



NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING
 April 16, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
 Location: 100 Wood Hollow Dr., Suite 300
 Novato, California

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Item	Subject
	CALL TO ORDER
1.	APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING , April 2, 2024
2.	GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT
3.	OPEN TIME: (Please observe a three-minute time limit) 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.	STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS ACTION CALENDAR
5.	Approve: Rate Increase (Prop. 218) Notice to Novato Water & Recycled Water Customers
6.	Approve: Rate Increase (Prop. 218) Notice to West Marin Water and Oceana Marin Sewer Customers
	INFORMATION ITEMS
7.	Administration & Laboratory Upgrade Project - Construction Update
8.	NBWA Meeting – March 1, 2024
9.	MISCELLANEOUS Disbursements – Dated April 4, 2024 Disbursements – Dated April 11, 2024 Monthly Progress Report Eel-Russian Project Authority Board presentation excerpt – March 19, 2024 <u>News Articles:</u> Marin IJ - Directors share plan for reliable resilient water supply – MARIN VOICE Marin IJ - Utility weighs pros, cons of recycled drinking water – MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT Marin IJ – Options for water pipeline narrowed – MARIN MUNICIPAL Marin IJ – Marin water reservoirs flush as summer nears – ENVIRONMENT Marin IJ – Project to overhaul bridge starts along Grant Avenue – NOVATO Marin IJ – NMWD rate increase proposed – NEW STUDY

Item	Subject
	Mendocino County News – Divided Waters, Debate over Scott Dam’s Fate Boils Over in Eel Russian Project Authority Meeting

Social Media Posts:

NMWD Web and Social Media Report – March 2024

10. ***ADJOURNMENT***

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DRAFT
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 April 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Baker called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District to order at 4:00 p.m. at the District Headquarters and the agenda was accepted as presented. Present were Directors Jack Baker, Ken Eichstaedt, Rick Fraites, Michael Joly, and Stephen Petterle. Also present were General Manager Tony Williams, District Secretary Eileen Mulliner, Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer Eric Miller, and Auditor-Controller Julie Blue.

District employees Chris Kehoe, Construction/Maintenance Superintendent, Robert Clark, Operations/Maintenance Superintendent, and Tim Fuelle, Senior Engineer, were also in attendance.

Mark Hildebrand of Hildebrand Consulting also attended the meeting.

District customers Bruce Webster and Mary Stompe were also in the audience.

MINUTES

On the motion of Director Joly, and seconded by Director Petterle, the Board approved the minutes from the March 19, 2024 regular meeting as presented by the following vote:

AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tony Williams gave a brief report on the Potter Valley Project. He said the Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) Board met on March 19. At the meeting, the ERPA Board reviewed two primary alternatives for a future diversion and the highest ranked alternative is the pump back facility, which was selected by the Board. This alternative would utilize the existing diversion tunnel into Potter Valley.

Mr. Williams mentioned that staff had received a draft technical memorandum from Marin Water regarding their planned water conveyance projects. Three alternatives were ranked highest, two of which use some or all of the North Marin Aqueduct pipeline. Once the report is finalized, Mr. Williams will come back to the Board with updates or perhaps invite their General Manager, Ben. Horenstein to return to speak to the Board. Director Petterle asked if these alternatives could affect North Marin Water District's supply and Mr. Williams said no, that only operations are potentially impacted.

Mr. Williams gave an update on the Aqueduct – Marin-Sonoma Narrows Widening project with Caltrans and noted that our pipeline easements that cross Hwy 101 have been finalized. There

1 is a total of 7 crossings. He said that he hopes the remaining project easements will be completed
2 next.

3 Mr. Williams mentioned that in Miscellaneous section of the agenda is the NMWD Budget
4 Review and Rate Hearing schedule that was posted in the Pt. Reyes Light. The item has been in
5 the Marin Independent Journal as well.

6 Director Baker asked in regards to the North Marin Aqueduct pipeline if recently Petaluma
7 has expressed interest in taking over the out of boundary customers in Sonoma County. Mr.
8 Williams said nothing new has come up but reminded the Board that Marin LAFCo was working on
9 their Municipal Service Review.

10 Director Joly asked about the status of the Stafford Dam raising project. Mr. Williams said
11 that staff meet monthly with Marin County Flood Control District which partnered with NMWD to
12 perform hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) analysis of Novato Creek above the dam. The next step is
13 to review the H&H methodology with the state's Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) to make sure
14 the analysis is acceptable and noted that a similar action was done for the ongoing geotechnical
15 analysis for the project. Mr. Williams said the analysis is very detailed and is need to make sure the
16 methodology is correct and the results indicate no change in dam safety. Staff hopes to bring
17 something back to the Board in the summer.

18 Director Joly asked for a short update on the Lynwood Pump Station project. Eric Miller gave
19 a brief update saying staff is working with the consultant on the project to look for additional primary
20 sites. He said the current engineering and environmental documents will be made available at the
21 Novato Library branch in Hamilton, near one of the proposed project sites. Mr. Miller also said an
22 FAQ will be on the website soon. Director Joly thanked Mr. Miller.

