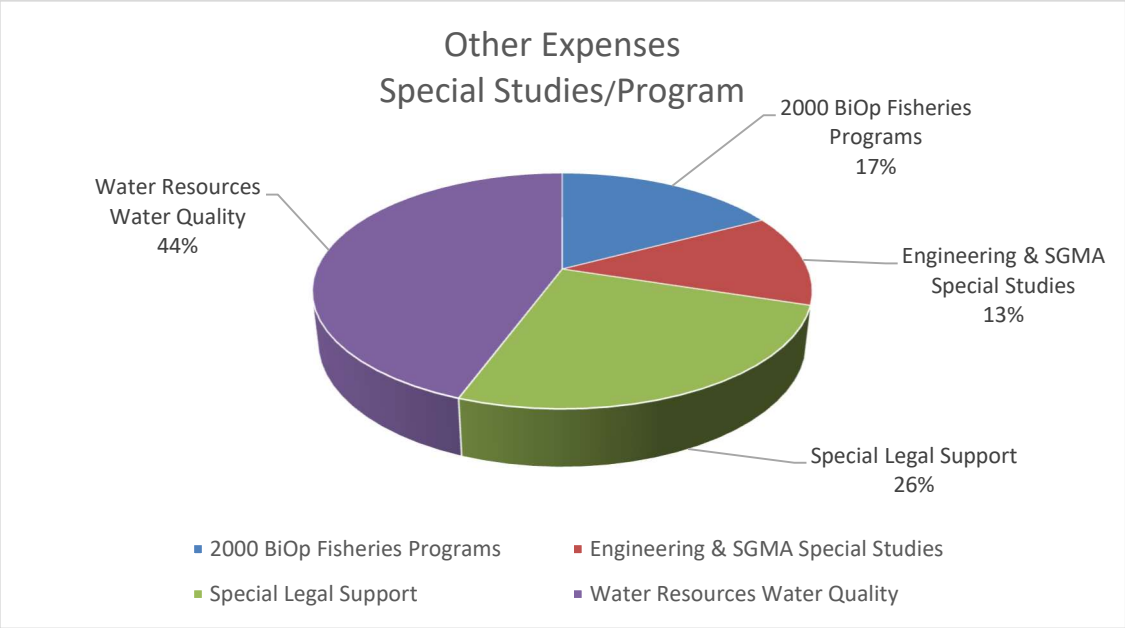
DEBT SERVICE

The District's Debt Service category for FY 2025/26 includes the USBR Safety of Dams repayment (principal and interest) which remains constant for the 50-year term at $26,976 per year. As detailed above, the FY 2025/26 operating revenues, inclusive of the special tax assessment, are projected to fully fund the District's operating expenses plus debt service.

OTHER EXPENSES

For FY 2025/26, the budgeted amount of $969,750 in the Other Expenses category will be funded by the net revenue balance of $4,188,589. The FY 2025/26 budget for Other Expenses is $40,000 less than what was budgeted in FY 2024/25. As fully detailed in the 2025/26 Final Budget, some of the line-items reflect decreases, such as work on the 2019 State Water Resources Control Board Order and direct involvement in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). On the other hand, some expenses are projected to increase in connection with engineering work for the newly adopted MCL for Chromium 6 (Cr6), and legal support for the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) case against the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Notably, the FY 2025/26 Final Budget continues to include funding for professional services needed to update the District's Cr6 Compliance Plan, treatment options and feasibility studies for wells that may be affected by the new MCL, additional well exploration studies, and public outreach to District customers in relation to the Cr6 regulation. Table 6 below illustrates the distribution of costs for the Other Expenses and Special Studies categories.

Table 6



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

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

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

During FY 2024/25 certain CIP projects were not completed due to contractor scheduling delays, unavailability of certain parts and materials, or internal decisions to postpone implementation until the next fiscal year. As a result, several projects that were proposed in FY 2024/25 are being carried forward for completion in FY 2025/26. These are identified below as "Rollforward Projects."

For FY 2025/26, a total of $1,119,000 is budgeted for the CIP program. This amount is $173,812 more than the $945,188 CIP budget in FY 2024/25. Of particular note, the entire CIP program for FY 2025/26 will be funded from the District's net revenues of $3,218,839 (after funding Other Expenses and Special Studies) and will not require funding from District reserves.

Account 900332 ($50,000) – District Building (Rollforward Project) – Several years ago this account was budgeted as a higher amount to include the combination of a steel building to house a water treatment and control system for the District's office wells, along with a garage bay for District equipment and needed expansion and upgrade of field crew quarters. The FY 2025/26 Final Budget includes funding to finalize architectural and engineering design modifications for a new District building to provide a District-designated Board Room, conference rooms, and various administrative and employee workspace.

900372 ($20,000) – Office Computers, Furniture & Equipment – The FY 2026/26 Final Budget for this account includes $5,000 for office workstations and software upgrades, and $10,000 for acquisition, installation, and annual service charges for new office phone system hardware to replace the current phones that have been in place for approximately 20 years. Additional funds are budgeted to acquire an annual service plan for two (2) emergency satellite phones ($1,000) and for miscellaneous repair and replacement of computers, field tablets, and office furniture as needed ($4,000).

900318 ($5,000) – Meter Replacement/Utility Billing – During FY 2024/25, the District officially completed its meter replacement program for the entire service area. For FY 2025/26, the Final Budget includes $5,000 for upgrades to the District's Microsoft SQL server and UMS utility billing system to ensure compatibility with the new Neptune meter devices.

900371 ($90,000) – Office Building/Shop Improvements – During FY 2024/25 the District budgeted and expended approximately $80,000 to purchase and install iron security fencing with a mechanically operated gate around the perimeter of the District's Madera Street yard that houses fleet and large equipment. This fencing now functions as an enhanced physical barrier to help deter unauthorized individuals from accessing the premises and minimize vandalism and theft. The District also spent approximately $6,000 to purchase and install security cameras on the exterior of the District's office and yard area to provide additional security measures and video to assist in providing evidence to law enforcement if issues arise. For FY 2025/26, the Final Budget includes $90,000 to continue these exterior security measures at the District office. The budgeted funds will be used to purchase and install iron security fencing, one mechanically operated gate, and two manual gates along the southern boundary of the District's Sagunto Street property. The new security fencing and gates will provide an enhanced physical barrier to areas where the District stores critical water treatment supplies and mechanical equipment.

900376 ($165,000) – Communications/Telemetry and SCADA – The FY 2025/26 Final Budget includes $165,000 to conduct a comprehensive radio transmission survey and upgrade for the District's entire service area. The District's water distribution system, including reservoirs, wells, and booster pump stations, is operated by utilizing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, an indispensable feature of virtually all modern water systems. Generally speaking, the SCADA system electronically monitors, displays, and communicates critical water system data and parameters, such as reservoir levels and production velocities in wells and pump stations. SCADA also enables District personnel to remotely control operational changes to key infrastructure throughout the system. Because the SCADA system functions through radio communications, the effectiveness of those communications can be limited by the age and functionality of supporting radio equipment, signaling devices, signaling locations, surrounding topography,

and other factors. The District's existing radio and signaling equipment is significantly outdated and our overall radio transmission capabilities have not been evaluated for many years. Consequently, the District's SCADA system is not performing at an optimal level. District staff have consulted with several industry professionals who advise that a comprehensive radio transmission survey for the entire service area can be used to identify equipment, location, and other technological upgrades to improve the functionality of the District's telemetry and SCADA system.

900378 ($10,000) – Major Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment – The FY 2025/26 Final Budget of $10,000 in this account is for the acquisition and replacement of major tools and shop equipment, including a shop compressor, industrial grade shelving, equipment racks, organizational bins, and storage improvements.

900350 ($15,000) – Upland Wells (Partial Rollforward Project) – The Motor Control Center (MCC) and electrical cabinet upgrade project at Well No. 7 is nearing completion. The budgeted funds for FY 2025/26 are rollover amounts from FY 2024/25 and will be used to finalize the MCC and related electrical work at Well No.7.

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

900106 ($115,000) – Rehabilitation/Replacement of Mains/Laterals/Valves and Fire Hydrants – The FY 2025/26 Final Budget for this account includes $25,000 for improvements to the vault that houses the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) on north Still Meadow Road. Additionally, $50,000 will be used for the replacement of mainline valves that are found to be broken or inoperable during the District's ongoing valve maintenance and replacement program. Approximately $40,000 will be utilized to replace certain fire hydrants within the District's system.

900335 ($22,000) – Mesa Verde Pump Station Improvements – The budgeted amount of $22,000 will be used to purchase and install a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for one of the pumps at the Mesa Verde pump station. Utilizing a VFD at Mesa Verde will substantially enhance the District's operational ability to regulate deliveries of State Water Project supplies, particularly under low-flow conditions. This operational flexibility also assists the District's coordination with the Central Coast Water Authority.

900379 ($50,000) – Infrastructure Security – Over the last several years, the District has been upgrading and installing new features at various locations to enhance the security of District water supplies and water supply infrastructure. For FY 2025/26, the Final Budget amount of $50,000 will be used to acquire and install additional security measures at certain locations within the District's service area, including but not limited to security fencing, camera devices, and alarm systems.

900197 ($195,000) – Refugio 3 Booster Pump Station (Partial Rollforward Project) – In FY 2024/25, the District initiated certain work related to the Refugio 3 Booster Pump Replacement Project, including initial MCC and electrical panel upgrades, engineering design and review, acquisition of construction materials (concrete vault, booster pump, piping and appurtenances), and solicitation of bids to replace the booster pump facility. For FY 2025/26, the Final Budget includes $195,000 for this project, approximately $75,000 of which is being rolled over from last fiscal year. The budged funds for FY 2025/26 will be used to pay the contract award of $156,200, complete the MCC and electrical panel upgrades, and perform final testing, Arc Flash safety labeling, and record drawings for the facility.

900198 ($167,000) – Meadowlark Booster Pump Station (Partial Rollforward Projects) – In FY 2024/25, the District undertook various capital improvements at the Meadowlark Pump Station, including the installation of new MCC and electrical panel upgrades, an upgraded Manual Transfer Switch for generator operations, and acquisition of a pressure reducing/flow control valve (PRV) and new 8-inch Cla-Valve and meter to enhance the capability of feeding water from Zone 2 to Zone 1. Approximately $65,000 from last year's budgeted amount will be rolled forward to the FY 2025/26 Final Budget for this account.

For FY 2025/26, the budgeted amount of $167,000 includes approximately $100,000 to be used for construction of an open three-sided pole barn structure to house the District's large equipment, trailers, and materials to mitigate weather damage currently being incurred for lack of protective cover. Of the remaining amount, $40,000 is budgeted to complete the MCC and electrical panel upgrades, and $27,000 will be used to acquire and install a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for one of the pumps at the Meadowlark station. Utilizing a VFD at Meadowlark will substantially enhance the District's operational ability to regulate the movement of water to and from Zone 1, particularly under low-flow conditions.

900102 ($40,000) – Zone 1, 2, 3 Reservoirs – For FY 2025/26, $40,000 is budgeted for the installation of power service at the Zone 2 Reservoir. Currently this site is not equipped with power, which requires all facilities (including the reservoir mixers and telemetry/SCADA equipment) to be run with solar devices. Installing a new electrical service for the Zone 2 Reservoir site will enable the District to utilize higher-power mixing devices and enhance the functionality of communication, security, and maintenance activities for this property.

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

FY 2025/26 FINAL BUDGET CONCLUSION

The FY 2025/26 Final Budget revenues of **$13,592,249** are projected to be sufficient to meet total O&M expenses, G&A expenses, and Debt Service obligations of **$9,403,660** with a net revenue balance of **$4,188,589**. This net revenue balance of $4,188,589 will be used to fund the $969,750 of Other Expenses for special studies, engineering, design, legal, and consulting work to maintain protection and preservation of the District's water rights and to ensure compliance with various regulatory orders and requirements applicable to the District's rights and water supply portfolio, including but not limited to state-mandated water quality standards and fishery protections applicable to the Cachuma Project in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Orders and the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. The remaining net revenue balance

of **$3,218,839** will be used to fully fund the District's FY 2025/26 CIP program as detailed above in the amount of **$1,119,000**. The remaining net revenue balance of **$2,099,839** will be added to the District's Reserves to assist with upcoming expenditures for Cr6 compliance.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 854 approving and adopting the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Final Budget and requesting the collection of an assessment levy of $875,000 for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

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

FINAL BUDGET FY 2025-26

REVENUE Account No.	Service & Sales	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Revenues	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
601000	Agriculture Water Sales & Meter Charges	$ 1,352,413	$ 854,019	$ 1,120,987	$ 1,352,413	$ 0
602000	Domestic Water Sales & Meter Charges	$ 4,809,941	$ 4,016,190	$ 5,248,963	$ 4,809,941	$ 0
602100	Rural Res/Lmt'd Ag Sales & Meter Charges	$ 2,486,242	$ 1,963,753	$ 2,565,919	$ 2,486,242	$ 0
602200	Cachuma Park Water Sales	$ 19,575	$ 13,001	$ 17,069	$ 19,575	$ 0
606000	Water Sales to City of Solvang	$ 77,553	$ 64,403	$ 78,191	$ 77,553	$ 0
608000	Water Sales - On-Demand	$ 27,442	$ 10,510	$ 14,010	$ 27,442	$ 0
611500	Fire Service Charges	$ 135,539	$ 99,101	$ 131,578	$ 135,539	$ 0
604000	Temporary Water Sales	$ 20,175	$ 42,283	$ 42,984	$ 20,175	$ 0
	Subtotal Water Sales	$ 8,928,880	$ 7,063,260	$ 9,219,701	$ 8,928,880	$ 0
611100	New Services Fees	$ 40,000	$ 69,835	$ 92,335	$ 60,000	$ 20,000
611200	Activation/Reconnection Fees	$ 15,000	$ 9,000	$ 9,900	$ 15,000	$ 0
611900	New Fire Service Fees	$ 6,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 6,000	$ 0
612400	Penalties	$ 25,000	$ 11,922	$ 14,902	$ 15,000	$ (10,000)
	Subtotal Service	$ 86,000	$ 90,757	$ 117,137	$ 96,000	$ 10,000
	Assessments, Fees & Other Revenue					
627000-627200	Special Assessment	$ 875,000	$ 482,345	$ 875,000	$ 875,000	$ 0
628000-630300	Interest Income	$ 937,500	$ 888,958	$ 1,438,958	$ 1,162,500	$ 225,000
625200	Application Fees/Special Services	$ 13,000	$ 10,252	$ 13,902	$ 13,000	$ 0
611600	Capital Facilities Charges	$ 75,000	$ 63,633	$ 86,133	$ 75,000	$ 0
620006	Reimbursed Field Labor	$ 5,000	$ 227	$ 283	$ 5,000	$ 0
620008	Reimbursed Admin. Labor	$ 500	$ 0	$ 200	$ 500	$ 0
624000	Other Misc Revenues	$ 37,000	$ 21,878	$ 29,170	$ 37,000	$ 0
634100	Insurance Claims	$ 2,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 2,000	$ 0
890100	Solvang SWP Payment	$ 2,297,460	$ 2,190,608	$ 2,342,229	$ 2,397,369	$ 99,909
	Subtotal Assessment & Fees	$ 4,242,460	$ 3,657,901	$ 4,785,875	$ 4,567,369	$ 324,909
	TOTAL	**$ 13,257,340**	**$ 10,811,918**	**$ 14,122,713**	**$ 13,592,249**	**$ 334,909**

