



**REVISED** **NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**  
**AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING**  
August 2, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Virtual Meeting  
Novato, California

Information about and copies of supporting materials on agenda items are available for public review at 999 Rush Creek Place, Novato, at the Reception Desk, or by calling the District Secretary at (415) 897-4133. A fee may be charged for copies. District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the District Secretary as soon as possible, but at least two days prior to the meeting.

**ATTENTION: This will be a virtual meeting of the Board pursuant to the authorizations provided by Government Code section 54953(e)."**

There will not be a public location for participating in this meeting, but any interested member of the public can participate telephonically by utilizing the dial-in information printed on this agenda.

**Video Zoom Method**

**CLICK ON LINK BELOW:**

**SIGN IN TO ZOOM:**

Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191971947> OR

Meeting ID: 821 9197 1947

Password: 466521

Password: 466521

**Call in Method:**

Dial: +1 669 900 9128  
+1 253 215 8782  
+1 346 248 7799  
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+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 821 9197 1947#

Participant ID: #

Password: 466521#

For clarity of discussion, the Public is requested to MUTE except:

- 1. During Open Time for public expression item.
- 2. Public comment period on agenda items.

*Please note: In the event of technical difficulties during the meeting, the District Secretary will adjourn the meeting and the remainder of the agenda will be rescheduled for a future special meeting which shall be open to the public and noticed pursuant to the Brown Act.*

All times are approximate and for reference only.  
The Board of Directors may consider an item at a different time than set forth herein.

Est. Time	Item	Subject
6:00 p.m.		<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
	1.	<b>APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING</b> , July 19, 2022
	2.	<b>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT</b>
	3.	<b>OPEN TIME: (Please observe a three-minute time limit)</b>  This section of the agenda is provided so that the public may express comments on any issues not listed on the agenda that are of interest to the public and within the jurisdiction of the North Marin Water District. When comments are made about matters not on the agenda, Board members can ask questions for clarification, respond to statements or questions from members of the public, refer a matter to staff, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. The public may also express comments on agenda items at the time of Board consideration.
	4.	<b>STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS</b> <b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>The General Manager has reviewed the following items. To his knowledge, there is no opposition to the action. The items can be acted on in one consolidated motion as recommended or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any person.</p></div>
	5.	<b>Consent – Approve:</b> Amend Consulting Services Agreement – Wood Rodgers (WR)
	6.	<b>Consent – Approve:</b> Adopt Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Resolution – Oceana Marin Treatment and Storage Pond Repair
		<b>ACTION CALENDAR</b>
	7.	<b>Approve:</b> Consulting Services Agreement for Connection Fee Study with Hildebrand Consulting
		<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b> <span style="color: red;">Item #7- See attached Hildebrand Proposal for NMWD Connection Fee Study</span>
	8.	Board of Directors Hybrid Meeting Plan Update
	9.	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b> Disbursements- Dated July 21, 2022 Disbursements- Dated July 28, 2022 California Department of Water Resources – One Year Later, DWR Has Provided Nearly Half a Billion in Drought Relief to Communities FY22 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Labor Cost Report  <u>News Articles:</u> Marin IJ – County has eye on viral variant – COVID 19 PANDEMIC Marin IJ – Building permit, inspection process changes studied – NOVATO Marin IJ – Leaf blowers powered by gas head for Novato ban – SOME EXEMPTIONS Marin IJ – Welcome to your watershed – UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER Marin IJ – Deep look at complex water supply options – MARIN MUNICIPAL Marin IJ – 179 offices at stake on Marin fall ballot – NOV. 8 Marin IJ – Experts' water alerts went unheeded – STATE DROUGHT Marin IJ – Water supply study looks at reservoir, pipeline costs – MARIN MUNICIPAL Marin IJ – COVID remains high in county –OMICRON SUBVARIANT Marin IJ – Revised version of controversial Delta water plan - \$16B NEWSOM PROJECT
6:30 p.m.	10.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>

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**DRAFT**  
**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
July 19, 2022

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 President Petterle announced that due to the Coronavirus outbreak and pursuant to the  
8 Brown Act as modified by Assembly Bill 361, this was a virtual meeting. President Petterle called  
9 the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District to order at 6:00 p.m.  
10 and the agenda was accepted as presented. President Petterle added that there was not a public  
11 location for participating in this meeting, but any interested members of the public could participate  
12 remotely by utilizing the video or phone conference dial-in method using information printed on  
13 the agenda. President Petterle announced that in the event of technical difficulties during the  
14 meeting, the District Secretary will adjourn the meeting and the remainder of the agenda will be  
15 rescheduled for a future special meeting which shall be open to the public and noticed pursuant  
16 to the Brown Act.

17 President Petterle welcomed the public to participate in the remote meeting and asked  
18 that they mute themselves, except during open time and while making comments on the agenda  
19 items. President Petterle noted that due to the virtual nature of the meeting he will request a roll  
20 call of the Directors. A roll call was done, those in remote attendance established a quorum.  
21 Participating remotely were Directors Jack Baker, Rick Fraites, Michael Joly and Stephen  
22 Petterle. Due to technical difficulties Director Grossi joined at 6:11 p.m.

23 President Petterle announced that all public attendees will be invited to speak and will  
24 need to use the raised hand icon in Zoom or dial \*9 to be called upon.

25 Mr. Williams performed a roll call of staff, participating remotely were Tony Williams  
26 (General Manager), Terrie Kehoe (District Secretary), Julie Blue (Auditor-Controller), Eric Miller  
27 (Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer), Pete Castellucci (Interim Construction/Maintenance  
28 Superintendent) and Robert Clark (Operations/Maintenance Superintendent). Additionally,  
29 District employee Connie Filippi joined the meeting. Also participating remotely was IT consultant  
30 Clay Smedshammer (Core Utilities).

31 President Petterle requested that for those joining the virtual meeting from the public to  
32 identify themselves. Participating remotely was Ken Levin.

33 **MINUTES**

34 On motion of Director Joly seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved the minutes  
35 from the June 21, 2022 Regular Board Meeting by the following vote:

36 AYES: Director Baker, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

37 NOES: None

38 ABSTAIN: None

39 ABSENT: Director Grossi

40 On motion of Director Joly, seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved the minutes  
41 from the June 28, 2022 Regular Board Meeting by the following vote:

42 AYES: Director Baker, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

43 NOES: None

44 ABSTAIN: None

45 ABSENT: Director Grossi

46 **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

47 Mr. Williams announced that SCWA received approval for their Temporary Urgency  
48 Change Petition which sets critical water supply conditions with resulting flows of 25 cfs and 35  
49 cfs in the Upper and Lower Russian River, respectively. He reported therefore a 20% reduction  
50 of total diversions, including deliveries to NMWD, will be required from July 1, 2022 to October  
51 31, 2022 compared to in 2020, which lasted until December.

52 Mr. Williams informed the Board that PG&E responded to a request from FERC for a  
53 schedule and plan for the surrender of the Potter Valley Project (PVP). He stated that the  
54 schedule is thirty months to submit a final surrender application and decommission the plan. Mr.  
55 Williams added that the water contractors have their legal counsel tracking any actions by PG&E  
56 and FERC.

57 Mr. Williams reminded the Board that in May, PG&E requested a variance to reduce  
58 diversion flows to the east fork of the Russian River into Lake Mendocino, thereby reducing flows  
59 to as low as 5 cfs. He reported that there has been no response from FERC and SCWA has filed  
60 a response requesting at least 25 cfs. Mr. Williams noted that currently flows in the lake are  
61 around 90 cfs.

62 President Petterle asked if the Directors had any questions or comments.

63 Director Joly stated that on the SCWA website it appears that Lake Mendocino is rising  
64 and asked what would cause this increase. Mr. Williams replied that it is gaining volume over the  
65 last month and a half, because the release of water is less than what is coming in. Director Joly  
66 asked how Lake Pillsbury fits in with our system and how it ties into the Russian River. He noted

67 that Lake Pillsbury is almost as big as Lake Mendocino right now. Mr. Williams responded that  
68 PG&E owns the dam and lake and had good hydrology last winter. He added that PGE is  
69 controlling the release into the Eel River upstream to PVP, and the lower dam diversion goes into  
70 Lake Mendocino, however most of it goes past down the Eel River. Mr. Williams noted that one  
71 of the arguments against lowering the diversion rate is that it impacts the flow into Lake  
72 Mendocino. Director Joly asked if Lake Sonoma was not likely to be at 100,000 of this year and  
73 Mr. Williams confirmed that it is not likely go below that.

74 President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the public and  
75 there was no response.

76 **OPEN TIME**

77 President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no  
78 response.

79 At 6:11 p.m. Director Baker noted that Director Grossi joined the meeting.

80 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

81 President Petterle asked if any Directors or staff wished to bring up an item not on the  
82 agenda and the following were discussed.

83 Mr. Clark announced that Stafford Treatment Plant is now up and running. He added that  
84 there was a bit of a struggle with the startup due to the large algae blooms this summer. Mr. Clark  
85 reported staff will meet local demands in light of the 20% SCWA reductions. He emphasized that  
86 algae blooms continue to be a concern and staff is working with a consultant to obtain a permit  
87 from the state to apply approved aquatic pesticides. Mr. Clark noted that this is the first time in  
88 twelve years that they had to consider pesticide application in Stafford Lake and he will come  
89 back to the Board with an update of the situation.

90 Mr. Clark reported that the San Marin Pump Station Battery Project is awaiting final  
91 approval, noting it has been approved by PG&E and the project is moving forward.

92 President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors.

93 Director Baker asked for an update on the Amaroli Tank situation that occurred when there  
94 was a fire in the area and three heavy emergency vehicles were on top of the tank. He stated  
95 that he wants to be sure Novato Fire Protection District (NFPD) is aware that signs are posted  
96 and they received in depth training. Director Baker added that he would like to gain confidence  
97 that they understand the problem. He voiced his concern about possible damage to the tank that  
98 could show up later and recommended an inspection of the tank be done. Mr. Williams replied  
99 that he spoke to Chief Tyler and he is confident that NFPD is going to include internal warning  
100 information to staff and treat the location as a special case. He added that there will be a notation

101 in their electronic system that is used by dispatchers, to not park the vehicles on top of the tank.  
102 He added, staff will mount additional signage higher so the signs can be seen by the large  
103 emergency vehicles. Mr. Williams added that he, Mr. Miller and Mr. Fuelle, who has a structural  
104 background, have inspected the tank. Additionally, he noted that Mr. Stompe did an inspection  
105 inside the tank and there was no evidence of damage, however staff will do a follow up inspection.  
106 Director Joly stated that he was also going to bring this up, adding NMWD and NFPD dodged a  
107 bullet when you consider the weight limit of the tank was 8,000 lbs., noting there were three fire  
108 engines parked on top. He asked how this weight limit is determined, and if it is at the time of  
109 installation. Mr. Williams replied that staff are still going through the records to see where the  
110 weight limit is indicated.

111 Director Petterle stated that he recently had the pleasure to visit the new temporary office.  
112 He encouraged the Directors who have not seen the office yet to see it, so that they are familiar  
113 with the layout before hybrid meetings commence.

114 Director Joly asked how the move is going and if staff are settled in. Mr. Williams  
115 responded that everyone is pretty much settled in, and commended Mr. Clark and Ms. Blue for  
116 their coordination efforts. He added that he has seen some activity in the building, which may be  
117 an indication that there might be new tenants in the building. Mr. Williams noted that the Board  
118 Meeting area still needs to have the partition wall installed and there are still some unpacked  
119 boxes.

120 Director Joly stated that he drove by the Rush Creek Place office and it seemed like the  
121 project was already moving along. Mr. Williams replied that there were some struggles with the  
122 building permit, however staff believe they have a solution and Mr. Miller is negotiating with the  
123 City of Novato. Mr. Miller stated that the permit target is the end of the week, abatement next  
124 week and demolition the week after that. Mr. Williams added that our crews are doing the  
125 waterline work on the west side of the building, allowing us time to get further ahead on that  
126 segment of the project. Director Joly commended Mr. Miller's good work on the permit.

127 Director Petterle noted an article he read about the Colorado River. He stated that if  
128 water use in the Colorado River was decreased over the last few decades, there would be more  
129 water in the reservoir today and the crisis would not be so bad. Director Petterle noted that this  
130 is why the District's Local Water Supply Enhancement Study is so critical. He emphasized that it  
131 is important that we look for additional water supply to make sure we have enough water for our  
132 customers' demands and to ensure twenty years from now our customers have the water they  
133 need. Director Joly stated that he also read that article, noting that the last time Lake Mead was  
134 at capacity was in 1983, which means the supply has been falling for almost forty years. Director

135 Petterle added that now the water supply is at a critical level.

136 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

137 On the motion of Director Fraites, and seconded by Director Joly the Board approved the  
138 following items on the consent calendar by the following vote:

139 AYES: Director Baker, Fraites, Grossi, Joly and Petterle

140 NOES: None

141 ABSTAIN: None

142 ABSENT: None

143 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES – SCOTT FOSTER**

144 Due to the level of effort required to develop the system’s computer model for the surge  
145 analysis being greater than was originally anticipated during the scoping process, staff believes  
146 that an additional surge analysis is required to further explore impacts to the Novato distribution  
147 system. For this reason, the General Manager requested authorization to amend the Scott Foster  
148 Engineering Consulting Services Agreement in the amount of \$10,000, resulting in a new contract  
149 total of \$30,000.

150 **RE-AUTHORIZING MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF**  
151 **NORTH MARIN WATER**

152 The Board approved Re-Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference of Legislative Bodies of  
153 North Marin Water District. Resolution 22-24 will extend the continuation of teleconference  
154 meetings effective July 19, 2022 through August 18, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

155 **ACTION CALENDAR**

156 **LOCAL WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT STUDY FINAL REPORT - ACCEPTANCE**

157 Mr. Williams provided detailed information in the agenda packet on the SCWA Regional  
158 Study and the NMWD Local Supply Study. He reported on the infeasible Local Water Supply  
159 Alternatives for the District which included; Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), Indirect Potable  
160 Reuse (IPR) and Desalination. He also reported on potential Local Water Supply Alternatives  
161 which included; improving the Stafford Treat Plant efficiency, Increase in Stafford Lake storage  
162 capacity and diverting captured stormwater into Lake Stafford. Additionally, Mr. updated the  
163 Board on Stafford Lake backfeeding, public outreach and capital improvement supply  
164 enhancement projects.

