

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, October 17, 2023**
1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA - Conference Room

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPTION VIA TELECONFERENCE

TELECONFERENCE PHONE NUMBER: 1-669-900-9128

MEETING ID: 929 0039 9487#

PARTICIPANT ID NO.: 180175#

MEETING PASSCODE: 180175#

Trustee Jeff Clay will be attending the meeting via teleconference from the following location:

534 South Port Drive, Avon Lake, OH 44012

Members of the public may join Trustee Clay at that location.

The meeting will be held according to California time, 3:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time

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 **"October 17, 2023 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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved or rejected in a single motion without separate discussion. Any item placed on the Consent Agenda can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon the request of any Trustee.
CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report
CA-2. Central Coast Water Authority Update
8. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
 - A. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**
 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters
 - a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements - Revenues and Expenses
 - b) Approval of Accounts Payable

9. **REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**
 - A. **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**
 1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update
 - B. **NEWLY ENACTED STATE WATER LAWS**
 1. Senate Bills 389 and 659
 - C. **DISTRICT SUCCESSION PLANNING**
10. **REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**
11. **CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS**
12. **REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:** Any member of the Board of Trustees may request to place an item on the Agenda for the next regular meeting. Any member of the public may submit a written request to the General Manager of the District to place an item on a future meeting Agenda, provided that the General Manager and the Board of Trustees retain sole discretion to determine which items to include on meeting Agendas.
13. **NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for **November 21, 2023 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)(2) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Significant Exposure to Litigation Against the Agency – One Matter]
 - C. **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]
16. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
 IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 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, September 19, 2023, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present: Jeff Clay
 Brad Joos
 Nick Urton

Trustees Absent: Jeff Holzer
 Michael Burchardi

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Mary Robel
 Karen King Eric Tambini
 Gary Kvistad Elizabeth Orona

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Robel conducted roll call and reported that three Trustees were present, and that Trustees Burchardi and Holzer were 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. Robel presented the affidavit of posting the Agenda, along with a true copy of the Agenda for this meeting. She reported that the Agenda 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 AUGUST 15, 2023:

The Regular Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2023 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2023. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was MOVED by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Burchardi and Holzer absent, to approve the August 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

1 7. CONSENT AGENDA:

2 The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board Packet.

3
4 Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of August.

5
6 It was MOVED by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote,
7 with Trustees Burchardi and Holzer absent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

11 A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

12 1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

13 a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements - Revenues and Expenses

14 Ms. Robel announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via
15 email earlier today and were included in the handout materials and posted on the
16 District's website in the Board packet materials section for any member of the public
17 wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

18
19 Ms. Robel reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of
20 August. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense
21 transactions that occurred during the month and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date
22 Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot for
23 the fiscal year. Ms. Robel reported that the District revenues for the month of August
24 exceeded the expenses by \$526,061.82 and the year-to-date net income was
25 \$736,870.91.

26
27 b) Approval of Accounts Payable

28 Ms. Robel announced that the Warrant List was provided to the Board via email
29 earlier today and also included in the handout materials and posted on the District's
30 website in the Board packet materials section for any member of the public wishing
31 to follow along or receive a copy.

32
33 The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25377 through 25431
34 in the amount of \$577,513.67.

35
36 It was MOVED by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 3-0-0
37 voice vote, with Trustees Burchardi and Holzer absent, to approve the Warrant List
38 for August 16, 2023 through September 19, 2023.

39
40 9. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

41 A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

42 1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

43 The Board packet included letters dated March 3, 2023, April 5, 2023, April 24, 2023, and
44 May 3, 2023 from the Santa Ynez Water Group, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau,
45 Santa Barbara Vintners, and Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association; a letter
46 dated September 7, 2023 from the Santa Ynez Water Group; a September 20, 2023 Draft
47 Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Eastern
48 Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency; and Notice and Agenda for the
49 September 28, 2023 EMA GSA Committee meeting.

1 Mr. Garcia welcomed and introduced Ms. Elizabeth Orona, Councilmember for the City
2 of Solvang, to the meeting and expressed his appreciation for her attendance at the
3 meeting. He stated that Councilmember Orona serves as the City of Solvang's primary
4 representative on the EMA SGMA Committee.
5

6 Mr. Garcia reported on the August 24, 2023 EMA GSA Meeting. He discussed the status
7 of negotiations regarding a new JPA governance structure for the EMA GSA and stated
8 that several issues still need to be addressed. Mr. Garcia explained that the voting
9 structure continues to be a significant issue of disagreement that is delaying finalization
10 of the JPA. With regard to voting, the District continues to advocate for governance
11 according to "One Director, One Vote" because that structure promotes fairness,
12 collaboration, trust, and other important policy factors in the GSA's decision-making
13 process. He reported that the Santa Ynez Water Group attended the GSA Committee
14 meeting, wherein they expressed frustration that a JPA has not been finalized and
15 renewed their request to have an agricultural landowner seat on the JPA Board of
16 Directors. Mr. Garcia referred to several letters included in the Board packet showing
17 requests from agricultural/landowner groups for a "One Director, One Vote" structure.
18 Mr. Garcia stated that the next regular meeting of the EMA GSA is scheduled for
19 September 28, 2023. He stated that further information will be provided at the October
20 meeting.
21

22 **B. PROPOSED DRINKING WATER REGULATION - HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM**

23 1. Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Issued by the State Water Resources 24 Control Board for Hexavalent Chromium

25 The Board packet included various correspondence and materials related to the State
26 Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level for
27 Hexavalent Chromium, including an August 18, 2023 Joint Comment Letter from the
28 Association of California Water Agencies, AWWA, CMUA, and CWA, and an August 4,
29 2023 City of Winters Comment Letter regarding the proposed regulation.
30

31 Mr. Garcia recapped the past and current activities related to the Hexavalent Chromium
32 MCL. He reported that the SWRCB held a public workshop on August 2, 2023 and noted
33 that the public comment period for the proposed regulation and related draft
34 Environmental Impact Report closed on August 18, 2023. Mr. Garcia stated that the final
35 regulation may be proposed for adoption sometime after January 2024. Mr. Garcia stated
36 that in light of the pending new MCL, District staff will resume preparations for
37 regulatory compliance, including the engagement of consulting experts to review
38 treatment options/technologies, construction alternatives, capital and annual operating
39 costs, and financing alternatives, as well as incorporating all associated costs into the
40 next water rate study.
41

42 **C. PROPOSED STATEWIDE URBAN WATER CONSERVATION**

43 1. Assembly Bill 1572

44 The Board packet included a September 13, 2023 Los Angeles Times article entitled
45 "California is moving to outlaw watering some grass that's purely decorative" and
46 Assembly Bill 1572 regarding nonfunctional turf.
47

48 Mr. Garcia reviewed Assembly Bill 1572 with the Board and explained that once the bill
49 is passed by the Governor, it would make legislative findings and declarations
50 concerning water use, including a finding that the use of potable water to irrigate
51 nonfunctional turf is wasteful and incompatible with State water conservation policy.

1 He stated that the bill would direct all appropriate state agencies to encourage and
2 support the elimination of irrigation of nonfunctional turf with potable water. He also
3 explained that the legislation includes exceptions for grass in sports fields, parks,
4 cemeteries, areas used for activities, and other "community spaces." Mr. Garcia noted
5 that there are very few commercial/industrial properties within the District where this
6 law would apply; however, once the bill passes the District will notify customers of the
7 new prohibitions.
8

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

12
13 The Board packet included a September 9, 2023 Los Angeles Times article entitled "Lawmakers
14 approve plan to strengthen oversight of California water rights" and Senate Bill No. 389.
15

16 The Board packet included the September 2023 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.
17

18 Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation and reported that District employee Mr. Roy Johnson
19 passed his Water Distribution (D2) Certification, which is a significant accomplishment, as he
20 took the initiative to test for this certification on his own accord which is not a prerequisite for
21 his current position.
22

23 Ms. Robel stated that the annual audit fieldwork was conducted by Bartlett, Pringle, Wolf, LLP the
24 second week of September and she expects a draft audit to be presented to the Board in November
25 or December.
26

27 **11. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS:**

28 The Correspondence List was received by the Board.
29

30 **12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**

31 There were no requests from the Board.
32

33 **13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

34 President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for
35 October 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
36

37 **14. CLOSED SESSION:**

38 The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:35 p.m.
39

40 **A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**

41 [Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 2 Cases]

- 42 1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources
43 Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of
44 Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests
45
- 46 2. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood
47 Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court
48 Case No. 21CV02432
49

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

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

1
2 **C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION**
3 [Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - Potential Initiation of
4 Litigation By the Agency - One Matter]
5

- 6 15. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**
7 [Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]
8

9 The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:40 p.m.
10

11 Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items
12 14.A.1, 14.A.2, 14.B, and 14.C and that there was no reportable action from the closed session.
13

- 14 16. **ADJOURNMENT:**
15 Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by President Clay, and
16 carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Burchardi and Holzer absent, to adjourn the meeting
17 at approximately 5:41 p.m.
18

19 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

20
21 _____
22 Mary Robel, Secretary to the Board
23

24
25 **ATTEST:** _____
26 Jeff Clay, President
27

28
29 **MINUTES PREPARED BY:**
30
31 _____
32 Karen King, Board Administrative Assistant
33

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
October 17, 2023**

Consent Agenda Report

CA-1. Water Supply and Production Report. Total water production in **September 2023 (379 AF)** was approximately 96 AF lower than total production in **August 2023 (475 AF)**, 36 AF above the most recent 3-year running average (2020-2022) for the month of **September (343 AF)**, and 95 AF less than the most recent 10-year running average (2013-2022) for the month of **September (474 AF)**. Notably, total production in September 2023 was the lowest September production over the last 10 years, which have ranged from 416 AF (2021) to 593 AF (2013) for the month. Generally speaking, the District's overall demands and total production have been trending well below historic levels for domestic, rural residential, and agricultural water deliveries due to water conservation, changing water use patterns, and private well installations.

For the month of **September 2023**, approximately **190 AF** was produced from the Santa Ynez Upland wells, and approximately **189 AF** was produced from the 6.0 cfs well field in the Santa Ynez River alluvium. As reflected in the Monthly Water Deliveries Report from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), the District took **0 AF** of SWP supplies for the month because of the constrained delivery capacity of the Coast Branch system resulting from the electrical explosion at the Devil's Den pumping plant in mid-August. Direct diversions to the County Park and USBR were **1.97 AF**.

The USBR Daily Operations Report for Lake Cachuma in **September** (ending September 30, 2023) recorded the end of month reservoir elevation at **748.56'** with the end of month storage of **179,819 AF**. USBR recorded total precipitation at the lake of **0.03 inches** for the month. SWP deliveries to the reservoir for South Coast entities were **56.7 AF**. Reported reservoir evaporation in **September** was **1,077.9 AF**.

Based on the updated maximum storage capacity of 192,978 AF (previously 193,305 AF), as of **October 9, 2023** Cachuma reservoir was reported at **92.4%** of capacity, with then-current storage of **178,365 AF** (Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Rainfall and Reservoir Summary). At a point when reservoir storage exceeds 100,000 AF, the Cachuma Member Units typically have received a full allocation. Conversely, a 20% pro-rata reduction from the full allocation is scheduled to occur in Water Years beginning at less than 100,000 AF, where incremental reductions may occur (and previously have occurred) at other lower storage levels. For the federal WY 2021-2022 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022), USBR issued a 70% allocation, equal to 18,000 AF. ID No.1's 10.31% share of that allocation was 1,855 AF. In the Fall of 2022 when reservoir conditions were low, the Cachuma Member Units initially requested an approximate 15% Cachuma Project allocation for federal WY 2022-2023. By letter dated September 30, 2022, USBR issued an initial 0% allocation for WY 2022-2023. **Based on extraordinary rain conditions that filled and spilled the reservoir early this year, in February 2023 USBR issued a revised 100% Project allocation for WY 2022-2023. ID No.1's share of that allocation is 2,651 AF. By letter dated June 30, 2023 the Cachuma Member Units submitted a joint request for another 100% Cachuma allocation for WY 2023-2024. On July 10, 2023 USBR approved that request, which translates to another 2,651 AF for ID No.1.**

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

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:*
 - *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*

As of the end of **December 2022**, a total of approximately **49,653.3 AF** of Cachuma Project water had been released under regulatory requirements for the protection of fish and fish habitat below Bradbury Dam since the year after the 2011 spill. **For the months of January through August 2023, water releases for fishery requirements, spill conditions, and other operational purposes have been made from the Cachuma Project. Reclamation has indicated that it will provide an accounting of those releases.**

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

In 2022, the SWP Table A allocation for SWP Contractors was only 5 percent, which translated to 35 AF for ID No.1's share of Table A supplies through CCWA. As previously reported, by Notice to the SWP Contractors dated December 1, 2022, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued an initial 2023 SWP Table A Allocation of 5 percent, along with a provisional allocation of additional SWP supplies to certain Contractors to ensure the needs for human health and safety. **In response to this year's extraordinary rain events and resulting increases in Lake Oroville storage, DWR incrementally increased the 2023 SWP Table A allocation to 30 percent (January 26, 2023), then 35 percent (February 22, 2023), then 75 percent (March 24, 2023), and then 100 percent (April 20, 2023) for the first time since 2006.** For ID No.1, the increase to 100 percent translates to a current 2023 Table A allocation of 2,200 AF. Of that amount, 700 AF is available to ID No.1 and the remaining 1,500 AF is contracted to the City of Solvang.