23 **OPEN TIME**

24 President Baker asked if anyone in the audience wished to bring up an item not on the
25 agenda and there was no response.

26 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

27 President Baker asked if there were any staff or director's reports and there were none.

28 **ACTION CALENDAR**

29 **APPROVE: ACCEPT 2024 NOVATO AND RECYCLED WATER RATE STUDY DRAFT REPORT** 30 **AND DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

31 Mark Hildebrand, of Hildebrand Consulting, presented the 2024 Novato and Recycled Water
32 Rate Study Draft Report. The presentation was very similar to what he had presented at the
33 previous meeting, but noted a few updates since the previous draft such as revised future year
34 revenue increases, an adjustment of one percent. He noted that the rate drivers were primarily
35 raising operational expenses and needed capital spending and that the effect of cost escalations for

1 supplies, chemical and utilities varied despite a general inflation increase. He also noted that in
2 future years, beginning with fiscal year 2025-2026, a pass-through provision is being proposed for
3 Sonoma Water's wholesale rates. The Board asked questions about the pass-through including
4 what other agencies use it and was it common in general in the state. Mr. Hildebrand replied that it is
5 becoming more common and is legally allowed for wholesale water costs. Mr. Williams noted that at
6 least three water contractors have used it or plan to use it. Mr. Williams also noted that Kiosk was
7 working on simple graphics to explain the pass-through as well as other aspects of the rates.
8 Director Eichstaedt asked if we were to move an existing pump station to a location that is not ideal
9 engineering wise, will it affect our pumping costs. Mr. Williams said, yes, in addition to construction
10 costs, pumping has costs as well as previously noted in Mr. Hildebrand's presentation. Mr. Williams
11 said a pump station needs to be in an ideal hydraulic location to reduce the pumping costs. Eric
12 Miller said a pump station has to pump longer when it is not located well which means increased
13 pumping costs. Mr. Williams clarified that the Board's action tonight was not an approval of the
14 proposed rates. Director Baker asks if any members of the public would like to speak to this item.

15 Mary Stompe addressed the Board with a few questions regarding the rate study. She
16 asked if, as a Novato ratepayer, does Novato's rate revenue fund the West Marin and Oceana Marin
17 enterprises. Mr. Williams said that, when necessary, the Novato enterprise will loan funds to either
18 of the other two enterprises but it has to be paid back and there is an allocation of overhead to those
19 enterprises. Julie Blue added that the loans are not interest free. Ms. Stompe asked when was the
20 last time the rate methodology was reviewed and Ms. Blue said we try to review every 5 years. She
21 said that we keep the money for each enterprise separate. Ms. Stompe also said she was
22 concerned about the equity between the different types of customer and that it appears residential
23 customers are paying a higher rate. Mr. Hildebrand went over the information he had presented
24 showing the bill impacts for average users. He said the cost of service is the driver and no one
25 class (type or usage Tier) is being penalized. He also noted that the proposed 8.5% is a revenue
26 increase and affects the various rate structure components differently resulting in some individual
27 items with a percentage above or below the 8.5%. Director Petterle mentioned that the fixed rate on
28 is bill is now more than his usage. Mr. Williams said that the fixed charge is needed to ensure that
29 the water distribution system can deliver the water to each customer no matter how much is actually
30 consumed. Director Eichstaedt noted that the Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program is a
31 very important part of the overall picture. Mr. Williams noted that the LIRA program does not use
32 rate revenue and therefore is not subsidized by other customers; the funds come from limited
33 property taxes in Novato (0.1% of all property taxes collected).

34 On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the
35 item by the following vote:

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1 AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

2 NOES: None

3 ABSENT: None

4 ABSTAIN: None

5 **APPROVE: WEST MARIN WATER SYSTEM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE FY 24/25**

6 Julie Blue addressed the Board and went over the West Marin Water System Financial Plan
7 Update for 2024/25. She said that since the FY20/21 Rate Study some variables have changed
8 such as low water sales so a new rate study is recommended a year early. Ms. Blue noted that
9 despite decrease in water sales, there will be a 6% rate increase for the next fiscal year per the
10 2021 Rate Study, which is approximately \$7.70 per bi-monthly bill for the typical residential
11 customer. Tony Williams said that the long-term capital improvement plan is being looked at more
12 closely and is another reason to do a new rate study early. He said there are two key bridges in
13 West Marin that have our pipelines connected to them and since the bridges will be replaced our
14 pipelines will need to be temporarily moved and replaced and the costs will likely be more than
15 expected. Ms. Blue said that the District will be able to borrow funds in the future because much of
16 the previous debt will have been paid off. Ms. Blue also said that water sales are 19% below the
17 recent 5-year average. Director Eichstaedt, referring to the 5-year financial plan attachment, said he
18 is concerned with the lack of reserves in the bank over time. Ms. Blue said that it is due to the lack
19 of water sales and that is another reason to perform a new study early. Director Eichstaedt said that
20 the culture in West Marin is to conserve which in turn equates to lower water sales and questioned
21 how will we fund a new treatment plant in future years. Tony Williams said that staff have met with
22 Congressman Huffman last year, Assemblymember Connolly has visited the Novato Water System
23 and next year hopes to have him visit the Pt. Reyes Treatment Plant with the hope of identifying
24 future funding opportunities. He also said we may need to evaluate the type of water source in West
25 Marin and look at other options. Director Joly said it will challenge us to have new out of the box
26 thinking.