165 Mr. Williams also provided that a PowerPoint Presentation to the Board that covered: the  
166 Local Supply Study volume units; the SCWA Regional Study's near-term drought management  
167 options; evaluation of local supply alternatives; evaluation criteria including quantitative and  
168 qualitative; potential local supply alternatives; improving the Stafford Treatment process water



169 recapture efficiency; consideration of a Stafford Dam spillway notch; diverting captured  
170 stormwater from Leveroni or Bowman Canyon watersheds and FY 2022-23 CIP budget items  
171 related to supply enhancements. Mr. Williams recognized staff members Drew McIntyre, Robert  
172 Clark, Brad Stompe, Jeff Corda and Tim Fuelle; along with West Yost employees; Rhodora  
173 Biagtan, Megan McWilliams, Doug Moore, Charles Hardy and Monique Day. He also expressed  
174 gratitude to the outside partners: Roger Leventhal (Marin County Flood Control & Water  
175 Conservation District), Paul Sellier (MMWD) and Jay Jasperse (SCWA).

176 President Petherle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors.

177 Director Joly asked about the \$283,00 total cost of the West Yost local study. Mr. Williams  
178 replied that the total cost included staff time, a separate hydraulic study of backfeeding Stafford,  
179 and \$225,000 of the study by West Yost. Director Joly noted that the rate payers paid for this  
180 study and asked if it is on our website for review. Mr. Williams replied that it is currently on our  
181 webpage under "Your Water" and it is the first item listed under "New Water Supplies". He noted  
182 that the entire study is available there including the appendices.

183 Director Joly stated that he thought the Stafford Dam gate was the best bang for the buck  
184 and asked about how the raised lake level might affect the park. Mr. Williams replied that he has  
185 already had several conversations with Marin County park staff. He added that a CEQA analysis  
186 will need to be done to identify any impacts for the park, plus any land owners on the perimeter  
187 of the lake. Director Joly stated that the Jacobs Study (for SCWA) was remarkable, and noted  
188 that MMWD has a meeting tonight in which they will be discussing some of their options. Director  
189 Joly stated that he was sorry to see Jay Jasperse has left SCWA, and asked who took on his role.  
190 Mr. Williams replied that Kent Gylfe is Mr. Jasperse's replacement, noting he has been with SCWA  
191 for many years, worked on the Kastania Pump Station Project and is a known entity and a good  
192 choice. Director Petherle asked about the impact to the adjacent owners, which includes the park  
193 and Indian Valley Golf Course. He noted that Stafford Lake does flood in the wintertime  
194 occasionally and assumed the gate project would basically extend the periods of flooding. Mr.  
195 Williams stated he has already been proactive and reached out to Terry Leach and Jeff  
196 McAndrew. Director Petherle noted that the inundation on the boundary needs to be looked at,  
197 adding CEQA is the right approach and we need more discussion. He added that if Bowman  
198 Canyon is considered, there also needs to be more discussion with Marin County Parks. Mr.  
199 Williams replied that he has had good insight from Marin County Parks and has talked briefly to  
200 a representative of the owner on the west side of the canyon. Director Petherle stated that both  
201 the City of Novato and Marin County Parks would be interested in coordinating a basin concept  
202 in light of the pathway along the road in that area. Mr. Clark stated that he has had conversations

203 with them about the bike path and understands the route will go from Center Road out to the park,  
204 and to the solar field, then wrap around the golf course. He added that the southerly route around  
205 the lake will need extensive review. Director Petterle noted that there was tremendous interest  
206 and difficulties with connecting to open space in the past.

207 Director Fraites stated that he thought the report was very comprehensive and covered  
208 everything we could possibly ask. Director Joly agreed and felt the rate payers would also agree.

209 Director Grossi stated that he thought the study was a really good start, however he  
210 emphasized we need to look at all options, including those to the west of the District. He  
211 recommended looking at Soulajule Reservoir and Nicasio Dam, noting he hopes the Jacobs Study  
212 would pull this into part of their regional approach with us. Director Grossi stated that we should  
213 consider if Nicasio is backfed, there may be options for NMWD to tie in with MMWD and the  
214 water brought back to Stafford Lake. Mr. Williams replied that the District has already had the  
215 discussion with MMWD and they are looking into that as part of their Jacobs Study.

216 President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

217 Ken Levin stated that he did not read the report, but asked if it included adding the state  
218 mandated units for Novato and the unincorporated areas of Marin. Mr. Williams replied that at  
219 this point that number is a moving target and staff is using the numbers from the Urban Water  
220 Management Plan for the Novato service area. He added that based on what he has seen from  
221 the City of Novato and the County of Marin, the tentative numbers fall in line with the plan. Mr.  
222 Levin asked if that supply study included West Marin. Mr. Williams replied the study cost for the  
223 Novato service area was \$225,000, noting the West Marin service area would struggle to pay that  
224 cost. He added that the staff is focusing on future grant money for West Marin to provide a master  
225 plan update in a couple of years which would include a full resiliency study and would include  
226 earthquake, flooding and water supply. Mr. Levin stated that the housing for Point Reyes Station  
227 in the next eight years includes 153 units, noting there could be one to five people in each unit.  
228 He expressed concern that this will impact the water supply.

229 Director Petterle thanked staff for the report, stating we don't want to be caught with our  
230 buckets empty in the future. He added that we started looking at this some time ago and stated  
231 that he is proud to be part of this agency and is looking forward to protecting our customers.

232 On the motion of Director Joly, and seconded by Director Baker, the Board accepted the  
233 final Local Water Supply Enhancement Study Report by the following vote:

234 AYES: Director Baker, Fraites, Grossi, Joly and Petterle

235 NOES: None

236 ABSTAIN: None

237 ABSENT: None

238 Director Fraites stated that in Novato there could be 2,500 to 3,000 units added that to the  
239 Novato service area. He asked what the percentage of water was needed to fulfill what they are  
240 asking to build. Director Fraites added that the biggest concern he has is that our customers are  
241 conserving water and will get frustrated when they see all these new homes being built. Mr.  
242 Williams referred Director Fraites to the graphic in the Urban Water Management Plan, stating if  
243 you go back fifteen years the Novato service area used much more water with less development.  
244 He added that because of new efficiencies we have seen a reduction that is still below demands  
245 over time. Mr. Williams noted that the current graph goes to 2045, and we are currently below  
246 the peaks we saw in 2006 and 2007. He added that it is tough to say that we wouldn't have water  
247 and that can be discussed further at a future Board meeting.

248 Director Joly noted that per the Jacobs Study, MMWD has gone down 2.6% and we have  
249 gone up 23%, and he wondered why that was the case. Mr. Williams stated that he is unable to  
250 comment on the other water contractors, such as MMWD's numbers in the report.

251 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

252 **TAC MEETING – JUNE 6, 2022**

253 Mr. Williams provided the minutes for the TAC Meeting on June 6, 2022. The topics  
254 discussed by the Technical Advisory Committee included: the Water Supply Conditions and  
255 Temporary Urgency Change Order; the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership; the Biological  
256 Opinion Status Update, the Potter Valley Project and a SCWA Government Affairs Update.

257 President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors and  
258 there were none.

259 President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no  
260 response.

261 **NBWA MEETING – JUNE 27, 2022**

262 Mr. Williams updated the Board on the NBWRA Meeting held on June 27, 2022. He  
263 acknowledged the vote for the Drought Contingency Plan and noted that the budget was approved  
264 at the meeting. Mr. Williams noted that NMWD is not a member of the Phase 2 recycled water  
265 projects since all of the District's work was completed under Phase 1.

266 President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors and  
267 there were none.

268 President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no  
269 response.

270 **NBWA MEETING – JULY 1, 2022**

271 Director Fraites reported on the NBWA meeting that was held on July 1, 2022. He updated  
272 the Board on the Legislative Stormwater Management. Director Fraites stated that there are two  
273 pieces of pending legislation. He stated that the first piece of legislation is SB 54, which has to  
274 do with plastic reduction to reduce the amount of plastics going into our water systems and soil.  
275 Director Fraites added that this includes tires and brakes as they are also big pollutants in our  
276 waterway. He noted that this is a \$5B program designed to clean up and monitor those pollutants.  
277 Director Fraites stated that the second piece of legislation is AB 2106, which deals with  
278 stormwater permits for commercial and industrial entities.

279 Director Fraites also announced that there will not be a NBWA meeting in August.

280 President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors and  
281 there were none.

282 President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no  
283 response.

284 **MISCELLANEOUS**

285 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated June 30,  
286 2022, Disbursements – Dated July 7, 2022, Disbursements – Dated July 14, 2022, MONTHLY  
287 PROGRESS REPORT w/Customer Service Questionnaire, EPA - National Lakes Assessment  
288 2022: A Fact Sheet for Communities, NBWA One Water Initiative – Land Use and Water  
289 Infrastructure Virtual Workshop Summary – June 2, 2022 and Approved FY 2022-23 Budget.

290 The Board received the following news articles: Smart' meters proliferate; Marin IJ –  
291 Progress iffy on state's water use despite arid era – DROUGHT; Marin IJ – Inflation biting into  
292 new projects – INFRASTRUCTURE; Marin IJ – Grand jury report rips water supply planning –  
293 Main Municipal blamed for 2021 drought emergency; Point Reyes Light – Marin details raft of  
294 housing programs; Marin IJ – Editorial – State pulls plug on ability to fight housing; Marin IJ –  
295 Diving deep: New water sources are on the table; Point Reyes Light – Crop values battered by  
296 drought; Marin IJ- Editorial – Grand jury put tight focus on water district; Point Reyes Light – Seats  
297 open on local boards; Point Reyes Light – New restroom, parking lot planned for Point Reyes;  
298 Marin IJ – Drought-driven deep cuts in water affect thousands of farms; Marin IJ – Californians  
299 miss targets for saving water again; Novato Advance – Alarm bells: COVID returns at higher levels  
300 -NEW SUB VARIANTS DEFEAT VACCINE; Eureka Times – PG&E plans to decommission Potter  
301 Valley Project and Capitol Weekly – Desalination: Should California use the ocean to quench its  
302 thirst?

303 The Board received the following social media posts: NMWD Web and Social Media  
304 Report – June 2022.

305 President Petterle asked if there were any comments or questions from the Directors and  
306 there were none.

307 President Petterle asked if anyone from the public would like to speak and there was no  
308 response.

309 **ADJOURNMENT**

310 President Petterle adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

311 Submitted by

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314 Theresa Kehoe

315 District Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors August 2, 2022  
From: Eric Miller, Assistant GM / Chief Engineer   
Subject: Amend Consulting Services Agreement - Wood Rodgers (WR)  
r:\non job no issues\consultants\wood rodgers\agmts\_bod memos\wood rodgers gsa contract amend 1 bod memo 8-22.doc

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorize the General Manager to amend the General Consulting Services Agreement with Wood Rodgers

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** \$20,000 (No budget augmentation needed at this time)

At the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Board approved a general services agreement with Wood Rodgers (WR) for \$30,000 for various projects, with the primarily focus on the Gallagher Well No. 2 project. The purpose of this memo is to request an amendment to the General Services Agreement with WR for professional services that are related and complimentary to the Gallagher Well No. 2 project.

BACKGROUND

WR has represented NMWD as the Engineer of Record for the design, well drilling specifications and oversight of the well drilling contractor for the New Gallagher Well No. 2 project. Throughout the process they have proven to be knowledgeable and thorough in representing the best interest of the District.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is funding the majority of the referenced project under the Small Community Drought Relief grant program, and have offered to consider a grant amendment to include the rehabilitation of Gallagher Well No. 1 under the same grant program. Well No. 1 has experienced a reduced output over time, and District staff agrees that it is worthwhile to pursue solutions. This contract amendment with WR would task them with performing a detailed investigation on the existing well condition and also with recommending solutions above and beyond the previous attempts at rehabilitating the well.

WR would establish baseline conditions with a drawdown test and a down hole camera survey, present solutions and specifications the District can use to approach vendors for pricing, monitor the work as it's performed and then retest well production to determine if conditions improve at Gallagher Well No. 1.

Approved by GM 

Date 7/28/22

EXPENDITURES

A cost breakdown for the initial \$30,000 contract with WR is summarized as follows:

Starting Contract Amount	\$30,000
Projects (expended to date)	
New Gallagher Well No. 2	<\$29,889>
Remaining Balance on Contract	\$11

Wood Rodgers expenditures currently total \$29,899, leaving a balance of \$11 on the contract. To fund the level of effort for the added tasks related to Well No. 1, a contract amendment is needed in the amount of \$20,000, resulting in a new contract total of \$50,000.

If approved by DWR, the efforts covered under this contract amendment would be reimbursed by the Small Community Drought Relief grant program and would have negligible financial impact on District budgets. If not approved by DWR, this additional amount would be covered by approved budget in the current Fiscal Year (2023) of the Capital Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board authorize the General Manager to amend the General Consulting Services Agreement with Wood Rodgers with a not-to-exceed limit of \$20,000.

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors Date: August 2, 2022

From: Tony Williams, General Manager *AW*  
Eric Miller, Assistant General Manager / Chief Engineer *EM*

Subject: Adopt Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Resolution – Oceana Marin Treatment and Storage Pond Repair

R:\Folders by Job No\17000 jobs\17173 OM Pond Rehab-404 Grant\BOD Memos\FEMA Grant App Updating Resolution for Authorized Agent 8-2-22 BOD Memo.doc

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the Board adopt the Authorizing Resolution

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None at this time

BACKGROUND

At the September 19, 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved a contract amendment with GHD (consultant) to assist staff with preparing FEMA/CalOES grant application for the Oceana Marin Treatment and Storage Pond Rehabilitation project. The application was completed and submitted to CalOES on November 1, 2017, and the District was awarded a total of \$893,235 for the design (\$128,602.50) as well as construction (\$764,632.50) of the project.

Part of the requirement of the grant program is to provide confirmation that the Board will designate signature authority to an "Authorized Agent" for federal financial assistance funding with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The original resolution was brought to the Board for approval at the November 7, 2017 meeting. Since that time, CalOES noted that the title of the grant program was incorrectly named in the resolution therefore, a new resolution is necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board adopt the Authorizing Resolution.