EXPENDITURES OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Account No.	Source of Supply	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
703000	Cachuma Project (USBR) Water Purchase	$ 234,432	$ 109,132	$ 175,388	$ 235,200	$ 768
703200	Cachuma Project Renewal/Environmental Fund	$ 24,980	$ 14,572	$ 24,980	$ 25,181	$ 201
704000	State Water Charge- District Payment	$ 1,211,548	$ 412,480	$ 1,249,560	$ 1,079,117	$ (132,431)
860000	State Water Project - City of Solvang pymt	$ 2,297,460	$ 2,190,608	$ 2,342,229	$ 2,397,369	$ 99,909
705000	Ground Water Charges - SYRWCD	$ 50,000	$ 12,970	$ 20,839	$ 40,000	$ (10,000)
705500	Ground Water Charges - EMA GSA - SGMA	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
706000	Cloudseeding Program	$ 12,500	$ 0	$ 0	$ 12,500	$ 0
707000	River Well Field Licenses (4.0cfs, 6.0cfs, Gallery)	$ 23,000	$ 12,801	$ 23,887	$ 27,000	$ 4,000
	Subtotal Source of Supply	$ 3,853,920	$ 2,752,563	$ 3,836,883	$ 3,866,367	$ 12,447
	Infrastructure					
711000	Maintenance of Wells	$ 50,000	$ 21,444	$ 26,444	$ 50,000	$ 0
712000	Maintenance of Mains	$ 85,000	$ 24,253	$ 34,253	$ 85,000	$ 0
713000	Maintenance of Reservoirs	$ 15,000	$ 14,775	$ 14,775	$ 15,000	$ 0
714000	Maintenance of Structures	$ 5,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,000	$ 0
	Subtotal Infrastructure	$ 155,000	$ 60,472	$ 75,472	$ 155,000	$ 0
	Pumping					
726000	Pumping Expense - Power	$ 720,000	$ 578,310	$ 738,310	$ 750,000	$ 30,000
730000	Maintenance of Pump Structures/Stations/Equip	$ 20,000	$ 7,035		$ 20,000	$ 0
	Subtotal Pumping	$ 740,000	$ 585,345	$ 752,345	$ 770,000	$ 30,000
	Water Treatment					
744000	Chemicals	$ 85,000	$ 51,478	$ 55,728	$ 85,000	$ 0
748000	Maintenance of Treatment Structures/Equipment	$ 3,000	$ 1,458	$ 1,608	$ 3,000	$ 0
748100	Water Treatment/Sampling/Monitoring Equipment	$ 7,000	$ 4,057	$ 4,407	$ 5,000	$ (2,000)
749000	Water Analysis	$ 12,000	$ 13,075	$ 13,675	$ 15,000	$ 3,000
	Subtotal Water Treatment	$ 107,000	$ 70,068	$ 75,418	$ 108,000	$ 1,000
	Transmission & Distribution					
751000	Field Service Labor	$ 773,317	$ 583,813	$ 754,748	$ 806,426	$ 33,109
775000	PERS - Retirement	$ 204,614	$ 173,887	$ 198,717	$ 228,158	$ 23,544
775401	ACWA - Health Benefits	$ 247,556	$ 179,696	$ 179,696	$ 280,930	$ 33,374
775201	ACWA - Delta Dental	$ 13,059	$ 9,795	$ 9,795	$ 15,053	$ 1,994
775301	ACWA - Vision	$ 1,518	$ 1,132	$ 1,132	$ 1,735	$ 217
775501	ACWA - Standard Life	$ 3,227	$ 2,363	$ 2,363	$ 2,553	$ (674)
799500	Uniforms	$ 22,000	$ 17,076	$ 22,769	$ 22,000	$ 0
752000	Work Materials & Supplies	$ 10,000	$ 3,617	$ 7,617	$ 10,000	$ 0
752100	Safety Equipment	$ 4,000	$ 2,549	$ 3,549	$ 9,000	$ 5,000
753000	SCADA Maintenance	$ 20,000	$ 14,083	$ 15,083	$ 20,000	$ 0
754000	Small Tools	$ 5,000	$ 3,211	$ 4,711	$ 5,000	$ 0
754100	Small Tool Repair	$ 2,000	$ 471	$ 471	$ 2,000	$ 0
755000	Transportation (Vehicle Maintenance/Fuel)	$ 70,000	$ 48,022	$ 64,029	$ 70,000	$ 0
756000	Meter Service (New)	$ 15,000	$ 17,794	$ 17,794	$ 15,000	$ 0
756100	Meter and Service Repair	$ 12,000	$ 12,886	$ 12,886	$ 12,000	$ 0
757000	Road Contracts	$ 2,800	$ 1,254	$ 1,254	$ 2,800	$ 0
758100	Meter Reading System (Neptune)	$ 10,000	$ 5,935	$ 7,913	$ 10,000	$ 0
759000	Maintenance of Structures and Improvements	$ 2,500	$ 873	$ 873	$ 2,500	$ 0
760000	Fire Hydrants Maintenance	$ 1,000	$ 1,084	$ 1,084	$ 2,000	$ 1,000
761000	Back Flow Devices Testing	$ 125	$ 0	$ 125	$ 125	$ 0
762000	Backhoe/Generators Maintenance	$ 10,000	$ 12,904	$ 12,904	$ 15,000	$ 5,000
	Subtotal Transmission & Distribution	$ 1,429,716	$ 1,092,445	$ 1,319,513	$ 1,532,280	$ 102,564
	TOTAL	**$ 6,285,636**	**$ 4,560,893**	**$ 6,059,631**	**$ 6,431,647**	**$ 146,011**

EXPENDITURES G&A

Account No.	General & Administrative	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
773000	Elections	$ 20,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (20,000)
6560	Payroll/Accounting Expenses	$ 3,500	$ 0	$ 3,902	$ 4,000	$ 500
774000	ACWA Workers Comp Ins	$ 29,595	$ 13,284	$ 26,386	$ 29,595	$ 0
775000	PERS - Retirement	$ 266,613	$ 210,809	$ 245,003	$ 268,683	$ 2,070
775400	ACWA - Health Benefits	$ 296,306	$ 194,618	$ 194,618	$ 324,123	$ 27,817
775200	ACWA - Delta Dental	$ 20,317	$ 9,826	$ 9,826	$ 16,008	$ (4,309)
775300	ACWA - Vision	$ 2,437	$ 1,401	$ 1,401	$ 2,117	$ (320)
775500	ACWA - Standard Life	$ 3,689	$ 2,468	$ 2,468	$ 2,999	$ (690)
777100	Management & Administrative Salaries	$ 1,575,167	$ 973,454	$ 973,454	$ 1,409,839	$ (165,328)
778000	Education, Training & Travel	$ 20,000	$ 16,423	$ 19,423	$ 20,000	$ 0
779000	Dues & Subscription	$ 39,200	$ 25,243	$ 33,048	$ 39,200	$ 0
780000	Office Maintenance	$ 8,000	$ 3,997	$ 5,400	$ 8,000	$ 0
799525	Gardening Service	$ 3,000	$ 2,160	$ 2,880	$ 3,000	$ 0
781000	Office Supplies	$ 15,500	$ 10,781	$ 14,374	$ 15,500	$ 0
781100	Computer Supplies, Software, Training	$ 6,000	$ 3,069	$ 5,569	$ 6,000	$ 0
782000	Postage & Printing	$ 56,000	$ 42,748	$ 55,573	$ 57,000	$ 1,000
783000	Utilities	$ 19,500	$ 15,926	$ 20,626	$ 21,000	$ 1,500
784000	Telephone	$ 20,000	$ 14,721	$ 19,663	$ 20,000	$ 0
785000	Services(USA, Website, Security, Answering Services)	$ 21,000	$ 12,330	$ 15,816	$ 21,000	$ 0
785100	Government Fees (County, State, Local)	$ 18,000	$ 16,372	$ 16,372	$ 19,000	$ 1,000
786000	ACWA Liability Insurance	$ 107,947	$ 104,328	$ 143,654	$ 168,879	$ 60,932
787000	Payroll Taxes - Federal and State	$ 179,659	$ 111,028	$ 148,038	$ 169,544	$ (10,115)
788000	Audit & Accounting	$ 40,000	$ 30,273	$ 38,301	$ 40,000	$ 0
789000	Legal - General					
	BHFS	$ 55,000	$ 31,560	$ 42,080	$ 50,000	$ (5,000)
	Stradling	$ 10,000	$ 3,358	$ 4,477	$ 10,000	$ 0
790000	Consulting - General/Professional	$ 20,000	$ 4,613	$ 5,613	$ 20,000	$ 0
791000	Consulting - Planning/Research	$ 55,000	$ 42,556	$ 55,914	$ 55,000	$ 0
792000	Customer Debt - Write Offs	$ 1,500	$ 0	$ 284	$ 1,700	$ 200
793000	Office Equipment/Computer Service Contracts	$ 58,300	$ 42,239	$ 57,821	$ 67,350	$ 9,050
797000	Trustee Fees	$ 29,000	$ 20,292	$ 28,092	$ 29,000	$ 0
799000	Processing Fees, Admin. Expenses, Medical Costs	$ 43,000	$ 45,574	$ 51,795	$ 45,000	$ 2,000
799600	Customer Refunds	$ 3,000	$ 625	$ 825	$ 1,500	$ (1,500)
	Subtotal General & Administrative	$ 3,046,230	$ 2,006,076	$ 2,242,696	$ 2,945,037	$ (101,193)
	TOTAL	**$ 3,046,230**	**$ 2,006,076**	**$ 2,242,696**	**$ 2,945,037**	**$ (101,193)**

SUBTOTAL EXPENDITURES

	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
G&A/O&M TOTAL	**$ 9,331,866**	**$ 6,566,969**	**$ 8,302,327**	**$ 9,376,684**	**$ 44,818**

DEBT SERVICE

Account No.	Debt Service	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
717000	USBR SOD Repayment (Principal & Interest)	$ 26,976	$ 15,736	$ 26,976	$ 26,976	$ 0
	Subtotal Debt Service	$ 26,976	$ 15,736	$ 26,976	$ 26,976	$ 0
TOTAL		**$ 26,976**	**$ 15,736**	**$ 26,976**	**$ 26,976**	**$ 0**

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
G&A/O&M/DEBT SERVICE TOTAL	**$ 9,358,842**	**$ 6,582,705**	**$ 8,329,303**	**$ 9,403,660**	**$ 44,818**

SUBTOTAL REVENUE BALANCE

	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
OPERATING REVENUES LESS OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**$ 3,898,498**	**$ 4,229,213**	**$ 5,793,410**	**$ 4,188,589**	**$ 290,091**

OTHER EXPENSES

Account No.	Special Studies/Programs	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
	Fisheries Program					
825800	BiOp Implementation	$ 60,000	$ 45,000	$ 60,000	$ 60,000	$ 0
825401	BiOp Studies/Consultation (Stetson/Hanson)	$ 50,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 50,000	$ 0
800201	BiOp/Reconsultation/ESA (*BBK*)	$ 40,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 40,000	$ 0
				$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
826101	SWRCB Order/Studies (Stetson/Hanson)	$ 10,000	$ 5,630	$ 5,630	$ 10,000	$ 0
826201	SWRCB Order/Studies (BBK)	$ 7,500	$ 7,932	$ 7,932	$ 7,500	$ 0
825402	SWRCB Hearings Support (Stetson/Hanson)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
800101	SWRCB Hearings Support (BBK)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
	Special Programs					
825500	Hydrology SYR; Cachuma Water, RiverWare (Stetson)	$ 1,500	$ 0	$ 0	$ 1,500	$ 0
825601	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	$ 750	$ 193	$ 193	$ 750	$ 0
825600	Water Conservation Program/RWEP	$ 5,000	$ 4,263	$ 4,344	$ 5,000	$ 0
	Subtotal Studies/Programs	$ 174,750	$ 63,018	$ 78,098	$ 174,750	$ 0
	Legal & Engineering Services					
800202	Interagency Involvement	$ 15,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,000	$ (10,000)
800205	SWP Water Management Case	$ 45,000	$ 62,832	$ 62,832	$ 110,000	$ 65,000
800500	Unanticipated or Extraordinary Special Legal					
	BHFS	$ 50,000	$ 5,418	$ 5,418	$ 50,000	$ 0
	BBK	$ 50,000	$ 11,029	$ 11,029	$ 50,000	$ 0
800301	Downstream Water Rights & Studies	$ 50,000	$ 1,540	$ 1,540	$ 25,000	$ (25,000)
800300	Easements, Survey & Water Projects	$ 80,000	$ 8,156	$ 8,845	$ 65,000	$ (15,000)
800102	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	$ 100,000	$ 31,361	$ 34,503	$ 25,000	$ (75,000)
800103	SGMA Reimbursable Cost Shares	$ 10,000	$ 0	$ 242	$ 0	$ (10,000)
	Subtotal Legal/Engineering	$ 400,000	$ 120,336	$ 124,409	$ 330,000	$ (70,000)
	Non Recurring Expenses/Projects					
826000	CR6 Implementation Plan/Other Treatment & Supply Projects	$ 240,000	$ 28,830	$ 28,830	$ 300,000	$ 60,000
825700	Water Rate Study	$ 75,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 75,000	$ 0
850500	USBR Cachuma Project Contract/Studies	$ 10,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,000	$ (5,000)
800203	River Water Right Proceedings (BHFS)	$ 25,000	$ 43	$ 43	$ 25,000	$ 0
800204	River Water Right Proceedings (Stetson/Hanson)	$ 10,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 10,000	$ 0
825900	Water System Study (Stetson)	$ 75,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 50,000	$ (25,000)
	Subtotal Non-Annual	$ 435,000	$ 28,873	$ 28,873	$ 465,000	$ 30,000
		$ 1,009,750	**$ 212,227**	**$ 231,381**	**$ 969,750**	**$ (40,000)**

TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES

	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
TOTAL	**$ 1,009,750**	**$ 212,227**	**$ 231,381**	**$ 969,750**	**$ (40,000)**

BUDGET BALANCE

		FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
	TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 13,257,340**	**$ 10,811,918**	**$ 14,122,713**	**$ 13,592,249**	$ 334,909
	TOTAL O&M EXPENDITURES	$ (6,285,636)	$ (4,560,893)	$ (6,059,631)	$ (6,431,647)	$ 146,011
	TOTAL G&A EXPENDITURES	$ (3,046,230)	$ (2,006,076)	$ (2,242,696)	$ (2,945,037)	$ (101,192)
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	$ (26,976)	$ (15,736)	$ (26,976)	$ (26,976)	$ 0
	Subtotal Revenue Balance	**$ 3,898,498**	**$ 4,229,213**	**$ 5,793,410**	**$ 4,188,589**	$ 290,091
	TOTAL Other Expenses (Spec Study/Legal/Eng/NARES)	$ (1,009,750)	$ (212,227)	$ (231,381)	$ (969,750)	$ (40,000)
	Sub Total Balance	**$ 2,888,748**	**$ 4,016,986**	**$ 5,562,029**	**$ 3,218,839**	**$ 330,091**
	Budget Balance	**$ 2,888,748**	**$ 4,016,986**	**$ 5,562,029**	**$ 3,218,839**	**$ 330,091**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Account No.	Plant Expansion	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
900332	District Building	$ 50,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 50,000	$ 0
900333	Cr6 Water Treatment Facilities	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
900372	Office Computers, Furniture & Equipment	$ 40,200	$ 25,457	$ 39,457	$ 20,000	$ (20,200)
900318	Meter Replacement/Utility Billing	$ 10,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,000	$ (5,000)
900371	Office Bldg/Shop Improvements	$ 90,000	$ 51,878	$ 89,878	$ 90,000	$ 0
900376	Communication/Telemetry Equipment (SCADA)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 165,000	$ 165,000
900181	ESRI CAD-GIS System; Equipment	$ 1,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (1,000)
900378	Major Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment	$ 10,000	$ 6,596	$ 9,596	$ 10,000	$ 0
900350	Uplands Wells	$ 35,000	$ 9,489	$ 11,489	$ 15,000	$ (20,000)
	Sub-Total - Plant Expansion Projects	**$ 236,200**	**$ 93,420**	**$ 150,420**	**$ 355,000**	**$ 118,800**
Account No.	**Repair & Replace**					
900200	Pumps & Motor Replacement	$ 175,000	$ 0	$ 53,303	$ 175,000	$ 0
900106	Rehab/Replace/New-Trans. Mains/Laterals/Valves	$ 55,000	$ 0	$ 50,000	$ 115,000	$ 60,000
900170	6.0 CFS Well Field	$ 15,000	$ 2,176	$ 7,176	$ 0	$ (15,000)
900335	SWP Pump Station/Pipeline	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 22,000	$ 22,000
900379	Infrastructure Security	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
900373	Fleet Vehicle Addition & Replacement	$ 150,000	$ 129,511	$ 129,511	$ 0	$ (150,000)
900171	4.0 CFS Well Field	$ 5,000	$ 1,219	$ 1,219	$ 0	$ (5,000)
900195	Refugio 2 BPS	$ 5,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (5,000)
900196	Alamo Pintado BPS	$ 5,000	$ 1,289	$ 1,289	$ 0	$ (5,000)
900197	Refugio 3 BPS	$ 134,188	$ 9,695	$ 59,695	$ 195,000	$ 60,812
900198	Meadowlark BPS	$ 164,800	$ 87,663	$ 87,663	$ 167,000	$ 2,200
900102	Zone 1, 2, 3 Reservoirs	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 40,000	$ 40,000
	Subtotal Repair & Replace Projects	**$ 708,988**	**$ 231,553**	**$ 389,856**	**$ 764,000**	**$ 55,012**
	Grand Total Capital Improvement Projects	**$ 945,188**	**$ 324,973**	**$ 540,276**	**$ 1,119,000**	**$ 173,812**

TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
TOTAL	**$ 945,188**	**$ 324,973**	**$ 540,276**	**$ 1,119,000**	**$ 173,812**

RESERVE BALANCE

Account No.		FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
DISBURSEMENT OF REMAINING BUDGET BALANCE		$ 2,888,748	$ 4,016,986	$ 5,562,029	$ 3,218,839	$ 330,091
271800	Repair & Replace Reserve	$ (708,988)	$ (231,553)	$ (389,856)	$ (764,000)	$ 55,012
272000	Plant Expansion Reserve	$ (236,200)	$ (93,420)	$ (150,420)	$ (355,000)	$ 118,800
	Sub Total CIP Reserves	$ (945,188)	$ (324,973)	$ (540,276)	$ (1,119,000)	$ 173,812
	Funding from Reserves					
	Funding to Reserves	**$ 1,943,560**	**$ 3,692,013**	**$ 5,021,752**	**$ 2,099,839**	

TOTAL BUDGET

	FY 24/25 Budget	FY 24/25 9-Month Expenditures	Projected Yr-End 6/30/2025	Final Budget FY25/26	Variance from 2024/25 Budget
TOTAL	**$ 13,257,340**	**$ 10,811,918**	**$ 14,122,713**	**$ 13,592,249**	**$ 334,909**

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RESOLUTION NO. 854

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1 ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 AND REQUESTING AN ASSESSMENT LEVY REQUIRED TO COLLECT $875,000

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, is required to forward to the Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor of the County of Santa Barbara an estimate, in writing, of the amount of ad valorem tax assessment money needed for the purposes of the District for the ensuing fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and any reserve funds; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with information published by the California Department of Finance, the appropriation limit of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 for fiscal year 2025/2026 is established at $2,657,934 and the District adopted Resolution No. 8XX on June 17, 2025 establishing said appropriation limit for fiscal year 2025/2026 pursuant to Government Code Section 7910; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the District's fiscal year 2025/2026 appropriation limit of $2,657,934, and notwithstanding the financial projections from the District's 2016 Water Rate Study that the District would collect an assessment levy in the amount of $875,000 in fiscal year 2017/2018, and $1,000,000 in fiscal year 2018/2019, and $1,125,000 in fiscal year 2019/2020, and $1,250,000 in fiscal year 2020/2021, and $1,250,000 in fiscal year 2021/2022, $1,250,000 in fiscal year 2022/2023, $1,250,000 in fiscal year 2023/2024 , $1,250,000 in fiscal year 2024/2025, and $1,250,000 in fiscal year 2025/2026, the District has limited its assessment amount to $875,000 for fiscal years 2017/2018 through 2024/2025, and it has been determined that an assessment levy of $875,000 for fiscal year 2025/2026 will provide sufficient funds to meet the needs of the District as stated above; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered a budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, that the Secretary to the Board is hereby authorized and directed to forward to the Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor of the County of Santa Barbara, in writing, a request for an assessment levy of $875,000 for the fiscal year 2025/2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Final Budget as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated by this reference is hereby approved and adopted for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified and acting President and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Trustees of said District at a Regular Meeting held on the 17th day of June 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Trustees:

NOES, Trustees:

ABSTAIN, Trustees:

ABSENT, Trustees:

_____

Jeff Clay, President

ATTEST:

_____

Racel Cota, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

2024 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Published June 2025

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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

Office Location:
3622 Sagunto Street
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

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Website: www.syrwd.org

2024 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT
(Consumer Confidence Report)

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

To All District Customers:

This Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) provides a summary of the water quality results from sampling of the District's water supply wells, distribution system, and State Water Project supplies for the 2024 calendar year. As a public water purveyor to the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the City of Solvang (wholesale), the District operates under a permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). Pursuant to its Water Supply Permit and California Safe Drinking Water regulations, the District routinely tests all of its water supplies obtained from wells according to a comprehensive list of potential contaminants and other constituents. State Water Project supplies received by the District are similarly tested by the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA). The results of sampling and monitoring efforts for the 2024 calendar year are included in this report, along with additional information regarding your water supplies. Analytical data presented in this report represent the quality of the water delivered to you through your water service connection.

District Water Sources Used in 2024:

1) Groundwater – 13 supply wells

   In 2024, the District operated seven (7) of its wells to produce groundwater from the Santa Ynez Upland groundwater basin. The Upland basin encompasses approximately 130 square miles within the Santa Ynez Valley east of Buellton. The District wells in the Upland basin range in depth from less than 500 feet to over 1,300 feet.

   The District also operated six (6) of its wells to produce water from the subsurface alluvial portion of the lower Santa Ynez River. The River alluvium is separated from the Upland basin by a barrier of impermeable rocks and soils. The District's River wells are constructed to a depth of approximately 70 feet or less.

2) Surface Water – State Water Project

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

Drinking Water Source Assessments

The 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act established the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program to assess all sources of drinking water for vulnerability to contamination and to establish source protection programs. The District has evaluated each of its well locations in accordance with the program guidelines. According to the program, possible contaminating activities (PCAs) in the Upland basin and the River alluvium include septic systems, agricultural drainage, the application of agricultural chemicals, other wells (active and abandoned), upstream contaminant sources, and surface runoff from roads. For the 2024 reporting period, the only contaminant associated with these PCAs detected in any of the wells was nitrate (reported as NO_3-N). Nitrate was detected in six (6) Upland wells, with concentrations ranging from 1.1 to 5.9 parts per million (ppm). Annual monitoring of all active supply wells is required to ensure that nitrate concentrations remain below the 10 ppm Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Contaminants in Source Water

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

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

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

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

Analytical Results

The following summary table of analytical results lists the range and average concentrations of regulated contaminants (and other water quality constituents) that were detected during the most recently required sampling applicable to the 2024 reporting period for each source and constituent listed. The table also shows results of the District's required distribution system sampling. Chemicals not detected are not included in the report. DDW sampling requirements allow for source monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year. Therefore, some of the data listed in the table, though representative of the source water quality, are more than a year old.

SAMPLING RESULTS: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STANDARDS

Parameter	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	State DLR	Range / Average	Drinking Water Source: State Water	Drinking Water Source: Ground Water	Major Sources in Drinking Water
PRIMARY STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards								
CLARITY								
Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity[a]	NTU	TT=<1 NTU every 4 hours TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU			Range %	0.04 - 0.15 100%	NA NA	Soil runoff
INORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Aluminum	mg/L	1	0.6	0.05	Range Average	ND - 0.071 ND	ND ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment technologies
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	2	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 2.6 0.5	Erosion of natural deposits; orchard runoff; from glass/electronics production wastes
Chromium (Total)	ppb	50	(100)	10	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 20 3.5	Erosion of natural deposits; steel, pulp mills, and chrome plating wastes
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.1	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 0.33 0.22	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for tooth health
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	0.4	Range Average	0.53 0.53	ND - 5.9 1.4	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	ppm	10	10	--	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 6 1.4	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural
Selenium	ppb	50	30	5	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 11 3.0	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural
Thallium	ppb	2	0.1	1	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 1.6 0.1	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIONUCLIDES								
Gross Alpha[b]	pCi/L	15	NA	3	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 7.2 3.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium[c]	pCi/L	20	0.5	1	Range Average	ND ND	1.6 - 5.6 3.5	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards								
Chloride	ppm	500	NA	--	Range Average	30 - 138 62	30 - 60 37	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color	ACU	15	NA	--	Range Average	3 3	ND - 3 0.2	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Corrosivity (Aggresive Index)[d]	none	non-corrosive	NA	--	Range Average	12 12	11.7 - 12.5 12.2	Balance of hydrogen, carbon, & oxygen in water, affected by temperature & other factors
Iron	ppb	300	NA	100	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 190 14.6	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor Threshold	TON	3	NA	1	Range Average	ND ND	1 - 3 1	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µmho/cm	1600	NA	--	Range Average	273 - 718 422	780 - 1100 957	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	0.5	Range Average	60 60	63 - 270 186	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1000	NA	--	Range Average	270 270	450 - 730 598	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Lab Turbidity (ID No.1) Turbidity (State Water)	NTU	5	NA	--	Range Average	ND - 0.18 0.06	ND - 1.60 0.60	Soil erosion/runoff
Zinc	ppb	5000	NA	50	Range Average	ND ND	ND - 69 5	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS								
Alkalinity (Total) as $CaCO_3$ equivalents	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range Average	40 - 80 64	260 - 360 296	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Boron	ppb	NA	NL=1,000	100	Range Average	NC NC	ND - 360 191	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; wastewater, and fertilizers/pesticides
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range Average	23 23	32 - 110 77	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Chromium, Hexavalent[e]	ppb	NA	0.02	NA	Range Average	0.099 0.099	ND - 23 9.0	Discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Parameter	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	State DLR	Range / Average	Drinking Water Source: State Water	Drinking Water Source: Ground Water	Major Sources in Drinking Water
ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS								
Geosmin	ng/L	NA	NA	(1)	Range	ND - 2	NC	An organic compound mainly produced by
					Average	0.3	NC	blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)
Hardness (Total) as $CaCO_3$	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	35 - 148	320 - 490	Leaching from natural deposits
					Average	88	418	
Heterotrophic Plate Count[f]	CFU/mL	TT	NA	--	Range	0 - 15	NA	Naturally present in the environment
					Average	1	NA	
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	(0.1)	Range	13	41 - 90	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;
					Average	13	54.6	seawater influence
2-Methylisoborneol (MIB)	ng/L	NA	NA	NA	Range	ND - 8	NC	An organic compound mainly produced by
					Average	2.8	NC	blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)
pH	pH Units	NA	NA	--	Range	7.6 - 8.8	7.3 - 7.9	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;
					Average	8.4	7.7	seawater influence
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	3.5	1.9 - 2.8	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;
					Average	3.5	2.2	seawater influence
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	--	Range	57	36 - 61	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;
					Average	57	47	seawater influence
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)[g]	ppm	TT	NA	0.30	Range	1.2 - 2.5	NA	Various natural and manmade sources
					Average	1.9	NA	
Vanadium	ppb	NA	NL=50	3	Range	NC	ND - 19	Leaching from natural deposits;
					Average	NC	9	industrial wastes
FEDERAL UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE[h] --Detected								
Lithium	ppb	NA	NA	--	Range	ND	ND - 62.2	Leaching from natural deposits
					Average	ND	28	
Distribution System Water Quality								
ORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Total Trihalomethanes[i]	ppb	80	NA	NA	Range	22 - 76	7.1 - 49.2	By-product of drinking water treatment
					Highest LRAA	60.8	35.6	
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	1,2[j]	Range	8.1 - 25	1.1 - 21.2	By-product of drinking water treatment
					Highest LRAA	22.5	14	
DISINFECTION								
Total chlorine residual CCWA Distribution	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	--	Range	0.18 - 3.84	--	Measurement of the disinfectant
					Average	2.85	--	used in the production of drinking water
Free/total chlorine residual ID No.1 Distribution	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	--	Range	--	0.3 - 3.22	Measurement of the disinfectant
					Average	--	1.64	used in the production of drinking water

Abbrevations and Notes

Footnotes:

(a) Turbidity (NTU) is a good indicator of the effectiveness of a filtration system. Monthly turbidity values for State Water are listed in the Secondary Standards section.