27 On the motion of Director Eichstaedt, and seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved
28 the item by the following vote:

29 AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly and Petterle

30 NOES: None

31 ABSENT: None

32 ABSTAIN: None

33 **APPROVE: OCEANA MARIN SEWER SYSTEM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE FY 24/25**

34 Julie Blue addressed the Board and said that many assumptions in the forecast are based
35 on the 2015 Ocean Marin Master Plan. The proposed 6% rate increase is projected for next fiscal
36 year and subsequent years. However, capital projects that were slated for next fiscal year that may

1 still need loans from the Novato water enterprise to fund them. Ms. Blue noted that the forecast
2 assumes revenue from new sewer connection fees every other year and that a total of \$75,000 has
3 been collected in the current year. Director Joly asked if there are substantive projects in the
4 coming years and Mr. Williams said the Tahiti Way Pump Station will need an upgrade soon.
5 Director Joly asked when the next Oceana Marin Maser Plan draft will be ready and Eric Miller said
6 sometime in 2026.

7 On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the
8 item by the following vote:

9 AYES: Director(s) Baker, Eichstaedt, Fraites, Joly, and Petterle

10 NOES: None

11 ABSENT: None

12 ABSTAIN: None

13 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

14 **TAC MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2024**

15 Tony Williams told the Board that if anyone is interested in touring the Sonoma Water
16 facilities, there are tours for the WAC/TAC members and to let him know. Director Baker highly
17 recommended taking the tours.

18 **MISCELLANEOUS**

19 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – March 21 and 28,
20 2024, Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for February 2024, NOAA Three-Month
21 Outlook Precipitation Probability – March 21, 2024, NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook – March 21,
22 2024.

23 The Board received the following news articles: Marin IJ – California proposes delaying rules
24 aimed at reducing water on lawns – PLAN QUESTIONED, Marin IJ – District faces opposition over
25 water pump – NOVATO, Marin IJ – Utility declines to rule out site for pump station – NOVATO,
26 Marin IJ – The science of weather will be key for supply – EDITORIAL, Marin IJ – Water storage
27 expansion sought – MARIN MUNICIPAL, Pt. Reyes Light – NMWD Budget Review Schedule,
28 Redheaded Blackbelt News – New plan afoot to divert water from the Eel River into the Russian
29 River after dams removed during high flows.

30 **ADJOURNMENT**

31 President Baker adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

32 Submitted by

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Eileen Mulliner
District Secretary

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors

April 16, 2024

From: Julie Blue, Auditor-Controller *JB*

Subj: Rate Increase (Prop. 218) Notice to Novato Water & Recycled Water Customers

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Rate Increase Notification (Prop. 218 Notices)**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** \$12,700 Expense

Section 6 of Article XIIIID of the California Constitution, a provision added with the passage of Proposition 218 in 1996 (Prop. 218), requires that customers be notified of proposed increases in rates or charges not less than 45 days prior to the public hearing where the Board considers adoption of the proposed rate increases. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 4:00 PM. The June 18 hearing date requires that the notification be mailed by May 3, 2024. Design, postage, and printing costs for approximately 21,000 customers is estimated at \$12,700.

The proposed commodity and bi-monthly service charge rate increases for Novato Water and Recycled Water customers will generate an additional 8.5% in revenue. Specific rates are shown in the Proposition 218 notification included as Attachment 1. The proposed increase aligns with the 2024 Novato and Recycled Water Rate Study, accepted by the Board of Directors at the April 2, 2024 Board meeting. A single-family residential customer with median water use (4,500 gallons per month) will see a \$9.54 increase on their bi-monthly bill (\$4.77 per month). As shown in the notice, the cost of water is below the median of the other 16 other Bay Area agencies surveyed.

The attached Prop. 218 notification is a draft of the proposed mailer for Board review and comment, which legal counsel has reviewed to assure compliance with Prop. 218 requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Novato Water and Recycled Water rate increase notice (Prop. 218) notifying customers of proposed increases and upcoming public hearing.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Novato Water & Recycled Water – Proposition 218 Customer Notification FY 24/25

**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

Notice of public hearing regarding proposed rate increases and rate structure changes for the Novato service area

Hearing Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Time: 4:00pm

Location: 100 Wood Hollow Dr, Novato CA 94945

This Notice provides information about proposed increases to North Marin Water District's water rates and proposed rate structure modifications. The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider public comments before the Board votes on the proposed changes.

The District proposes increasing rates and updating the water rate structure for a three-year period starting with Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

If approved at the public hearing on June 18, 2024, the new rates and rate structure changes will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

Reasons for the proposed rate increase:

Increased investment in water facilities

The District must continue to invest in facility upgrades and replacements to properly maintain the District's \$330 million system of pipelines, pumps, reservoirs, treatment plants, valves, hydrants, laboratory, monitoring systems, buildings, and more.