Approved by GM *AW*

Date 7/28/22

RESOLUTION NO. 22-xx

**AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION**

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT (The "Entity"), AS FOLLOWS:

The General Manager, Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer, and Auditor Controller (the "Authorized Representatives") or designee are hereby authorized and directed to execute and file applications for federal financial assistance for existing and future grant programs with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

\* \* \*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

(SEAL)

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Theresa Kehoe, Secretary  
North Marin Water District

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors Date: August 2, 2022  
From: Julie Blue, Auditor/Controller *JB*  
Subject: Consulting Services Agreement for Connection Fee Study with Hildebrand Consulting  
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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Hildebrand Consulting to conduct a Connection Fee Study  
**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Not to exceed \$51,060

**Background:**

Connection fees are one-time charges paid by new development to access capacity in the water system. The District's current connection fees were most recently reviewed in 2014 and an update is proposed to ensure that the fees that are being charged to developers or new customers are sufficient to recover the cost of providing access to the water system and that the fees are fair and reasonable. The calculation of capacity charges is governed by California Government Code Section 66013, as well as constitutional requirements and court decisions.

**Objective:**

The objective of the Connection Fee Study is to ensure that the charges collected reflect the estimated reasonable cost of giving access to water systems capacity for new development, based on the estimated cost and value of the system capacity. The recommendations for new water connections fees will be documented in a written report which will include a description of the calculation methodology and rationale. The draft report will be reviewed by staff, the Board of Directors, and the public at two board meetings prior to approval.

**Consultant Selection:**

Hildebrand Consulting has provided connection fee studies, water and sewer rate setting studies, and related services to public agencies throughout Northern California. Mark Hildebrand, the sole proprietor of Hildebrand Consulting, recently provided professional expertise during the course of the District's Drought Surcharge Review Report (2022) and previously provided water rate studies for the Novato Water (2020), Recycled Water (2020), and West Marin (2021) Service Areas. Throughout each study he communicated clearly with Staff, the Board, and members of the public, and provided thorough and substantive reports.



### **Scope of Work**

Hildebrand's proposed scope of work is included as Attachment 1. The scope of work is divided into five tasks listed below:

1. Kickoff Meeting and Data Request
2. Calculate Water Connection Fees
3. Prepare Draft/Final Report
4. Presentations
5. As-Needed Consulting Services

As part of the study, Regulation 1, New Service Connections will be reviewed and modified if needed. Additional Regulations may need review during the study and include Regulation 29, Facilities Reserve Charge when Extenders Pay for Storage, Pumping or Treatment Facilities, Regulation 30, Reimbursement of Extension of Pipelines that Benefit Others, and Regulation 18, Recycled Water Service. The total fee for these tasks is estimated at a maximum of \$51,060. The cost of this study and as needed services will be expended through the Consulting/Services and Studies budget as approved in the FY 22/23 Budget.

### **Schedule**

The analysis is scheduled to begin in August 2022 to be concluded by December 2022. The results of the study will be presented at regularly scheduled board meetings in late 2022 or early 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the General Manger to execute an agreement between Hildebrand Consulting, and the District for a Connection Fee Study for the Novato Water, Recycled Water, and West Marin Service Areas with a not to exceed limit of \$51,060.



July 27, 2022

Julie Blue, Auditor-Controller  
North Marin Water District  
999 Rush Creek Place  
Novato, CA 94945

Subject: Proposal for a Water Connection Fee Study

Dear Ms. Blue,

In response to your request, Hildebrand Consulting, LLC. is pleased to submit this proposal to provide the North Marin Water District (District) with consulting services to update the District's existing Water Connection Fees for the Novato service area, the West Marin service area and Recycled Water services.

## Background

The District's connection fees (referred to as "Capacity Charges" by California law) are one-time charges paid by new development for capacity in the water system. The District wishes to update its connection fee schedule to ensure that the fees that are being charged to developers are sufficient to recover the cost of providing access to the water system and that the fees are fair and reasonable. Our methodologies will comply with applicable law. The calculation of capacity charges is governed by California Government Code Section 66013, as well as constitutional requirements and court decisions.

Our understanding is that the District's current connection fee was most recently calculated in 2014 using the system "incremental cost" methodology which was determined by dividing the cost of anticipated growth-related capital projects (from the then-current Master Plan) by the expected number of new connections over the next twenty years. The basic equation for calculating the connection fee charge using the incremental cost method is:

$$\frac{\text{Cost of Expanding the Capacity of the System}}{\text{New Capacity Created by Expansion Projects}}$$

While the cost of procuring new water supply (i.e., water rights, water contracts, desalination, recycled water) was not necessarily included in the calculations of the existing connection fees, it is anticipated that quantifying these costs may be integral to the approach going forward.

Alternatively, there also exists the "buy-in" approach for calculating connection fees, which examines the historical cost of the District's existing infrastructure while accounting for

depreciation. The basic equation for calculating the connection fee charge using the buy-in method is:

$$\frac{\text{Present Value of Existing System}}{\text{Total Capacity of System}}$$

A third option would be to use a hybrid of the above approaches.

We will work with the District to determine which of these methodologies are the most appropriate going forward to ensure that “growth pays for growth.” It may be that the different service areas (Novato, West Marin and Recycled Water) will follow different methodologies, based on the specific situation for each system.

### **Proposed Scope of Work and Approach**

The study will be divided into the tasks described below. Conference calls will be held with District staff, as needed.

#### Task 1 – Kickoff Meeting and Data Request

Hildebrand Consulting will meet with District staff to discuss the two methodologies described above and determine the most appropriate approach for each water system. It is assumed that the recommended approach will be identified at this early stage in the study (i.e., the scope does not include multiple iterations with different approaches). Based on this understanding, we will submit a data request related to cost data (either an asset register or a capital spending budget) and the capacity data. Additional information may be requested during the study.

#### Task 2 – Calculate Water Connection Fees

Hildebrand Consulting will calculate connection fees for the three water systems (Novato, West Marin and Recycled Water) using the data provided by the District. The charges will reflect the estimated reasonable cost of giving access to water systems capacity for new development, based on the estimated cost/value of system capacity. A complete schedule, based on meter size, will be developed based on the capacity associated with each meter size. Calculations will be consistent with the requirements contained in Government Code Section 66013.

The fees will be structured such that specific portions of the fee may be waived in the event that a developer makes in-kind contributions to the system (e.g., a developer installs the local distribution pipe needed to connect to the transmission lines).

#### Task 3 - Prepare Draft / Final Report

The recommendations for new water connection fees will be documented in a written report. The report will include a description of the calculation methodology and rationale, data and information used and the intended purpose and use of connection fee revenue. A draft report

will be prepared for staff review and comment. Requested edits and changes will be incorporated in a final report.

Task 4 – Presentations

Our recommendations will be presented at two Board meetings. The budget assumes that all meetings will be held remotely.

Task 5 – As-Needed Consulting Services

This additional as-needed task will serve as both a contingency for additional analysis associated with the connection fee study or other rate consulting services as requested by District staff.

**Schedule and Fee**

We propose a time and materials budget with a not to exceed limit, as described in the table below. We will bill monthly based on the percent completion of the project.

		<b>Hildebrand Consulting</b>	
		Hourly Rate:	\$230
		<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Task 1	Kickoff, Data Collection and Review	16	\$3,680
Task 2	Calculate Connection Fees	80	\$18,400
Task 3	Prepare Draft / Final Report	67	\$15,410
Task 4	Presentation Meetings (2)	16	\$3,680
Task 5	As-Needed Consulting Services	43	\$9,890
<b>Total:</b>		<b>179</b>	
<b>Not to Exceed Fee:</b>			<b>\$51,060</b>

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this proposal. I appreciate the opportunity to be of continued service to the District.

Sincerely,

  
 Mark Hildebrand  
 Hildebrand Consulting, LLC.  
 510.316.0621 (m)

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors  
From: Tony Williams, General Manager *TW*  
Subject: Board of Directors Hybrid Meeting Plan Update  
L:\gmibed misc 2022\18-2-22 hybrid meetings\18-2-22 bod memo hybrid mtg update.docx

Date: August 2, 2022

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None at this time

At the April 19, 2022 Board meeting, a discussion was held regarding in-person Board meetings in light of some local agencies considering transition to or actually transitioning to full in-person or hybrid meeting settings. At the June 7, 2022 Board Meeting a draft Hybrid Meeting Plan (Hybrid Plan) was provided and reviewed by staff. On June 24, 2022 District staff who normally worked at the District main office at 999 Rush Creek Place moved to the temporary location at 100 Wood Hollow Drive, Suite 300 as part of the Administration and Laboratory Upgrade Project (J-6501.44). The draft Hybrid Plan provided seating layouts for the Board members and key staff at the Wood Hollow offices as well as the renovated headquarters building. As of the end of July, the space within the temporary offices at Wood Hollow is available for holding a hybrid meeting.

In the near term, the Board has the option of continuing with a full virtual meeting setting, or implementing a hybrid meeting setting at 100 Wood Hollow. Considering the current status of the COVID subvariant case rates as well as recent public health recommendations, especially for indoor settings, it is staff's recommendation to continue with the fully virtual meeting setting. Currently, the following local agencies are holding virtual meetings: MMWD, Novato Sanitary District, Novato Fire Protection District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District.

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**DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 21, 2022**

Date Prepared 7/18/22

The following demands made against the District are listed for approval and authorization for payment in accordance with Section 31302 of the California Water Code, being a part of the California Water District Law:


Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
1	Ahmed's Moving Express, Inc.	Moving Services from District Admin Building to Wood Hollow (6/23-6/25)	\$18,792.45
2	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	220.00
3	A.S.T.I.	Backflow Testing (48)	5,655.00
4	Bank of Marin	Bank of Marin Loan Principal & Interest (Pynt 129 of 240) Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project	46,066.67
5	Bay Area Air Quality Mgmt Dist	Annual Permit Renewal Fees (Dillon Beach)	483.00
6	Baywork	Annual Fees FY22-23 (Clyde) (7/22-6/23) (Budget \$1,500)	1,500.00
7	Bobcat of Santa Rosa	Service Parts (Track Loader)	330.34
8	Chandrasekera, Carmela	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	1,137.78
9	Chris Gatewood Industries, Inc.	HYDAC Filter Replacement (STP)	90.86
10	Cilia, Joseph	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	409.28
11	Clipper Direct	August Commuter Benefit Program	76.00
12	Comcast	July Phone Service (100 Wood Hollow) (\$1,126) & Installation (\$208)	1,334.61
13	Comcast	July Internet Connection (999 Rush Creek PI)	199.50
14	Economopoulos, Lia	Novato "Cash for Grass" Rebate Program	400.00
15	Fisher Scientific	Safety Gloves (100) (\$153), Brush, Microscope Dust Cover, Conductivity Meter & Probe (\$1,424) (Lab)	1,616.28
16	Scott Foster Engineering Inc.	Prog Pynt#2: Provide Hydraulic Pressure Surge Analysis Services at Kastania & Ignacio Pump Stations (Balance Remaining on Contract \$620)	9,120.00
17	Friedman's Home Improvement	Hardware & Lumber	30.05




Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
18	GHD Inc.	Prog Pymt#16: Old Ranch Rd Tank No. 2 Design Services (Balance Remaining on Contract \$24,572)	1,267.90
19	Grainger	Motor Coils (3) (\$347), Lab Supplies (STP) (\$326) & Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies (\$445)	1,118.48
20	Hach Co.	Sodium Persulfate (STP)	491.64
21	Harrington Industrial Plastics	Plumbing Supplies for Sodium Chlorite Tank @ STP	481.06
22	InfoSend, Inc.	June Processing Fee for Water Bills (\$1,390), Postage (\$3,828) & Monthly Support Fee (\$969)	6,186.99
23	Jackson, David	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	1,137.78
24	Latanyzyn, Roman	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	409.28
25	LeBrun, Kent	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	200.00
26	Lemos, Kerry	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	1,137.78
27	Maggiora Bros Drilling	Prog Pymt#1: Install New Well for Gallagher Well #2 Project (Balance Remaining on Contract \$87,050)	100,001.75
28	Manzoni, Alicia	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	409.28
29	Marin Independent Journal	Display Ads: Notice to Consider Proposed Rate Increase (\$142) & Ordinance 41 (\$114)	256.62
30	Marin County Ford	Service Parts ('15 Escape-\$247, '20 F250-\$197, '20 F150-\$103, '19 F550-\$289)	836.76
31	McIntyre, Drew	Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)	409.28
32	Noll & Tam Architects	Prog Pymt#15: Consulting Services for NMWD Headquarters Upgrade A/E Services (Balance Remaining on Contract \$55,161)	29,013.75
33	North Bay Gas	Nitrogen (\$840) & Breathing Air (STP)	854.71
34	Novato Sanitary District	Operation for Deer Island Recycled Water Facility (5/9-5/13, 5/17-5/27)	2,702.00
35	Novato Chevrolet Inc.	Sensor ('20 Chevy Colorado)	31.84

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
36	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Storage Cabinets (2) (\$719), Office Chair (\$191), Scanner (Lab) (\$540) & Misc Office Supplies (\$778)	2,227.65
37	Parkinson Accounting Systems	June Accounting Software Support (\$195) & Annual Maintenance on Accounting Software (8/1/22-7/31/22) (\$2,570)	2,765.00
38	Peterson Trucks	A/C Repairs ('12 Int'l 5 Yard Dump Truck)	1,751.89
39	Pini Hardware	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	688.83
40	Point Reyes Prop Mgmt Assn	July HOA Fee (25 Giacomini Rd)	75.05
41	Preferred Alliance, Inc.	Pre-Employment Physical (Miller)	42.00
42	Soiland Co., Inc.	Rock (16 yds)	537.75
43	Sonoma County Water Agency	June Contract Water	430,069.32
44	Staples Business Credit	Misc Office Supplies	57.98
45	Syar Industries Inc	Sand (15 yds)	958.28
46	Township Building Services	June Janitorial Services	2,157.61
47	USA BlueBook	Flasks (2) (STP)	76.71
48	VWR International LLC	Buffer & Duo-Spore Indicator (\$199) (Lab)	232.49
49	Waste Management	Yard Trash	690.13
50	Winzer Corporation	Grind Discs for Shop (40)	170.17
		<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$676,909.58</u></b>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$676,909.58 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


07/20/22  
 Auditor-Controller Date


7/20/22  
 General Manager Date

## DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 28, 2022

Date Prepared 7/25/22

The following demands made against the District are listed for approval and authorization for payment in accordance with Section 31302 of the California Water Code, being a part of the California Water District Law:


Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
P/R	Employees	Net Payroll PPE 7/15/22	\$158,930.99
90504*	Internal Revenue Service	Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 7/15/22	72,786.23
90505*	State of California	State Taxes & SDI PPE 7/15/22	16,443.85
90506*	CalPERS	Pension Contribution PPE 7/15/22	41,247.46
90503*	CalPERS	Annual Unfunded Liability (Classic \$1,243,606 & Pepra \$5,326)	1,248,932.00
90507*	CalPERs	August Health Insurance Premium (Employer \$47,738, Retirees \$12,058 & Employee Contribution \$7,851)	67,646.69
EFT*	US Bank	June Bank Analysis Charge (Lockbox \$912 & Other \$384 Less Interest \$81)	\$1,214.36
61023*	HMS Software	TimeControl On-line Subscription & Implementation Consulting	11,775.00
1	100 Wood Hollow Drive Owner	August Wood Hollow Rent	28,557.82
2	Amazon/Genuine-Hardware	Computer Supplies (\$4,146), Office Supplies (\$136), Dishpans for Lab (2) (\$22) & Outdoor Lights (2) (\$134)	4,437.88
3	Arrow Benefits Group	July 2022 Dental Admin Fees	259.90
4	A.S.T.I.	Annual Fire Service Testing (88)	10,100.00
5	Athens Administrators	April & May Indemnity Review Fee	210.00
6	AT&T	Leased Lines	67.94
7	Backflow Distributors	Double Check Backflow Assemblies (2)	6,806.84
8	Bay Area Barricade Service	White Striping Paint (60)	421.64
9	Benjamin Franklin Plumbing	Video Services on Sewer Line (999 Rush Creek Place)	985.00

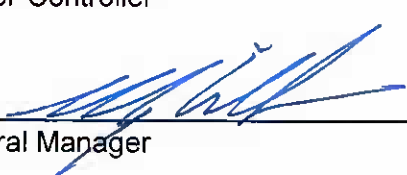
Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
10	Blankinship & Associates	Retainer for 2022 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Aquatic Weed Permit	1,000.00
11	Bold & Polisner	June Legal Fees-General (\$3,656) & Potter Valley FERC NMWD Portion (\$900)	4,556.25
12	Buck's Saw Service	Parts for Weed Trimmer	32.24
13	Buck Institute for Research on Aging	Quarterly Lease for Lab Dept @ Buck Institute (8/16/22-11/15/22)	26,892.00
14	B.W.S. Distributors	SCABA Escape Bottles for STP	877.48
15	California Water Service	Water Service (0 ccf) (OM)	30.68
16	Comcast	June & July Internet Services @ Buck Institute	703.00
17	Consolidated CM	Prog Pymt#13: Construction Management Services for NMWD Admin Building Renovation Project (Balance Remaining on Contract \$970,811)	15,569.00
18	Core & Main	Flanges (10) (\$1,593), Clamps (\$1,104), Elbows (5) (\$890), Accessory Sets (10) (\$1,292), Couplings (16) (\$6,533), Gaskets (50) (\$433), Nipples (10) (\$211), Valves (8) (\$8,593), Coal Tar Tape (8) (\$589), Spool (\$280), Pipe (200') (\$6,928), Box Lids (6) (\$1,265), Tees (5) (\$52), Service Saddles (4) (\$377) & Reducer (\$503)	30,643.41
19	Diesel Direct West	Gasoline (895 gals)	4,466.41
20	Dowd, Bianca	Novato "Cash for Grass" Rebate	675.00
21	EKI Environment & Water, Inc.	Prog Pymt#3: Annual Water Supply & Demand Assessment (Balance Remaining on Contract \$193,428)	1,604.98
22	Environmental Resource Assoc	Quick Response PT Study	1,002.52
23	Evans, Joyce	Refund Overpayment on Closed Account	124.84
24	Fishman Supply Co	Brief Relief Urine Bags (10,000) (\$299) & Safety Vests (11) (\$113)	412.32
25	Fisher Scientific	Suspended Solids (Lab)	94.52
26	Goodpaster, Stacie	Exp Reimb: Coolers for Lab	49.88

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
27	Grainger	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	671.71
28	Hach Co.	Phosphoric Acid Solution (\$461), Ascorbic Acid Pillows (\$136), Alkaline Cyanide Reagent (\$148) & Solution (\$112) (STP)	857.51
29	Heilman, Kurt	Novato "Cash for Grass" Rebate Program	256.00
30	International Dioxide Inc	Service Parts, Labor & Expenses on Chlorine Dioxide Generator (STP)	11,458.10
31	Integra Chemical	Dechlorination Tablets (420 lbs) (STP)	7,581.60
32	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	Pre-Employment Physical (Yamagata)	65.00
33	Kiosk Creative LLC	Marketing Communication & Outreach Services (Balance Remaining on Contract \$63,065)	13,512.89
34	Department of Labor and Industries Washington	Quarterly Fee for WA Worker's Comp Insurance for Employee Working Remotely	33.73
35	Maggiora & Ghilotti	Prog Pymt#7: Old Ranch Road Tank No. 2 Construction Services (Balance Remaining on Contract \$249,300)	173,472.50
36	McAghon, Andrew	Lawn Be Gone Mulching Program (505 Stone Drive) (700 sq ft) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$458)	496.00
37	McLellan Co, WK	Misc Paving	1,321.38
38	Miller Pacific Engineering	Prog Pymt#25: Admin Building Renovation Project-Geotechnical Services (\$306) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$60,262), Prog Pymt#26: Gallagher Well#2 Project (\$2,102) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$58,159) & Prog Pymt#27: Geotechnical Services for Old Ranch Rd Tank No. 2 (\$4,563) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$53,596)	6,971.66
39	Novato Sanitary District	February (\$4,444), March (\$21,016) & April (\$24,362) 2022 RW Operating Expense	49,823.18
40	Pace Supply	Box Lids (50) (\$3,183) & 2" Meter Gaskets (12) (\$101)	3,284.39

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
41	Quadient, Inc.	August Postal Meter Rental	142.76
42	Rodas, Edalmilton	Refund Overpayment on Open Account	669.54
43	Rotary Club of West Marin	Annual Dues (Clark) (Budget \$380)	380.00
44	Sage 100	Annual Software Subscription Renewal (7/22-7/23) (Budget \$8,500)	9,349.00
45	Scott Technology Group	Monthly Maintenance on Engineering Copier (\$201) & Contract Overage Charge (\$78)	279.26
46	SPG Solar Facility XII, LLC	June Energy Delivered Under Solar Services Agreement	16,122.69
47	State Water Resources Control	Clean Drinking Water SRF Loan Principal & Interest -RW S PH2 (Pymt #9 of 20)	100,232.68
48	Univar	Sodium Hypochlorite (800 gal) (O.M.)	960.28
49	USA BlueBook	Beakers (30) (\$199) & Heavy Duty Flasks (3) (\$59) (STP)	258.93
50	VBS CAL LLC	Bond & Vellum Paper for Engineering	305.11
51	Watkins, Jeff	Exp Reimb: ASE Certification Fees	184.00
52	Wood Rodgers, Inc.	Prog Pymt#10: Provide Engineering & Hydrogeological Services for Gallagher Well No. 2 (Balance Remaining on Contract \$111)	13,617.35
53	ZORO	Tow Straps (2)	93.76
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b><u>\$2,171,959.14</u></b>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$2,171,959.14 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


07/26/22  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auditor-Controller Date


7/26/22  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager Date

# One Year Later, DWR Has Provided Nearly Half a Billion in Drought Relief to Communities

Published: July 13, 2022

A year after receiving funding from the [Budget Act of 2021](#), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has successfully awarded more than \$440 million to date in drought relief assistance to small and urban communities to address water supply challenges and help build local resilience.

The Budget Act of 2021 allocated \$500 million in total drought-relief funds to DWR following extreme dry conditions and Governor Newsom's statewide drought emergency declaration. Of the \$500 million, \$200 million was dedicated for the [Small Community Drought Relief Program](#) and \$300 million for the [Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program](#). Both programs help address drought impacts in small and urban communities and have awarded funds to more than 200 projects statewide.

"Managing California's water supply means considering the health and safety needs of our communities, as well as providing the resources they need to overcome these dry conditions," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "Our staff has done a remarkable job expediting the grant process to deliver financial support to our communities who need it most."

## Small Community Drought Relief Program

The [Small Community Drought Relief Program](#), which helps communities not served by an urban water supplier, awarded \$175 million to 89 projects over seven phases of funding. The projects were identified by DWR in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board and prioritized investing in long term solutions such as providing reliable water supply sources, improving water system storage, replacing aging infrastructure, and arranging alternative power sources. The grant program also established county-wide hauled and bottled water programs to provide an immediate water supply to residents who ran out of water due to the drought. Since funds were awarded, some recipients have begun planning and construction including:

- **The City of Orland in Glenn County:** Last summer, over 100 private domestic wells were reported as dry or at risk in and around the city of Orland. The city originally received \$7,735,000 during phase two of the Small Community Drought Relief Program to increase water supply capacity and expand the water distribution system to rural residents. Following a revised scope of work, the city was awarded an additional \$8,978,400 from the program to ensure that all 150 households identified could be connected to the new water system. Construction for the project is expected to begin in January 2023.
- **The North Marin Water District in Marin County:** The district received \$464,019 during phase

five to address saltwater intrusion in the wells serving the West Marin community. The district began drilling a new well and pipeline in early June that will supply the community with an additional clean water supply.

### **Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program**

To help urban communities address drought impacts, the [Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program](#) awarded \$268 million to 126 projects over three phases of funding. All three phases included set-aside funds for underrepresented communities and Tribes. The selected projects address immediate drought impacts on human health and safety like improving water supply reliability, drinking water quality, and supporting water conservation. With financial support from DWR, some of the projects expected to start and or finish construction this year include:

- **The City of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County:** Last summer, the city declared a Stage 4 water crisis as a result of drought conditions in the Noyo River. To strengthen long-term resilience for current and future droughts, the city was awarded \$8,797,500 from the first phase of awards to reinforce a critical raw water supply line that supplies over half the water used by the city. Construction will begin in July.
- **The San Pasqual Duro Community Waterline Project in San Diego County:** The project received \$1 million from the second phase of awards to construct a new water main and two pump stations. The new infrastructure will support the Duro Community on the San Pasqual Band of Indians Reservation by allowing the Tribe to access 16,000 acre-feet per year through an established agreement with Valley Center Municipal Water District. Construction is expected to begin in November.
- **The Lost Hills Utility District in Kern County:** The district received \$1,341,040 from the first phase of awards to construct a new well. The newly constructed well will extract 800 gallons per minute and will connect to the district's existing water treatment and distribution system to supply the community of Lost Hills. Construction is expected to be completed in September.

### **Drought Relief Funds Support Wildlife, Ecosystems**

In addition to providing critical support to communities, the State is also supporting wildlife and ecosystems during the drought.

DWR contributed \$8 million in multi-benefit drought relief funds to the California Rice Commission to support a special [Drought Relief Waterbird Program](#) to help respond to immediate drought impacts that are creating a loss in migratory waterfowl habitat in the Sacramento Valley. Response to this program was overwhelming, with more than 50,000 acres of shallow flooded habitat on Sacramento Valley rice fields added to support migratory waterbird this past winter. In response to the success seen last winter, a spring/summer program has launched to support food production for ducks.

As California prepares for warmer temperatures and the potential of a fourth dry year driven by climate change, the State remains committed to tracking ongoing impacts of the drought and is working to identify solutions to protect communities and wildlife alike.



The full list of projects funded by DWR's drought relief programs can be viewed here. For more information on DWR and State drought response efforts and funding programs, visit: [drought.ca.gov](http://drought.ca.gov).



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

August 2, 2022

From: Nancy Williamson, Senior Accountant *NW*

Subj: Information – FY22 4th Quarter Labor Cost Report  
t:\acl\word\memo\22\4th qtr labor cost rpt.doc

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

Total labor cost increased \$419,380 (5.0%) from the prior fiscal year and is \$894,115 (9.1%) below the FY22 budget at year-end. Attached in graphical format is a five-year comparative summary of total labor cost (Attachment A), overtime cost (Attachment B) and temporary employee cost (Attachment C) expended during each fiscal year. Also attached is a summary of total labor cost vs. budget (Attachment D) through the end of the fiscal year.

Department	Increase / (Decrease) in Labor Cost vs prior FY	% Change
Administration	\$85,884	4.0%
Engineering	\$292,059	21.1%
Operations/Maint	\$111,598	3.6%
Construction/Maint	(\$70,161)	(3.9%)
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$419,380	(5.0%)

Comment on Change from Prior Year

**Administration:** Labor Cost increased \$85,884, or 4.0%. The increase was primarily due to the HR/Safety Manager Position being filled all year, six 5% step increases, more temporary and overtime hours worked and the 3.7% cost of living adjustment (COLA) effective October 1, of 2021. The increase was offset by a vacancy in the Field Service Representative Position from October 8, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

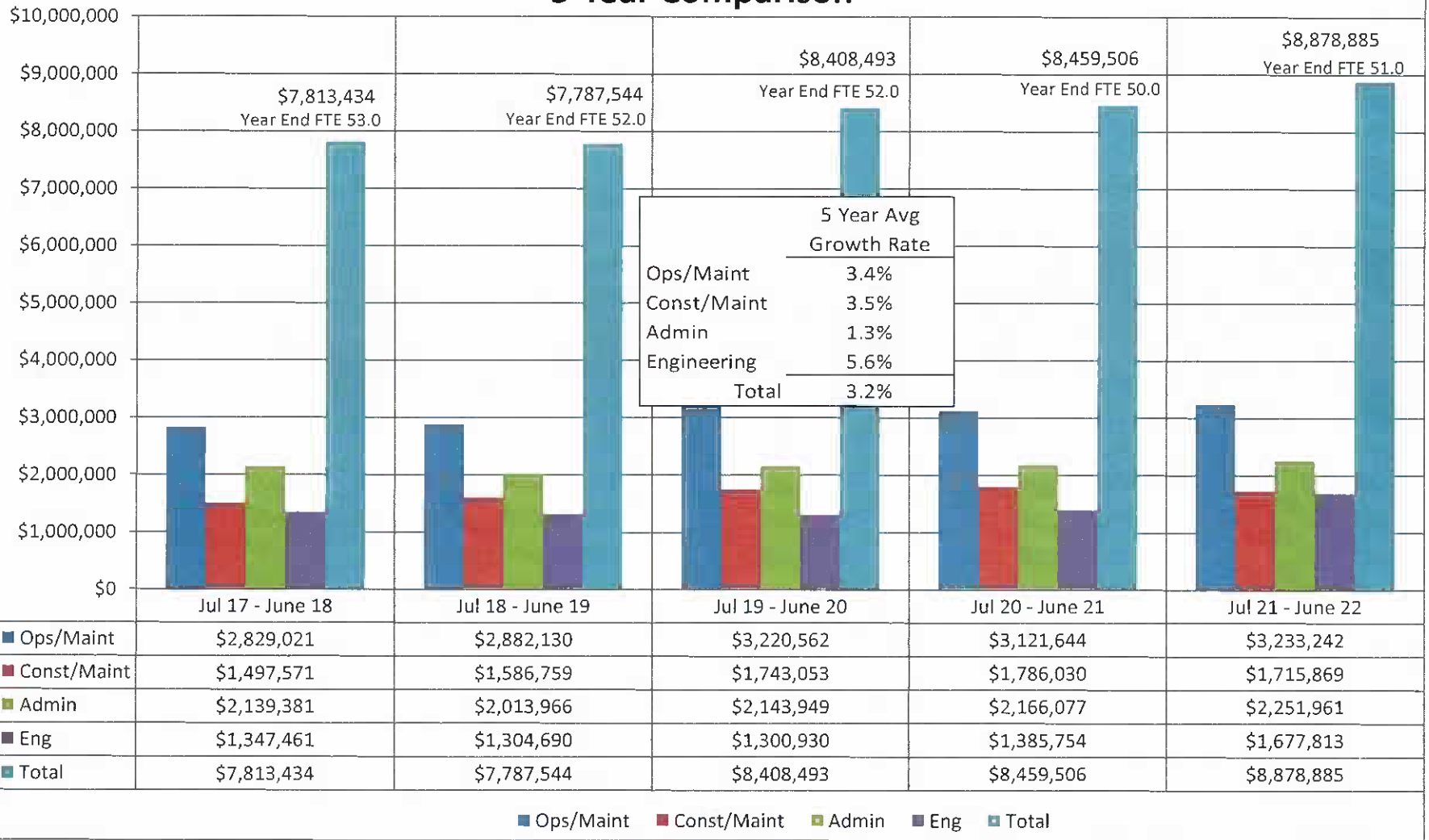
**Engineering:** Labor Cost increased \$292,059, or 21.1%. The increase is primarily due to the resignation of the Chief Engineer on February 4, 2020 and that position remaining vacant until October 12, 2020, the Senior Engineer position being filled on May 3, 2021, the October 2021 COLA and four 5% step increases. The increase was offset by less temporary hours worked.