As reflected in the September 28, 2023 meeting agenda for the CCWA Board of Directors (along with other recent Board agendas), CCWA remains engaged in a variety of matters relating to the SWP, including but not limited to: SWP supplies and related SWP operations; the Devil's Den Pumping Plant Emergency Repair Project; the 2023 CCWA Surplus Water Transfer Program; renewal of the Cachuma Project Warren Act contract; and various administrative matters. CCWA and its member agencies also remain engaged in their pending litigation against the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to maintain CCWA sovereignty over important decisions pertaining to SWP supplies. The next regular meeting of the CCWA Board of Directors is currently scheduled for October 26, 2023.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Historical Archive and Report Database

Lake Cachuma Daily Operations

Run Date: 10/10/2023

September 2023

DAY	STORAGE ACRE-FEET		COMPUTED*	CCWA	PRECIP ON			RELEASE - AF.			EVAPORATION		PRECIP INCHES	
	ELEV	IN LAKE			CHANGE	INFLOW AF.	INFLOW AF.	RES. SURF. AF.	TUNNEL	HILTON CREEK	OUTLET	SPILLWAY		AF.
1	750.15	184,573												
2	750.08	184,332	-241	-44.0	12.9	0.0	76.7	13.6	66.0	0.0	53.4	0.280	0.00	
3	750.04	184,242	-90	89.0	13.2	5.0	78.1	13.5	66.0	0.0	40.0	0.210	0.02	
4	749.97	184,031	-211	-51.0	13.1	0.0	77.6	13.5	65.0	0.0	17.1	0.090	0.00	
5	749.92	183,880	-151	8.0	13.1	0.0	57.2	13.5	65.0	0.0	36.2	0.190	0.00	
6	749.87	183,729	-151	5.0	4.4	0.0	37.0	13.5	66.0	0.0	43.8	0.230	0.00	
7	749.81	183,548	-181	-9.0	0.0	0.0	53.3	13.5	65.0	0.0	39.9	0.210	0.00	
8	749.78	183,458	-90	80.0	0.0	0.0	56.0	13.5	66.0	0.0	34.2	0.180	0.00	
9	749.71	183,247	-211	-38.0	0.0	0.0	55.1	13.5	65.0	0.0	39.9	0.210	0.00	
10	749.66	183,096	-151	24.0	0.0	0.0	48.6	13.5	65.0	0.0	47.4	0.250	0.00	
11	749.60	182,916	-180	3.0	0.0	0.0	46.9	13.5	66.0	0.0	56.9	0.300	0.00	
12	749.55	182,767	-149	22.0	0.0	0.0	44.6	13.5	65.0	0.0	47.4	0.250	0.00	
13	749.50	182,618	-149	22.0	0.0	0.0	54.3	13.5	65.0	0.0	37.9	0.200	0.00	
14	749.44	182,439	-179	-7.0	0.0	0.0	59.6	13.5	65.0	0.0	34.1	0.180	0.00	
15	749.39	182,290	-149	35.0	0.0	0.0	60.5	13.5	66.0	0.0	43.5	0.230	0.00	
16	749.33	182,111	-179	-9.0	0.0	0.0	60.3	13.5	64.0	0.0	32.1	0.170	0.00	
17	749.27	181,932	-179	-33.0	0.0	0.0	59.4	13.4	66.0	0.0	7.6	0.040	0.00	
18	749.22	181,783	-149	39.0	0.0	0.0	60.1	13.4	65.0	0.0	49.1	0.260	0.00	
19	749.17	181,634	-149	7.0	0.0	0.0	45.9	13.4	65.0	0.0	32.1	0.170	0.00	
20	749.12	181,485	-149	13.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	13.5	65.0	0.0	39.6	0.210	0.00	
21	749.07	181,306	-179	-37.0	0.0	0.0	28.0	13.4	65.0	0.0	35.8	0.190	0.00	
22	749.02	181,187	-119	25.0	0.0	0.0	42.9	13.4	65.0	0.0	22.6	0.120	0.00	
23	748.97	181,038	-149	13.0	0.0	0.0	42.3	13.4	65.0	0.0	41.4	0.220	0.00	
24	748.92	180,889	-149	5.0	0.0	0.0	44.1	13.4	66.0	0.0	30.1	0.160	0.00	
25	748.86	180,710	-179	-30.0	0.0	0.0	42.3	13.4	65.0	0.0	28.2	0.150	0.00	
26	748.82	180,591	-119	37.0	0.0	2.5	55.7	13.4	65.0	0.0	24.4	0.130	0.01	
27	748.76	180,412	-179	-26.0	0.0	0.0	56.0	13.4	65.0	0.0	18.8	0.100	0.00	
28	748.71	180,263	-149	30.0	0.0	0.0	62.5	13.4	54.0	0.0	48.8	0.260	0.00	
29	748.66	180,114	-149	10.0	0.0	0.0	61.1	13.4	45.0	0.0	39.4	0.210	0.00	
30	748.62	179,995	-119	26.0	0.0	0.0	63.0	13.4	40.0	0.0	28.1	0.150	0.00	
30	748.56	179,819	-176	-36.0	0.0	0.0	61.9	13.4	37.0	0.0	28.1	0.150	0.00	
TOTALS			-4,754	173.0	56.7	7.5	1,635.0	403.7	1,873.0	0.0	1,077.9	5.700	0.03	
AVERAGE		182,062												

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: 10/9/2023

Water Year: 2024

Storm Number: NA

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

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

Rainfall	ID	24 hrs	Storm 0day(s)	Month	Year*	% to Date	% of Year*	AI
Buellton (Fire Stn)	233	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	3%	0%	
Cachuma Dam (USBR)	332	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	7%	0%	
Carpinteria (Fire Stn)	208	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	8%	0%	
Cuyama (Fire Stn)	436	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0%	
Figueroa Mtn (USFS Stn)	421	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	4%	0%	11.1
Gibraltar Dam (City Facility)	230	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0%	11.1
Goleta (Fire Stn-Los Carneros)	440	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	3%	0%	
Lompoc (City Hall)	439	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.11	39%	1%	11.0
Los Alamos (Fire Stn)	204	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	15%	0%	
San Marcos Pass (USFS Stn)	212	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	44%	1%	
Santa Barbara (County Bldg)	234	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	5%	0%	
Santa Maria (City Pub.Works)	380	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.12	40%	1%	
Santa Ynez (Fire Stn /Airport)	218	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.08	30%	1%	
Sisquoc (Fire Stn)	256	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	9%	0%	

County-wide percentage of "Normal-to-Date" rainfall : **15%**

County-wide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall : **0%**

County-wide percentage of "Normal Water-Year" rainfall calculated assuming no more rain through Aug. 31, 2024 (End of WY2024).

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	Current	Max.	Current	Current	Storage	Storage
	Elev. (ft)	Elev. (ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Capacity (%)	Change Mo.(ac-ft)	Change Year*(ac-ft)
<u>Gibraltar Reservoir</u>	1,400.00	1,388.34	4,693	2,356	50.2%	-169	-826
<u>Cachuma Reservoir</u>	753.**	748.20	192,978	178,365	92.4%	-951	-5,629
<u>Jameson Reservoir</u>	2,224.00	2,222.78	4,848	4,698	96.9%	-5	-86
<u>Twitchell Reservoir</u>	651.50	578.08	194,971	30,693	15.7%	-4,230	-24,739

California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS)

CIMIS Daily Report

Rendered in ENGLISH Units.

Friday, September 1, 2023 - Sunday, October 1, 2023

Printed on Monday, October 2, 2023

Santa Ynez - Central Coast Valleys - Station 64

Date	ETo (in)	Precip (in)	Sol Rad (Ly/day)	Avg Vap Pres (mBars)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Rel Hum (%)	Min Rel Hum (%)	Avg Rel Hum (%)	Dew Point (°F)	Avg Wind Speed (mph)	Wind Run (miles)	Avg Soil Temp (°F)
9/1/2023	0.16	0.00	497	16.6	82.1	54.6	66.9	95	51	74	58.2	2.6 Y	62.3 Y	81.4
9/2/2023	0.04	0.00	139	18.1	74.9	62.7 Y	67.7	85	65	78	60.6	3.0	71.5	81.2
9/3/2023	0.12	0.00	395	16.0	77.2	54.7	66.7	92	53	72	57.3	2.3 Y	54.4 Y	80.2
9/4/2023	0.19	0.00	585	15.4	84.3	55.7	66.4	92	43	70	56.2	2.3 Y	56.0 Y	79.8
9/5/2023	0.19 R	0.00	570	16.2	82.5	55.2	66.5	95	49	73	57.6	2.3 Y	54.9 Y	80.0
9/6/2023	0.13 R	0.00	425	15.5	81.9	48.7	64.8	96	47	74	56.4	1.8 R	42.6 R	80.2
9/7/2023	0.19 R	0.00	585	13.8	89.6	43.1	63.4	97	37	69	53.2	1.9 R	44.6 R	80.0
9/8/2023	0.19 R	0.00	553	14.6	96.7	49.6	70.9	98	22	57	54.7	1.7 R	40.7 R	79.8
9/9/2023	0.20 R	0.00	528	15.7	100.8	58.1	75.3 Y	93	25	53 Y	56.7 Y	2.0 R	48.6 R	80.2
9/10/2023	0.18	0.00	510	16.1	92.0	58.3	72.0	89	35	60	57.4	2.1 Y	50.5 Y	80.8
9/11/2023	0.14	0.00	413	15.3	90.8	54.7	66.3	94	35	69	56.0	1.9 R	45.5 R	81.0
9/12/2023	0.16 R	0.00	516	15.1	78.2	54.8	63.2	94	52	77	55.7	2.2 Y	51.9 Y	80.6
9/13/2023	0.15	0.00	504	15.3	81.3	55.4	64.1	91	49	75	56.0	2.2 Y	52.2 Y	80.2
9/14/2023	0.15	0.00	504	16.1	80.3	57.0	65.0	91	54	76	57.3	2.0 Y	47.8 Y	80.1
9/15/2023	0.13	0.00	451	16.1	79.6	58.6	65.4	91	54	75	57.5	1.8 Y	43.6 Y	80.1
9/16/2023	0.06 R	0.00	257	15.8	77.1	59.0	64.3	94	54	77	56.9	1.5 R	36.7 R	79.9
9/17/2023	0.13 R	0.00	434	14.8	80.7	55.2	66.1	89	44	68	55.1	1.9 Y	45.5 Y	79.3
9/18/2023	0.16 R	0.00	528	15.0	80.9	56.6	66.3	86	44	68	55.5	2.0 Y	47.7 Y	79.2
9/19/2023	0.16 R	0.00	503	15.6	82.9	58.3	66.6	89	45	70	56.6	2.1 Y	50.4 Y	79.4
9/20/2023	0.08 R	0.00	280	15.3	76.6	60.6 Y	64.7	84	53	74	56.0	1.6 R	37.5 R	79.5
9/21/2023	0.14	0.00	476	14.0	75.7	45.4	62.5	92	52	72	53.5	2.5	60.3	79.0
9/22/2023	0.16 R	0.00	518	12.6	77.8	41.3	60.1	94	49	71	50.7	2.0 Y	47.8 Y	78.7
9/23/2023	0.11	0.00	385	13.8	79.5	44.3	61.3	93	45	75	53.1	1.5 R	36.7 R	78.3
9/24/2023	0.14 R	0.00	471	12.7	83.0	42.5	59.0	96	42	75	51.0	1.7 Y	40.0 Y	78.0
9/25/2023	0.13	0.00	436	13.1	81.3	45.8	59.8	97	42	74	51.6	2.0 Y	46.8 Y	77.7
9/26/2023	0.16	0.00	525	12.6	91.5	39.1	60.2	95	28	71	50.7	2.1 Y	51.5 Y	77.3
9/27/2023	0.17	0.00	511	13.8	90.1	47.6	64.8	98	32	66	53.2	2.1 Y	50.3 Y	77.2
9/28/2023	0.14 R	0.00	473	13.8	81.1	48.7	61.5	98	43	74	53.1	2.1 Y	50.8 Y	77.4
9/29/2023	0.14 R	0.00	452	15.1	79.7	52.1	62.3	98	50	79	55.6	2.3	54.3	77.4
9/30/2023	0.06	0.01	246	13.7	69.5	47.0	59.5	93	58	79	52.9	2.2	52.2	77.3
Tots/Avg	4.26	0.01	456	14.9	82.7	52.2	64.8	93	45	72	55.2	2.1	49.2	79.4

Santa Ynez - Central Coast Valleys - Station 64

Date	ETo (in)	Precip (in)	Sol Rad (Ly/day)	Avg Vap Pres (mBars)	Max Air Temp (°F)	Min Air Temp (°F)	Avg Air Temp (°F)	Max Rel Hum (%)	Min Rel Hum (%)	Avg Rel Hum (%)	Dew Point (°F)	Avg Wind Speed (mph)	Wind Run (miles)	Avg Soil Temp (°F)
10/1/2023	0.14 R	0.00	453	10.5	73.4	38.3	55.3	96	42	70	45.8	2.1	50.8	76.5
Tots/Avg	0.14	0.00	453	10.5	73.4	38.3	55.3	96	42	70	45.8	2.1	50.8	76.5

Flag Legend		
A - Historical Average	I - Ignore	R - Far out of normal range
C or N - Not Collected	M - Missing Data	S - Not in service



CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ray Stokes, Executive Director
Dessi Mladenova, Controller

FROM: Christine Forsyth, Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: Monthly Water Deliveries

September 10, 2023

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

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro	149.88
López.....	65.37
Shandon.....	0.00
Guadalupe.....	53.61
Santa Maria.....	624.32
Golden State Water Co.....	0.00
Vandenberg.....	0.00
Buellton	31.20
Solvang	87.57
Santa Ynez ID#1	0.00
Bradbury.....	48.14
TOTAL	1,060.09

In order to reconcile these deliveries with the DWR revenue meter, which read 1049 acre-feet, the following delivery amounts should be used for billing purposes:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Chorro	148
López	65
Shandon.....	0
Guadalupe.....	53
Santa Maria.....	580*
Golden State Water Co	37*
Vandenberg	0
Buellton	31
Solvang	87
Santa Ynez ID#1	0
Bradbury	48
TOTAL	1,049

*Golden State Water Company delivered 37 acre-feet into its system through the Santa Maria turnout. This delivery is recorded by providing a credit of 37 acre-feet to the City of Santa Maria and a charge in the same amount to the Golden State Water Company.