Rising costs to purchase imported water

The cost of purchasing imported water accounts for one third of the Novato operating budget and the water supplier has increased the cost of purchasing water by over 24% in the past two years.

Impact of inflation on all costs

The proposed rate increase is designed to meet all the costs of providing water service. This includes purchasing, treating, and delivering safe, high-quality, reliable water to your home or business without fail.

Reasons for the proposed rate structure changes:

The District regularly reviews its water rate structure to ensure that each residential and commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation customer continues to pay their fair and proportional share of costs. The cost for serving each type of customer varies over time because of changes in customer water use, state regulations, service costs, and other factors.

Proposed rate increases

North Marin Water District is proposing a three-year schedule of rate increases to cover the increasing costs of providing quality potable and recycled water service to our Novato service area customers.

Proposed Pass-Through Provision

North Marin Water District is proposing to adopt a provision whereby future increases to wholesale water rates will be automatically incorporated in rates as those increases occur.

Replacement of commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation customers seasonal usage rates with a year-round uniform rate.

An additional structural change for commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation customers involves replacing the current seasonal quantity charges (with higher rates during some summer months) with a uniform rate that will be applied during all months.

Where to learn more, get answers, and make comments

Call: 415-897-4133

Email: info@nmwd.com

Visit: nmwd.com

Attend the board hearing

The Board will review and consider adopting the rate increases at a public meeting on June 18, 2024, at 4:00pm at 100 Wood Hollow Drive in Novato.

Proposed tiered quantity (usage) charges

Residential customers will continue to pay Tiered Quantity (Usage) Charges made up of three tiers that reflect the cost of the different sources of water.

Tier 1 is based on the cost of imported water. Tier 2 is based on the cost of locally treated water from Stafford

Lake. Tier 3 is based on the cost of locally treated water plus the cost of the District’s conservation program, which is targeted at those customers that use the most water. Usage charges include an **elevation zone charge** to recover the costs of pumping water to higher elevations.

Current Rates		Effective July 1, 2024	Effective July 1, 2025	Effective July 1, 2026
Residential quantity charges (per 1,000 gallons)*				
Tier 1	\$6.77	\$7.01	To be determined due to pass-through provision	
Tier 2	\$7.67	\$9.16	\$9.71	\$10.29
Tier 3	\$9.44	\$13.55	\$14.36	\$15.22
Commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation quantity charges (per 1,000 gallons)				
Uniform	Winter - \$6.77 Summer - \$9.44	\$7.54	To be determined due to pass-through provision	
Other quantity charges (per 1,000 gallons)				
Raw Water	\$3.60	\$3.53	\$3.74	\$3.96
Temporary Meter	\$8.60	\$10.08	\$10.68	\$11.32
Recycled Water	\$7.38	\$6.75	\$7.16	\$7.59
Elevation zone charge (per 1,000)				
Zone A (0 - 60 ft)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Zone B (60 - 200 ft)	\$0.93	\$0.92	\$0.98	\$1.03
Zone C (> 200 ft)	\$2.58	\$2.54	\$2.69	\$2.85

* Tier 1 allocation is the first 262 gallons per day (gpd) per dwelling unit. Tier 2 allocation is 263 to 720 gpd per dwelling unit. Tier 3 is greater than 720 gpd.

Proposed bi-monthly fixed service charges

The Bi-Monthly Fixed Service Charge includes an account charge and a meter charge. The meter charge is based on an industry standard that apportions costs based on meter size and flow capacity. Most single-family residential customers have a 5/8” meter. Residential accounts that have a 1” meter due to fire requirements, but would otherwise have a 5/8” meter, are charged at the 5/8” meter rate.

Meter Size	Current Fixed Charge	Effective July 1, 2024	Effective July 1, 2025	Effective July 1, 2026
Potable water bi-monthly service charge				
5/8"	\$51.01	\$58.39	\$61.89	\$65.60
1"	\$91.11	\$105.73	\$112.07	\$118.79
1.5"	\$157.95	\$184.63	\$195.71	\$207.45
2"	\$238.16	\$279.31	\$296.07	\$313.83
3"	\$452.04	\$531.79	\$563.70	\$597.52
4"	\$692.65	\$815.83	\$864.78	\$916.67
6"	\$1,361.04	\$1,604.83	\$1,701.12	\$1,803.19
8"	\$1,762.07	\$2,078.23	\$2,202.92	\$2,335.10
Recycled water bi-monthly service charge				
5/8"	\$57.71	\$85.08	\$90.18	\$95.59
1"	\$101.49	\$188.97	\$200.31	\$212.33
1.5"	\$174.47	\$362.12	\$383.85	\$406.88
2"	\$262.03	\$569.90	\$604.09	\$640.34
3"	\$495.54	\$1,123.98	\$1,191.42	\$1,262.91
4"	\$758.23	\$1,747.32	\$1,852.16	\$1,963.29
6"	\$1,487.94	\$3,478.82	\$3,687.55	\$3,908.80
Private fire bi-monthly service charge				
1"	\$17.52	\$19.01	\$20.15	\$21.36
2"	\$23.10	\$25.06	\$26.56	\$28.15
4"	\$64.46	\$69.94	\$74.14	\$78.59
6"	\$90.56	\$98.26	\$104.16	\$110.41
8"	\$120.36	\$130.59	\$138.43	\$146.74
10"	\$157.63	\$171.03	\$181.29	\$192.17