**Operations/Maintenance:** Labor Cost increased \$111,598, or 3.6%. The increase was due to the Assistant Water Distrib & TP Operator position being filled on July 12, 2021, a position which had been vacant since December 2, 2021, more Temporary hours worked, nine 5% step increases and the October 2021 COLA. The increase was offset by 1,806 more hours of leave time taken this FY. Average leave time hours per year are factored into Employee Hourly

leave time taken this FY. Average leave time hours per year are factored into Employee Hourly Rates, but when the amount of leave time taken significantly differs from year to year it has an impact on labor cost.

**Construction/Maintenance:** Labor Cost decreased \$70,161, or 3.9%. The decrease was due to less On Call pay this year compared to last year when an entire crew would be on call in order to keep crews separate due to COVID-19 distancing precautions and to 1,264 less total hours worked due to vacancies in various positions during the year. The decrease was offset by four 5% step-increases and the October 2021 COLA.

## Total Labor Cost NMWD Fiscal Year through June 5-Year Comparison



## Overtime Cost NMWD Fiscal Year through June 5-Year Comparison



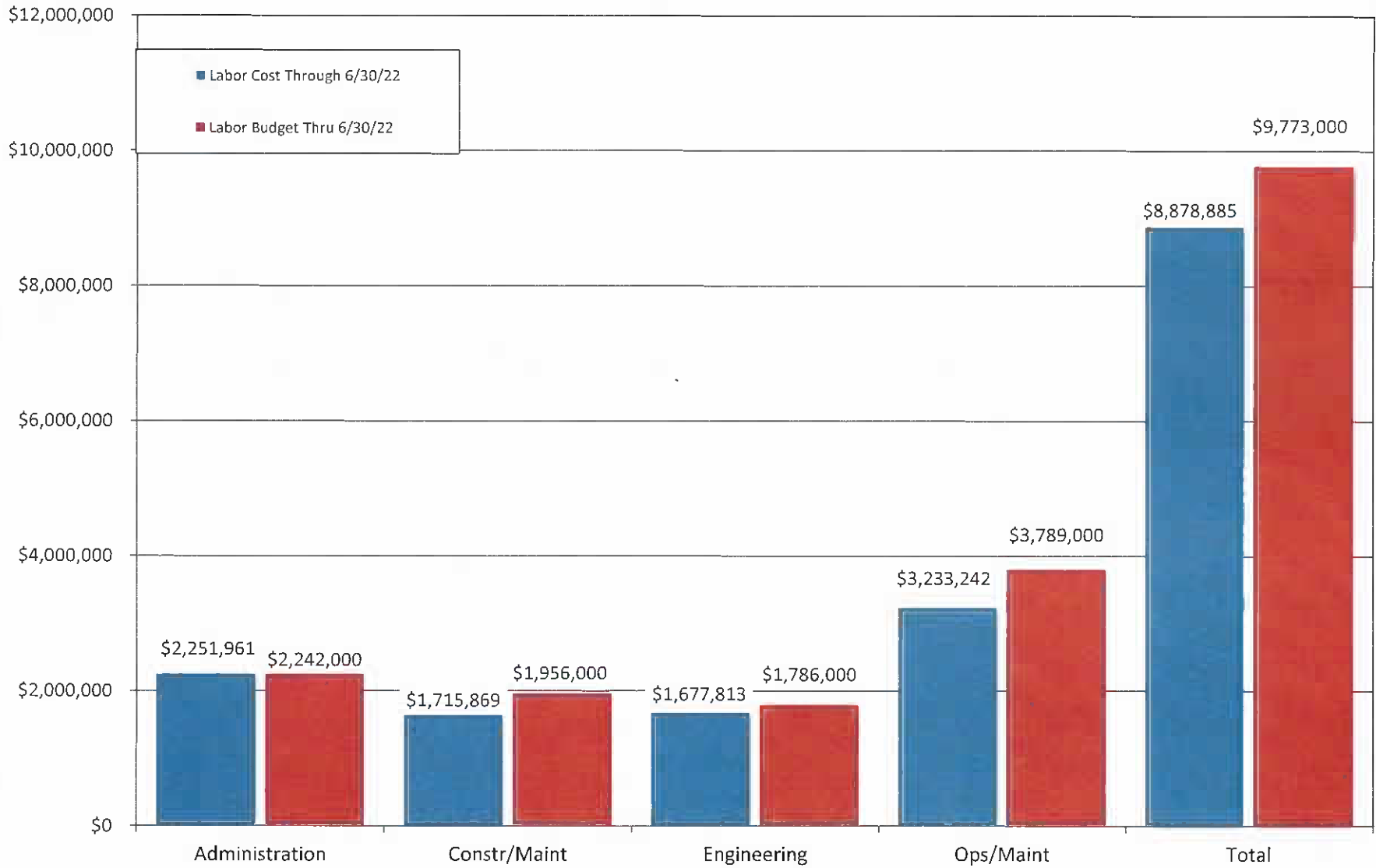
## Temporary Employee Cost NMWD Fiscal Year through June 5-Year Comparison



8/2/22

\\finance\hrs\reports\labor cost compared to budget fy22\salary chart.xls

# Total Labor Cost vs. Budget NMWD Fiscal Year through June



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## County has eye on viral variant

BY RICHARD HALSTEAD

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Marin health officials said Wednesday they are keeping a close eye on the COVID-19 omicron subvariant dominating the county.

“I don’t think that we have seen the real impact of BA.5 in Marin yet,” said Dr. Matt Willis, the Marin County public health officer. “That is something that we’re going to be seeing in the next few weeks.”

Of the most recent batch of positive COVID-19 test samples that underwent genomic sequencing recently, 50% were identified as BA.5, Willis said. But he suspects the strain accounts for about 80% of Marin’s COVID cases.

The increasing predominance of the subvariant nationally is causing concern among health officials because it is more highly transmissible than previous omicron subvariants and can elude the protection provided by vaccines and prior infection.

However, BA.5 is not believed to be more virulent than previous subvariants and vaccines appear to remain effective in preventing serious illness and death in most cases.

“We’d be in trouble globally if BA.5 were more virulent because it certainly has a lot of advantages with regard to infectivity,” Willis said. “It moves more quickly through communities.”

About 100 Marin residents a day are reporting positive COVID-19 tests. That compares with 21 per day in late February, when cases



were at a low ebb before the emergence of the omicron BA.2 subvariant, which was also more contagious than its predecessor.

Willis, however, said, “Our cases rates are a massive undercount of the actual amount of virus in our community.”

That is because today many Marin residents who develop symptoms either use a home antigen test or don’t test at all, instead of seeking a more definitive lab test.

Willis said the likelihood of an undercount is bolstered by the fact that the amount of virus being detected in Marin wastewater corresponds with levels found in January, when about three times the number of positive tests were being reported.

The rising number of Marin residents infected with COVID-19 is not causing Willis to consider reimposing mandatory safety precautions, such as indoor masking.

“We would need to see more evidence of the health care system being overwhelmed,” Willis said. “Yes, we are seeing a lot of cases, but we’re not seeing surges of cases coming into the hospitals.”

The number of people admitted to Marin’s three hospitals daily because of COVID-19 has remained fairly steady at 10 for more than a month.

“Back in mid-May we had nine and now we have 10,” Willis said. “There is a slight upward trend.”

As throughout the pandemic, Marin residents in long-term care centers remain at the highest risk of dying from COVID-19. The county has averaged about one COVID-19 death per week for the last month, and most of those who died were nursing home residents.

“So we’re doubling down in our work with the facilities to ensure that residents are protected with not only the first but the second booster,” Willis said, “and to make sure that Paxlovid and other treatments are readily available.”

The majority of long-term care residents in Marin who have ended up in the hospital have not had the second booster. The Washington Post reported Monday that the Biden administration is considering seeking approvals to allow all adults to receive a second booster shot.

“We’re encouraging anyone above age 50, and anyone who has risk factors for becoming seriously ill if infected, to go ahead and get that second booster now and not wait,” Willis said.

In Marin, just over 90% of residents have completed their first series of vaccinations and over 64% have received one booster.

In addition to getting boosters, Willis recommends that Marin residents voluntarily wear a high-quality KN95 mask when interacting with groups of people indoors.

In addition to the 10 coronavirus patients who are typically hospitalized daily in Marin, another 10 asymptomatic patients test positive daily when they enter local hospitals for treatment of other problems, Willis noted. Approximately 100 people enter the hospitals daily.

That means, if the hospital’s census is indicative of Marin’s population as whole, about one of every 20 people in the community is infected with COVID-19.

Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, a University of California-San Francisco professor of medicine who specializes in infectious diseases, said it is important to notify a health care provider after a positive test.

“The most important thing is a pragmatic thing, your health care provider can help you decide if you need to take Paxlovid,” the most common anti-viral for COVID, said Chin-Hong.

And even if you aren’t seeking treatments, “you should tell them and they can enter it officially” in your medical record, he said.

*Bay Area News Group contributed to this report.*

NOVATO

# Building permit, inspection process changes studied

BY WILL HOUSTON

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The Novato City Council advanced a plan this week aimed at streamlining its building permitting and inspection in response to longstanding complaints from homeowners and contractors.

Among the changes being recommended are reducing penalties for unpermitted work; providing more time to complete projects after a permit is issued, enabling remote inspections that can be performed digitally and streamlining the permitting process for more common projects such as replacing water heaters, reroofing and building decks.

Some changes have already been adopted in recent months, while others are set to be implemented when the city aligns its building codes with updates to state standards in the next six to nine months.

The recommended changes, presented to the City Council on Tuesday, come after a six-month review by a council subcommittee that included council members Denise Athas and Pat Eklund, and staff from various city departments.

“I think that was one of the real goals was to not always be the outlier in Novato,” Athas said Tuesday. “So when people come to our city they don’t have to say, ‘Why are you doing things different from San Rafael or anybody else?’”

The city began reviewing its building and construction permitting requirements and rules following an online petition filed by frustrated residents in 2018.

In response, the city hired the Marin Builders Association and Marin Economic Forum to conduct an audit of the city's building permitting process. Published in 2020, the audit found between 40% to 50% of projects in the city did not seek permits, resulting in an estimated revenue loss of about \$1.5 million to \$2.2 million per year.

Much of these frustrations found in the audit occurring during project plan checks and inspections, including a lack of continuity among inspectors, a lack of education about the permitting process and the need for more online services.

The city has adopted several changes in response to the audit, including more online permitting capabilities, more straightforward instructions for permitting, staff training and filling vacant positions to free up more staff time.

Earlier this year, the council altered its service fee charges for the first time since 2006, which included charging fixed fees rather than having customers pay a deposit for more commonly requested items such as building permits.

City staff said the changes will bring transparency about the permit costs and allow customers to plan better for project expenses.

On Tuesday, the council met to discuss further recommended changes drafted by the council's subcommittee. For unpermitted work, the council has reduced penalties from three times the original permit fee to two times.

Another recommended change would not require a homeowner to have to obtain a retroactive building permit for any unpermitted projects performed five or more years in the past. A penalty fee would still be charged for this unpermitted work.

The council is also considering extending the amount of time in which a project applicant is able to complete the work once a permit is issued. The state standard is one year but the city is proposing a two-year window based on historical practices, according to Jay Bradford, Novato's chief building official. Permit extensions of around six months can also be granted, he said.

Other changes would affect fire safety requirements. For reroofing projects in wildfire risk areas along the edges of the city, known as the wildland-urban interface, the city will set a standard for class A roofing materials, which staff said are more fire resistant and are consistent with standards in most surrounding communities. The federal government ranks roofing materials as class A, B and C, with class A offering the most fire protection. Novato currently only requires class B.

Additionally, homeowners in wildland-urban interface areas performing remodeling in a specific part of their home, such as a bathroom, would only be required to bring that room up to current fire safety standards.

As an example, a homeowner with an older window in the bathroom would only be required to bring that window up to compliance during a remodel of that room, rather than upgrade every single window in the home.

Rick Wells, chief executive officer of the Marin Builders Association, called the recommendations "an important first step" in addressing concerns from homeowners and building officials as well as reducing the amount of unpermitted work in the city.

"We look forward to working with council and staff when they are ready to consider the current needs and candid feedback of homeowners and building professionals that do business with Novato City Hall," Wells wrote in an email.

Eklund recommended the council reconvene the subcommittee at the beginning of 2023 to review what progress has been made.

“I think that this should be something that is an ongoing process and not just a one-time thing because the city has gotten really slammed a lot,” Eklund said.