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

The exchange water is allocated as follows

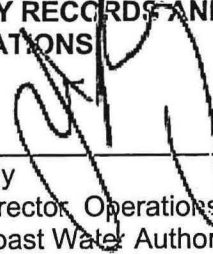
<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Exchange Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Goleta	0
Santa Barbara	0
Montecito	0
Carpinteria	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	0

Bradbury Deliveries into Lake Cachuma are allocated as follows:

<u>Project Participant</u>	<u>Delivery Amount (acre-feet)</u>
Carpinteria	0
Goleta	0
La Cumbre	38
Montecito	0
Morehart	10
Santa Barbara	0
Raytheon	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	48

cc: Tom Bunosky, GWD
Mike Babb, Golden State WC
Rebecca Bjork, City of Santa Barbara
Janet Gingras, COMB
Craig Kesler, San Luis Obispo County
Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez RWCD ID#1
Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria
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

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF
DELIVERY RECORDS AND ASSOCIATED
CALCULATIONS**



John Brady
Deputy Director, Operations and Engineering
Central Coast Water Authority

Paeter Garcia

From: Lisa F. Watkins <lfw@ccwa.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 11:33 AM
Cc: John L. Brady; Ray Stokes
Subject: CCWA Devil's Den Update 10/12/2023

Importance: High

Via bcc: CCWA Water Operations Distribution

CCWA PARTICIPANTS AND SLO TURNOUTS – Update 10/12/23

PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATED START DATES FOR UNITS 5 AND 6

DWR's Devil's Den Pumping Plant has successfully returned Unit #4 to service as of 12-noon today, October 11, 2023. Due to issues related to switching over from the temporary bypass pipeline to Unit #4, the CCWA Water Treatment Plant needs to utilize the added capacity to refill its raw water tanks to normal operating levels. Consequently, the higher level of production will become available to Participants as follows:

- Friday October 13 – **Plant production at 22 cfs or 14.2 MGD**
- Unit 5 – expected to start October 17 – **Plant production at 44 cfs or 28.4 MGD**
- Unit 6 – expected to start October 24 – **Plant production at 66 cfs or 42.6 MGD**

DWR plans to keep the temporary bypass pipeline in place through the entire month of October. However, the bypass pipeline operation will be shut down when the Devil's Den Pumping Plant is in operation.

Please note that prior to the Devil's Den Pumping Plant Breakdown event, the CCWA system was delivering water at an average rate of 17.6 MGD.

Our operations will continue to proceed as follows:

- 1) CCWA will continue to allocate capacity of approximately **17.8 cfs or 11.6 MGD through October 12.**
- 2) During the limited production period, if demand for water supply exceeds available supply, water deliveries will be **allocated based on non-drought buffer Table A of those requesting deliveries.** The calculation will proceed as follows:
 - a) Allocate based on non-drought buffer Table A of those requesting deliveries.
 - b) If the allocated delivery falls below the minimum flow rate for the Turnout, then
 - i) Set flow at minimum Turnout flow rate.
 - ii) Allocate balance to all other Participants based on non-drought buffer Table A.
 - iii) If all allocations fall below minimum Turnout flow rate, then negotiate solution among Participants.

Please make your delivery requests through our standard protocol, through calling our Distribution On-Call Technician.

Sent for:
John Brady
Deputy Director
JLB@ccwa.com
Phone: 805-688-2292 ext 228

Paeter Garcia

From: Lisa F. Watkins <lfw@ccwa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:23 PM
Cc: John L. Brady; Ray Stokes
Subject: CCWA Devil's Den Update 10/11/2023

Importance: High

Via bcc: CCWA Water Operations Distribution

CCWA PARTICIPANTS AND SLO TURNOUTS – Update 10/11/23

DWR’s Devil’s Den Pumping Plant has successfully returned Unit #4 to service as of 12-noon today, October 11, 2023. Due to issues related to switching over from the temporary bypass pipeline to Unit #4, the CCWA Water Treatment Plant needs to utilize the added capacity to refill its raw water tanks to normal operating levels. Consequently, the higher level of production will become available to Participants as follows:

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 - i) Set flow at minimum Turnout flow rate.
 - ii) Allocate balance to all other Participants based on non-drought buffer Table A.
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Sent for:
John Brady
Deputy Director
JLB@ccwa.com
Phone: 805-688-2292 ext 228



A Meeting of the
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 OF THE
 CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY**

will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, September 28, 2023
 at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
 URL: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1458363969>
 or by dialing (623)404-9000 and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 145 836 3969#

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>.

- Eric Friedman
Chairman
- Jeff Clay
Vice Chairman
- Ray A. Stokes
Executive Director
- Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck
General Counsel
- Member Agencies*
- City of Buellton
- Carpinteria Valley
Water District
- City of Guadalupe
- City of Santa Barbara
- City of Santa Maria
- Goleta Water District
- Montecito Water District
- Santa Ynez River Water
Conservation District,
Improvement District #1
- Associate Member*
- La Cumbre Mutual
Water Company

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Closed Session

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2): 1 case
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (4): 1 case
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code section 54956.9(d) (1)
Name of case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al. (Case No. 21CV02432)

III. Return to Open Session

IV. 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.)

V. Consent Calendar

- * A. Minutes of the July 27, 2023 Regular Meeting
 - * B. Minutes of the August 24, 2023 Special Meeting
 - * C. Bills
 - * D. Controller’s Report
 - * E. Operations Report
- Staff Recommendation: Approve the Consent Calendar*

255 Industrial Way
 Buellton, CA 93427
 (805) 688-2292
 Fax (805) 686-4700
www.ccwa.com

* Indicates attachment of document to original agenda packet.

Continued

VI. Executive Director's Report

- A. Introduction of New CCWA Staff Member
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- B. DWR Energy Presentation
Staff Recommendation: Informational Item Only
- C. Water Supply Situation Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- D. DWR Devil's Den Pumping Plant Outage Update
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- * E. Carryover of Project Funds from FY 2022/23 to FY 2023/24 - \$1,595,605.80
Staff Recommendation: Approve the carryover of \$1,595,605.80 project funds from FY 22/23 to FY 23/24.
- * F. Environmental Review (CEQA and NEPA) of Warren Act Renewal Project
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- G. State Water Contractors Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.
- * H. Legislative Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

VII. Reports from Board Members for Information Only

VIII. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

IX. Date of Next Regular Meeting: October 26, 2023

X. Adjournment

2023 State Water Project Table A Allocation Increased to 100 Percent

Dismiss

(/increase-in-state-water-project-2023-allocation-to-100-percent)



Central Coast Water Authority

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BOARD MEETINGS (</BOARD-MEETINGS>)

OCT
26
2023

Board Meeting

will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, October 26, 2023

at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via

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NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

**HELD AT
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, BOARD ROOM
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-669-444-9171
or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

“Join a Meeting” - **Meeting ID 848 2883 5792 Meeting Passcode: 103157**

***** 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. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public comment shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public comment item.)
4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 24, 2023
5. Review and Consider Requests for EMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcels:
 - a. APN 141-050-007 - Kelly (Mattei Road)
 - b. APN 137-450-011 - Palma (Dove Meadow Road)
6. Receive update on SGMA governance
 - a. staff updates and committee comments
 - b. received correspondence
7. Receive update on SGMA Implementation grant award
8. Discuss EMA future cost-sharing agreement and funding of future EMA projects
9. Discuss EMA well registration and groundwater reporting program
10. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Santa Ynez CSD Board Room
11. EMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items
12. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

Attachment 1 – SGM Grant Program’s SGMA Implementation – Round 2 Award List

Disclaimer: The Recommended Award are conditional until final terms and conditions are agreed upon and an agreement has been executed. The awarded grant amount listed in the executed agreement can be less than the Recommended Award amount listed here based upon final negotiations between the Awardee and DWR. DWR staff may determine certain tasks are not eligible or do not meet the requirements outlined in the 2021 SGM Grant Program Guidelines and 2021 SGM Grant Program Implementation PSP, revised 2022, and are subject to change. DWR staff may also determine that certain components provided in the application would be better suited combined into one for ease of quarterly reporting and doseout reporting.

Application Number	Basin No./ Basin Name	Legislative Districts (Assembly, Senate, US Congressional)	Organization Name	Proposal Title	Component	Component Description	Requested Amount	Recommended Award
2022SIR2006	3-015 Santa Ynez River Valley	35th Assembly District, 19th Senate District, District 24 (CA)	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	SGMA Implementation in the Santa Ynez River Basin				
					Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects and Basin Reporting Program	This component consists of three extraction measurement methods (mechanical metering, power consumption and remote sensing, and estimated evapotranspiration). Additionally, component will identify and initiate DMS enhancements for transmitted data.	\$741,000	\$741,000
					Santa Ynez River Basin WMA, CMA, and EMA – SGMA Rate Study	This component consists of a SGMA Rate Study which includes the analysis of GSAs budgets; evaluating the need for pump charge rate/parcel fee rate for each management area; preparing rate schedules for each management area; and providing two recommended fee/rate alternatives for each GSA.	\$82,000	\$82,000
					Basin GSPs 5Year Update	This component consists of continued GSP implementation/SGMA compliance, stakeholder and public outreach and engagement, prepare Annual reports, address DWR recommendations and comments, and complete 2027 Draft GSPs.	\$1,492,000	\$1,492,000
					Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	This component consists of the Monitoring Network improvement efforts, data collection, and technical studies. Additionally, this component will conduct a analysis regarding the Basin’s beneficial users of groundwater.	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000
					Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project Designs	This component consists of the increase of groundwater recharge through stormwater capture. This project is expected to recharge approximately 300 to 700 AFY to the Basin.	\$335,000	\$335,000
					Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan	This component consists of the reduction of demand on groundwater. Specifically, this component will implement a Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan to reach and maintain MDs for the Basin.	\$600,000	\$600,000
					Recycled Water Feasibility Study	This component consists of a feasibility study for the use of recycled water, and to identify the best location(s) to use recycled water for irrigation.	\$285,000	\$285,000
			Grant Administration	Perform tasks necessary to perform reporting and invoicing for the grant agreement.	\$154,000	\$154,000		
2022SIR2007	5-004 Big Valley	1st Assembly District, 1st Senate District, District 1 (CA)	Modoc County GSA	BVGB GSP Implementation Project			\$2,640,000	\$2,640,000
					BVGB GSP Implementation Project	The objectives include: 1) Conduct stakeholder engagement and coordinate the completion of the annual reports; 2) Modify the submitted GSP; 3) Complete the Water Availability Analysis and apply for a temporary permit for groundwater recharge within the Basin; 4) Conduct a feasibility study and planning for the potential of expanding existing reservoirs in the basin; 5) Preparation and submission of a basin boundary modification that accurately represents where aquifers are most likely to occur; 6) Conduct monitoring and research to improve the understanding of the BVGB and GSP through data collection and data management; 7) Conduct outreach to all beneficial users in the Basin for engagement in the GSP process and implementation.	\$2,640,000	\$2,640,000
2022SIR2008	1-003 Butte Valley	1st Assembly District, 1st Senate District, District 1 (CA)	Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Butte Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation			\$5,282,200	\$3,335,200
					Grant Administration	Perform tasks necessary to perform reporting and invoicing for the grant agreement.	\$480,200	\$303,200
					SGMA Compliance and GSP Updates	This component consists of completing reporting and revisions required for updating the GSP through the updating/improving the existing hydrological model, augmenting monitoring networks, filling data gaps, increasing data management capabilities, and continuing education and outreach.	\$1,478,000	\$1,478,000
					Fee Study and Economic Analysis	This component consists of an evaluation of fee/rate options, the updating and further development of a parcel specific database of groundwater use and supply, furthering community engagement, and the development of fee/rate schedules.	\$280,000	\$280,000
					Well Inventory	This component consists of the development of a preliminary well inventory (through existing data); development of standardized well inventory forms and survey wells; creation and maintenance of a database where well inventories and data collected will be stored; public outreach and engagement to promote participation in the well inventory; update of the well outage risk analysis; and the development of a well mitigation program focused on domestic wells.	\$320,000	\$320,000
					Monitoring Network	This component will implement a new voluntary groundwater well metering program to gain well pumping data; establish a well metering fund for water use data; expand groundwater quality sampling; add stream gauges; perform isotopic trace studies; improve GSP GDE analysis; and identify sites for snow stations.	\$954,000	\$954,000

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

(<https://sgmaagency.specialdistrict.org/>)

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THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[EMA GSA COMMITTEE MEETINGS \(/EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-MEETINGS\)](/EMA-GSA-COMMITTEE-MEETINGS)

OCT
26
2023

EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm

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Senate Bill No. 389

CHAPTER 486

An act to amend Section 1051 of the Water Code, relating to water.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 2023. Filed with Secretary
of State October 8, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 389, Allen. State Water Resources Control Board: investigation of water right.