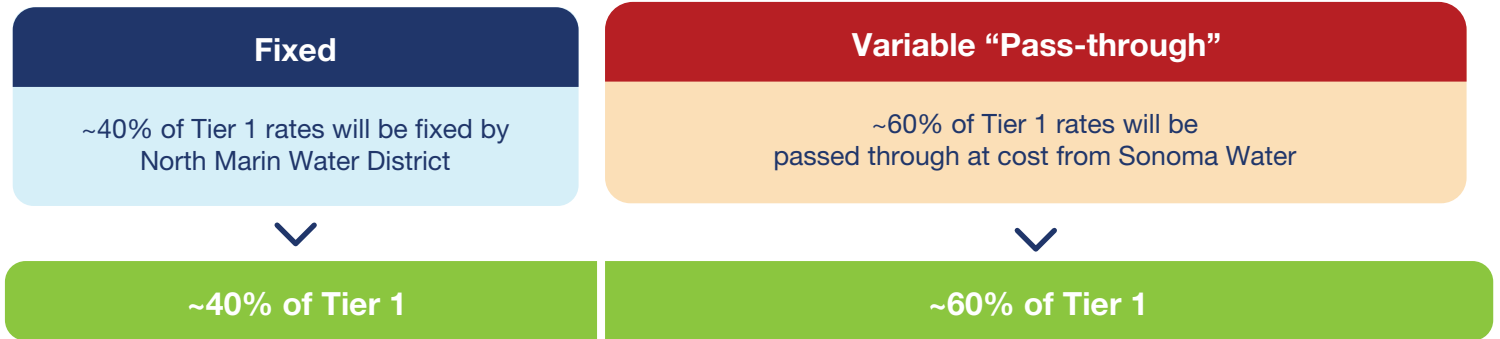
Pass-through provision for FY 25/26 & FY 26/27

Government Code 53756 allows for pass-through adjustments based upon increases in the wholesale charges for water from another public agency for up to a five-year authorization period. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and 2026/2027, should Sonoma Water adopt an increase in its charges, North Marin may recalculate its rates to reflect the unknown future increases. Such future rate adjustments

do not require additional public hearings or any additional action by the North Marin Water District. At least 30 days before the annual July 1 effective date, North Marin Water District will notify its customers of the rate adjustment. Additional details regarding the formula for this pass-through calculation can be found in the 2024 Novato and Recycled Water Rate Study.