(b) Gross alpha particle activity monitoring required every nine years for State Water; more frequent monitoring is required for some groundwater based on detected levels. Reported average and range are from most recent sampling of all supply wells.

(c) Uranium monitoring is dependent on measured gross alpha particle activity.

(d) The District's Water Supply Permit, issued by DDW, requires monitoring of the asbestos levels in the distribution system in the areas that contain asbestos cement pipes whenever the aggressive index (AI) of the water served to the public is below 11.5.

(e) In 2024, the State Water Board approved an MCL of 10 ppb for Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6). Cr6 will be shown as a Primary Standard in this report starting in 2025.

(f) Pour plate technique -- monthly averages.

(g) TOCs are taken at the State Water treatment plant's combined filter effluent.

(h) The US EPA collects nationally representative drinking water data to support future regulatory determinations and, as appropriate, the development of national primary drinking water regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

(i) Compliance based on the LRAA of distribution system samples. Values reported are the range of all 2024 sample results and highest locational running annual average.

(j) Monochloroacetic Acid has a DLR of 2.0 ug/L while the other four Haloacetic Acids have DLR's of 1.0 ug/L.

Abbreviations

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

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

This Water Quality Report reflects recent changes in regulatory drinking water requirements. As of July 1, 2021 all water systems are required to comply with the State Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), which adds the requirements of the federal RTCR (effective since April 1, 2016) to the State Total Coliform Rule (TCR). Like the TCR, the new RTCR maintains the purpose of protecting public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these defects must be corrected by the water system. The USEPA anticipates greater public health protection as the RTCR requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. District bacteriological monitoring in 2024 confirmed compliance with both the state and federal RTCR requirements. There were no MCL exceedances for total coliform or E. coli bacteria, as noted in the following table.

SAMPLING RESULTS: DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MONITORING

Microbiological Contaminants	No. of Samples Required[1]	No. of Samples Collected	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	160	**208**	(In a month) **0**	**0**	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	**0**	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli	160	**208**	(In a month) **0**	**0**	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E. coli	**0**	Human and animal fecal waste

2024 Lead & Copper[2]	No. of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)[3]	**20**	**0**	**0**	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	**20**	**0.240**	**0**	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Notes:

1. *Three bacteriological samples per week are required based on the number of District service connections, as specified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Chapter 15, Title 22 (Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring). The District optionally monitors bacteria at a fourth location weekly to ensure representative sampling of the entire distribution system.*
2. *Sampling requirements are specified in the Lead and Copper Rule, CCR, Title 22 and are based on the population served. Samples are obtained from a representative sampling of customer's internal plumbing. Following initial sampling specified in CCR, Title 22, Chapter 17.5, representative sampling for lead and copper is required once every three years. The data summary displayed in the table above is from data obtained in June of 2024. The next scheduled sampling for lead and copper is in the summer of 2027.*
3. *In 2018, the District sampled for lead in both public and private school water systems within the District's service area. See "Additional Information Regarding your Drinking Water" in this report for more information.*

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

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

Surface Water Supply – The State Water Project

As indicated above, all surface water from the State Water Project that was used by the District in 2024 was obtained from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), an agency formed in 1991 to finance, construct, and operate State Water treatment and delivery facilities on behalf of all Santa Barbara County participants in the State Water Project. Runoff from the northern Sierra Nevada watershed travels more than 500 miles through the rivers, pipelines, and aqueducts that make up the State Water Project before reaching the District's Mesa Verde Pumping Station. State Water is treated by CCWA at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant (PPWTP), located in San Luis Obispo County. This 43-million-gallon per day facility was designed and constructed to treat all State Water served to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. CCWA conducts weekly testing of the treated State Water at numerous locations along its 143-mile pipeline. For more information about the treatment and delivery of State Water, please visit the CCWA website at www.ccwa.com.

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

Cross-Connection Control Program

As many of our residential, commercial, and agricultural customers know, the District requires the installation and maintenance of backflow prevention devices where an actual or potential cross-connection exists to protect and ensure safe water quality within the District's potable distribution system. District Resolution No. 482 establishes the District's Cross-Connection Control Program to ensure compliance with DDW regulatory requirements (17 CCR, Section 7584) and to prevent the contamination of water within our distribution system. For additional information regarding this program, please contact the District to receive a copy of our cross-connection control brochure or the District's Cross-Connection Control Policy.

Additional Information Regarding Your Drinking Water

Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6)

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

In April 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for Cr6. This is a state-mandated standard and is the most stringent Cr6 requirement in the nation and throughout the world. Indeed, the federal drinking water standard for total chromium is 100 ppb, and prior to adoption of the new Cr6 standard, California's MCL for total chromium was 50 ppb. California is now the only state in the nation to have a specific drinking water standard for Cr6. The new MCL of 10 ppb officially went into effect in October 2024 and provides a three-year implementation period for the District to ensure compliance. While recent sampling has shown that Cr6 levels in a few of the District's Upland basin wells exceed the new MCL, this is not a result of any new form of water quality degradation in the area. As noted above, the presence of Cr6 in the Upland basin is not caused by any industrial, commercial, or other human activity, but instead occurs naturally in rock formations of the San Rafael mountains.

Chromium (hexavalent) was detected at levels that exceed the chromium (hexavalent) MCL. While a water system of our size is not considered in violation of the chromium (hexavalent) MCL until after October 2027, we are working to address this exceedance and comply with the MCL. Specifically, we are investigating groundwater treatment and other alternatives to meet this new standard.

Risks of Lead in Drinking Water

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Nationwide, a primary cause for lead in drinking water is from materials and components associated with old service lines and home plumbing that contain lead. In 2018, the District conducted a survey of all water service lines within its

distribution system and concluded that no lead service lines were ever installed or used by the District. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home that are not owned or installed by the District. According to DDW, water users can minimize the potential for lead exposure from their private plumbing pipes and fixtures by flushing their tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at *http://www.epa.gov/lead*.

Lead in Schools

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

Recommendation for Customers with Special Water Needs

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

Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) – Electronic Delivery

Similar to last year, this 2024 report is available electronically on the District's website, which minimizes printing and mailing costs, and reduces paper consumption. Hard copies of the report are available at the District office and will be mailed or emailed upon request.

Attention Landlords and Other Property Managers

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

Public Participation

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

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

Information in Spanish

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

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

HELD AT
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA
4:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS
To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: +1 469-998-7311, 209762335# or via the Web at: Join the meeting now

"Join a Meeting" - **Meeting ID 294 811 517 405 Meeting Passcode: 4nNRT3**
***** Please Note *****
The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption of unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued. Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board's jurisdiction. The time for public comment allotted for each individual shall not exceed three minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public comment item.)
3. Consent Agenda
    a. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes for the April 17, 2025 EMA GSA Special Board Meeting (Packet Pages: 3-5)
    b. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List for April, 2025 (Packet Pages: 6-17)
4. Informational Items
    a. New EMA GSA Well Permits Approved by County of Santa Barbara EHS
        i. 1180 Alamo Pintado Rd., Solvang, CA 93463 (Packet Pages: 18-25)
        ii. 1 Zaca Station Rd., Santa Ynez, CA 93460 (Packet Pages: 26-30)
5. Action Items
    a. Review and consider approval of EMA GSA FY 2025-2026 budget. (Packet Page: 31)
    b. Receive verbal update on Proposition 218 Notice outreach and preparation for the Public Hearing on June 26, 2025 at 4:00 PM, and review and provide input on the draft Frequently Asked Questions document regarding the proposed groundwater extraction fee. (Packet Pages: 32-35)
    c. Review recommendations and consider approval of Hydrogeology Consultant for Prop 68 Grant Component 5 Monitoring Program Improvements and execution of associated Management Area GSA Cost Sharing Agreement. (Packet Pages: 36-76)

d. Review recommendations and consider approval of proposed invoice review and approval procedures for the EMA GSA. (Packet Pages: 77-78)

e. Receive Citizen Advisory Group membership applications and provide direction to Staff on how to proceed. (Packet Pages: 79-87)

6. Consider Date/Time for Next Regular and/or Special Meetings of the EMA GSA

   a. Basin-Wide Joint Special Meeting Friday, June 6, 2025, 9:00 AM at Buellton CCC – CANCELLED

   b. EMA GSA Board Meeting/Public Hearing Thursday, June 26, 2025, 4:00 PM at SYCSD Meeting Room

   c. Next EMA GSA Regular Board Meeting Thursday, July 24, 4:00 PM at SYCSD Meeting Room

   d. Next Basin-Wide Joint Special Meeting Friday, September 5, 2025, 9:00 AM at Buellton CCC

7. Board of Directors Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

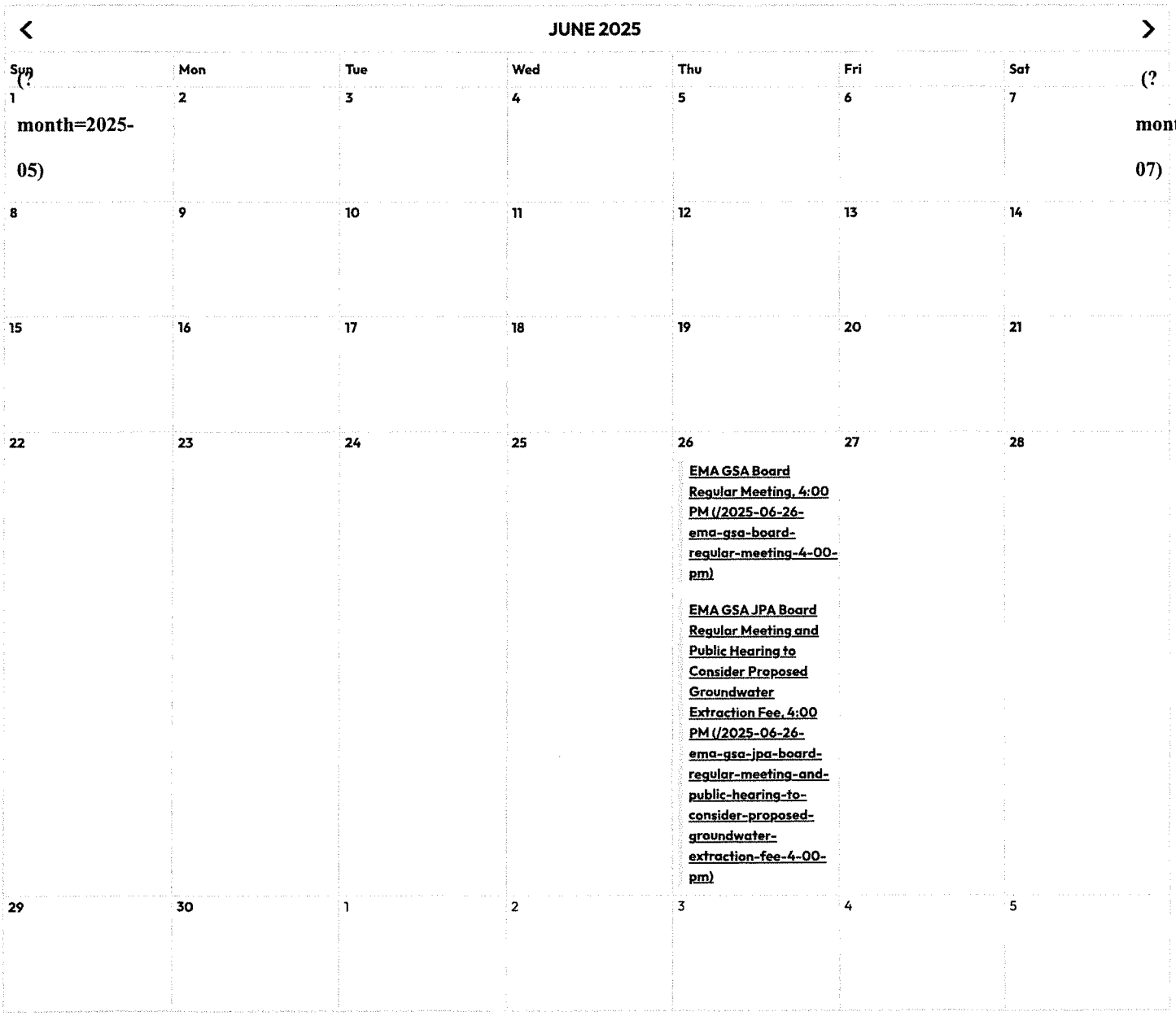
8. Adjournment

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

CALENDAR

(/CALENDAR-7A081881-DC46-4386-8B01-7382528E2275)

Calendar



SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Water Code section 10730, and California Constitution Article XIII(D) that the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. (PST). The Public Hearing will occur at the regular meeting of the EMA GSA's Board of Directors to be held at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Meeting Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California. During the Public Hearing the Board of Directors will consider adoption of a proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee within the EMA GSA that will be charged on a per acre-foot of groundwater extracted basis (i.e. volumetric fee). The Public Hearing and consideration of the Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee within the EMA GSA may be continued to one or more subsequent meetings of the EMA GSA's Board of Directors.