Existing law establishes the State Water Resources Control Board within the California Environmental Protection Agency. Existing law provides generally for the appropriation of water. Existing law authorizes the board to investigate bodies of water, to take testimony in regard to the rights to water or the use of water, and to ascertain whether or not water is appropriated lawfully, as provided. Under existing law, the diversion or use of water other than as authorized by specified provisions of law is a trespass, subject to specified civil liability.

This bill would instead authorize the board to investigate and ascertain whether or not a water right is valid. The bill would authorize the board to issue an information order in furtherance of an investigation, as executed by the executive director of the board, as specified. The bill would authorize a diversion or use of water ascertained to be unauthorized to be enforced as a trespass, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1051 of the Water Code is amended to read:
1051. (a) The board for the purpose of this division may:

(1) Investigate all streams, stream systems, portions of stream systems, lakes, or other bodies of water.

(2) Take testimony in regard to the rights to water or the use of water thereon or therein.

(3) Investigate and ascertain whether or not water heretofore filed upon or any claimed riparian or appropriative right is valid under the laws of this state.

(b) (1) In furtherance of an investigation authorized pursuant to this section, the board may issue an information order, as executed by the executive director of the board.

(2) The information order may be issued to a water right holder or claimant to provide the following information related to a diversion and use of water:

(A) Information required to be reported pursuant to Part 5.1 (commencing with Section 5100).

(B) Information concerning the basis of the water right claimed.

(C) Information related to the patent date claimed for the place of use, if the claimed right is a riparian right.

(D) Information concerning the notice date of the appropriation and the date of actual delivery of water to beneficial use.

(E) Information concerning prior diversions and use, including direct diversions and diversions to storage.

(3) (A) The information order may be issued to a diverter or user of water to provide information concerning that diverter's prior diversion or use, including direct diversions and diversions to storage, or identification of the person or holder claiming the right under which the water was diverted or used.

(B) Information obtained under this paragraph from a diverter or user who is not the water right holder or claimant shall not be binding on, or treated as an admission by, the water right holder or claimant.

(c) The burden of any order issued under subdivision (b), including costs, shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the requested information and the benefits to be obtained from the board receiving that information. In making a request, the board shall do both of the following:

(1) Provide the person to whom the request is directed with a written explanation with regard to the need for the information.

(2) Identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the information.

(d) A diversion or use of water ascertained to be unauthorized may be enforced as a trespass under Section 1052, following notice and opportunity for hearing as required under Section 1052, Section 1055, or Article 2 (commencing with Section 1831) of Chapter 12 of Part 2.

(e) Nothing in this section shall limit any authority held by the board under this code or any other provision of law.

Senate Bill No. 659

CHAPTER 624

An act to amend Section 10004 of, and to add Section 10004.7 to, the Water Code, relating to groundwater.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 8, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 659, Ashby. California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as "The California Water Plan." Existing law requires the department to establish an advisory committee, composed of representatives of agricultural and urban water suppliers, local government, business, production agriculture, and environmental interests, and other interested parties, to assist the department in the updating of the California Water Plan. Existing law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, water transfers, and alternative pricing policies that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state.

This bill would establish the California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023 to require the department, as part of the 2028 update, and each subsequent update thereafter to the California Water Plan, to provide actionable recommendations to develop additional groundwater recharge opportunities that increase the recharge of the state's groundwater basins, as provided. The bill would require the department to consult with the State Water Resources Control Board, the 9 regional water quality control boards, and the advisory committee, which may be enlarged as provided, in carrying out these provisions. The bill would require the recommendations to identify immediate opportunities and potential long-term solutions to increase the state's groundwater supply, and include, among other things, best practices to advance all benefits of groundwater recharge, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023.

SEC. 2. Section 10004 of the Water Code is amended to read:

10004. (a) The plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and utilization of the water resources of the state which is set forth and described in Bulletin No. 1 of the State Water Resources Control Board entitled “Water Resources of California,” Bulletin No. 2 of the State Water Resources Control Board entitled, “Water Utilization and Requirements of California,” and Bulletin No. 3 of the department entitled, “The California Water Plan,” with any necessary amendments, supplements, and additions to the plan, shall be known as “The California Water Plan.”

(b) (1) The department shall update The California Water Plan on or before December 31, 2003, and every five years thereafter. The department shall report the amendments, supplements, and additions included in the updates of The California Water Plan, together with a summary of the department’s conclusions and recommendations, to the Legislature in the session in which the updated plan is issued.

(2) (A) The department shall establish an advisory committee, comprised of representatives of agricultural and urban water suppliers, local government, business, production agriculture, and environmental interests, and other interested parties, to assist the department in the updating of The California Water Plan. The department shall consult with the advisory committee in carrying out this section. The department shall provide written notice of meetings of the advisory committee to any interested person or entity that request the notice. The meetings shall be open to the public.

(B) The department may add members to the advisory committee to carry out the purposes of Section 10004.7. Additional advisory committee members may include those from environmental justice sectors, local water supply agencies, and researchers and experts on climate science, climate science solutions, water storage, water conveyance, and environmental protection.

(3) The department shall release a preliminary draft of The California Water Plan, as updated, upon request, to interested persons and entities throughout the state for their review and comments. The department shall provide these persons and entities an opportunity to present written or oral comments on the preliminary draft. The department shall consider these comments in the preparation of the final publication of The California Water Plan, as updated.

SEC. 3. Section 10004.7 is added to the Water Code, to read:

10004.7. (a) (1) The department, as part of the 2028 update, and each subsequent update thereafter, to The California Water Plan required pursuant to Section 10004, shall utilize its expertise in sustainable groundwater management to provide actionable recommendations to develop additional groundwater recharge opportunities that increase the recharge of the state’s groundwater basins without reducing the amount of water available for environmental purposes or any other purpose allowed under state law.

(2) The department shall consult with the state board, the nine regional water quality control boards, and the advisory committee established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 10004 in carrying out this section.

(3) The recommendations shall identify immediate opportunities and potential long-term solutions to increase the state's groundwater supply, with a priority on multibenefit projects. The recommendations shall include all of the following:

(A) An estimate of the volume of recharge that could potentially be realized by the enactment of the recommendations.

(B) A discussion of the variability of the quantities of water potentially available for recharge given varying hydrogeologic environments.

(C) An identification of the legal and regulatory requirements for recharge projects.

(D) A discussion of the possible financial or regulatory incentives that could support the development of recharge projects.

(E) An identification of locations and a description of how groundwater recharge at those locations can protect access to safe drinking water and provide water quality benefits.

(F) An identification of best practices to advance all benefits of groundwater recharge, including, but not limited to:

(i) Analysis regarding where groundwater recharge will be effective and protective of access to safe drinking water consistent with Section 106.3.

(ii) Mapping that identifies areas where recharge is unlikely to degrade groundwater quality based on consideration of the quality and composition of the source water, the qualities of the soil upon which recharge will occur, and the proximity to drinking water wells.

(4) The department shall, to the extent feasible, evaluate the potential economic and noneconomic costs and benefits of implementing the recommendations.

(b) Nothing in this section shall do any of the following:

(1) Limit or reduce the existing surface storage of water.

(2) Affect or change any water right.

(3) Prioritize any one use of water over another use, define what is to be considered a beneficial use of water, or in any way influence how the increased supply of groundwater under this part shall be used.

(c) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Groundwater recharge" means a process where water moves down from the ground surface or the bottom of a waterway and infiltrates an underlying aquifer. Groundwater recharge actions include increasing the amount of raw, treated, or recycled water in the groundwater basins through human-controlled means, including, but not limited to, use of aquifer storage and recovery wells, injection wells, surface spreading basins, field flooding, stormwater capture, flood managed basins, and in-lieu recharge.

(2) "Groundwater supply" means water that at any point in time is being stored underground that is available for human use and environmental protection to sustain the state's future.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

California's epic rain year boosted groundwater levels, but not enough to recoup losses



A man stands in a newly planted pistachio orchard in 2021 near Terra Bella, Calif. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

BY IAN JAMES | STAFF WRITER

Graphics by GABRIELLE LAMARR LEMEE

California’s extraordinarily wet year brought the state vast quantities of water that have soaked into the ground and given a substantial boost to the state’s groundwater supplies, but not nearly enough to reverse long-term losses from over-pumping in many areas, according to a new state report.

Officials with the Department of Water Resources examined water-level measurements in thousands of wells statewide and found that from spring 2022 to spring 2023, water levels rose significantly in 34% of wells, and declined in 9%. Others saw little change.

The rise in aquifer levels in many areas represents an improvement from the rapid and widespread declines that occurred during the last three years of extreme drought. Still, state officials cautioned that California’s groundwater remains depleted by decades of overuse.

Statewide, 34% of wells had a significant increase in groundwater from 2022 to 2023

- Decrease greater than 25 feet
- Decrease 5 to 25 feet
- No significant change
- Increase 5 to 25 feet
- Increase greater than 25 feet

Statewide change

1-Year	8%		59%		26%	8%
5-Year	7%	24%		49%		16%

Tulare Lake hydrologic region change

1-Year	6%	26%		36%		20%	12%
5-Year	43%			31%		15%	6%

The statewide well count was 6,286 for 1-year and 4,882 for 5-year. The Tulare Lake hydrologic region well count was 729 for 1-year and 440 for 5-year.

“This year, groundwater levels began to recover from the prior drought years, but only partially,” officials wrote in the semiannual report. “Above average precipitation across the state alone can’t undo the damage from years of drought. Groundwater levels, while recovering, are still lower than the period after the 2012-2016 drought.”

The report’s authors said it will still require “several more wet years, in addition to more focused efforts to increase recharge and reduce pumping, to recover from the most recent drought and the cumulative depletion of groundwater aquifers that occurred over the years.”



Floodwaters fill an agricultural field amid a resurgence of Tulare Lake in March. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

The report includes data through August, and water managers said it will take more time to see the full effects of water that percolates through soil and sediment to aquifers.

“Water moves very slowly within groundwater basins, and that infiltration of surface water into the groundwater system, it does take time,” said Steven Springhorn, a supervising engineering geologist who worked on the department’s report.



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The data show more recovery has occurred in shallow layers of aquifers. In areas where much of the pumping draws on deeper aquifers, which are often tapped by agricultural wells, there has been less of a rise, Springhorn said.

The groundwater measurements also show how conditions vary widely from one part of the state to another. Some of the largest declines in recent years have been driven by heavy agricultural pumping in the San Joaquin Valley, which has left many residents with [dry wells](#).

The state report said that some of the largest recent extractions of groundwater have occurred in the Tulare Lake hydrologic region, in Kings and Kern counties, and that water levels declined more than 5 feet in nearly a third of the area’s monitoring wells this year, a larger proportion than in any other hydrologic region. Since 2018, more than 70% of the wells in the region have declined significantly.

In contrast, more than 50% of monitoring wells increased during the same five-year period in the heavily urban South Coast region.



Tejpal Singh stands next to a well in 2021 at his family's grape and almond farm near Earlimart, Calif.. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

In farming areas of the Central Valley, water levels have been helped in some areas by a combination of natural recharge and state-supported recharge efforts. With more water available from canals, growers and agricultural districts have also been able to reduce groundwater pumping, which has helped to lessen the pressures in some areas.

Over decades, heavy pumping has drained aquifers to a point that clay layers collapse, causing portions of the valley floor to sink, and permanently reducing aquifer storage capacity. In some areas, the ground has sunk more than 30 feet. The phenomenon of land subsidence has caused damage to canals, roads and other infrastructure.



'Full-on crisis': Groundwater in California's Central Valley disappearing at alarming rate

Dec. 22, 2022

State officials said the abundance of water during the recently ended water year — which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 — has slowed the rate of subsidence for now. And in one part of the western San Joaquin Valley where water levels rose significantly, the ground surface also rose slightly.

In this farming area, located along the 5 Freeway in the Westlands Water District, rising water levels have caused this small “rebound,” Springhorn said. According to state data, he said, the ground level rose nearly an inch within a year after sinking about 3 inches over the last decade — an uplift that scientists describe as a recoverable “elastic” deformation of the land surface.