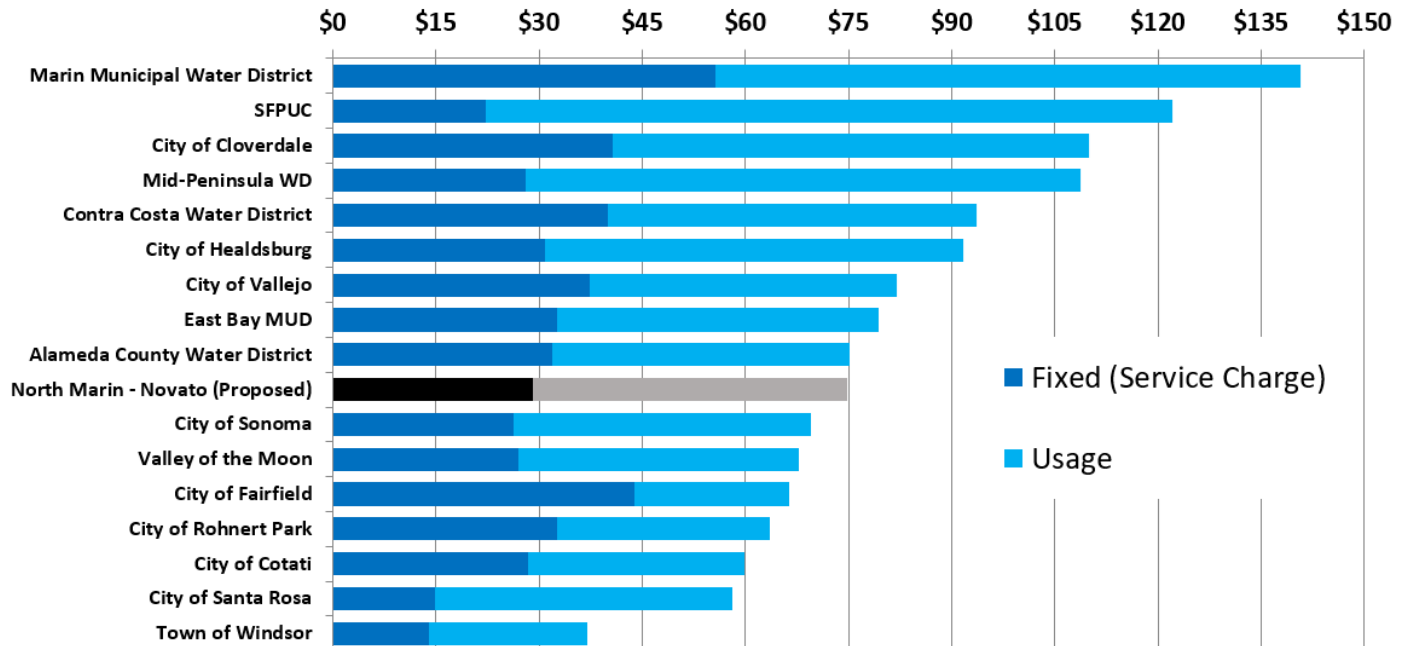
Sonoma Water Pass Through Cost

The pass-through cost impacts the Tier 1 rate as indicated in the graphics below (examples are for residential customers).



Rate Comparison

Our rates are the lowest in Marin County and at the median for water agencies around the Bay Area region.



The proposed changes in rates are based on detailed engineering, financial, and legal evaluations carried out with the help of recognized experts in water rates. The rates conform to California law requiring that each residential and commercial, industrial, institutional and irrigation customer pay their proportionate share of the cost to serve them.

The maximum rates that may be imposed are shown in this document. Prior to implementing the rates, the Board of Directors may choose to implement the full amount or less, but not more.



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

At the public hearing

The Board of Directors will accept and consider all written protests and will hear and consider all verbal comments to the proposed rate increases at the public hearing. Verbal comments must be accompanied by a written protest to qualify as a valid protest. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate increases as outlined in this notice. If written protests of the proposed changes are presented by a majority of the property owners or tenants subject to the proposed changes, the proposed rate increases will not be adopted.

How to protest the proposed rate increases

Any owner of a parcel upon which the water service charges are proposed to be changed, or any tenant that directly pays the water bill for such parcel, may submit a written protest of the proposed rate changes. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Written protests must:

(1) state that the property owner or tenant is opposing the proposed increases; (2) provide the location of the parcel (by street address, assessor's parcel number, or customer account number); and (3) include the name and signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail to the District Secretary at North Marin Water District, PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948, or in person at the public hearing. All written protests must be received prior to the close of the public input portion of the public hearing. Protests submitted via email or other electronic means will not be accepted. Please mark the protest: Attn: Novato Water Rate Hearing.

Per California Senate Bill 323, legal challenges to new or increased water or sewer rates must be initiated within 120 days of the effective date or date of final passage, adoption, or approval of the ordinance or resolution adopting the water or sewer rate.

nmwd.com

Phone: 415-897-4133 (Weekdays 8am – 5pm)

Email: info@nmwd.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948-0146

Board of Directors

Jack Baker, President

Michael Joly, Vice President

Rick Fraites, Director

Ken Eichstaedt, Director

Stephen Petterle, Director

General Manager

Tony Williams

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

April 16, 2024

From: Julie Blue, Auditor-Controller *JB*

Subj: Rate Increase (Prop. 218) Notice to West Marin Water & Oceana Marin Sewer Customers
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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Rate Increase Notification (Prop 218 Notices)

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$1,250 Expense

Section 6 of Article XIID of the California Constitution, a provision added with the passage of Proposition 218 in 1996 (Prop 218), requires that customers be notified of proposed increases in rates or charges not less than 45 days prior to the public hearing where the Board considers adoption of the proposed rate increases. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18 2024 at 4:00 PM. The June 18 hearing date requires that the notification be mailed by May 3, 2024. Design, postage, and printing costs for approximately 795 West Marin Water customers is estimated at \$1,050. The Oceana Marin Sewer System letters will be printed in-house and the postage and printing will cost approximately \$200.

West Marin Water

The proposed quantity (usage) and bimonthly service charge rate increase for West Marin Water customers is 6.0% as shown in the Proposition 218 notification included as Attachment 1. The proposed increase aligns with the 2021 West Marin Rate Study and with the Board reviewed five-year financial forecast presented at the April 2, 2024 Board meeting. The single-family residential customer with median water use (2,925 gallons per month) will see a \$7.70 on their bi-monthly bill (\$3.85 per month). As shown in the notice, the cost of water is the second lowest of the eight agencies included in the survey.

Oceana Marin Sewer

The proposed sewer service charge rate increase for Oceana Marin Sewer customers is 6.0% as shown in the Proposition 218 notification included as Attachment 2. The proposed increase aligns with the Board reviewed five-year financial forecast presented at the April 2, 2024 Board meeting. Each Oceana Marin Sewer customer will see an increase of \$82 per year to \$1,456/year, billed on their property tax bills. Attachment 3, the Coastal Area Sewer Cost Comparison, shows the Oceana Marin sewer rates are the second highest when compared to six similar agencies.