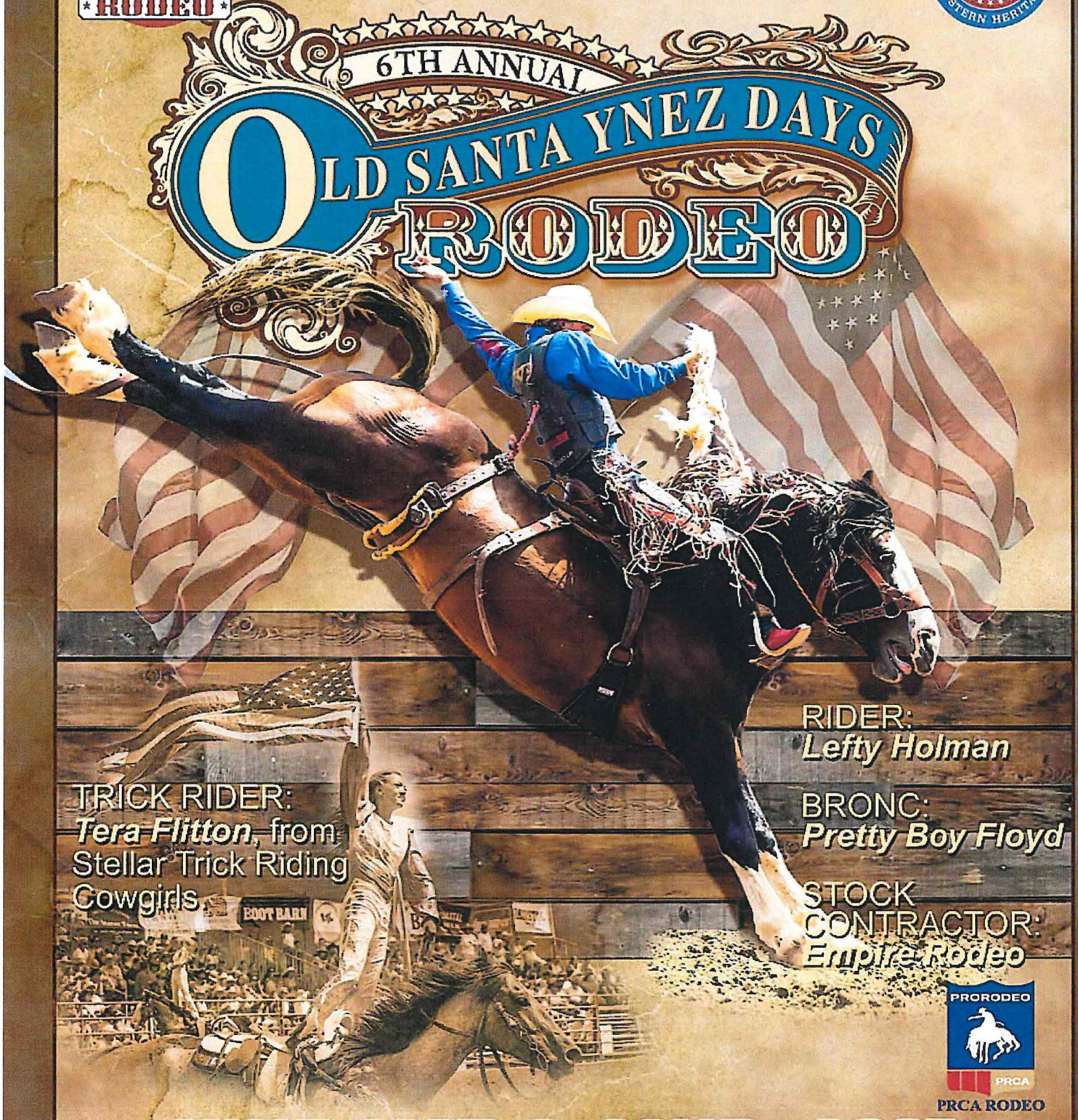
The purpose of the fee is to fund the management of groundwater resources within the EMA as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, including Water Code section 10720, et seq. ("SGMA"). If adopted, the proposed fee will take effect beginning July 1, 2025. If a groundwater extraction fee is not adopted, the EMA GSA will not have a funding source for SGMA compliance, which could lead to State of California intervention.

The reasons for the fee, the basis upon which it was calculated (including supporting data), the amount of the proposed fee, the groundwater extractions estimate within the EMA subject to the fee, and how it will be collected, are described in more detail in the Rate Study Report, the Frequently Asked Questions document, and the Notice of Public Hearing posted at **www.EMA-santaynezwater.org/.**

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY WESTERN HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

6TH ANNUAL OLD SANTA YNEZ DAYS RODEO



RIDER:
Lefty Holman

BRONC:
Pretty Boy Floyd

STOCK CONTRACTOR:
Empire Rodeo

TRICK RIDER:
Tera Flitton, from Stellar Trick Riding Cowgirls

PRORODEO
PRCA
PRCA RODEO

JUNE 21ST & 22ND, 2025

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Family Farm ALLIANCE®
Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture

June 2025
Issue No. 275 13 Pages

Monthly Briefing

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

GOP Budget Reconciliation Package H.R. 1 Passes House

Important Provisions Will Benefit Western Water Users

House Republicans have passed through the House a sweeping bill, H.R. 1, called the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" that ties together President Donald J. Trump's top priorities across tax policy, immigration, energy, defense, and healthcare. Included are provisions that will greatly benefit Western water managers.

"THE ONE, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL has PASSED the House of Representatives!", President Trump posted on TRUTH Social. "Now, it's time for our friends in the United States Senate to get to work, and send this Bill to my desk AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! There is no time to waste."

House passage of H.R. 1 marks a significant win for President Trump and Speaker Mike Johnson. The legislation now heads to the Senate, where it faces scrutiny and likely revisions that would likely set off more disagreement when it comes back to the House.

A key part of this legislation, especially those concerned with energy and environmental policy, is how it handles energy development and clean energy rollbacks.



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA).
Photo courtesy of the Office of the Speaker.

The bill pushes for a major expansion of fossil fuel production by mandating new lease sales for oil and gas drilling on federal lands and streamlining permitting processes for natural gas and pipeline projects. These projects would benefit from an expedited approval process (if developers pay a substantial fee) aimed at fast-tracking energy project construction.

"In short, if an agency doesn't act on a permit within a year - or 18 months with an extension - the project is automatically approved," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

At the same time, the legislation aggressively rolls back

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"One Big Beautiful Bill" Passes House (*Cont'd from Pg 1*)

many clean energy provisions from the Biden-era 2022 climate law. Clean energy tax credits for things like solar and wind would be cut earlier than originally planned, and new fees would be imposed on electric and hybrid vehicle owners, moves that critics say could slow down the transition to cleaner transportation.

The bill also removes lease mandates in places like Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve and the sale of public lands in Nevada and Utah, possibly an attempt to soften the environmental impact, although fossil fuel development remains a centerpiece.

"All told, this bill would mark a dramatic pivot away from recent clean energy efforts, leaning hard into fossil fuels while limiting environmental review and judicial oversight over energy development," said Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group (TFG), the Family Farm Alliance's representative in Washington, D.C. "While the House has passed the bill, it still faces serious obstacles in the Senate, including budgetary rules and differing priorities."

House Natural Resources Committee Provisions

The House Natural Resources title of H.R. 1 includes major wins for the West.

"The Natural Resources title of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will generate billions of dollars in new revenue for the federal government, restore American energy dominance, turbocharge critical mineral development, streamline permitting processes and promote an all-of-the-above energy future," said House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.). "It will grow the American economy, put billions back into the pockets of American families, create countless new jobs and set our nation on the path to a stronger and brighter future."

The Committee on Natural Resources' legislation to comply with the reconciliation directive includes some important provisions: the Committee was able to put $2.5 billion in for Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure (non-reimbursable and no cost share).

"The most important thing related to this bill is likely what's not in there – large claw backs of Reclamation funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "The Committee did not rescind any IRA Reclamation money."

The final House bill includes Natural Resources Committee provisions that allow a project sponsor to pay a fee equal to 125 percent of the anticipated costs of expected agency activities to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA). If the project sponsor pays the fee, they will receive their EIS in 1 year and their EA in six months. The EIS or EA would not be subject to judicial review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates this section will generate up to $1.4 billion in new revenue and savings for the federal government.

The bill provides $2 billion in non-reimbursable funding for construction and associated activities that increase the capacity of existing Bureau of Reclamation surface water storage facilities. While this provision targets a Shasta Dam Raise, other projects also qualify.

"The Senate may want to broaden this even more," said Mr. Limbaugh.

The bill provides $500 million in non-reimbursable funding for construction and associated activities that increase the capacity of existing Reclamation conveyance facilities.

"While this provision targets South-of-Delta canals in California, it can and will be pursued to improve other federal conveyance facilities," said Mr. Limbaugh.

In early May, the Family Farm Alliance transmitted a support letter on these provisions to the House Resources Committee. TFG has prepared a "Special Report" that covers sections of the House bill that are of interest to local governments and other public agencies.

Agriculture Committee Provisions

The House Agriculture Committee's section of the GOP's sprawling budget reconciliation bill reshapes key farm and nutrition programs and rekindles heated debate over federal support for agriculture and low-income Americans.

The legislation, led by Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Pa.), delivers major new investments in farm safety nets, conservation, research, and trade programs, while slashing up to $300 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The committee approved the measure by a 29-25 party-line vote after a marathon markup session.

"We're strengthening the farm safety net and delivering critical support to the farmers, workers, and communities that keep America fed," Chair Thompson said. "These commonsense solutions help build a stronger, more resilient rural America."

Among the most significant provisions is a six-year extension and boost in funding for core USDA conservation programs, including:

- $18.5 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program;
- $8.1 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Programl
- $4.1 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program; and
- $2.7 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

These figures reflect redirected unobligated funds from the IRA, though the new allocations drop the IRA's previous focus on climate-smart practices. EQIP, for instance, will receive $2.65 billion in FY2026, increasing to $3.25 billion annually through FY2031.

The bill also supports "orphan" programs that previously lacked permanent funding, including $150 million annually for watershed protection and flood prevention and $15 million annually for feral swine eradication efforts.

Despite the bill's broad agricultural investments, its most contentious provisions center on SNAP. Republicans argue that reforms are necessary to control spending and improve efficiency.

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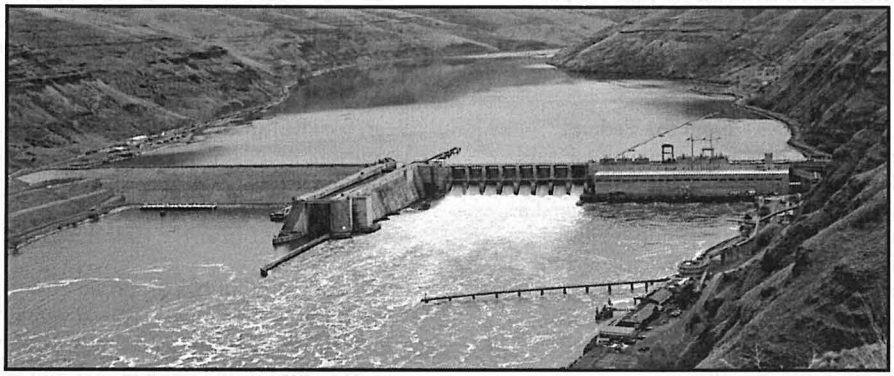
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Lower Snake River Dam Tour Sells Out

The Family Farm Alliance (Alliance) and Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA) are hosting a tour in July in Lewiston, Idaho – America's furthest inland seaport – to examine the issues and challenges of managing the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers for multiple uses.

The tour has already sold out.

"The 50 slots we had open were all filled within two weeks of our initial announcement," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.



The two-day tour begins Tuesday, July 15 with a tour of Dworshak Dam and Clearwater Hatchery in Ahsahka, Idaho, followed by a Columbia River Issues Presentation at the USFWS/IFW Office in Lewiston, Idaho. A group dinner is planned for that evening at Lindsay Creek Vineyards in Lewiston.

Day Two – July 16 -will feature a jetboat on the Snake River to Lower Granite Dam *(pictured above, courtesy of Army Corps of Engineers)* in Pomeroy, Washington, where a facility discussion will take place at the Dam Visitors Center. This briefing will be followed by a tour of Lower Granite Dam and the fish facilities.

The tour will conclude at approximately 2:00 p.m. (Mountain) on July 16.

The Columbia-Snake system is the top wheat export gateway in the U.S., with barging on the Snake River handling nearly 10% of all U.S. wheat exports. In addition to the economic benefits of providing ready access to world markets, river barging provides significant environmental benefits. In 2020 alone, it would have taken over 42,000 rail cars or over 162,000 semi-trucks to move the cargo that was moved by barge on the lower Snake River – adding approx. 1.2 million tons of CO2 and other harmful emissions into the environment.

Operating the system is not, however, without controversy. For decades, the region has been embroiled in litigation over asserted impacts of the river system on salmon and steelhead populations.

"The call to breach the four dams on the lower Snake River for the benefit of salmon is persistent," said IWUA Executive Director Paul Arrington.

The new administration appears to be aligning with agriculture, power and shipping interests regarding the fate of the four dams. At a May 7 House Appropriations Committee hearing, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright strongly defended the lower Snake River dams, saying he is "passionately in support" of keeping them in place, citing their long-term contributions to energy generation and economic prosperity. Stressing his alignment with the broader Trump administration, Secretary Wright added that effective energy and environmental stewardship can coexist, stating, "They are not always in opposition. In fact, they're rarely in opposition."

Tour attendees will hear perspectives from governments, tribes and stakeholders engaged in these matters. Guests will also get to see, firsthand, key infrastructure such as the dams and the Clearwater Fish Hatchery.

A highlight of the tour will be a jetboat ride on the river, including passage through one of the tallest navigation locks in the United States.

U.S. House Passes Aquifer Recharge Bill

Last month, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 331, which modifies the *Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act* to speed up the water replenishment process and reduce costs for water infrastructure projects.

H.R. 331 would modify the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act from the 116th Congress to expand provisions concerning authorizations (e.g., rights-of-way) to transport water across public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for aquifer recharge purposes. The bill – authored by Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-IDAHO) now advances to the Senate.

"I am pleased to share that my bill addressing one of the most pressing issues facing the West–water security–has passed the House," said Congressman Fulcher. "States, local governments, and Tribes with existing authorizations should not have to go through redundant federal bureaucratic hurdles to recharge their community's aquifer water supply."

The Family Farm Alliance last year formally supported S. 4999, a related bill sponsored by Senator James Risch (R-IDAHO).

This legislation would allow holders of existing right-of-way grants to use them for aquifer recharge without needing additional authorization from the Secretary of the Interior.

H.R. 331 clarifies that this use will not be considered an expansion or modification of the original grant.

It would also require the right-of-way holder to notify BLM 30 days in advance, providing details on the intended use and any agreements with other entities involved in the water transfer for recharge purposes.

"This is a practical, no-cost solution that cuts red tape, empowers local decision-making, and helps us protect our most valuable resource," said Rep. Fulcher.