The long-term trend in the San Joaquin Valley, however, has been continuing subsidence across large stretches of farming areas.



Pacific Gas & Electric crews travel by airboat to decommission power poles in a flooded pistachio orchard in Tulare Lake in June. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

State water regulators have told six local agencies in the San Joaquin Valley that their groundwater plans are inadequate, a step that clears the way for potential state intervention to force stronger measures to curb over-pumping.

The State Water Resources Control Board announced this week that the agency's staff has recommended placing the Tulare Lake basin on probationary status, because the area's local plan doesn't include adequate measures to stop declines in water levels, degradation of water quality and rapid land subsidence.

Tulare Lake was drained generations ago and transformed into cotton and tomato fields, but this year, the lake reappeared on thousands of acres of farmland.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT
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How powerful land barons shaped the epic floods in California's heartland

Sept. 28, 2023

State officials pointed out that parts of Tulare Lake have sunk up to 6 feet since 2015, which has sent floodwaters into areas that emerged unscathed in previous floods. To deal with the subsidence and reduce risks, local flood control districts have had to raise the levees that protect the city of Corcoran.

“We recognize that we should start where problems are most urgent and solutions appear to be further away,” said Natalie Stork, supervising engineering geologist for the State Water Board. “We are very concerned about potential impacts ... that could occur due to continued lowering of water levels, subsidence, water quality degradation.”

The State Water Board's staff analyzed local agencies' groundwater plan and found it would allow declines in water levels that could leave 700 household wells dry.

Stork said the reappearance of Tulare Lake doesn't fix groundwater issues in the area.

“The lake bed contains clays that prevent water from moving into aquifers below the ground, and the water quality is not ideal for uses like drinking water,” Stork said.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Thousands of California wells are at risk of drying up despite landmark water law

Sept. 20, 2023

The board scheduled an April 16 hearing to consider whether to place the basin and its five local groundwater management agencies on probationary status. If the board decides to put the area on probation, most well owners would be required to start

reporting their water usage and start paying pumping fees, among other requirements.

The action is the state's latest step in implementing the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires local agencies to develop plans and curb over-pumping by 2040 in many areas.



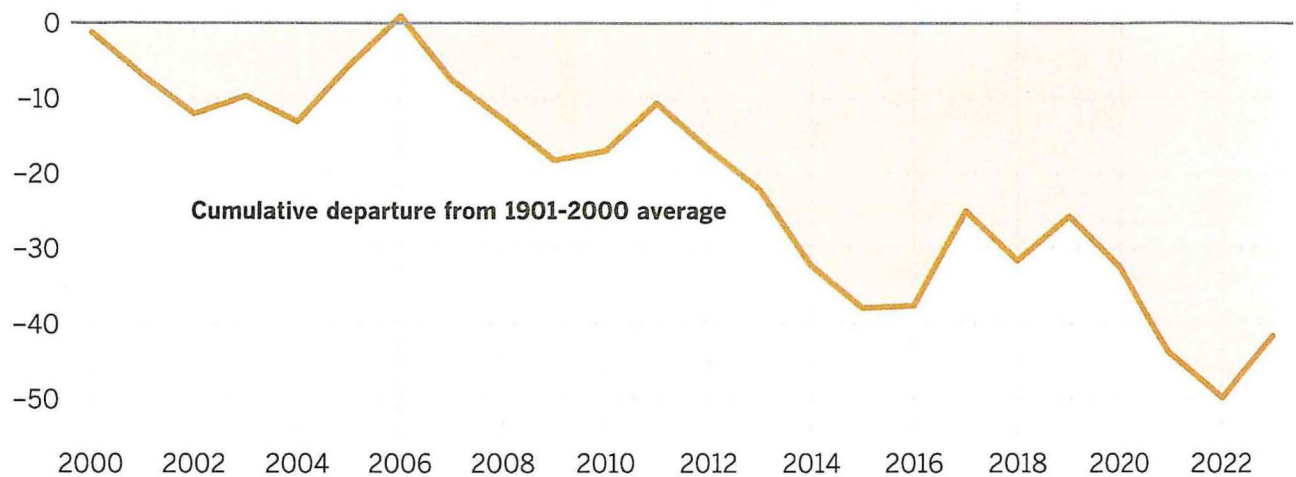
Frank Ferriera pulls a handful of fresh water from a large open pipe at his farm in Visalia last year.
(Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

Farms in the Central Valley have long depended on groundwater to produce crops such as almonds and grapes.

Despite this year's historic snowpack and record rainfall in parts of the state, California has received much less precipitation since 2000 than the 20th century average.

Despite heavy precipitation in 2023, a deficit remains compared with the statewide 20th century average

10 inches



NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

Gabrielle LaMarr LeMee LOS ANGELES TIMES

State water officials describe this as the “accumulated precipitation deficit,” reflecting repeated droughts alongside the effects of climate change.

“As California transitions to a warmer and drier climate, this scenario of persistent groundwater depletion becomes increasingly likely, further emphasizing the importance of sustainable groundwater management,” state officials wrote in the report.

In wet years, groundwater typically accounts for 30% to 40% of the state’s water use, but in dry years, that often grows to about 60% of water usage.

The increased pumping during droughts has led to especially large drawdowns. According to state data, about 1,500 dry household wells were reported during the severe drought last year.

This year, more than 400 dry wells have been reported, many of them in farming areas of the Central Valley.

The wet weather also affected the drilling of new wells. According to the report, fewer new wells were drilled in 2023 than in any year since 2014.

The latest data underline the importance of continued efforts to manage groundwater, Springhorn said.

“Sometimes it’s out of sight, out of mind,” Springhorn said, “but it’s so critical for the state’s overall water resiliency.”



Ian James

Ian James is a reporter who focuses on water in California and the West. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2021, he was an environment reporter at the Arizona Republic and the Desert Sun. He previously worked for the Associated Press as a correspondent in the Caribbean and as bureau chief in Venezuela. He is originally from California.



Gabrielle LaMarr LeMee

Gabrielle LaMarr LeMee is a data reporter on the Los Angeles Times Data Desk. She was previously the data editor at Chalkbeat, a nonprofit news organization covering education across several cities and states. LaMarr LeMee has a master’s degree in information design and data visualization from the College of Arts, Media and Design at Northeastern University.

Monthly Briefing

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

Fast and Furious Fly-in 29 "Farmer Lobbyists" Hit 39 Meetings in 59 Hours



The 2023 Family Farm Alliance farmer lobbyist group meets with staff from House Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C., September 26, 2023. Photo courtesy of Mark Limbaugh (The Ferguson Group)

A Western contingent of 29 farmer lobbyists descended on Washington, D.C. late last month, as Congress scrambled to reach agreement on Fiscal Year 2024 federal spending and avoid a government shutdown. While Congress eventually passed a last-minute, 45-day continuing resolution to keep the government open, the fate of the 2023 farm bill remains unclear. And, as many of the Family Farm Alliance members were preparing to travel back West on September 29, they heard the sad news that one of the Senate's strongest water champions – Dianne Feinstein – had passed earlier in the day at the age of 90.

The Alliance's annual Farmer Lobbyist trip is one of the organization's "cornerstone" programs which brings family farmers and water professionals to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators and Administration policy leaders on critical

water issues.

"Our philosophy has long held that the most effective voice in Washington, D.C. is the individual family farmer or rancher," said Alliance President Patrick O'Toole, a Wyoming rancher who was accompanied in D.C. by his wife, Sharon and grandson, Tiarnan.

Political Backdrop

It was an action-packed week for this year's farmer lobbyists, with Congress tackling a variety of pressing issues, desperately trying to pass some sort of short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown by October 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Continued on Page 2

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2023 Farmer Lobbyist Fly-in to D.C. (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

House and Senate leaders for most of the frantic week failed to coordinate a deal to stave off the funding lapse that was set to take effect at midnight on September 30.

“As the week wore on, we heard with increasing frequency concerns expressed from staff, Members and agency leaders about the impending shutdown,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “However, in the last hours of the fiscal year, Congress once again averted a government shutdown, although another one looms in 45 days.”

Congress passed a bill late on the last day of the month to fund the federal agencies at FY2023 levels until Nov. 17. The legislation reauthorizes the FAA and the national flood insurance program through the end of this year. The bill also includes \$16 billion for disaster relief accounts.

The House passed the CR 335-91. Ninety Republicans voted and just one Democrat voted “yes”. The Senate followed, voting 88-9 to approve the bill, although the vote was delayed for several hours after Sen. Michael Bennet (D-COLORADO) sought assurances that the Senate would vote on additional Ukraine aid in the weeks ahead.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CALIFORNIA) has now received a challenge to his Speakership from fellow Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL). As part of the concessions given to members of his own party to secure the Speakership at the beginning of the 118th Congress, any member can file a motion to vacate against the Speaker.

Rep. Gaetz will initiate that motion the first week of this month, citing the Speaker’s choice to work alongside Democrats.

“I do intend to file a motion to vacate against Speaker McCarthy this week,” Rep. Gaetz (R-Fla) said on CNN’s “State of the Union”. “I think we need to rip off the band aid. I think we need to move on with new leadership that can be trustworthy.”

It is unclear how many supporters Rep. Gaetz will have in his quest to oust the Speaker, nor is it clear if House Democrats will opt to join the Freedom Caucus Republican in removing the Speaker.

This Year’s Fly-in

This year’s farmer lobbyist contingent included 29 representatives from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Nebraska, Washington and Wyoming. In addition to meeting with Congressional Members from those eight states, the group also met with senior officials from the Department of the Army, Department of Interior, Department of Agricul-

ture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and staffers from key Congressional water committees.

The Western contingent visited 39 offices in the course of 2-1/2 days.

The purpose of this year’s trip was for farmer lobbyists to discuss crucial Western water policies and issues with members of Congress and their staff and Biden Administration agency officials.

“Key topics of discussion with Congressional agriculture and water committees included current water legislation and the 2023 Farm Bill,” said Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, the Alliance’s representative in Washington, D.C.

Meetings also took place with Assistant Interior Secretary for Water and Science Michael Brain and Reclamation Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo, the office of the Chiefs of the Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the office of the Assistant Secretary for the Army, Civil Works, EPA Assis-

tant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox, and Sara Gonzalez-Rothi (Director for Water Policy at the White House Council on Environmental Quality).

“The crew we had this year also had plenty of good stories to share about on-the-farm, regional and integrated water resources management projects they have undertaken or have proposed to undertake in the future,” said Mr. Keppen. “Our farmer lobbyists relied upon the ‘Six Point Plan’ approved by the board of directors earlier this year to drive our messaging in Washington.”

Putting the “Family” in Family Farm Alliance

A new and welcome development in this year’s fly-in was the participation of four younger generation farmer lobbyists. In addition to Tiarnan Lally, the O’Tooles’ grandson, three other sons and daughters of senior Alliance farmer lobbyists joined the entourage this year.

Hayden Schnepf, daughter of Arizona farmer Mark Schnepf, made the trip to D.C. from New York City to participate. Kegan Arrington accompanied his father, Paul Arrington (executive director of Idaho Water Users Association), and Anna Keppen made the trip East with her father, Dan, from Oregon’s Klamath Basin.

“I got to tag along and experience the advocacy for water conservation in a world that is seemingly drying up,” said Ms. Keppen. “It was profound and inspiring, to say the least.



Alliance Advisory Committee Chair Urban Eberhart (Kittitas Reclamation District Secretary-Manager) discusses current drought conditions and the upcoming winter weather forecast within the Yakima Basin with his Congressman, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA).

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2023 Farmer Lobbyist Fly-in to D.C. (Cont'd from Pg. 2)

Thank you to all the folks advocating to find a peaceful way to keep food on our plates and fish in our rivers.”

Priorities and Messaging

The farmer lobbyists’ interaction with the Biden Administration focused on three priority “asks”:

- Federal agencies must efficiently and effectively implement the billions of dollars now available to repair aging water infrastructure, improve conservation efforts, and develop new storage and delivery infrastructure;
- Agricultural water users dependent upon the Colorado River must be included as partners as Reclamation develops future long-term operating provisions on the River; and
- We must restore our dead and dying federal forest lands through active forest management and work to better quantify watershed health improvements associated with these and other water conservation actions.

On Capitol Hill, Alliance advocacy was built around these requests:

- Cut Red Tape - If we are serious about building and re-building infrastructure, improving forest health, and protecting and promoting American production agriculture, then Congress must pass real, meaningful solutions that expedite federal permitting processes;
- Pass a Farm Bill that Addresses Western Agriculture Challenges - Projects that help producers and water managers adapt to the water supply impacts of climate change must also be encouraged and supported; and
- Carefully evaluate legislation that could have negative unintended impacts to Western producers.

“Our team did a good job of sharing positive examples of how current federal programs and policies have helped their operations and also sharing the pain that they have been experiencing from the drought, agency implementation of federal grant and loan programs, and other challenges,” said Mr. Keppen.

Meetings with 17 Members of Congress

Farmer Lobbyists were able to meet directly with 17 Western Members of Congress from their respective states. Meetings were also held with staffers from ten other House and Senate offices.

“For many of these meetings, the Members themselves were present, which is a testament to our good reputation, particularly given the busy time in Congress that week,” said Mr. Limbaugh.