The attached Proposition 218 notifications are drafts of the proposed mailers for Board review and comment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

1. Approve West Marin Water rate increase notice (Prop 218) notifying customers of proposed increases and upcoming public hearing.
2. Approve Oceana Marin Sewer rate increase notice (Prop 218) notifying customers of proposed increases and upcoming public hearing.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. West Marin Water – Proposition 218 Customer Notification FY 24/25
2. Oceana Marin Sewer - Proposition 218 Customer Notification FY 24/25
3. Coastal Area Sewer Charge Cost Comparison FY 24/25



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

Notice of public hearing regarding proposed rate increases for the West Marin Water System Service Area

Hearing Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Time: 4:00pm

Location: 100 Wood Hollow Dr, Novato CA 94945

This Notice provides information about proposed increases to North Marin Water District's West Marin Water System Service Area water rates and charges. The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing at which public comments will be considered and written protests will be counted before the Board votes on the proposed increases.

The District proposes increasing rates for fiscal year 2024-2025. If approved at the public hearing on June 18, 2024, the new rates will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

The key reasons that a 6% rate increase is needed are described below.

Increased investment in water facilities

The District must continue to make investments in facility upgrades and replacements that will benefit the West Marin Water System's fire protection, water supply, and aging infrastructure. This will help to properly maintain the service area's treatment plant, 26 miles of pipeline, 7 pump stations, 13 tanks, 4 wells, 172 hydrants, monitoring systems, and more.

Impact of inflation on all costs

The proposed revenue increase is designed to meet all the costs of providing water service, all of which rise every year with inflation. These costs include treating and delivering safe, high quality, reliable water to your home or business without fail.

Where to learn more, get answers, and make comments

Call: 415-897-4133

Email: info@nmwd.com

Visit: nmwd.com

Attend the board hearing

The Board will review and consider adopting the rate increases at a public board meeting on June 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at:
100 Wood Hollow Dr., Novato, CA 94945.

At the public hearing

The Board of Directors will accept and consider all written protests and will hear and consider all verbal comments to the proposed rate increases at the public hearing. Verbal comments must be accompanied by a written protest to qualify as a valid protest. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate increases as outlined in this notice. If written protests of the proposed changes are presented by a majority of the property owners or tenants subject to the proposed changes, the proposed rate increases will not be adopted.

How to protest the proposed rate increases

Any owner of a parcel upon which the water service charges are proposed to be changed, or any tenant that directly pays the water bill for such parcel, may submit a written protest of the proposed rate changes. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Written protests must: (1) state that the property owner or tenant is opposing the proposed increases; (2) provide the location of the parcel (by street address, assessor's parcel number, or customer account number); and (3) include the name and signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail to the District Secretary at North Marin Water District, PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948, or in person at the public hearing. All written protests must be received prior to the close of the public input portion of the public hearing. Protests submitted via email or other electronic means will not be accepted. Please mark the protest: Attn: West Marin Water Rate Hearing.

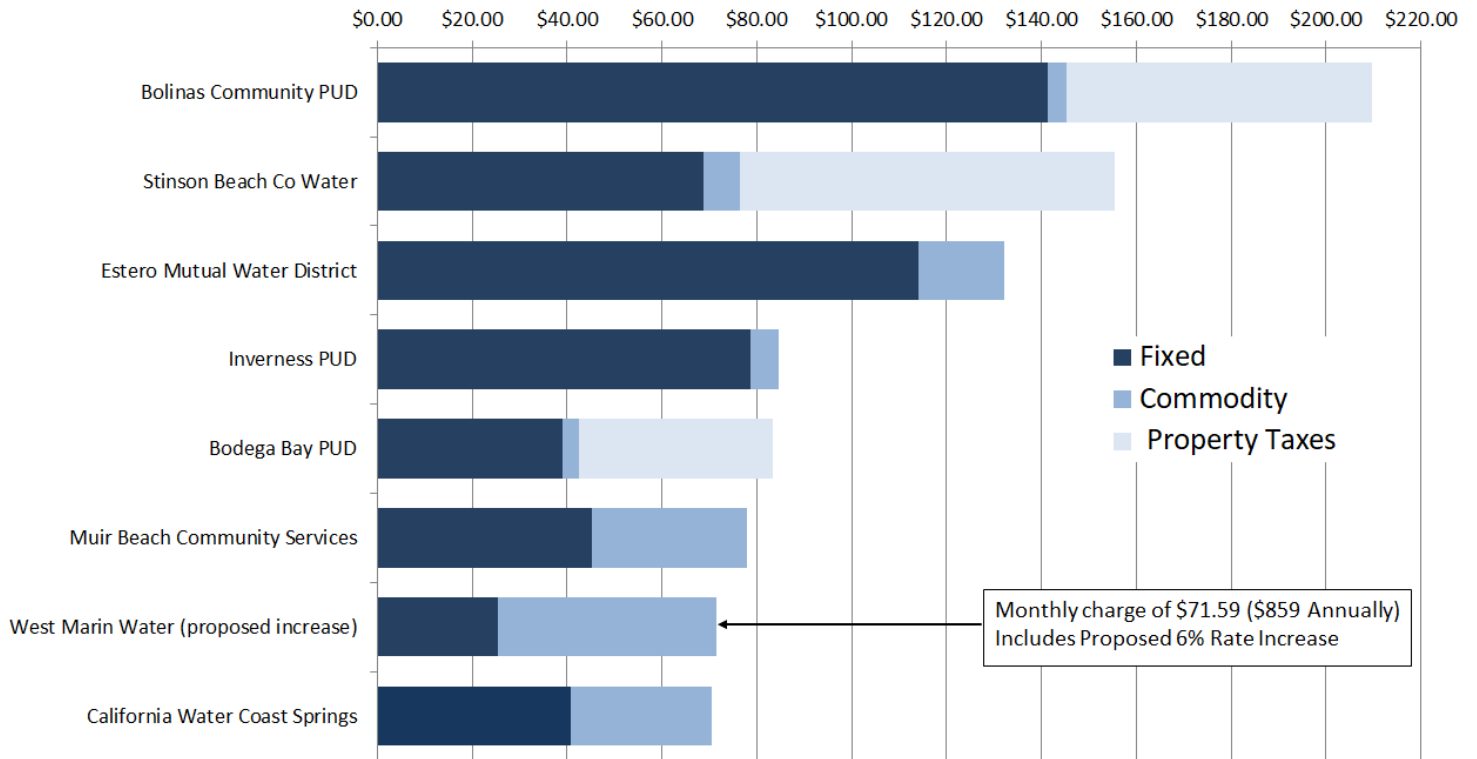
Per California Senate Bill 323, legal challenges to new or increased water or sewer rates must be initiated within 120 days of the effective date or date of final passage, adoption, or approval of the ordinance or resolution adopting the water or sewer rate.