SOME EXEMPTIONS

## **Leaf blowers powered by gas head for Novato ban**

BY WILL HOUSTON

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Novato is set to ban gas-powered leaf blowers, joining other Marin communities that have enacted similar bans to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to advance an ordinance to prohibit any use of gas-powered leaf blowers within city limits beginning July 1, 2023.

The city plans to delay the ban to July 1, 2024, for properties of at least 10 acres that have an agricultural land use designation.

Many public agencies in the city are exempted from the ban, including the Novato Unified School District, the Novato Fire Protection District, the North Marin Water District and the Novato Sanitary District. The city will be required to follow the ban.

Violations would result in city fines ranging from \$100 to \$500 against the property owner of the location where gas-powered leaf blowers are being used, not the landscaping business using them.

Councilwoman Pat Eklund first proposed a ban on all gas-powered landscaping equipment in December 2019. The ban was narrowed to just leaf blowers after several discussions in subsequent years and in consideration of economic impacts from the coronavirus pandemic.

“I wish that we could expand it to other gas-powered equipment but I recognize we have to do this slowly because people take time to change,” Eklund said before the vote Tuesday.

Additionally, the ordinance advanced Tuesday aims to limit hours for when electric leaf blowers can be used.

Leaf blower use would be allowed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays and federal holidays. The city already enacted time limits for gas-powered blowers last year.

The ordinance is set to go before the council July 26 final approval.

If the rules are adopted, Novato would be the last municipality in Marin to enact either a ban or restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers.

Belvedere, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Larkspur, Mill Valley, Ross, San Anselmo and Tiburon have all enacted bans, with some communities allowing certain exceptions.

San Rafael plans to consider an ordinance next month to ban gas-powered leaf blowers as of Oct. 1. The Fairfax Town Council adopted rules in June that would phase out all gas-powered landscaping equipment for residents at the start of 2023 and for businesses in 2024.

Novato first considered banning all gas-powered landscaping tools in 2019 to address noise complaints from residents and to further cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Air Resources Control Board states that operating a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour emits as much greenhouse gas pollution as a new car driving 1,100 miles — the distance between Los Angeles and Denver.

City staff originally proposed enacting the ban Jan. 1, but voted to delay by six months to give businesses time to transition to electric equipment.



Residents and business owners said they supported the eventual phaseout of gas-powered leaf blowers, but called on the council to delay the ban until 2024 or later.

Lori Bailey, co-owner of Buck's Saw Service in Novato, told the council that supply chain and manufacturing issues are limiting the availability of batteries and high-powered electric leaf blowers that landscapers will need to replace their gas-powered alternatives.

"A lot of things are on back order because just everything is going to battery-operated and they're ordering all of these big backpacks that can last longer," she said. "We're getting them in one or two at a time, three at a time every four months. I see it going on a year or so for everything to catch up."

Jesus Santana, grounds manager at Valley Memorial Park Cemetery and Funeral Home in Novato, said he supports transitioning to electric leaf blowers, but urged the council to provide more time to allow small businesses to save up for electric equipment that can cost thousands of dollars per leaf blower and extra batteries.

"The high demand on equipment is going to put the small business landscapers out of business if they're not careful and doing things on time," he told the council.

Tim Blofeld, a Hamilton resident and member of the Sustainable Novato environmental nonprofit, said funds are available from the state and from his organization to help small landscaping businesses to transition. While he said he understands the reservations among small business owners, he said these companies already have to adhere to bans in other Marin communities.

"It needs to happen now," Blofeld told the council. "Anyone who has ears, anyone who breathes air needs to have this ban put in place as soon as possible."

Other members of the public questioned why the council was adopting stricter rules than the state.

In 2021, the California Air Resources Control Board enacted a rule requiring all new manufactured off-road engines such as those used in leaf blowers, lawn mowers and other equipment to be zero emission starting in 2024. Older gas-powered equipment is still legal to use after this date.

Mayor Eric Lucan said he favored enacting the ban earlier, on Jan. 1.

“I have significant concerns about the individuals that are using this equipment day in and day out and about the impact on our environment long term. Those are real concerns,” Lucan said. “We don’t usually put costs on that but I think those costs far outweigh the costs of upgrading equipment.”

The city’s proposal to levy fines against property owners and homeowners where gas-powered leaf blowers are used, as opposed to the people using them, was also a point of controversy. City staff said this enforcement mechanism allows for easier enforcement of the ban rather than having to track down landscape businesses, but some residents disagreed with the approach.

“I have a 92-year-old neighbor on one side. She has a landscaper take care of her yard,” Novato resident Kevin Jacobs told the council Tuesday. “She has no idea what he’s using. To hold her responsible for the equipment he’s bringing is out of the question.”

Lucan supported charging fines against the homeowners, stating that having landscaping services is a luxury.

“I do think the penalty should go to the homeowner that is probably paying for this service,” Lucan said. “And, here in Novato, living in a home valued well over \$1 million, I think they should take the \$100 fine.”

Sustainability coordinator Gretchen Schubeck told the council that replacing the city’s 31 gas-powered leaf blowers is estimated to cost at least \$123,000.

UC MARIN MASTER GARDENER

## Welcome to your watershed

How to protect ours and the plants and wildlife that depend on it



Use diverse plant types, including trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers, to help support a healthy watershed. ALICIA SPRINGER — UC ANR

BY NANETTE LONDEREE

IJ CORRESPONDENT

Water restrictions are a painful reality for Marin, and we gardeners are grappling with how to protect our beloved plants and meet the required reductions. While water supply is uppermost in our minds, it's beneficial to look at the big water picture — where it comes from, where it goes and what it may take with it as it moves.

Whether you're raising fruits and vegetables, growing roses, maintaining heritage trees or caring for a garden of succulents, they all need water. What you use in your garden doesn't necessarily stay in your garden. Welcome to your watershed.

A watershed is all the land that drains rainwater or snowmelt into creeks, streams, rivers and eventually to reservoirs, bays and the ocean. When well functioning, it captures falling rain, slows the flow of that water as it moves through the stream system, removes pollutants, cycles nutrients and allows the water to percolate into the ground to recharge groundwater. All land, from the wildest preserve to the most densely developed urban neighborhood, is part of a watershed. And our everyday actions affect our watersheds.

Marin's watersheds include more than 3,000 miles of creeks. Some of these waterways flow into our lakes for storage, while others feed into San Francisco Bay and onto the ocean. The Mount Tamalpais watershed is one of the county's most valuable natural resources and potable water source for most residents.

Water captured in our reservoirs passes through a drinking water treatment plant for physical and chemical processing. Once used in the home, drains carry water from toilets, sinks and showers to wastewater treatment plants, where it is processed and disinfected before being released into the bay. The treatment process doesn't, however, detoxify pharmaceutically active compounds, pesticides and metals — their residue ends up in our waterways.

Ideally, the water you use for irrigation lands on the soil, where it soaks in, carrying valuable nutrients with it. Water that hits hard, impervious surfaces runs into street gutters and then into storm drains that are designed to prevent flooding. Unfortunately, the

storm drain system provides a direct route to the bay for the fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals commonly used around our homes and gardens.

Fertilizers are a particular problem. When nitrogen and phosphorus aren't fully used by growing plants, the excess washes into our waterways during rain events. Known as nutrient pollution, too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water causes algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle.

“When people use fertilizers, herbicides or other pesticides on their lawns, gardens and around the outside of their homes, these chemicals can flow down into the watershed and concentrate in our creeks and bays,” says Rob Carson, program manager for the Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. “The pesticides can create toxic environments for creatures in the creek, and the fertilizers fuel algal growth, which can lead to water quality problems and fish kills.”

All of us can help protect our watershed and the plants, fish, birds and other wildlife that depend on it. We gardeners can:

- Plant a variety of types and species of plants, from grasses for erosion control and wildflowers for bees and butterflies to shrubs and trees for birds and healthy streams. Choose native plants that fit your specific location and conditions.
- Encourage rainwater to slow, sink and spread into the soil using porous alternatives, such as gravel or permeable pavement, for driveways and paths.
- Reduce the use of chemical fertilizers that can lead to excess plant and algae growth in waterways. Instead, use natural fertilizers or compost to release nutrients slowly into the soil.
- Use the least-toxic pest control methods. If you have pesticides you no longer use, take them to your local household hazardous waste facility.

To learn more about our invaluable watersheds, go to the Marin Watershed Program at [marinwatersheds.org](http://marinwatersheds.org) and pollution prevention at MCSTOPPP at [mcstoppp.org](http://mcstoppp.org).

*Sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension, the University of California Marin Master Gardeners provide science- and research-based information for home gardeners. Email questions to [helpdesk@marinmg.org](mailto:helpdesk@marinmg.org). Attach photos for inquiries about plant pests or diseases. The office is closed for drop-in visits. Subscribe to the Leaflet, UC Marin Master Gardener's free quarterly e-newsletter, at [marinmg.ucanr.edu](http://marinmg.ucanr.edu).*

MARIN MUNICIPAL

## Deep look at complex water supply options

District gets data, cost on desalination, recycled water



The Marin Municipal Water District has tested desalination near the Marin Rod and Gun Club site a couple of times in the past 30 years. The district launched a study into new water sources after facing potential reservoir depletion from the drought. PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP – MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL FILE



A Marin Municipal Water District consultant says the utility would realize minimal water savings by expanding recycled water service to the Peacock Gap area of San Rafael, above, and it would come at a high cost.

**BY WILL HOUSTON**

**[WHOUSTON@MARINIJ.COM](mailto:WHOUSTON@MARINIJ.COM)**

The Marin Municipal Water District took a deeper look at some of the more complex and expensive options on the table for new supply: desalination plants and recycled water.

The district board and consultants with the Jacobs Engineering firm held a discussion Tuesday on the preliminary cost estimates, water yields and challenges of building desalination plants and expanding the district's recycled water system.

"Really our goal is to make sure we communicate what those options are and understand what the costs of those options are," Paul Sellier, a district official, told the board. "In subsequent meetings, we're going to take these water supply options or alternatives and we're going to run them through the model to see



what effect they have on the water supply deficits that we established as a baseline.”

The district, which serves 191,000 central and southern Marin residents, launched the study into new water sources in March after facing potential reservoir depletion from the drought. Rains in late 2021 worked to nearly refill the district’s reservoirs, giving the county’s largest water supplier more time to study the costs and benefits of potential new sources of supply.

The study, set for completion later this year, is reviewing several new water sources, including a pipeline across the Richmond-San Rafael bridge to connect to Central Valley suppliers, increasing local storage, groundwater storage and desalination.

The study has determined the district would need a range of 3,000 to 11,700 acre-feet of additional water each year to weather prolonged droughts, extreme short-term droughts, natural disasters and increased water demand.

A Marin County Civil Grand Jury report released this summer stated the district has not adequately prepared its water supply for droughts and recommended the district secure 10,000 to 15,000 acre-feet of new supply.

The district has about a two-year supply of water, with 75% coming from local reservoirs in the Mount Tamalpais watershed and the remainder from Russian River water imports.

While the reservoirs can hold a total of 80,000 acre-feet of water — with an acre-foot being nearly 326,000 gallons — district staff said only 55,000 acre-feet of it is considered a reliable water supply. About 15,000 acre-feet of water are deemed emergency supply for extreme droughts, and the final 10,000 acre-feet are considered unusable because of siltation and pumping limitations.

Three desalination options were reviewed by staff on Tuesday.

The first option would have the district build a desalination plant on San Pablo Bay near San Rafael that could initially produce up to

5,600 acre-feet per year but could be expanded to produce up to 16,800 acre-feet.

The cost per acre-foot is estimated at \$5,100 for a smaller plant, but that cost would be reduced to an estimated \$3,100 if the district expanded the plant to its maximum water production.

Another option would be to lease or buy portable desalination plants that could provide up to 6,000 acre-feet of water per year but at the high cost of \$5,700 per acre-foot. The district considered renting these types of plants last year when it was facing a water shortage.

“This equipment is containerized, but they’ve designed it to basically be plug-and-play, which makes it much easier to implement,” district consultant Jim Lozier told the board on Tuesday.

A third option would be to collaborate with other Bay Area water suppliers to invest in a regional desalination plant near Antioch in Contra Costa County.

Marin would receive 5,600 acre-feet of water at a cost of \$3,900 per acre-foot. Part of this cost includes having to build a water pipeline across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to transport the water into the district’s distribution system.

Currently, the district is only supplying recycled water to the Terra Linda area. Options to expand service to the Peacock Gap area of San Rafael or to San Quentin State Prison — the district’s largest water user — would yield minimal water savings of 166 acre-feet and 154 acre-feet, respectively, at a high cost of \$5,300 and \$4,300 per acre-foot, respectively, said district consultant Ryujiro Tsuchihashi.

Other options that would treat wastewater and integrate it back into the drinking water supply have yet to be implemented in California and have had a history of public resistance when proposed in the past.

“In addition to laying out all these pipelines throughout the service area and into the mountain, I think a lot of people will be worried about the public outreach and the public acceptance issue,” Tsuchihashi told the board.

Board member Cynthia Koehler pushed back on what she described as the consultants’ “negative” outlook on recycled water and public acceptance of water reuse options.

“I think assumptions from the past are not going to serve us well in light of the public’s considerable education about what’s been going on across the West and in California and with water supply declining,” Koehler said.

Koehler suggested that the district consider polling ratepayers on the recycled water options to gauge public interest.

Marin Conservation League member Larry Minikes urged the board to provide more information on how the projects would impact ratepayers’ bills.

“I think the main question is, what is it going to cost me?” Minikes said. “That’s what I’m going to want to know if you poll me. I’m not really going to care that much about what kind of industrial thing you do. I’m going to want to know what it’s going to cost me.”

The board is set to hold a discussion on options of increasing local water supplies, bolstering supplies from Sonoma County and pipeline connections to other Bay Area and California water suppliers at 7:30 p.m. July 19.

NOV. 8

# 179 offices at stake on Marin fall ballot

## Candidate filing opens on Monday

BY RICHARD HALSTEAD

[RHALSTEAD@MARINIJ.COM](mailto:RHALSTEAD@MARINIJ.COM)

The filing period for the Nov. 8 general election begins on Monday, and Marin residents interested in public office will have a smorgasbord of opportunities from which to choose.

There will be 179 local offices up for grabs in the election, including openings on the boards of the Marin Municipal Water District, the Marin County Board of Education, the Marin Community College District and nine municipal councils.

Senate Bill 415, a state law that took effect in January 2017, prohibits local governments from holding an election on any date other than a statewide election date if doing so in the past has resulted in turnout that is at least 25% below average.

Statewide elections are held in November of even-numbered years.