Fate of the 2023 Farm Bill

As the 2023 fiscal year came to a close, one piece of legislation not passed by Congress was the 2023 Farm Bill.

The farm bill is an omnibus, multiyear law that is typically renewed about every five years.

Given the delays from the debt ceiling and appropriations negotiations, lawmakers have yet to release the draft text of the Farm Bill legislation in both chambers. While most programs funded through the 2018 Farm Bill are expected to continue through the end of the year, lawmakers are hopeful and expect the new five-year legislation to pass by the end of December.

“In our meetings with the House and Senate agriculture committees, we heard there has been work to get bipartisan buy-in on shared priorities, and to coordinate and ensure a smooth conference between the House and Senate bills, once passed,” said Mr. Keppen.

But many are worried the bill will get sidelined much longer than that. Behind closed doors, lawmakers are contemplating whether a one or two-year delay will be necessary, particularly as Republicans demand new increases for key farm programs and divisions within the GOP are mucking up House progress.

In the Senate, a key topic of contention is how the \$20 billion included in last year’s Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) should be spent. Democrats are under pressure from the left to protect the money for climate friendly agricultural practices. Senate Republicans want additional flexibility on how the IRA money can be spent if it’s added to the farm bill. Still, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-Ark.) are committed to continued collaboration in order to get the farm bill across the finish line.

“Senator Boozman and I have a good working relationship,” Senator Stabenow recently told *POLITICO*. “Right now, we are both focused on writing a strong, bipartisan 2023 Farm Bill that secures the farm and family safety net and meets the needs of the American people.”

If Congress can’t pass a new farm bill by the end of the year, senators have begun warning that a long extension of the current legislation might be unavoidable. That prospect would force Congress to continue negotiating politically sensitive topics through the heat of 2024 presidential and congressional races. A two-year extension would delay farm bill action until the next Congress. (*POLITICO*, 9/29/23).

Farewell to a Fearless Water Leader

As many of this year’s farmer lobbyists were preparing to travel home on September 29, they learned the sad news that long-time California Senator Dianne Feinstein had died earlier that day at the age of 90. Dianne Feinstein was the first woman president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the first woman mayor of San Francisco, and one of two of the first women elected to the U.S. Senate from California. She was also seen as a valuable ally and leader by Western agricultural interests in California and beyond.

“Several of us earlier in the week met with Senator Feinstein’s staff, who we’ve been working with – as we have for over two decades – on constructive water legislation,” said Mr.

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WIFIA Legislation Reintroduced in House

U.S. Representative Kim Schrier (D-WASHINGTON) and a bipartisan group of six other Westerners last month introduced the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Amendments of 2023*, a bipartisan bill to update and improve a loan program that funds critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the West.

The *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014* (WIFIA) established a federal credit program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Under the WIFIA program, eligible borrowers, including state, Tribal, and federal government entities, apply for low-interest, flexible loans to fund water infrastructure projects. These loans are invaluable resources that allow local governments to meet the infrastructure needs of their respective communities at an affordable rate.

The new legislation would improve WIFIA by extending funding for the program, expanding eligibility for the loans, and other common-sense reforms. More specifically, this legislation would:

- Broaden and restore WIFIA funding and financing eligibility to state entities and non-federal cost shares in federally involved projects. This includes state-led water storage projects, transferred works of the Bureau of Reclamation, and congressionally authorized Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects.
- Authorize the use of collaborative project delivery methods for WIFIA projects, allowing more flexibility and reducing the time and cost of the project.
- Allow certain federal water infrastructure loans to have maturity dates of up to 55 years.
- Reauthorize the USACE WIFIA program through FY27.

“Ensuring that we have reliable, clean water is essential to the stability and well-being of our communities,” said Rep. Schrier. “This bipartisan bill would allow our local water operators access to key loans that would provide affordable, secure financing for much-needed infrastructure projects.”

WIFIA loans have had a significant impact throughout the country, where \$19 billion has helped finance 109 projects across the country, creating 60,000 jobs.

“Representative Schrier’s bill would allow many irrigation districts in the rural West access to long term affordable loans from the WIFIA program for much needed infrastructure improvement construction on water projects that are crucial to the Yakima Basin and the West,” said Urban Eberhart, Secretary Manager of Kittitas Reclamation District in Washington.

Mr. Eberhart also serves as the Chair of the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance) Advisory Committee.

The bill sponsors are hoping to get a markup in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and then make a play for the 2024 Water Resources Development Act, or any forthcoming Western water package.

“Many of the large irrigation projects in the West operated by our members are transferred works of Reclamation,” said Dan Keppen, Alliance Executive Director. “Among other things, this bill would clarify that transferred works are indeed eligible for financing under WIFIA.”

Mr. Keppen noted that this helps to ensure that the original Congressional intent for these projects to be eligible for WIFIA financing is carried out.

“In short, this bill will expand the financing toolbox for Reclamation projects in the Western U.S.,” he said. “We thank Congresswoman Schrier for co-sponsoring this important bipartisan legislation.”

Sen. Feinstein Leaves Behind Extraordinary Legacy (*Cont’d from Pg 3*)

Keppen. “We had a wonderful working relationship with Senator Feinstein and her office. She has left an extraordinary legacy in Western water.”

During her 30-year tenure in the Senate, she led legislative efforts on CALFED Bay-Delta funding, pushed through settlement legislation on the San Joaquin River, and helped pass the WIIN Act, a measure that included the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, which authorized new storage projects and injected much-needed balance into Bay-Delta water management operations.

“Her leadership in California water issues was essential and she was involved in many critical solutions and agreements,” said Cannon Michael, an Alliance board member who farms in California’s Central Valley. “She was unafraid to demand accountability and cooperation and was willing to call out those who would not participate publicly. Senator Feinstein leaves behind a lasting legacy of leadership and the impact of her efforts will live on for generations.”

Messrs. Michael and Keppen, as well as Alliance director William Bourdeau, were quoted in *POLITICO*, *E&E Daily*,

and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, some of the many articles that covered Senator Feinstein’s passing at the end of September.

Mr. Bourdeau told *POLITICO* of his meeting with Senator Feinstein’s staff in Washington during the Alliance farmer lobbyist trip, where he discussed “all the normal things we talk about: the complexity of California water and trying to find a path forward that both sides of the aisle can agree on.”

Three days after Senator Feinstein’s passing, California Gov. Gavin Newsom chose Laphonza Butler to serve the remainder of Senator Feinstein’s term. The California primary for the seat is March 5; Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Katie Porter, and Rep. Barbara Lee are the front runners.

Ms. Butler currently leads EMILY’s List, an organization that works to elect Democratic women to Congress.

“She will make history – becoming the first Black lesbian to openly serve in the U.S. Senate,” said Governor Newsom. “From her time as President of EMILY’s List to leading the state’s largest labor union, she has always stood up for what is right and has led with her heart and her values.”

Washington Tour and Dinner Show Support for Irrigated Ag Over 180 Local Producers Show Up for Fundraising Event

Family Farm Alliance Directors Mark Hansen and Charley Lyall spearheaded a three-day tour of Central Washington farms and irrigation districts last month that was highlighted by a fundraising dinner attended by over 180 local producers.

“The tour and the reception were both home runs,” said Mr. Lyall.

The tour was an eye-opening experience for those who traveled to the Columbia River Basin and Yakima River watersheds from out of the state.

“This region is almost overwhelming,” said Alliance President Patrick O’Toole, who made the trip to Washington with his wife, Sharon, from Wyoming. “The diversity of the cropping, the marketing and the community that has built up around all of this agricultural water is stunning to me.”

Columbia Basin Project

The Bureau of Reclamation’s Columbia Basin Project serves about 671,000 acres in east central Washington. The crown jewel of the project is Grand Coulee Dam, one of the largest concrete structures in the world.

The four counties in which the Columbia Basin Project lies generate roughly \$3 billion dollars in agricultural production value. Farms in the Project employ over 13,000 people, which equates to one-in-five employees in the region’s total workforce.

Agriculture here powers a multi-billion-dollar processing industry. When you add in the number of employees who work in food processing as well as agricultural services, the employment number doubles or triples.

Food processing in the region is also highly specialized. Over two-thirds of Washington’s potatoes are grown in the Columbia Basin. Washington State is the fourth largest exporting state in the nation. A significant portion of these exports are derived from the Columbia Basin.

Yakima Project

Reclamation’s Yakima Project provides irrigation water for a comparatively narrow strip of fertile land that covers

over 460,000 acres and extends for 175 miles on both sides of the Yakima River in south-central Washington.

Yakima County is home to one of Washington’s most diverse agricultural systems, with vast fields of hops, fruit trees, grapes and sweet corn. Agriculture contributes a whopping \$1.6 billion to the local economy. It is the leading county in the nation in apple production with more than 50,000 acres of apple orchards.

In adjacent Kittitas County, timothy hay is a major cash

crop. Timothy hay is grown primarily for the export market and is the single-largest agricultural product produced there. Roughly 90 percent of the timothy hay crop is exported overseas to Japan, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, and other Pacific Rim countries, with Japan being the single-largest export customer.

Tour Highlights

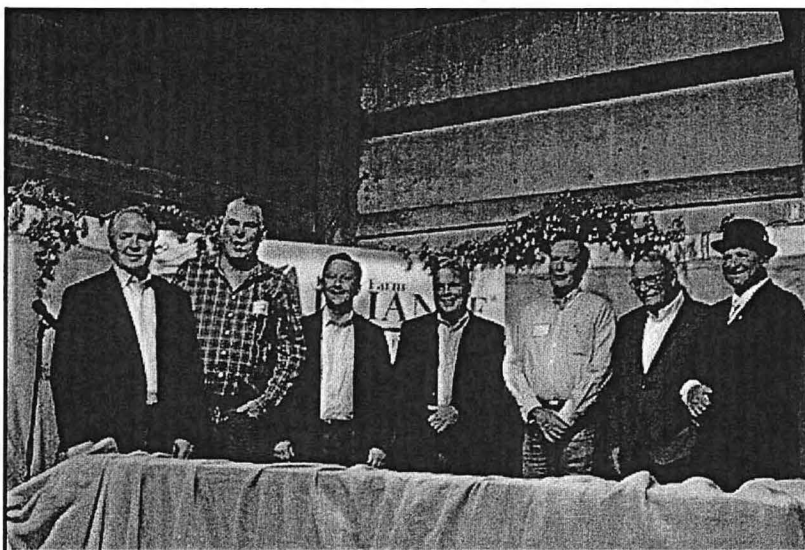
The first stop on the tour was the Lamb Weston food processing plant in Richland. Lamb Weston is a leading supplier of frozen potato, sweet potato, appetizer and vegetable products to restaurants and retailers around the world. From there, the

tour wound through the Columbia Basin Project and Yakima Project, where the group met with local producers of cherries, hay, alfalfa, grapes and apples.

The three-day tour also included meetings with Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Roza Irrigation District, Kittitas Reclamation District and Sunnyside Irrigation District staff and board members.

The tour had lunch at a ranch in the Wenas foothills, where participants were briefed by representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Water Resources, and Washington Department of Fish and Game.

“The collaborative efforts of local water users, the Yakama Nation, conservation groups and state and federal agencies to proactively address fisheries challenges and drought resiliency are seen by many as a model for the West,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.



Alliance Leadership Team in Washington State: Mark Limbaugh (D.C. Advocate), Charley Lyell (WA Director), Norm Semanko (General Counsel), Dan Keppen (Exec. Director), Mark Hansen (WA Director), Pat O’Toole (President), Urban Eberhart (Chair, Advisory Committee).
Photo courtesy of Aidan Lyall.

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“Muddy Reflection”: A Look Back at the 2023 Water Season

Editor’s note - One of the guests who showed up at the September 13 fundraising dinner in Moxee (see related story, Page 5) was Justin Harter, district manager of Naches-Selah Irrigation District. Earlier in the day, Alliance representatives toured the foothills north and west of Yakima. In early August 2021, lightning started the Schneider Springs Fire on a parched landscape about 18 miles northwest of Naches, and it expanded quickly. It was the largest fire in Washington that year, totaling 107,337 acres.

Two years later, Yakima Valley water users are still wrestling with the impacts. Following repeat rain and thunderstorm events this past May and June which hit upstream burn areas, high turbidity and debris flows moved downstream, clogging fish screens and restricting irrigation canal capacity.

Many thanks to Justin for sharing his experiences and offering tips for other Western water managers who may have to tackle unexpected water challenges resulting from our mismanaged federal forests.