President Trump Unveils FY 2026 Budget Proposal

President Donald Trump last month unveiled a budget blueprint asking Congress to slash the nation's overall spending on non-defense programs by more than $163 billion, potentially impacting agencies and programs across the American West. The president's budget asks for dramatic reductions to key environmental, energy, education and foreign aid programs for the fiscal year that starts in October.

It also proposes eliminating hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and other projects that the White House has deemed "wasteful."

"For decades, the biggest complaint about the Federal Budget was wasteful spending and bloated bureaucracy," said Russ Vought, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). "At this critical moment, we need a historic Budget—one that ends the funding of our decline, puts Americans first, and delivers unprecedented support to our military and homeland security."

Democrats strongly criticized President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2026 budget proposal, labeling it as harmful to working families and a boon for the wealthy.

"This budget proposal would set our country back decades by decimating investments to help families afford the basics, to keep communities safe, and to ensure America remains the world leader in innovation and lifesaving research," said Sen. Patty Murray (D-WASHINGTON), the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In some cases, the administration is calling for the elimination of entire agencies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Science Foundation would have their budgets cut by more than half. NOAA would see its research and operations budget slashed by $1.3 billion, a 29% cut.

President Trump put forward a similar proposal in year one of his first term, only to see lawmakers largely ignore the suggestions, White House officials said Republican lawmakers are much more amenable to the cuts this time around. However, any funding measure will require Democratic support to pass the Senate, and Democrats have criticized the proposal.

USDA Budget Proposal

President Trump is proposing significant cuts to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) food, forest and conservation programs and increased funding for the "Make America Healthy Again" initiative.

During her testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins defended the FY 2026 budget proposal's objectives of fiscal prudence and agricultural support, while also committing to operational improvements within the USDA to better serve American farmers and ranchers.

She emphasized that the USDA has already initiated measures to eliminate wasteful spending, prioritize services that benefit farmers, and reduce bureaucratic obstacles

"To that end, my team and I have sought to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in all USDA programs, including the staff, improper payments, fraud and programs that fail to fulfill the USDA mission of putting farmers first," Secretary Rollins said.

Lawmakers from both parties in the House and Senate asked Agriculture Secretary Rollins about understaffing and potential closures of Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) county offices, emphasizing the need for local, in-person access.

"The very mission of USDA is under incredible threat from this administration," Senator Murray said. "We are seeing dedicated researchers and experts who are being pushed out the door. ... That, to me, is really unacceptable and needs to change."

Secretary Rollins assured committee members that there are no current plans to shut down any of USDA's thousands of FSA offices in counties across the country.

Department of Interior (DOI) Budget Request

The administration has proposed cutting $3.8 billion from DOI in the 2026 budget plan, which would represent about 25 percent of the department's currently approved spending.

Nearly a third of the reduction would come from the National Park Service, the budget of which the White House said it would slash by $1.2 billion by moving park maintenance to state governments. Another $564 million in research and climate change would be cut from USGS programs relating to surveys, investigations, and research. These USGS programs provide science information on natural hazards, ecosystems, water, energy and mineral resources.

The White House budget proposal would also reduce by $198 million the Bureau of Land Management's Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management program "to reduce funds given to left-wing environmental nonprofits that work against development of energy and mineral resources and have other sources of funding for their projects."

And, the Bureau of Reclamation also faces a $600 million funding cut, though a nominee for Commissioner to lead the agency has not yet been named.

EPA Proposed Budget

The FY 2026 budget request for EPA proposes a decrease of $2.4 billion for the Clean and Drinking Water state revolving fund (SRF), which offers low-cost financing for water quality projects.

"SRFs are the largest source of federal funds for drinking water utilities, sewage treatment plants, and other infrastructure like water pipes," said Ian Lyle, Federal Relations Director for the Association of California Water Agencies.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin last month faced congressional scrutiny over the Trump Administration's proposed budget cuts and policy shifts. Some Republicans and most Democrats challenged the depth of the cuts and the rollback of climate programs.

In his first appearance before Congress since his confirmation, Administrator Lee Zeldin testified at a May 14 hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee, defending the Trump administration's May 2 "skinny" budget proposal.

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Trump FY 2026 Budget Proposal (*Cont'd from Page 4*)

"By reducing the EPA's budget by billions of dollars, the president's FY2026 budget demands maximum efficiency from the EPA while we continue to fulfill all of our statutory obligations," Zeldin said.

But several members of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Interior and environment panel pushed back on the scale of the proposed cuts.

"I'm looking at them and questioning whether they are serious cuts," said Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), noting that the SRF cuts are particularly "unserious". Sen. Murkowski said. "It clearly is one of the most essential programs that the agency administers."

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) voiced similar concerns.

"You're hearing, I hope strongly, from this committee that we are committed to restoration of those funds because they serve such a vital function in our communities," she told Mr. Zeldin.

Army Corps of Engineers Budget Request

The Defense Department would see its funding increased by 13% to more than $1 trillion, more than 10% of which would come in the proposed reconciliation bill. However, the Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) would see several important programs cut in the budget request.

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Surplus, which finances operation and maintenance projects for ports and harbors nationwide, would be slashed by $1 billion. The Army Corps' Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act - which provides low-cost, long-term loans for non-Federal water infrastructure projects - would be cut by $7 million.

Consolidation of Agency Duties

The FY 2026 "skinny" budget request also proposes the consolidation of duplicative duties between multiple agencies under the umbrella of one department. For example, wildland fire responsibilities would be consolidated into a single new Federal Wildland Fire Service at DOI, including transferring USDA's current wildland fire management responsibilities.

"That reform is intended to lead to better efficiency and coordination," said Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, the Family Farm Alliance's voice in Washington, D.C. *(pictured at right)*.

The budget request also revives a controversial proposal to transfer endangered species and marine mammal responsibilities from NOAA Fisheries at the Commerce Department to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at DOI, a partial merger that has been debated for decades but never enacted.

Past legislative proposals have failed due to bureaucratic turf battles, congressional jurisdictional divides, and concerns over funding and staffing shortfalls.

The Family Farm Alliance supports this idea, and Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen in 2017 testified in support of an earlier version of this bill at a hearing conducted by the House Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee.

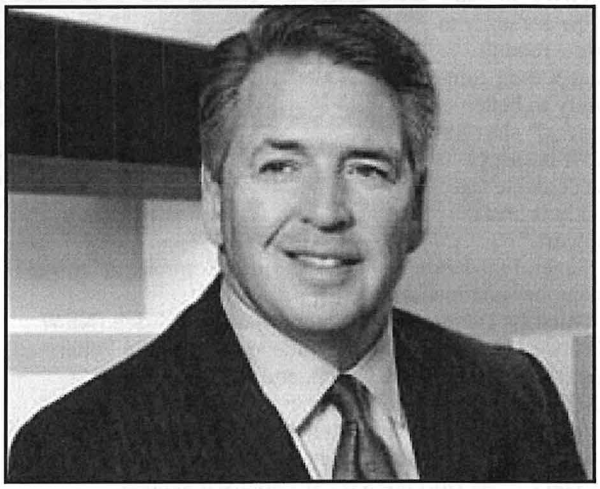
"We believe that by combining the ESA implementation responsibilities of both NOAA Fisheries and FWS under one federal roof, we would promote more efficient, effective, and coordinated management of all ESA responsibilities for anadromous and freshwater fish in Western watersheds, from the highest reaches of our headwaters to the Pacific Ocean," Mr. Keppen testified at the time.

Next Steps

House appropriators are working on an ambitious plan to finish drafting all twelve FY 2026 spending bills by the end of July. According to a schedule released by House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK), the committee will move quickly over the next ten weeks, even though there's still no word on when or if these bills will reach the House floor for a vote.

Two subcommittees of particular interest here are Energy and Water Development and Interior and Environment. The Energy and Water bill – which funds the Department of Energy (DOE), Reclamation, and the Army Corps of Engineers - is set for subcommittee markup on July 7, with the full committee taking it up in July.

"This bill will determine funding for critical infrastructure like the DOE and water projects," said Mr. Limbaugh. "This funding faces tight budget constraints, since the overall non-defense spending is facing cuts of about 17 percent."



Meanwhile, the Interior and Environment bill will come up earlier, with subcommittee markup scheduled for June 23 and full committee review on June 26.

"This bill affects agencies like the EPA and the Department of the Interior, which are likely to see significant funding challenges given the reduced non-defense budget," said Mr. Limbaugh.

While House appropriators are pushing hard to stay on schedule.

"The real challenge will be at what levels these subcommittees manage to fund key programs with the President's request that slashes agency budgets and a Democratic minority smarting from a contentious GOP-led budget reconciliation process," said Mr. Limbaugh.

Key Trump Appointees Advance in Confirmation Process

The second-in-command in President Trump's Department of Interior was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last month. Other presidential appointees with roles important to Western water users were advanced by confirmation committees, as well.

Senate Confirms Interior Dep. Sec. MacGregor

The Senate confirmed Katharine MacGregor as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI) in a 53-40 vote, marking her return to a role she held during the first Trump administration. During her confirmation hearing, she highlighted her previous experience in both public service and the private sector, noting the challenges faced by rural Americans due to bureaucratic delays.

"I cannot imagine any instance where it is just and right that someone wait over 30 years for the authority to build a road to connect their community to better services," she stated. "It is simply unacceptable and frankly it breaks my heart."



Senator Jim Risch's (R-IDAHO) post on social media announcing Katharine MacGregor's Senate confirmation as the new Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior.

Several moderate Democrats joined Republicans in supporting her nomination.

Notably, Democratic Senators Martin Heinrich (NEW MEXICO), Angus King (ME, Independent), John Fetterman (PA), Mark Kelly (ARIZONA), and Ruben Gallego (ARIZONA) voted in favor of her confirmation.

Ms. MacGregor, who also held private sector roles at NextEra Energy, is expected to play a key role in advancing DOI Secretary Doug Burgum's energy-focused agenda.

Committees Advance Key Nominees to Senate Vote

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee last month voted to advance two key environmental nominees to the full Senate.

Brian Nesvik, former Wyoming Game and Fish Department director and retired brigadier general, is nominated to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Jessica Kramer, currently an EPA adviser and former Trump 45 Administration official, is nominated as Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water at the EPA.

If cleared and confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Nesvik would oversee national wildlife refuges and endangered species listings, while Ms. Kramer would manage water policies under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act.

"Earlier this year, we sent letters in support of both nominees to the Senate EPW Committee," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

Andrea Travnicek Clears Committee

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee on May 8 favorably reported the nomination of Andrea Travnicek for Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Water and Science) favorably to the full Senate.

"This position is critically important to Western water users, since, among other duties, this position oversees the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Geological Survey," said Mr. Keppen. "The Alliance earlier this year sent a formal letter supporting Andrea Travnicek's confirmation to the Senate ENR Committee."

At her earlier confirmation hearing, she identified Colorado River policies, critical minerals development and infrastructure as her top three priorities if she is confirmed for the position. A key part of Ms. Travnicek's role would involve working on a new long-term operating agreement for the Colorado River Basin, a complex and contentious process among seven states.

Ms. Travnicek previously held several DOI posts during President Trump's first term and led the Department of Water Resources and the Parks and Recreation Department in North Dakota under then-Governor Doug Burgum.

Trump 45 EPA official now overseeing Army Corps

Dennis "Lee" Forsgren, who worked in EPA's water office in the first Trump administration, is serving as acting assistant secretary of the Army for civil works. He started on the job — which oversees the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers— in early April.

Coalition Expresses Support for Redefining "Harm" Under the ESA

A group of over 40 national and Western organizations last month signed on to a formal letter expressing support for a move by federal agencies to redefine the term "harm" under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The coalition letter – led by the Family Farm Alliance and the Milk Producers Council – includes organizations who collectively represent thousands of farmers and ranchers, businesses and communities, and local and regional public water agencies that supply municipal water to millions of Western urban, suburban, and rural residents.

The ESA prohibits direct actions that result in the "take" of listed species - actions that actually kill or injure the species. The coalition letter outlines how the current agency definition of "harm" is broader in scope than the statute. It encompasses often ill-defined indirect impacts on species, which opens the door to agency interpretation - and more regulation - with no bright line to avoid arbitrary enforcement.

For example, irrigation water users in the federal Klamath Project are hundreds of miles away from the ocean. Yet, they are regulated based on purported "take" of the Southern Resident killer whale. This attenuated logic consists of regulation of flows for Klamath River Chinook salmon, a non-listed fish species, which, during some days in a year, make up a small percentage of the diet of the Southern Resident killer whale.

In essence, food producers in California and Oregon are assumed to "harm" whales, and, on that basis, the terms and conditions of incidental take statements place strict constraints on their water use.

The coalition letter emphasizes that by focusing on the definition of "harm", tenuous and speculative regulatory oversight and related litigation would be reduced or eliminated.

Farm Progress last month published a related guest column authored by Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen which explains that, while all of us have a strong affinity for our national environmental heritage, the regulatory implementation of the 52-year-old ESA has created challenges.

"While not the "silver bullet" solution to ESA reform, this proposed rule will definitely help to restore common sense and bring federal agency implementation of the ESA more in line with the law and Congressional intent," Mr. Keppen wrote.

Environmental groups warn this change could severely weaken the ESA's power to protect wildlife, accelerating extinctions by allowing more development and resource extraction in sensitive habitats.

"By changing the meaning of a single word, the Trump administration could gut habitat protections for all endangered species," the litigious Center for Biological Diversity intoned in an alert sent to its membership. "It would open the door for billionaires in industries of all kinds to destroy the natural world and wipe out wildlife in the process."

With public comment periods recently closed and final decisions approaching, these choices are likely to shape the country's conservation landscape for years to come and underscore growing tensions between environmental protection and land-use interests.

Senate Committee Reviews "Fix Our Forests Act"

As wildfires grow more destructive and widespread, Congress is grappling with how best to manage the nation's forests in the face of growing risks and a shrinking federal workforce. The Senate Agriculture Committee held a pivotal hearing on May 6 to review S. 1462, the "Fix Our Forests Act," bipartisan legislation aimed at reforming how the U.S. Forest Service handles forest management and wildfire mitigation.

Introduced by Sens. John Curtis (R-UTAH), John Hickenlooper (D-COLORADO), Tim Sheehy (R-MONTANA), and Alex Padilla (D-CALIFORNIA), the Senate bill mirrors version passed by the House earlier this year, with some key differences. Both bills streamline environmental reviews by expanding the use of Categorical Exclusions (CEs) and allowing emergency procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act in high-risk areas, and promote stronger federal-state collaboration. However, they differ on issues such as litigation reform, prescribed fire strategies, and defining "at-risk communities."