“That is why you’re seeing so many more local races in the even-year general election,” said Registrar of Voters Lynda Roberts.

Roberts said the COVID-19 pandemic hasn’t resulted in fewer people competing for local offices.

“We didn’t see a drop-off in candidate participation in 2020,” Roberts said. “It’s been pretty much status quo. We anticipate the

same thing happening this cycle.”

The initial nomination period ends at 5 p.m. Aug. 12. The deadline will be extended to Aug. 17 for offices held by incumbents who choose not to file.

Greg Brockbank, a lawyer and former San Rafael councilman who monitors local races closely, said “it is a little early to tell” which races will be the most interesting.

“Very often people don’t decide to run, let alone take out papers, until the last week or even the last day,” Brockbank said.

At the Marin Healthcare District, the terms of three board members — Jennifer Rienks, Larry Bedard and Brian Su — expire at the end of this year. Bedard has said he won’t seek re-election, but would support a qualified Latino candidate.

Brockbank said the recent decision of the San Rafael City Council, Novato City Council and other local boards to switch to district elections makes it difficult to predict which races will be most competitive.

The ongoing drought could spark interest in openings on the boards of the Marin Municipal Water District and the North Marin Water District. The incumbents facing reelection on the MMWD board are Jack Gibson and Larry Bragman. Cynthia Koehler has said she will not seek reelection. The incumbents up for election at North Marin are James Grossi Jr. and Richard Fraites.

With Marin County allocating several million dollars for projects in Marin City, interest might also be increased in the Marin City Community Services District, where the terms of three board members — Damian Morgan, Terrie Green and Angela Haynes — are ending.

Two longtime incumbents on the Novato City Council — Denise Altas and Pat Eklund — are up for reelection along with Mark Milberg.

A number of Marin municipalities have two council members whose terms are ending.

In San Rafael, the terms of Eli Hill and Maribeth Bushey are ending. In Sausalito, Susan Cleveland-Knowles and Jill Hoffman are up for reelection.

In San Anselmo, the terms of Stephen Burdo and Ford Greene are ending. In Fairfax, Renee Goddard and Stephanie Hellman must run again to defend their seats.

Four Marin municipalities — Belvedere, Corte Madera, Larkspur and Tiburon — have three incumbents whose terms are ending.

In Corte Madera, they are Bob Ravasio, Eli Beckman and Leila Mongan. In Larkspur, Dan Hillmer, Catherine Way and Kevin Haroff. In Tiburon, Alice Fredericks, Jon Weiner and Jack Ryan. In Belvedere, Sally Wilkinson and James Campbell have full terms expiring, while Peter Mark has a short term expiring.

Just two of the Marin County Board of Education's seven trustees — Marilyn Nemzer and Curtis Robinson — have terms that are expiring. There are two vacant seats on the board.

Three of the Marin Community College District's board members — Suzanne Brown Crow, Wanden Treanor and Diana Conti — have terms that are ending.

STATE DROUGHT

# Experts' water alerts went unheeded

BY IAN JAMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Colorado River is approaching a breaking point, its reservoirs depleted and Western states under pressure to drastically cut water use.

It's a crisis that scientists have long warned was coming. Years before the current shortage, scientists repeatedly alerted public officials who manage water supplies that the chronic overuse of the river combined with the effects of climate change would likely drain the Colorado's reservoirs to dangerously low levels.

But these warnings by various researchers — though discussed and considered by water managers — went largely unheeded.

Now, many of the scientists' dire predictions are coming to pass, with Lake Mead and Lake Powell nearly three-fourths empty and their water levels continuing to fall. Some researchers say the seven states that depend on the river would have been better prepared had they acted years ago.

"If I've learned anything recently, it's that humans are really reluctant to give things up to prevent a catastrophe," said Brad Udall, a water and climate scientist at Colorado State University. "They're willing to hang on to the very end and risk a calamity."

He said it's just like humanity's lack of progress in addressing climate change despite decades of warnings by scientists.

If larger cuts in water use were made sooner, Udall said, the necessary reductions could have been phased in and would have been much easier.

Peter Gleick, a water and climate scientist and co-founder of the Pacific Institute, said the collective failure to heed scientists' repeated warnings is "directly responsible for how bad conditions are today."

"If we had cut water use in the Colorado River over the last two decades to what we now understand to be the actual levels of water availability, there would be more water in the reservoirs today," Gleick said. "The crisis wouldn't be nearly as bad."

In a 1993 study for the federal government, Gleick and coauthor Linda Nash examined the threat climate change posed for the river and warned that the water supply would be very sensitive to rising temperatures.

"Under conditions of long-term flow reductions and current operating rules, these reservoirs are drawn almost completely dry," they wrote. "Current approaches to water management in the basin will have to be modified."

In 2000, board members of the Metropolitan Water District who were concerned about climate change invited scientists including Gleick to speak at a workshop. The scientists advised them to start preparing for consequences including less Sierra snow and possible decades of drought.

Gleick said a common refrain from many water managers in the 1980s and '90s, when told about risks based on climate projections, was to respond that once they had a more definitive picture of effects on water resources, they could deal with it.

Even later, as the projections got more definitive and "alarm bells got louder," Gleick said, political barriers hindered changes in the entrenched system of how the river's water is divided and managed, a system established starting with the 1922 Colorado River Compact. Action was stymied, he said, by those "who either



didn't want to believe the science or had something to lose if we changed our policies.”

Gleick said there is a parallel in how fossil fuel interests have long fought the sorts of changes necessary to address global warming.

In the Colorado River Basin, Gleick said, the vested interests that have hindered new approaches for dealing with the water shortfall include some in agriculture who benefit from generations-old water rights, water managers with a “find more and more water” mentality, and politicians who've fought to defend old state apportionments.

In the 2000s, as drought ravaged the watershed, a growing body of scientific research showed that higher temperatures would substantially shrink the flow of the river, which supplies farmlands and cities from the Rocky Mountains to Southern California and northern Mexico.

In a 2004 study, scientists at the University of Washington projected major declines in runoff and river flow with warmer temperatures.

In other research in 2007, scientists Martin Hoerling and Jon Eischeid wrote that climate simulations showed an increase in drought severity would occur “in lockstep” with global warming, projecting a 25% reduction in flow from 2006 to 2030, and a 45% decrease by midcentury.

When federal officials released a report in 2007 on new river management rules, their estimates of future risks were rosier, showing minimal odds of reservoirs reaching low levels. The report cited studies predicting declines in river flow with climate change, saying that while those projections “are of great interest, additional research is both needed and warranted to quantify the uncertainty of these estimates.”

In a 2008 study, scientists Tim Barnett and David Pierce of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography wrote that if climate models were correct, the Colorado River would “continue to lose water in

the future,” with its flow likely declining 10% to 30% over the next 30 to 50 years. Those estimates turned out to match, if conservatively, the 20% decline in flow that has occurred since 2000.

Barnett and Pierce estimated that if current allocations stayed the same, there was a 50% chance the usable water supply in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the country’s two largest reservoirs, would be gone by 2021. They titled their study “When Will Lake Mead Go Dry? “

They said that annually the region was taking out about 1 million acre-feet of water more than the river was providing, which they warned was “simply not sustainable.” Barnett and Pierce wrote that time was short to decide how to use a reduced water supply, and the alternative would be a “major societal and economic disruption in the desert southwest.”

Discussing the research, Barnett said: “You have to wonder if the civilization we’ve built in the desert Southwest is sustainable in the future.”

The scientists’ findings, however, were discounted at the time by some water managers. Terry Fulp, regional director for the federal Bureau of Reclamation, said he disagreed with the study’s assumption that climate models were sensitive or refined enough to project regional effects, and the agency’s own studies didn’t project such severe declines.

Some Southern California water officials said people shouldn’t panic over the report, pointing to ongoing water-saving efforts and the past winter’s above-average snowpack. Roger Patterson, an assistant manager of the Metropolitan Water District, was quoted as saying that back-to-back winters like that could largely refill the reservoirs.

In another study in 2009, Barnett and Pierce found that if human-caused climate change continued to make the Southwest drier as projected, the reduced river flow would mean significant shortages.

Pierce said shortfalls could be avoided “if the river’s users agree on a way to reduce their average water use.”

But that didn’t happen, at least not on the scale the researchers said was necessary.

“The scientists have been raising the warning flag for quite a while now,” said Jennifer Pitt of the National Audubon Society.

Pitt said for years she and other conservationists urged water managers to look more at the climate models. And although officials gradually incorporated more climate science in their projections, she said, the institutions that manage the river clearly didn’t embrace the red flags soon enough.

A 2012 study by the Bureau of Reclamation discussed estimates of reduced water supplies due to climate change, but Pitt said the severity of the projections was muted in the report’s summary.

Even as the reservoirs dropped, she said, there were other reasons why representatives of states and water districts resisted change.

“Each state and each water user has an inclination to fight to defend their access to water,” Pitt said, and this drive has weighed against “the need to defend the reliability of the entire system.”

The Colorado River has long been overallocated, with so much water diverted that its delta in Mexico dried up decades ago, leaving only small remnants of its once-vast wetlands.

In studies during the last decade, scientists have homed in on what climate models indicate about the river’s future, finding that roughly half the decline in flow has been due to warmer temperatures; that climate change is driving the “ aridification “ of the Southwest; that warming could take away more than one-fourth of the average flow by 2050; and that for each additional 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), the river’s flow is likely to decrease about 9%.

As the West endured more hot and dry years, the few wet winters failed to produce the sort of rebound that water managers had hoped for. As water kept flowing to growing cities and farmlands producing hay, lettuce and other crops, the reservoirs continued to drop.

Facing shortages, state officials in 2019 signed a set of agreements laying out plans for sharing in water reductions. When that wasn't enough, they signed another deal last year.

But with Lake Mead and Lake Powell now just 27% full and declining toward new lows, the federal government has stepped in and ordered the seven states to come up with plans to cut water use by 2 million to 4 million acre-feet, the equivalent of roughly 15% to 30% of total annual diversions in the U.S. and Mexico.

Even long before scientists began studying the effects of rising temperatures on the river, various people raised concerns that there wouldn't be sufficient water — among them John Wesley Powell, leader of the historic 1869 expedition through the Grand Canyon; scientist Eugene Clyde LaRue, whose warnings about insufficient water went unheeded during negotiations that led to the 1922 Colorado River Compact; and the writer Wallace Stegner, who warned in 1985 that the West was growing “beyond our limits” and that “There is just not enough water.”

Leaders of tribes have also spoken out against overexploitation of the river while pushing for years to have a bigger say in decisions about water management.

Some environmental activists have pointed out that in 1954 California water lawyer Northcutt Ely testified in Congress to oppose the construction of Glen Canyon Dam and another proposed dam, saying they were unnecessary, would lead to more losses from evaporation and increase the “overdraft” of the water supply.

John Weisheit, co-founder of the group Living Rivers, said Ely's overarching goal was watershed sustainability. The concerns Ely

raised nearly seven decades ago, he said, have only been compounded by climate change.

Living Rivers and two other groups filed a lawsuit in 2019 to challenge the federal government's approach to managing Lake Powell, arguing that officials didn't sufficiently consider climate change. They demanded the government consider the alternative of decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam.

Weisheit recalled telling federal officials at a public meeting in 2005 that the reservoirs were going to go empty, "and they laughed at me."

Weisheit said water managers knew how bad the situation was years ago but have failed to rein in water demands to match the limited supply.

Udall said he has been frustrated that federal agencies continue to use 30 years as a baseline "climate normal," because data from the late 20th century, which was cooler and wetter, "blinds us to the period we're in right now."

Federal officials have been using what they call "stress test" hydrology in their projections in recent years, leaving out earlier 20th century records while considering data going back to 1988. But Udall said this approach has continued to yield some projections that are too rosy, an issue that he said government specialists appear to be working to address.

Udall said he has looked over charts showing the reservoirs' declines over the last 23 years and has wondered at what point "should we have been smarter?" That point, he said, was about a decade ago.

"We're out of time," he said. The solutions now will have to be "harsh and drastic."

Looking back at the 2019 deal, the years of negotiations culminated in an agreement that reflected what was politically

possible at the time, said John Entsminger, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

“No one was willing to take bigger cuts then,” Entsminger said.

Entsminger said that in 2014, when he started leading the agency, he and his staff were focused on climate projections and the risks of low reservoir levels. That was why, in addition to prioritizing conservation, the agency spent \$522 million building a new low-level pumping plant and intake at Lake Mead, which would allow Las Vegas to keep accessing water if the reservoir dropped to “dead pool,” a level at which water would no longer pass through Hoover Dam.

In 2015, when the water authority endorsed the project, Entsminger said he and others hoped they would never have to turn on the pumping plant. But they switched it on this year, and now Las Vegas is relying on the deeper intake.

Entsminger said many water managers who came before him had seen full reservoirs in the 1980s and operated under the assumption that a couple of snowy winters could bring a rebound. In hindsight, he said, “clearly, we should have had bigger cuts sooner.”

Now every water supplier needs to consider how to use less, he said.

“This is a tragedy of the commons situation,” he said. “If we don’t all pitch in and make corrections, Lake Mead and Lake Powell could get to dead pool.”

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MARIN MUNICIPAL

## Water supply study looks at reservoir, pipeline costs

District examining options to handle drought impacts



The diminished water level marks the Soula Jule Reservoir dam west of Novato in August. Expansion of reservoirs is among the options being reviewed by water officials. PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL



Traffic flows across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The Marin Municipal Water District has considered building a water pipeline across the span.

**BY WILL HOUSTON**

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Marin Municipal Water District officials, continuing their quest to boost supply, met this week for a detailed cost assessment on expanding reservoirs and connecting to new sources.

District staff stressed to the board that — unlike other options under review such as desalination and recycled water expansion that can produce a continual flow of water — enlarging reservoirs or building pipelines to outside suppliers does not guarantee water will be available when needed.

“We’re seeing conditions and have seen conditions the last two years that could make that prospect very challenging,” district official Paul Sellier told the board.

The district, which serves 191,000 central and southern Marin residents, launched the water supply study after facing the



possibility the drought might deplete its reservoirs. Rains in late 2021 nearly refilled the reservoirs, giving the utility time to study ways it can augment its supply.

The study projects that the district will need 3,000 to 11,700 acre-feet of additional water each year to weather prolonged droughts, extreme short-term droughts, natural disasters and increased water demand.

A recent Marin County Civil Grand Jury report stated the district failed to adequately prepare for severe droughts and recommended it create 10,000 to 15,000 acre-feet of new supply.