“Muddy Reflection”

A Look Back at the 2023 Water Season

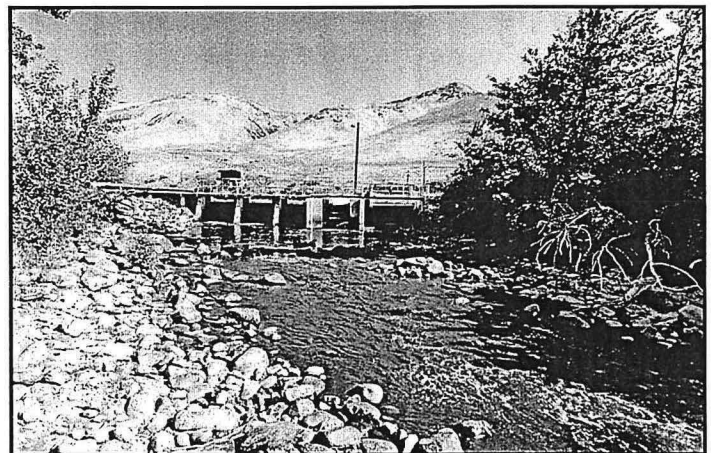
By Justin Harter

It was no secret that the irrigation water was very muddy this year. Spring runoff was followed by thunderstorms over the 2021 Schneider Springs Fire burn area. Wildfire ash and debris was washed into Rattlesnake Creek and other tributaries of the Naches River, where our irrigation water originates. This continued through subsequent storms.

Silt, Debris and Turbidity Challenges

Patrolmen worked around the clock to keep screens clear and remove silt from problem areas. Canal areas that usually only need to be cleared once at the end of the season have already been cleared four times.

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High turbidity triggered by 2021 upstream wildfire. Naches River diversion structure for Naches-Selah Irrigation District, June 2023. Photo courtesy of NSID.

“An Amazing Community” Shows its Support (Cont’d from Pg 5)

Alliance Directors Hansen and Lyall worked with a team of local volunteers to host a tri-put and lamb barbecue at the Black Rock Arena near Moxee on Wednesday evening. Mr. O’Toole, D.C. advocate Mark Limbaugh, General Counsel Norm Semanko and Mr. Dan Keppen all delivered remarks at the 2-hour event, touching on a variety of Western water issues, including water infrastructure spending, the political climate on Capitol Hill, recent Supreme Court water decisions, and nationwide food security.

Alliance representa-

tives were appreciative of the large audience and community support.



Over 180 supporters attended a barbecue dinner and fundraiser for the Family Farm Alliance last month in Moxie (WASHINGTON).

Photo courtesy of Aidan Lyall.

“It’s an amazing community,” said Mr. O’Toole. “The amount of food production coming out of this area is astounding. It all depends on reliable water supplies. The people of this region are planning not only for today but for the long-term.”

“It’s what we’re all about,” he added. “Families are the centerpiece of this area and are at the core of our organization.”

Reclamation Workshop Scheduled Later this Month in Denver *Agenda Now Available at www.usbr.gov*

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has planned an interactive Tribes and stakeholders' workshop to be held at the Denver Federal Center, Building 67, in Lakewood, Colorado, October 17-18, 2023.

The October 17 meeting will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meetings on the 18th will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the concluding remarks wrapping up at 3:00 p.m., with a tour of the Technical Services Center hydraulic lab from 3:30-5:00 p.m.).

“Several of our members attended a similar workshop back in 2019, before the pandemic,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “They were constructive and well-attended. It sounds like Reclamation has been itching to get the public workshops rolling again, and they plan on doing at least two in-person workshops per year in the near future.”

The topics that Reclamation will cover in the October meeting include:

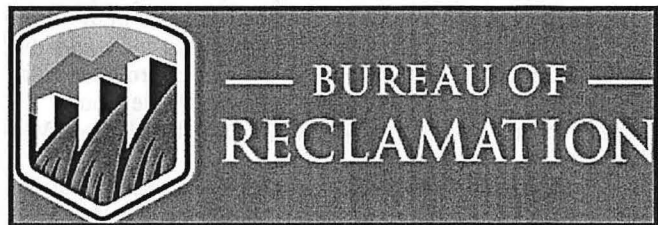
- Aging Infrastructure Account
- Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act
- Water Resource Planning Activities
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- WaterSMART
- Tribal Initiatives

In addition to sharing what Reclamation and the Department of the Interior are doing in these areas, individual input will be sought into how engagement can be improved in these areas.

Reclamation’s announcement emphasized that these topics will be of special importance for Tribal leaders, water district and power utility managers, engineering staff, financial assistance personnel, and environmental compliance professionals as well as non-governmental organizations.

“Discussions will cover areas of general emphasis for these communities and allow participants to delve into consideration of specific examples,” Reclamation’s announcement stated.

The agenda and more information are available at <https://www.usbr.gov/stakeholders/>. If you have any questions, please send an email to stakeholderworkshop@usbr.gov.



Justin Harter’s “Muddy Reflection” (Continued from Page 6)

Problems compounded with high temperatures in May and the muddy debris filled water flowing to our customer deliveries.

Also, the silty debris collected in many parts of the canal and pipe systems.

Once the Naches River was flowing clearer, muddy water from what collected kept plugging screens and sprinklers in July.

System flows increasing on hot days would stir up this mess until it eventually flushed through.

These burned areas will take more years to recover as enough vegetation grows to prevent further erosion. We are at risk for repeated muddy water events from this and other burn areas for the coming years.

Tips for Managing Irrigation during Turbid Episodes

Many water users called our office unsure how to irrigate because mud was clogging sprinklers, filters and pumps.

Since irrigation water originates directly from the Naches River, mud and debris come right along with it.

We understand it's not always a viable option to hold off on watering in summer when crops, lawns and landscape need the water.

Here are a few tips:

- Increase filter size, capacity, with automatic flushing for heavier mud and debris load
- Flush pipes before and after filter, pump where possible. Avoid flooding neighboring properties.
- Open the filter, remove the screen and flush from there
- Install a sand or sediment separator
- Don't irrigate until the water clears up, if you can. The turbid water brings a lot of weed seeds that can cause long-term frustration. Even the large orchards in your neighborhoods with state-of-the-art systems choose to use this method at times.
- Bypass underground sprinkler and drip systems that require cleaner, filtered water. City of Selah, one of our water users, had to resort to running temporary above-ground irrigation (K lines) on some parks in May & June.

Most equipment uses flushing or back-flush functions, which can also add the challenge of water, sediment and debris to manage on your property.

Hopefully these tips will give you some options to consider for upgrades of your system that may help prepare for muddy water in the future.

Biden Administration Takes Assertive Action to Aid Columbia River Fish

In the course of one week, the Biden Administration last month announced a series of actions intended to proactively restore healthy native fish populations in the Columbia River Basin, including the issuance of a presidential executive memo that critics fear is directed at removing four dams on the Lower Snake River, a key tributary to the Columbia.

Salmon Reintroduction Announcement

The administration on September 21 announced an agreement to support Tribally-led efforts to restore salmon populations in the Upper Columbia River Basin. The agreement between the United States, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians will fund efforts to test the feasibility of, and ultimately to reintroduce salmon in blocked habitats in the Upper Basin.

"This agreement is a crucial step in delivering sustainable long-term solutions to restore abundant fish runs in the Columbia River Basin while also acknowledging and accounting for the many services the Upper River system provides today: flood risk, energy, and water supply," said White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Brenda Mallory.

The Upper Columbia River Basin historically supported abundant wild salmon, steelhead, and native resident fish, which supported Tribal cultures and communities.

The agreement includes \$200 million over 20 years from the Bonneville Power Administration, a federal power marketing administration under the Department of Energy, to advance the Tribally led implementation plan. The Department of the Interior also announced it is providing \$8 million over two years through the Bureau of Reclamation to support these efforts.

The agreement was announced at a ceremonial signing at the Department of the Interior with Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Tribes, agency leaders, and other senior Biden-Harris administration officials.

"Since time immemorial, Tribes along the Columbia River System have relied on Pacific salmon, steelhead, and other native fish species for sustenance and their cultural and spiritual ways of life," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "Today's historic agreement is integral to helping restore healthy and abundant fish populations to these communities,"

Presidential Memo

Within one week of the Interior Department signing ceremony, President Joe Biden signed a memorandum outlining the administration's plan for fish mitigation in the Columbia River Basin. The presidential order directs federal agencies with jurisdiction in the matter to prepare a report in the next four months, recommending how they can help restore wild fish runs in the Columbia River.

"[I]t is the policy of my Administration to work with the Congress and with Tribal Nations, States, local governments, and stakeholders to pursue effective, creative, and durable solutions, informed by Indigenous Knowledge, to restore healthy and abundant salmon, steelhead, and other native fish populations in the Basin," the memo stated.

Because the memo also includes directives to secure a

"clean and resilient energy future" for the region and to support local agriculture and "its role in food security domestically and globally", and because the presidential directive did not mention dam breaching, some believe the order underscored the multi-purpose importance of the Lower Snake River Dams, rather than affirming the position of environmentalist litigants who want the dams breached.

"I think the Biden administration agrees with the people who have looked at the issue before them," Kurt Miller, executive director for the Northwest River Partners told *Capital Press*. "It would be bad for society to get rid of the dams."

"Frustrating" Lack of Transparency

A stay in long-running litigation over the Snake River Dams has been extended for 60 days from August 31st to October 31st to allow federal mediation to continue. However, key stakeholders and community members directly impacted by the lawsuit feel they are being left in the dark as negotiations take place behind closed doors.

"The secrecy has been extremely frustrating," Leslie Druffel, who works with the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), told *Capital Press* last month. "...The lack of communication from the (federal government) to intervenor defendants doesn't give us much confidence in this process."

The Family Farm Alliance in April transmitted a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, requesting Biden Administration Cabinet-level intervention in ongoing mediation talks involving the Lower Snake River dams.

Western Farmer-Stockman in April also ran a guest editorial by Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen explaining why Pacific Northwest ag interests should be better integrated into the river talks.

"Altering operations along the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers, whether through shifted flow regimes or dam removal, would send ripple effects throughout the broader agricultural community served by this system," Mr. Keppen wrote. "The multiple-year drought we have faced in many parts of the West—coupled with other domestic and global developments—has already affected the availability and price of food for many Americans."

A study released last month by PNWA found that counties in Washington, Idaho and Oregon would be directly impacted by removal of the dams. Over 7,600 farms in the affected area generate approximately \$2 billion in annual sales, according to the report.

Response by Northwest GOP Members of Congress

The Republican Congressman who represents constituents in the region believes the Biden Administration and dam-breaching advocates are intent on achieving a "de facto" breach of the Four Lower Snake River Dams by opening the gates to reduce the water below the minimum operating levels for hydroelectric generation.

"While there may not be explicit recommendations to breach the Lower Snake River Dams in this memorandum, that

Continued on Page 9

House ESA Working Group Hosts Forum

The Congressional Western Caucus and the House Natural Resources Committee’s Joint ESA Working Group last month co-hosted a Forum to hear directly from organizations representing farmers, ranchers, county commissioners, and small businesses about the need to reform and modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The forum was led by Chairman Dan Newhouse (R-WASHINGTON) and included several Western Caucus members. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CALIFORNIA), a Member of the Natural Resources Committee, also participated.

“No law, no matter how well-intentioned, should be used as a political battering ram and should not be used to benefit certain groups,” said Rep. Newhouse in his opening remarks. “This law should focus on benefiting endangered species and all species and being good stewards of habitat.”

A handful of witnesses testified, focusing on their personal experiences on familiar themes. These themes included the manner in which the ESA has become a magnet for environmental litigation, “sue and settle” patterns by the federal government, and the undermining of the ability of states, which generally have better expertise and partnerships with landowners, to manage species to keep them off the list and to delist those that have recovered.

“The ESA is being used by opponents of important resource development projects to slow down and, ultimately, stop these projects,” said Rick Grinnell (Southern Arizona

Business Coalition). “To meet the important goals of the Act and to continue to meet the economic needs of this great country, a much more collaborative effort is needed to move the goals of the Act forward.”

Hill Republicans on the day following the hearing introduced legislation that would prevent the Biden Administration’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service from finalizing three federal regulations that would strip three ESA reforms by the Trump Administration enacted to provide more flexibility for affected stakeholders.

“Abandoning clear and well-functioning Trump-era reforms in favor of a one-size-fits-all mandate from disconnected Washington bureaucrats underscores just how out of touch this administration is with western priorities,” said Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WYOMING).

The Trump ESA rules rescinded the outdated “blanket rule” that automatically granted “endangered”-level protection to species listed as “threatened. It also allowed for research and consideration of economic impacts of ESA listing determinations. Finally, it limited critical habitat designations to areas only where species occupied the areas.

“Over the past two years, we have urged that the Biden Administration keep those reforms in place,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. “Last August, we prepared detailed comments that further underscored our legal and technical concerns with all three of these issues.”

Lower Snake River Dams (Continued from Page 8)

is the goal of this Administration”, said Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WASHINGTON).

“This announcement is bureaucracy at its worst and the fact remains that these dams are vital to our economy, our efforts to reduce carbon emissions, and the ability to send our commodities overseas.”

Rep. Newhouse for much of the year has been leading the efforts to protect the Four Lower Snake River Dams. Last month, in a House Committee on Natural Resources hearing, Rep. Newhouse addressed the lack of transparency and public input throughout the mediation process of the Four Lower Snake River Dams.

He questioned witness Scott Simms (CEO of the Public Power Council, or “PPC”) whose testimony focused on his

council’s interaction with CEQ on Columbia River power system operations and discussion of breaching the dams. In his testimony, Mr. Simms stated that PPC has offered numerous ideas and solutions regarding fish mitigation, only to be ignored and left out as CEQ had “private caucuses” with certain organizations.