The Family Alliance and several other national organizations have thrown their support behind the legislation.

"Supporters like our coalition believe strongly that the bill cuts bureaucratic delays that slow fire mitigation efforts," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

Environmental critics, however, caution that the bill may lean too heavily on logging without adequate safeguards.

During the hearing, lawmakers and officials zeroed in on a pressing issue: the Forest Service's capacity to implement the bill's ambitious reforms. Acting Associate Chief Chris French testified that the agency has lost roughly 5,000 non-fire-related employees due to voluntary departures this year—many through a deferred resignation program. The exodus, which does not include wildland firefighters, follows a quarter—staff reduction that began earlier this year.

Democratic senators expressed skepticism about the agency's ability to carry out the legislation amid such cuts.

"How would it be possible to do anything other than timber harvesting contemplated in this bill with those kinds of reductions?" asked Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CALIFORNIA).

"The reality is, we're going to have to change our business model," Mr. French responded. "We're going to have to depend more heavily on private partnerships and states to do some of that work because the funding levels won't be the same."

In a related hearing in the House, Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Paul Gosar (R-AZ) warned that more than one billion acres are at risk of wildfire. He blamed decades of anti-management advocacy and praised the *Fix Our Forests Act* as a "science-backed" solution to restore forest health and protect the wildland-urban interface.

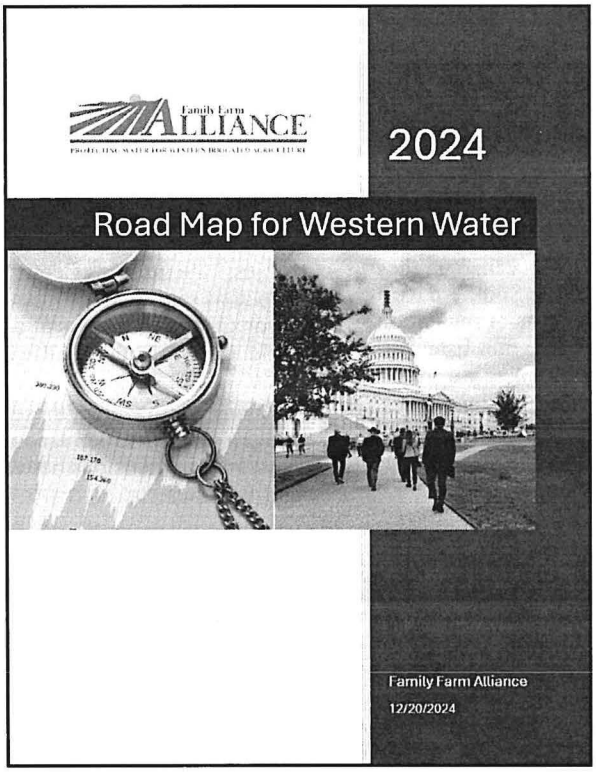
Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle appear ready to advance the legislation—but they must first reconcile its goals with the stark reality of a depleted federal workforce.

Alliance Recommends Regulation Rescissions to OMB

In related news, EPA moves quickly to take action on CWA Sec. 401 process

The Trump White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) earlier this year solicited ideas for deregulation from across the country. The Family Farm Alliance submitted its recommendations to OMB on May 12, just weeks before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action on one of those recommendations.

"OMB invited comments about any and all regulations currently in effect," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "Using our December 2024 *Road Map* document as a basis, we formally reiterated our recommendations for the rules we'd like to see rescinded, provided detailed reasons for our concerns, and submitted those to OMB."



The Trump Administration is once again going back to the drawing board in an attempt to reform the current implementation of overly complex federal environmental laws and regulations, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"All of these are key issues of concern for our membership," said Mr. Keppen. "Already this year, we have engaged in the initial rulemaking efforts undertaken by the new administration regarding agency implementation of each of these federal laws. By and large, we support each of these initiatives, and we'll continue to engage as these processes unfold."

At the top of the list of the challenges confronting Western family farmers and ranchers is the daunting number of federal regulatory policy initiatives they face.

These types of federal water resource policies and regulatory practices could potentially undermine the economic foundations of rural communities in the arid West by making farming and ranching increasingly more difficult.

EPA Issues Memo on Clean Water Act Sec. 401 Process

One regulation discussed in the Alliance comment letter to OMB relates to then-President Joe Biden's Executive Order to take action to revise or replace the 2020 CWA Section 401 Certification Rule.

On September 14, 2023, the agency published the final *Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule,* which EPA claimed would "support clear, efficient, and focused water quality reviews of infrastructure and development projects that are key to economic growth".

The Alliance and other Western water and power interests believe this rule unduly expands state and tribal power in approving or denying certifications for infrastructure projects, potentially delaying or halting them.

Critics argue that some states have used water quality certifications to delay or block projects, prompting complaints from the energy industry.

For example, some states have taken longer than the one-year deadline allowed under the CWA to review and decide on 401 certifications. These states allegedly "reset the clock" by deeming applications incomplete and requiring resubmission, effectively extending the review process indefinitely.

Less than two weeks after OMB closed its public comment period, EPA issued a memorandum warning states and tribes not to use the CWA to block or delay federally approved energy projects.

"The purpose of this document is to reiterate the EPA's longstanding position that states and Tribes must utilize CWA Section 401 only for its statutory purpose – to protect water quality – and not as a weapon to shut down projects for reasons with no basis in the statute or applicable regulations," the May 21, 2025 memo states.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin emphasized that states' and tribes' authority under Section 401 of the Act is "specific and limited" to assessing water quality impacts and not broader environmental or climate concerns.

"With this memorandum, EPA is reinforcing the limits on Clean Water Act section 401 certification to support energy, critical mineral, and infrastructure projects that are key to economic growth and Power the Great American Comeback," Administrator Zeldin said.

The memo comes in response to past efforts by some states to halt projects like pipelines, hydroelectric relicensing, and dam building based on environmental objections.

It signals the agency's intent to support energy and infrastructure development, with a new regulation on the issue expected but not yet scheduled.

"The EPA's position narrows the scope of what states can consider, focusing only on direct water quality impacts," said Mr. Keppen.

Recent Court Decisions Cast Uncertainty on Agency Realignment Proposals

The Trump administration's sweeping plan to realign the federal government's workforce, framed as a move to boost efficiency and sharpen scientific focus, is facing mounting legal challenges after a federal judge issued a broad injunction halting layoffs and restructuring efforts across numerous agencies.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin last month unveiled an ambitious reorganization affecting several key offices within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including the Offices of the Administrator; Air and Radiation; Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention; and Water. The changes, which include the creation of a new Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions (OASES), are projected to save taxpayers up to $300 million annually.

"With these organizational improvements, we recommit to fulfilling all of our statutory obligations and exceptionally delivering on EPA's core mission of protecting human health and the environment," Mr. Zeldin said. "This reorganization will bring much-needed efficiencies to incorporate science into our rulemakings and sharply focus our work on providing the cleanest air, land, and water for our communities."

Yet, the administration's restructuring efforts—particularly the planned reductions in force (RIFs)—have been thrown into legal uncertainty. On May 22, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston issued a sweeping injunction reinforcing a temporary restraining order already in place. Her ruling effectively halts the administration's ability to carry out mass layoffs tied to a February executive order that directed federal downsizing.

Judge Illston, appointed by President Clinton, found that the plaintiffs—employee unions, environmental groups, and others—are likely to succeed in their argument that the administration overstepped legal boundaries.

"The evidence discredits the executive's position and persuades the Court that plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits of their suit," she wrote.

The injunction affects a wide array of departments including Interior, Energy, Agriculture, Commerce, and Transportation, as well as the EPA and National Science Foundation. Federal workers who were placed on administrative leave due to the executive order must be reinstated, though Judge Illston stayed that part of her order pending appeal.

Environmental advocates and labor leaders hailed the ruling as a crucial pause in what they view as a chaotic and unlawful reorganization.

"The Trump administration's unlawful attempt to reorganize the federal government has thrown agencies into chaos," the plaintiffs said in a statement, praising the judge's decision to prevent further harm while litigation continues.

At agencies like the EPA, confusion reigns.

"Employees are confused," Marie Owens Powell, president of EPA's largest union, told *Greenwire*. "While it's not a 100 percent victory, it's a sign that folks are at least making the administration pause and assess the legality of what they're doing."

The administration has appealed Judge Illston's ruling and asked that it not be required to disclose layoff plans, citing national security and strategic concerns. A declaration from the White House Office of Management and Budget warned that releasing those plans could "seriously undermine agency operations," including negotiations with unions and legislative strategies.

Meanwhile, the implications for federal staffing levels remain significant. The USDA alone reported 15,000 resignations following voluntary buyout offers, and internal plans suggest as many as 30,000 job cuts are under consideration.

The Interior Department is finalizing reduction-in-force plans expected to target thousands of employees, including 1,500 at the National Park Service.

As the legal battle plays out, the future of workforce realignment in federal agencies hangs in the balance. The administration maintains that its reforms are necessary to modernize government and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent effectively. But for thousands of federal workers, the uncertainty appears to be far from over.

FWS Extends Comment Period on Critical Habitat for ESA-Listed California Frog

A coalition of California water, agriculture, and rural interests – including the Family Farm Alliance - is raising concerns over a proposed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) plan to designate 760,071 acres as critical habitat for four populations of the foothill yellow-legged frog listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The coalition, led by the California Farm Bureau, includes the Cattlemen's Association, the Family Farm Alliance, Public Lands Council and Rural County Representatives of California and others, warns of broad impacts on public and private lands, particularly since over 363,000 acres of the proposed area are privately owned.

"Cumulatively, our membership either resides in or manages nearly 50% of the state's land as well as substantial water resources, making our organizations particularly concerned with the potentially negative impact of this proposal," the coalition letter states.

In response, the FWS extended the public comment period from May 17 to July 28.

Local governments and utilities, including Fresno County and San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission, also fear the designation could delay projects and increase costs.

"As a local agency responsible for maintaining over 3,400 road miles and 500 bridges, we are concerned about the potential impacts this designation could have on the delivery of critical transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects, especially with the downsizing of the Federal government," the Fresno County Department of Planning and Public Works wrote in its March 17, 2025 letter to FWS.

Meanwhile, some environmental advocates are urging the agency to expand the proposed habitat to ensure the species' long-term survival.

Sec. Rollins Unveils 'Farmers First' Agenda to Bolster Small Family Farms

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins has unveiled a sweeping new policy agenda designed to revitalize small family farms, the backbone of American agriculture. The "Farmers First: Small Family Farms Policy Agenda," released May 19, marks the first major initiative under Secretary Rollins' "Make Agriculture Great Again" campaign.

The agenda is the result of a nationwide listening tour that brought Rollins face-to-face with hundreds of farmers over the previous three months. The policy package outlines specific proposals aimed at removing barriers to entry, ensuring long-term sustainability, and improving access to credit, land, markets, and modern business tools.

"America's family farms help feed, fuel, and clothe the world, but they also face some of the greatest challenges in getting their farms started and keeping them running," Secretary Rollins said during the policy rollout. "Putting Farmers First means addressing the issues farmers face head-on and fostering an economic environment that doesn't put up roadblocks on business creation but removes them."

Small family farms make up approximately 86% of all farms in the United States. According to Secretary Rollins, the USDA's new agenda is specifically tailored to meet their unique needs and ensure their survival for generations to come.

The announcement builds on momentum from the recent "Farmers First Roundtable" in Washington, D.C., where Secretary Rollins engaged with over 20 small-scale farmers and ranchers from 11 states, along with representatives from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen.

State leaders across the West have voiced their support for Secretary Rollins' initiative.

"Family farms are the backbone of American agriculture, and Idaho fully supports Secretary Rollins' solution-driven actions to strengthen and support family farmers across our great nation," said Idaho Governor Brad Little.

Speaker Mike Schultz of the Utah House of Representatives echoed similar sentiments.

"Small farms and ranches are the backbone of our food supply, sustaining rural communities and reinforcing domestic self-reliance," said Speaker Schultz. "Utah provided feedback on this plan with USDA, especially regarding cutting burdensome regulations and investing in local processing and logistics."

Secretary Rollins emphasized that the new agenda aligns with President Trump's broader vision of economic independence and rural revitalization.

"President Trump knows America's economic prosperity depends on the success of our farmers and ranchers," she said. "That is why we are working to ensure those who want to start and keep their own farms for generations to come are able to."

The full policy agenda is available for public review and marks the beginning of USDA's renewed focus on family-scale agricultural resilience and innovation.

Yakima Basin Irrigators Brace for Deeper Drought as Supply Drops Again

As Central Washington enters its third consecutive drought year, irrigators in the Yakima River Basin are facing increasingly dire water shortages. On May 16, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation downgraded its water supply forecast for junior water-rights holders to just 48% of normal—down from 51% issued less than two weeks earlier.

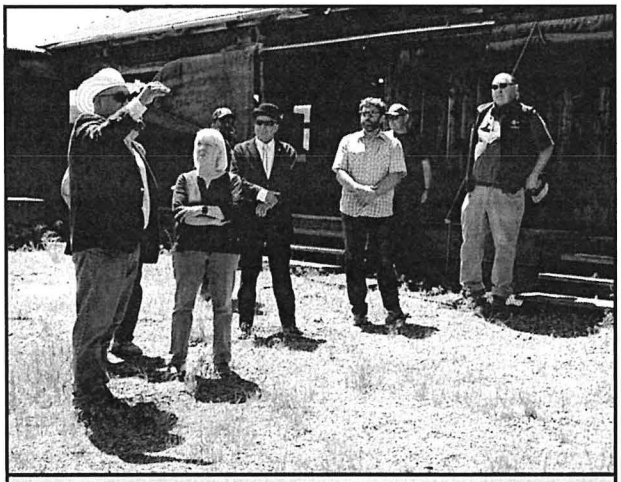
The decline is attributed to a persistently dry spring and diminishing snowpack.

"As of May 18, we were at 21% of average precipitation for the month," said Urban Eberhart, manager of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD). "We have not recovered from the May 2023 record heat when we lost a quarter of a million acre-feet of snowpack in about a week."

Forecasts indicate June through August will be warmer and drier than usual, increasing the likelihood of rationing.

Mr. Eberhart said the district is doing its best to manage limited supplies.

"We anticipate today to be the start of portioning," he said. "We are trying to make it to the end of August but will likely shut down operations a month and a half earlier than our normal October 15th shutoff date."