The district can hold up to 80,000 acre-feet of water in its seven reservoirs, which make up 75% of its supply. Only about 55,000 acre-feet in the reservoirs are considered reliable, according to district staff. That is because about 15,000 acre-feet are considered emergency reserves and the last 10,000 acre-feet would likely be unusable because of pumping and siltation issues at those low of water levels.

The remaining 25% of the district's supply comes from Russian River water from the Sonoma County Water Agency. The district is allowed to draw 14,300 acre-feet per year, but pumping limitations only allow the district to bring in about 11,000 acre-feet.

The district has not expanded or built a new reservoir since the early 1980s, when it built its third-largest reservoir, Soulajule, and doubled the capacity of its largest reservoir, Kent Lake.

The district's seven reservoirs hold about a two-year supply of water compared to the four-year supplies of most major Bay Area water suppliers.

Jacobs Engineering consultant Marcelo Reginato said hydrology records from 1910 to 2021 show that about half the time the watershed has had an inflow of water exceeding 80,000 acre-feet.

"We see that there are opportunities maybe to capture more of this inflow to the reservoirs and also to Soulajule," Reginato said.

On Tuesday, the board reviewed early cost estimates and water yields of three options to expand local reservoirs: dredging Nicasio Reservoir to add 1,000 acre-feet of capacity; raising the Soulajule Reservoir dam to triple its capacity; and adding adjustable spillways that could allow reservoirs to hold more water.

However, Reginato said adding more space in the reservoirs does not mean the district will get that amount of new supply every year. Factors such as rainfall, runoff, state-required water releases to the environment and evaporation all affect the expected water yield, he said.

“A reservoir project is not like a desalination project that has a fixed amount of flow coming to your system,” Reginato said.

For the study, the district based its cost estimates on the amount of water each project is expected to produce during a severe four-year drought that would combine the conditions of the district’s two worst droughts on record, those of 2020-2021 and 1976-77.

Under this scenario, dredging the Nicasio Reservoir to add another 1,000 acre-feet of storage would provide an estimated 100 acre-feet of extra water per year at a whopping price of \$194,000 per acre-foot.

By comparison, the district paid \$312 to \$457 per acre-foot to treat local reservoir water and about \$1,614 per acre-foot to purchase and transport Russian River water to its distribution system in 2021, the latest year of data available.

The high cost for Nicasio is based on the need to dig, truck out and store the dredged sediment. Reginato said there are also risks.

“You’re going to start digging, dredging, moving large amounts of sediments and that could mobilize contaminants that have been settled for a while,” he told the board.

Raising the dam at Soulajule Reservoir by 36 feet to triple the total storage from 10,000 acre-feet to 30,000 acre-feet would yield an estimated 2,800 acre-feet of water per year at a price of \$5,900 per

acre-foot. The price estimate also includes a \$6 million project to link the reservoir pumping equipment to the electrical grid. The Soulajule Reservoir is mainly used as a reserve and therefore is only pumped using generators when needed.

Larry Bragman, a member of the water district board, asked whether the enlarged reservoir would inundate mercury mines that operated in the area before Soulajule was built.

“I don’t think we would face any additional risk at this point,” Sellier replied, but added that the question would need to be examined further.

Adding adjustable gates on dam spillways to allow certain reservoirs to increase water storage elevations by 3 feet would yield an extra 700 acre-feet per year at a cost of \$9,100 per acre-foot, according to the study.

Bragman pushed back against some of the cost estimates, stating that they were based on a worst-case scenario yield. He said the district would likely get more water during normal rainfall years, which would reduce the need for it to buy and import more expensive Russian River water and thereby reduce the costs.

“So I think there are some advantages that need to be brought to bear, and need to be studied and considered,” Bragman said.

Some members of the public voiced concern about raising the dam at Soulajule given that the reservoir doesn’t fill to capacity much at all.

The study is also exploring options to import water from the Sacramento Valley either by building a pipeline across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge or connecting to the North Bay Aqueduct in Napa County to link to the State Water Project.

Last year, the district planned to build a \$100 million emergency pipeline across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to pump in Yuba County water to avoid running out of water. The project was under

an expedited timeline because the district might have run out of water by mid-2022.

With the emergency now gone, building such a project would require more extensive review and “enormous constraints,” Makarand Pendse, a Jacobs Engineering consultant, told the board on Tuesday.

“So these are going to take a long time to build these options,” Pendse told the board. “Could be around eight years by the time we can actually implement these in reality.”

Early estimates show a pipeline across the bridge to connect to the East Bay Municipal Utility District or Contra Costa Water District could produce up to 9,000 acre-feet of additional water per year. The agencies would act as an intermediary to help pump in water from the Sacramento Valley. The cost per acre-foot was estimated at \$2,200 per acre-foot for the East Bay district and \$2,900 per acre-foot for the Contra Costa district.

The study looked at two options to connect to the North Bay Aqueduct in Napa. One option to build a pipeline connecting directly to the water district’s distribution systems was estimated to produce 5,000 acre-feet of water per year at a cost of \$3,600 per acre-foot. The second option to build a connection from the aqueduct to the Sonoma County Water Agency system, where it would then be pumped south is estimated to produce 5,000 acre-feet of water at a cost of \$4,200 per acre-foot.

District staff again emphasized that the expected water yield would be contingent upon water supplies in the Central Valley.

“Particularly in a multi-year drought, the number of cutbacks and curtailments by the state, if we had the pipeline, it’s certainly not a given that we would be able to get water,” Ben Horenstein, the district general manager, told the board.

OMICRON SUBVARIANT

## **COVID remains high in county**

Marin officials increase focus on monkeypox

BY RICHARD HALSTEAD

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Marin County is continuing to see widespread transmission of COVID-19 as health officials ramp up efforts to deal with what promises to become a new pandemic: monkeypox.

“Right now we are in the longest prolonged period of high transmission rates as a county since the start of the pandemic,” Dr. Matt Willis, the Marin County public health officer, told Marin supervisors Tuesday regarding COVID-19.

“We’re now in a high plateau period that is being fueled by the BA.5 subvariant of omicron. We’ve had approximately 80 to 100 new cases per day for two months at least.”

Regarding monkeypox, a DNA virus that, until recently, was rarely seen outside the tropical rainforest areas of central and west Africa, Willis said he expects it to be formally designated a pandemic soon.

“I would call it a pandemic,” the health officer said, “because it meets the criteria now. It’s an epidemic in most nations.”

So far, two monkeypox cases have been confirmed in Marin and a third is suspected.

Willis said the estimate of COVID-19 cases, based on both lab tests and home tests reported to the county, is almost certainly an

undercount.

“The way we know that is by looking at our wastewater,” he said.

The amount of virus in Marin wastewater is similar to the amount in January, when case counts were three times as high. Now more testing is done at home, which is much less reliably reported to the county.

The increased number of cases is resulting chiefly because the BA.5 variant is more transmissible and can infect people who have been vaccinated or contracted the virus previously. BA.5 accounts for between 90% and 100% of Marin’s COVID-19 cases.

Supervisor Damon Connolly said the high rate of transmission coincides with reports from his constituents.

“From what I’m hearing anecdotally in the community is a lot of people are getting it,” Connolly said. “And they’re showing significant symptoms. It’s knocking folks on their proverbial rear ends.”

Willis said the good news is that the number of Marin residents being hospitalized due to COVID-19 has not risen in tandem with the increased transmission.

“Our rates of hospitalization due to COVID have been relatively stable at around 10 people per day for about two months,” he said.

Willis said a variety of factors have resulted in Marin’s COVID-19 death rate falling dramatically since the early days of the pandemic. Seventy percent of Marin’s total 256 COVID-19 deaths occurred in the first year of the pandemic before vaccines were widely available.

In addition to vaccines preventing infection, home testing has allowed for earlier diagnosis so that inpatient and outpatient treatments, such as Paxlovid, can be administered.

“We’re seeing about one death per week now,” Willis said.

The health officer said that in 2020 there was a one in 10 chance that if a Marin resident older than 65 contracted COVID-19 that they would die. Today, there is only a 1% chance of a Marin resident older than 65 dying if they catch the disease.

The public health officer said Paxlovid reduces the chance of hospitalization by 89%.

Connolly, however, said he had heard from people who said they had trouble getting COVID-19 treatment through their health care providers. Supervisor Dennis Rodoni asked how people who lack a regular health care provider can access the drug.

Willis said he would like to know which if any health care providers are failing to provide treatment.

He said low-income Marin residents can get Paxlovid at any of Marin's federally qualified health centers, such as the Marin Community Clinics or the Marin City Health and Wellness Center.

If that fails, Willis said people can go to one of the county's Optum Serve/LHI testing sites.

Marin public health is recommending that residents age 50 and older, as well as those with conditions that place them at heightened risk, get a second vaccine booster shot. And while public health has no plans to reimpose mask mandates, the department is recommending that residents don masks when mixing with large numbers of people indoors.

"A high-quality mask does protect you from being infected," Willis said, "so carry a mask with you and use your judgment."

As for monkeypox, Willis said public health is seeking to get more vaccine from the state and working with the Spahr Center to get the word out to the community most at risk: men who have sex with men.

The public health officer said so far the county has received 150 doses of the monkeypox vaccine, "which is not nearly enough."

Public health has distributed most of what it has received to local health care providers; Kaiser Permanente was given 60 doses. The county has requested 1,000 additional doses.

“We organized a letter that we’re sending this week to the California Department of Public Health signed by a number of key Marin elected officials that back up that ask,” said Adrian Shanker, executive director of the Spahr Center, following Tuesday’s meeting.

“We know that everyone is working with a vaccine shortage but we believe that Marin County deserves a fair allocation of the vaccine,” Shanker said.

Willis said that monkeypox is mainly transmitted through intimate skin-to-skin contact. Symptoms include a rash with lesions, usually in the genital area, as well as fever, headaches, muscle aches and swollen lymph nodes.

Both Willis and Shanker recommend that anyone experiencing symptoms get tested and refrain from sexual contact. People who contract monkeypox can remain infectious for up to a month.



**\$16B NEWSOM PROJECT**

# **Revised version of controversial Delta water plan**

**BY PAUL ROGERS**

**BAY AREA NEWS GROUP**

Three years ago, amid shaky political support and uncertain funding, Gov. Gavin Newsom killed plans by his predecessor, Jerry Brown, to build two massive tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Delta to more easily move water south.

Now a slimmed down version of the project — which has been one of the most contentious water issues in California since the early 1980s — is back.

On Wednesday, Newsom's administration released details of his new plan, which calls for building one tunnel instead of two.

The tunnel would be 45 miles long and 39 feet high, buried deep under the Delta's wetlands and marshes. The idea is that in wet years, it would take water from the Sacramento River, about 17 miles south of Sacramento near the town of Courtland, and pipe it to the enormous State Water Project pumps near Tracy. By moving the water underground, water managers would avoid pumping limits that are put in place sometimes under state and federal law to protect endangered salmon and other fish, allowing them to more easily send it to farms and cities from Silicon Valley to Fresno to Los Angeles.

The price tag: About \$16 billion, not far from the \$19 billion estimate for Brown's twin tunnels in 2018, but with one-third less water carrying capacity.

Some of the largest water districts in the state, including Santa Clara Valley Water District in San Jose, and the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles, have been funding planning efforts in recent years.

They and Newsom administration leaders say the tunnel is critical to keep water flowing following a major earthquake, and as climate change disrupts rainfall patterns, would allow the state to move water south to reservoirs and groundwater storage banks in large amounts that would otherwise flow to the ocean during rainy winters.

“It’s critical that we’re actually able to move the water during the wet periods to store it for the dry periods,” said Wade Crowfoot, secretary of the state’s Natural Resources Agency. “Delta conveyance remains a really important backbone of our modernization.”

Opponents, who in the past have included environmental groups and leaders of Delta communities, including Contra Costa County, have called earlier versions of the project a water grab for Southern California and big agribusiness that could take too much fresh water from the Delta and harm already endangered fish like salmon and Delta smelt, along with other wildlife and water quality.

“How often are you pumping?” said Doug Obegi, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco.

“How much water are you pumping? How much water are you leaving behind for the environment? The devil is in the details.”

Wednesday the project’s 3,000-page draft environmental impact report was released. It will be open for public comment until Oct. 27.

Project planners hope to break ground by 2028 or 2029, said Carrie Buckman, an environmental program manger with the state Department of Water Resources. Construction is expected to take 12 years, she said.

The project is certain to face lawsuits and other major hurdles, as similar proposals have over the past 40 years.

Brown pushed a similar plan called the “peripheral canal” during his first stint as governor. Voters defeated it in a 1982 statewide ballot measure.

Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rekindled the idea. And Brown continued to refine and advocate for it during his final years in office. But the twin tunnels stalled after some Central Valley farmers — most notably the board of the powerful Westlands Water District in Fresno — said the costs were too high and they would not help pay.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District, which provides water to 2 million people in Santa Clara County and draws 40% of its water from the Delta, was divided by the plan. In 2017, the district’s board unanimously endorsed a one-tunnel plan. Then it reversed course a year later on a 4-3 vote and agreed to support the two-tunnel plan and contribute up to \$650 million toward it after Metropolitan Water District increased its contributions and Brown lobbied hard.

Newsom took office in early 2019 and dropped the two-tunnel project. He ordered new studies on a smaller version.

“We were happy when Gov. Newsom changed it to one tunnel from two,” said Tony Estremera, a board member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. “Now it looks like it is a better approach. It looks like it is more environmentally favorable and will have less impact on the Delta communities.”

The new project would have a maximum capacity of 6,000 cubic feet per second, less than the 9,000 cfs that Brown’s two tunnels would have delivered, and less still than the 15,000 cfs that Schwarzenegger’s plan called for, and the 22,000 cfs that the original peripheral canal in the early 1980s planned.

It would be funded by water agencies that receive water from the State Water Project. But so far, only 16 of those 29 agencies are part

of a group paying for the studies. That group, called the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority, has planned to spend about \$360 million from 2021 to 2024. Of that, Metropolitan Water District is paying the lion's share — about \$160 million.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has committed \$11 million over four years. Other agencies that are part of the planning and likely to use water from the facility if it is ever built are the Alameda County Water District, Kern County Water Agency in Bakersfield, the Desert Water Agency in Palm Springs and others in San Bernardino, Ventura and San Luis Obispo.

Other large Bay Area water agencies are not part of the project, including the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Contra Costa Water District and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Crowfoot said if the tunnel had been in place this past December, the state would have been able to capture 236,000 acre feet more water — enough for 2.3 million people for a year.

“The status quo,” he said, “is less and less reliability.”