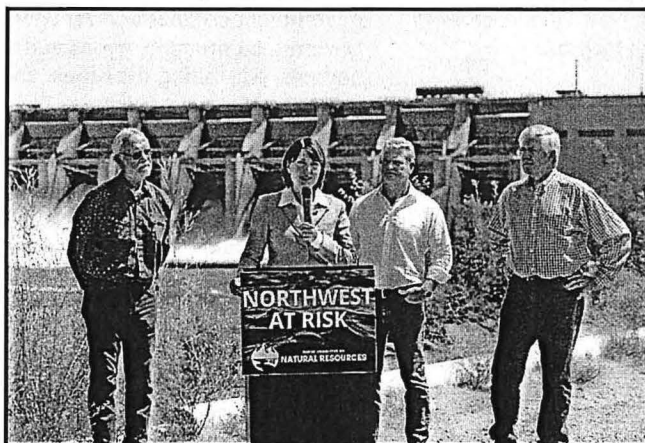
Rep. Newhouse observed that, after two years of discussion, PPC was only invited to a mediation meeting less than two weeks before CEQ’s comment period had closed. He asked Mr. Simms if he thought that was enough time to consider incorporating those comments.

His response was not an affirmative one.

The process is “a sham”, Mr. Simms responded. “S-H-A-M.”

Rep. Newhouse and four other Northwestern GOP House members also sent the White House a letter formalizing their concerns with the ongoing mediation.

“As members of the Pacific Northwest delegation, we write to urge that you utilize the remainder of the 60-day stay to productively engage with all the parties to the litigation in the mediation process,” the letter stated.



House GOP Reps Dan Newhouse (WASHINGTON) Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WASHINGTON), Mike Collins (GEORGIA) and Cliff Bentz (OREGON) traveled to the Tri-Cities (WASHINGTON) to tour Ice Harbor Dam last June. Photo courtesy of Rep. McMorris Rodgers.

White House Summit Highlights Recent Climate Actions

President Biden on September 28 hosted the first-ever White House Summit on Building Climate Resilient Communities. The Summit – which included representatives from more than 25 states, territories and tribal nations – was touted as an opportunity for practitioners and senior Administration officials to jointly discuss needs and opportunities for further climate resilience efforts.

It also provided a forum to highlight some recent aggressive climate actions taken by the Biden Administration.

“It’s our goal as a federal government to mount an all-of-government, all-of-society response to the climate crisis,” National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi said at the summit.

National Climate Resilience Framework Released

In conjunction with the Summit, the Administration released its “National Climate Resilience Framework”, intended to guide and align climate resilience investments and activities by the federal government and its partners.

The Administration also announced more than a dozen new actions – including the awarding or availability of more than \$500 million in dedicated funding – to help build a “climate resilient Nation”, and \$800 million in commitments from major philanthropies to expand financial support for climate resilience and align investments with national climate resilience priorities.

The Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation announced up to \$328 million in funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and annual appropriations to help make Western communities more resilient to drought and climate change, including in the Colorado River Basin. Funding will support grants for water desalination, recycling and reuse, and small water storage projects.

Wildland Fire Commission Releases Report

In the week leading up to the Summit, the Wildland Fire Management and Mitigation Commission, established by the IIJA, released a report recommending improvements to federal policies related to preventing, mitigating, suppressing, and managing wildland fires, as well as rehabilitating affected lands.

Today, fire seasons routinely destroy more than 8 million acres annually, and in the last 10 years, three fire seasons have consumed over 10 million acres.

In her remarks at the White House Summit, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the publication of new policies to strengthen the Department’s ability to meet its mission in the face of a changing climate. Four new Departmental Manual policies seek to clarify and make more consistent the types of climate information used across the Department.

“As our public lands face more intense wildfires, droughts, storms and other extreme weather events, improving the Department’s climate-informed decision making is critical to ensuring effective and efficient resource management, while also protecting communities and wildlife,” said Secretary Haaland.

Composed of representatives from federal agencies, state, local and Tribal governments, and representatives from the private sector, the Commission has met monthly over the last year to discuss and craft these recommendations.

“We are thankful for the commission’s diligent work to prepare a comprehensive set of recommendations that will help drive future solutions in confronting our nation’s wildfire crisis and setting up our workforce for success,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Among other recommendations, the report calls for “urgent new approaches”, such as establishing a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program to proactively address risk, change financial incentives and change agency metrics to better focus on performance of ecological health over acres treated.

This is the second report to be released by the Commission. The first report, which focused on aerial equipment and a strategy to meet equipment needs, was released in February.

Western GOP Members of Congress appeared to agree with the report’s findings, noting that they have raised similar concerns in the past.

“Our forests are so overgrown and dry that they’ve turned into a tinderbox, one spark away from erupting in flames,” said Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CALIFORNIA), who serves as the executive vice-chair of the Congressional Western Caucus. “Residents in my district, Western Caucus, and the Wildland Fire Commission know what needs to be done. We must remove the barriers that bar active forest management to minimize the risk of wildfire.”

Considering “Social Cost of Carbon” in Decision Making

One week before the White House summit, the Administration announced plans to consider climate costs in most government policies and decisions including how the federal government procures goods and services, federal agencies’ budgets, permitting decisions, and foreign assistance programs.

“As the world’s single largest purchaser — spending over \$630 billion per year on goods and services — the federal government has the ability to move markets, invest in new ideas, and act as a model contracting partner,” the White House said in a statement.

While the social cost of greenhouse gases measuring the damage to the climate from a ton of CO₂ or methane as it enters the atmosphere has been used as a metric against human-caused emissions for years, the policies announced last month would broaden its application across the federal government.

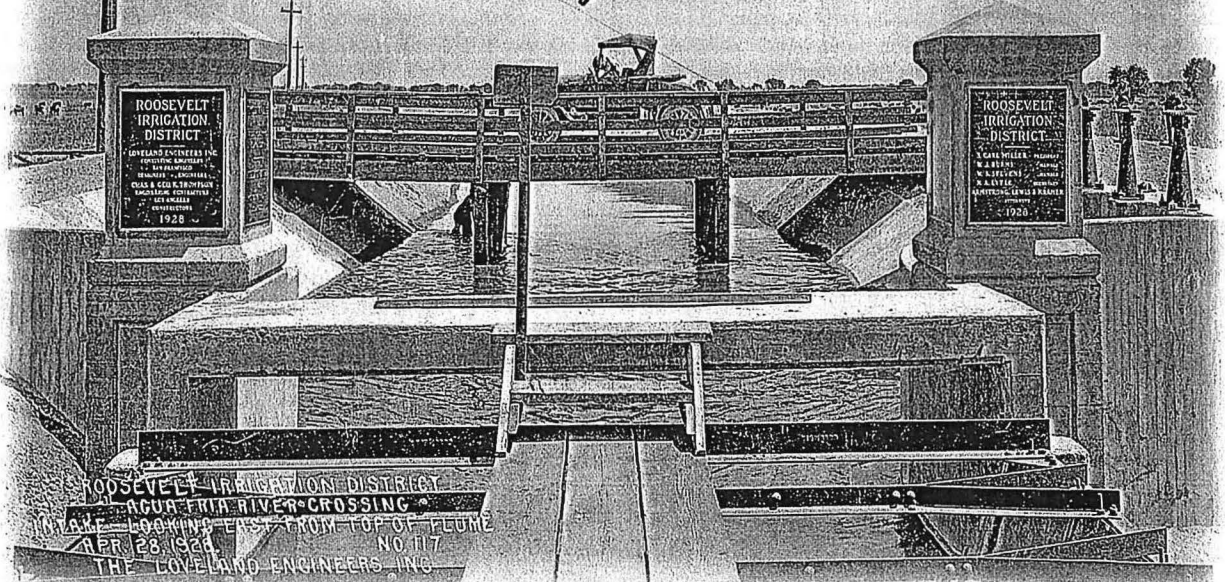
According to the Administration, in the short term, considering the social cost of climate change would save taxpayers money by reducing federal energy bills. In the longer term, it would help stave off “the most catastrophic effects of the climate crisis.”

But, as reported in *E&E News PM*, Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, called the metrics “unproven figures” the administration used “to justify its environmental policies that drive up costs for families, hamstringing American employers and delay job-creating infrastructure projects from ever moving forward.”

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CEQ Closes Comment Period for NEPA Phase II Rule

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) last summer released its long-awaited Phase 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rule, called the “Bipartisan Permitting Reform Implementation Rule,” that would codify NEPA reforms included in recent debt-ceiling legislation as well as to ensure inclusions of Biden Administration priorities on climate change and environmental justice.

The public comment period on the proposed rule ended on September 29. The Alliance developed formal comments that were sent to CEQ before that deadline.

“Unfortunately, the proposed new mitigation, assessment, and other mandates may drive new litigation opportunities and further delay project approvals,” said Family Farm Alliance (Alliance) executive director Dan Keppen.

Overview of the New Rule

Among the newly proposed provisions are measures that toughen mitigation mandates by encouraging agencies to select “environmentally preferable alternatives,” strengthen consideration of projects’ potential climate change and EJ effects, require agencies to use new science, and more.

“The newly proposed climate and EJ assessment requirements depart from long-standing approaches that required federal agencies to assess adverse effects that have a sufficiently close causal connection to a proposed action,” said Todd Ungerecht, who spearheaded the development of the Alliance’s formal comment letter to CEQ on the proposed rule. “The new provisions also would require agencies to mitigate such potential effects.”

CEQ provides very few details in the proposed rule about how their new measures that allow agencies to adopt “innovative approaches” under NEPA will work, while also eliminating Trump-era rule language that required project critics to detail concerns during the comment phase if they later sought to challenge a NEPA approval.

“In a nutshell, while the proposed rule does include some permit streamlining measures required by the debt ceiling agreement, it also contains provisions that would further delay project approvals,” said Mr. Keppen. “Our final 18-page letter to CEQ was transmitted last month and formalized our concerns for the record.”

Response from Congressional Republicans

Housed within the Executive Office of the President, CEQ has historically been tasked with overseeing agency compliance with NEPA. From 2019 to 2023, CEQ’s baseline budget grew from \$2.89 million to approximately \$4.67 million, an increase of roughly 63 percent in four years. CEQ received an unprecedented \$62.5 million from the Inflation Reduction Act and CEQ staff has almost doubled in recent years, with environmental activists claiming that CEQ should continue to increase staff.

Under Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), the House Committee on Natural Resources has held two hearings explicitly focused on what they see as “overreach” at CEQ, with attention paid to the Biden Administration’s NEPA efforts and CEQ’s role in mediating litigation focused on Lower Snake River dams (*see related story, Page 8*). Brenda Mallory, CEQ Chair, was invited to testify at a hearing last month but declined to appear or send a designee to testify on behalf of the agency.

Later in the month, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking member Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) led committee Republicans in a September 29 letter blasting CEQ Chair Mallory for the proposed rule, saying it would do the opposite of streamlining NEPA.

“The changes made in the CEQ’s Proposed Rule would collectively add more confusion, expand the scope of the NEPA process, extend its length, open the door to even more lawsuits and accusations of political favoritism that will delay or stop projects while undermining public and stakeholder confidence,” the GOP lawmakers wrote.

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



Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture

Contributions can also be mailed directly to:
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 P.O. Box 1705
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CORRESPONDENCE LIST**OCTOBER 2023**

1. September 15, 2023 – Notice and Agenda received from the Santa Ynez Community Services District for the September 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
2. September 15, 2023 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the September 18, 2023 Grants Subcommittee Meeting
3. September 18, 2023 – Letter received from Transparent California confirming receipt of the Districts' response letter to their Public Records Act request
4. September 18, 2023 – Public Records Act request received from SteepSteelGov.com, A. Tormis
5. September 20, 2023 – Letter from the District to SteepSteel, LLC in response to Public Records Act request
6. September 21, 2023 – Notice and Agenda received from the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the September 25, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting
7. September 22, 2023 – Letter from the District to Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District regarding ID No.1's proportionate share of LAFCO 2023/2024 Budget
8. September 25, 2023 – Notice and Agenda received from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area September 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
9. October 2, 2023 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the October 6, 2023 Finance Subcommittee Meeting
10. October 2, 2023 – Letter from the District regarding Easement Clearance Letter for APN 141-360-004
11. October 3, 2023 – District submitted Employers Quarterly Federal Tax Return (Form941) to the IRS
12. October 3, 2023 – District submitted Quarterly Report Forms (DE9/DE9C Quarterly Contribution Return/Report of Wages) to the State of California Employment Development Department
13. October 3, 2023 – Letter received from Santa Barbara County Fire Department Requirements for APN 137-081-047
14. October 3, 2023 – Letter received from Santa Barbara County Fire Department Requirements for APN 137-070-038
15. October 5, 2023 – Letter from the District to customer regarding Meter Downsize Request for APN 137-030-030
16. October 5, 2023 – Letter from District to four customers regarding past due water service accounts
17. October 10, 2023 – Can and Will Serve Letter for APN 141-360-055
18. October 11, 2023 – Notice and Agenda received from the Los Olivos Community Services District for the October 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

19. October 11, 2023 – Letter received from Santa Barbara County Fire Department regarding Fire Service requirements for APN 137-020-029

20. October 11, 2023 – Letter from the District sent to twenty-one customers regarding backflow testing requirement