U.S. Senator Patty Murray toured Springwood Ranch in Kittitas County last month, discussing a proposed storage project with community members, including Urban Eberhart (pictured to the right of Sen. Murray). **(Photo courtesy of Senator Patty Murray)**

Meanwhile, the Roza Irrigation District is already scaling back operations.

Water was turned off in the district for at least a week last month to save it for hotter, drier days later this summer.

Every day that the Roza is shut off conserves an extra 1,000 acre-feet of water for later in the season, when the days are hotter and drier, said Roza's Sage Park.

With water supply projections ranging from a low of 31% to a high of 65%, irrigators and water managers are urging timely cooperation and hoping for an unlikely reprieve.

"We need snow and rain," Mr. Eberhart concluded.

"Hopefully we will not get another heat dome."

Tension Grows in the Colorado River Basin

As water wonks across the West continue to ponder who President Trump will pick as the next Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation – a position that serves as the water master for the Lower Colorado River Basin – tension is growing between competing water interests. Once again, water used for irrigation is being targeted by some as the culprit behind the Basin's water challenges.

Water Deal Sparks Tension Between Western Slope and Front Range

Western Slope communities, led by the Colorado River District, are pursuing a $99 million acquisition of historic water rights tied to the Shoshone Hydroelectric Plant from Xcel Energy. These rights, dating back to 1905, are among the oldest and most influential on the Colorado River in Colorado. The goal is to preserve consistent river flows that support agriculture, recreation, and ecosystems on the Western Slope.

However, major Front Range water providers—including Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Northern Water—have voiced strong opposition. They argue that the deal could jeopardize their water supplies during droughts.

"If this proposal were to go forward as presented... it could harm our ability to provide water for essential use during severe or prolonged drought," Jessica Brody, general counsel for Denver Water, told the *Colorado Sun.*

The Colorado River District contends that the purchase would maintain existing water flows and prevent potential future diversions by other entities.

"This is a right that will save this river from now into eternity," River District General Manager Andy Mueller told the *Colorado Sun.*

The Colorado Water Conservation Board is currently reviewing the proposal, with a 120-day decision-making period underway. If approved, the deal would proceed to water court for finalization. The outcome could significantly impact water management and inter-regional relations within Colorado.

NRDC Presses for Federal Crackdown on "Wasteful" Water Use

Amid growing pressure to confront chronic water shortages in the Colorado River Basin, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – a longtime foe of Western irrigated agriculture- has petitioned the Interior Department to activate a rarely used regulation to curtail what it calls "wasteful" water practices across Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Represented by UCLA's Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, NRDC submitted its request via a formal letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and the Bureau of Reclamation. The petition urges enforcement of Section 417 of the U.S. Code, which empowers Reclamation to limit water deliveries not deemed "beneficial"—a term encompassing uses like irrigation, hydropower, and municipal needs.

"More than 40 million people in seven states rely on the over-stressed Colorado River," said Mark Gold, NRDC's director of water scarcity solutions. "The Bureau of Reclamation has the authority and obligation to stop the waste and protect this precious resource today and for future generations."

Mr. Gold also sits on the board for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the nation's largest wholesale water supplier, delivering water to nearly 19 million people. The Colorado River is a key source of water supply for Metropolitan.

The process called for by NRDC could examine things like what kinds of crops are being grown and in what climate.

While NRDC and other critics of irrigation call for stricter oversight, agricultural leaders have pushed back.

"No one has done more in the way of conservation on the Colorado River than Imperial Valley farmers," wrote Mike Wade of the California Farm Water Coalition in a letter to the *Los Angeles Times.* He cited more than 8 million acre-feet of water saved since the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement and emphasized the critical role of alfalfa in feeding livestock and supporting food security.

Family Farm Alliance President Paul Orme, whose family owns a ranch in Central Arizona, counters NRDC's claims, noting that Arizona already absorbs a 512,000-acre-foot cut under Tier 1 shortage rules—hardly the "full allocation" cited by national media.

The editorial tension over crops like alfalfa continued in a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* piece, which framed the crop as a "carbon, crops for cows" dilemma. Mr. Wade responded again, pointing out that up to 90 percent of the nation's winter vegetables come from the Imperial and Yuma valleys.

"Managing a resource such as the Colorado River," wrote Mr. Wade, "requires hard work, cooperation and patience, not finger-pointing."

"Funding the Inevitable Transition"

Meanwhile, a significant policy conference at the University of Colorado Law School scheduled for June 5-6 is poised to amplify scrutiny on agriculture's water footprint. An afternoon session, titled "The Aridification of Agriculture," will feature Sustainable Waters' Brian Richter, who co-authored a 2025 study concluding that Colorado River alfalfa farming uses more water than all cities and industries in the basin combined.

Richter also co-authored "Reducing irrigation of livestock feed is essential to saving Great Salt Lake," published in *Environmental Challenges.* In a candid interview, he remarked, "Farmers feel like they've got a target on their back… but there's no other way to rebalance… unless we can get farmers on board."

As negotiations continue on a new long-term operating plan for the river, stakeholders remain deeply divided.

Hope Blooms Eternal: "The Green Desert"

In the midst of the current debate, an excellent documentary film on Colorado River water challenges - co-sponsored by the Family Farm Alliance – is being broadcast on PBS

Continued on Page 12

A New Path Forward on ESA Implementation for the Klamath Project

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) last month released a memorandum providing updated legal guidance regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Klamath Project (Project).

The updated guidance is "extremely welcome," according to Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) President Scott Seus. "Project irrigators have suffered far too long with the ESA being used as a rationalization for federal agencies simply dividing up water. Each year has been a fight for who-gets-what, but with no consistent guidance or understanding about the rules."

The updated guidance was authored by Greg Zerzan, Acting Solicitor at DOI. Mr. Zerzan is the chief legal officer for the U.S. Department of the Interior and oversees the work of all its attorneys.

The guidance document is anchored by the legal principle that section 7 of the ESA, which has driven regulation of the Project for three decades, applies only to the effects of Reclamation's discretionary actions. Based on applicable regulations, court decisions, and contracts, critical actions associated with the storage, diversion, and delivery of water for irrigation are not discretionary federal actions.

The updated guidance calls for Reclamation's ESA approach to be the same at the Project as it has been for other river basins for years, explains KWUA Executive Director Elizabeth Nielsen.

"This is about fairness and consistency as much as it is about law," she said. "The rules applied to the Project should be the same rules Reclamation has applied in other basins and defended in court for over a decade."

During the first Trump Administration, the Office of the Solicitor prepared detailed legal analysis that was relied on in completing a reassessment of then-current ESA regulation of the Project. The reassessment was intended to be the foundation for future ESA compliance. But three weeks after taking office in 2021, then-Secretary Deb Haaland rescinded the reassessment.

"All the work that had been done was discarded without justification," stated Mr. Seus.

On February 10, 2025, current Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum rescinded Secretary Haaland's withdrawal of the ESA reassessment work. Secretary Burgum also directed the Solicitor to update the legal analysis that supported the previous reassessment. That work is now complete.

"We thank Secretary Burgum and his team for this prompt action," said Mr. Seus.

The updated guidance identifies new laws and court decisions that bolster the conclusions reached in the previous ESA reassessment. The court decisions include a case decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 2024. The updated guidance also addresses a new statute enacted by Congress in 2024 that directs Reclamation to operate Link River Dam for irrigation.

The updated guidance was filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as part of a required filing in pending litigation.

"There is work to do to translate the updated guidance into action," according to Mrs. Nielsen. "We will work with Reclamation and other parties to ensure that happens as soon as possible."

- Source: KWUA Press Release -

Colorado River Tension Increases (*Cont'd from Page 11*)

stations across the country. In the face of unprecedented scarcity, the desert valleys of Yuma, Imperial, and Coachella are in a race to conserve water and innovate. America's food security is at risk. "The Green Desert" documents how this agricultural linchpin is looking to find a way to survive.

The film also benefits from the various farmers and environmental specialists featured throughout, including the late Pat O'Toole, long-time president of the Alliance – whose closing remarks conclude the documentary.

Beginning April 2, PBS began airing this film in Los Angeles. Additional airdates in April were shown in markets served by PBS in Philadelphia, Seattle, Denver, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Orlando, and many others. KQEDDT (San Francisco) will broadcast the show on June 11 at 8:00 p.m., and WHUTDT (Washington, D.C.) will air the program on June 15 at 11:00 a.m. The shows are now streaming on the PBS app.

It remains to be seen who the next Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation will be. What is clear, however, is that the debate over water use in the West is intensifying—and agriculture is squarely in the spotlight.



"One Big Beautiful Bill" Passes House (*Cont'd from Pg 2*)

"This bill restores integrity to SNAP by reinforcing work, rooting out waste, and instituting accountability," said Rep. Thompson. "We preserve the program's ability to serve the most vulnerable long into the future."

Key proposed changes to SNAP include:

- Stricter work requirements and limits on Thrifty Food Plan updates;
- New cost-sharing mandates for states on SNAP benefits and administration; and
- Cuts to programs serving lawfully present immigrants, including asylees and trafficking survivors.

Critics noted that the average SNAP benefit—about $6 per day—already fails to keep pace with inflation. A USDA anti-obesity initiative would be eliminated, saving $5 billion but drawing criticism from public health experts.

"Cutting it contradicts the very goals USDA claims to support," Jerry Mande, a Harvard nutrition professor, told POLITICO *Morning Ag*.

Committee Democrats objected to the process and content of the bill (*E&E Daily*). Committee Ranking Member Angie Craig (D-Minn.) lamented the lack of bipartisan cooperation and criticized the use of budget reconciliation to enact far-reaching changes to farm and nutrition policy.

"This is not where we should be doing a farm bill," Rep. Craig told Republicans. "If the shoe were on the other foot… you'd be raising all kinds of hell."

Even with $300 billion in projected savings, passage through both chambers will be an uphill battle as lawmakers balance priorities across rural America, food security, and fiscal discipline.

Key irrigation industry priorities

"The House bill includes several key provisions long championed by our friends at the Irrigation Association and beneficial to the broader irrigation industry," said Mr. Keppen, who served on the Irrigation Association (IA) Board of Directors for three years.

The bill includes multiple IA-supported provisions, particularly in the areas of workforce development, capital investment and business tax relief.

"We're pleased to see key irrigation industry priorities reflected in the House package, and we'll continue advocating for their inclusion in the final version," said Nathan Bowen, the IA's vice president, policy and industry advancement.

Senate Set to Take Up House Reconciliation Bill

The focus of the House budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 1, now shifts to the Senate, where the massive reconciliation bill passed narrowly by the House faces new challenges. Senate Republicans are signaling they'll want to make changes, despite House GOP hopes to keep the bill largely intact.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SOUTH DAKOTA) on *Fox News* elaborated on the collaborative efforts between the Senate, the House, and the White House, highlighting the bill's objectives:

"[We're] all working together to try and get to a product that is one that will be that big, beautiful bill and will deliver all of those things for the American people."

Elsewhere, Leader Thune emphasized that while House Republicans have done their part, the Senate "will have its imprint" on the legislation. That includes navigating the "Byrd Rule", a complex Senate procedure that blocks non-budgetary items from being included in reconciliation bills. Democrats plan to use the rule aggressively in an attempt to strip out provisions they see as unrelated to spending or revenue, and the Senate parliamentarian will ultimately decide what stays.

The Senate's reconciliation process is notoriously slow, often stretching over months, but Republicans hope to wrap it up before the July 4th recess. But with major tax, spending, and debt ceiling issues at stake, some senators acknowledge it's likely to take longer.

GOP leaders, including Sens. Barrasso (R-WYOMING) and Mike Rounds (R-SOUTH DAKOTA), say committee work is well underway, but internal disagreements remain, especially over whether to move the package as one large bill or split it into parts, as some senators still prefer.

"The American people need certainty that they aren't going to face the Democrats' $4 trillion tax increase," said Senator Barrasso.

If the Senate makes changes, and most expect it will, the bill will have to go back to the House or be finalized in a conference committee, setting the stage for more high-stakes negotiation. With narrow margins and strong conservative and moderate factions in both chambers, that final stage could be just as contentious as the first.

White House DOGE Cuts

As reported in *POLITICO*, the White House plans to send a small "rescissions" bill to Congress the first week of June, reflecting spending cuts proposed by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Although far short of Musk's ambitions, the bill will target organizations like NPR, PBS, and foreign aid programs. Speaker Mike Johnson stated the House is "eager and ready to act on DOGE's findings."

Sen. Rand Paul expressed frustration, saying, "If Congress can't cut $9 billion, I think most of them should resign."

Whether the rescissions package can pass remains unclear, with GOP leaders concerned about internal divisions and procedural hurdles. However, it's uncertain if the package will meet the $9 billion target promised weeks ago.

Mr. Musk criticized President Trump's spending bill as contradictory to DOGE's work.

"A bill can be big, or it can be beautiful," he said. "But I don't know if it can be both."

Shortly thereafter, he confirmed his time as a "special government employee" would conclude soon.

"As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President [Trump] for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending," Mr. Musk said on X."The @DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government."

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CORRESPONDENCE LIST
JUNE 2025

1. May 19, 2025 – Notice and Agenda received for Santa Ynez Community Services District Board Meeting on May 21, 2025.

2. May 19, 2025 – Notice and Agenda received for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Regular Board Meeting on May 22, 2025.

3. May 21, 2025 – District sent Past Due Notices to two customers.

4. May 23, 2025 – Notice and Agenda received for the Los Olivos Community Services District Special Board Meeting on May 28, 2025.

5. May 23, 2025 – Notice and Agenda received for the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Interface Committee Meeting on May 27, 2025.

6. May 23, 2025 – Notice and Agenda received for the Santa Ynez Community Services Finance Committee Meeting on June 11, 2025.

7. May 27, 2025 – District sent a Water Service Requirements Letter to one customer.

8. May 27, 2025 - District received a New Date and Time Notice from the Central Coast Water Authority for the Operating Committee Special Meeting on May 28, 2025.

9. May 28, 2025 – Notice of Meeting Cancellation for the Central Coast Water Authority Operating Committee Special Meeting received.

10. May 28, 2025 – District sent a Meter Reclassification Request Letter to one customer.

11. May 29, 2025 – District sent a Can and Will Serve Letter to one customer.

12. June 4, 2025 – District sent a Water Service Requirements Letter to one customer.

13. June 5, 2025 – District sent a 15-Day Backflow Test Requirement Letter to fourteen customers.

14. June 17, 2025 – Notice and Agenda received for Santa Ynez Community Services District Board Meeting on June 17, 2025.

15. June 10, 2025 - District sent a Water Service Requirements Letter to one customer.