Rate comparison

West Marin water rates are the second lowest when compared to other West Marin Coastal Area Retail Water Agencies.

Monthly water bill survey for single family homes with median usage (2,925 gallons per month)

Monthly Water Bill Survey for Single Family Homes with Median Usage (2,925 gallons per month)



Details of proposed rate increases

Proposed 6% rate increase

North Marin Water District is proposing a 6% rate increase in its West Marin Water System in order to cover the increasing costs of providing potable water that is reliable, high quality, environmentally responsible and reasonably priced.

The typical residential customer (approximately 86% of all customers) will pay about \$7.70 bi-monthly if the changes are approved (\$3.85 per month)



Proposed bi-monthly fixed service charges

The bi-monthly fixed service charge is made up of an account charge and a meter charge. The meter charge is based on an industry standard that apportions costs based on meter size and flow capacity. Most single-family residential customers have a 5/8” meter. Residential accounts that have a 1” meter due to fire requirements, but would otherwise have a 5/8” meter, are charged at the 5/8” meter rate.

The proposed changes in rates are based on detailed engineering, financial, and legal evaluations carried out with the help of recognized experts in water rates. The rates conform to California law requiring that each class of customers (residential and commercial, industrial institutional, & irrigation) pay their proportionate share of the cost to serve them.

The maximum rates that may be imposed are shown in this document. Prior to implementing the rates, the Board of Directors may choose to implement the full amount or less, but not more.

Proposed bi-monthly fixed service charge for potable water		
Meter Size (in inches)	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge
5/8”	\$47.86	\$50.73
1”*	\$117.76	\$124.82
1.5”	\$234.24	\$248.29
2”	\$374.02	\$396.46
3”	\$746.79	\$791.60
4”	\$1,166.15	\$1,236.12

*Residential accounts that have a 1” meter due to fire requirements, but would otherwise have 5/8” meter, are charged at the 5/8” meter rate.

Proposed tiered quantity (usage) charges

The proposed quantity (usage) charges have three tiers that reflect the costs of the different sources of water.

Tier 1 (1-250 gallons per day (GPD)) is based on the cost of drawing water from existing wells and half of the financing costs associated with construction of the new well. Tier 2 (251-600 GPD) includes all of Tier 1 costs, as well as the remaining financing costs associated with the new well.

Tier 3 (>600 GPD) includes all of the Tier 2 costs, as well as the costs of the District’s conservation program. Usage charges include an **elevation (hydraulic) zone charge** to recover the costs of pumping water to higher elevations.

Proposed bi-monthly tiered usage rates for residential - potable water						
Quantity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons	Current Rates			Proposed Rates		
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Residential Elevation Zone 1	\$9.97	\$14.50	\$20.60	\$10.57	\$15.37	\$21.83
Residential Elevation Zone 3*	\$11.21	\$15.74	\$21.84	\$11.89	\$16.69	\$23.15
Residential Elevation Zone 2*	\$12.43	\$16.96	\$23.06	\$13.18	\$17.98	\$24.44
Residential Elevation Zone 4**	\$16.90	\$21.42	\$27.52	\$17.91	\$22.71	\$29.17

Proposed bi-monthly tiered usage rates for commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation - potable water				
Quantity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons	Current Rates		Proposed Rates	
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
Commercial Elevation Zone 1	\$9.97	\$20.60	\$10.57	\$21.83
Commercial Elevation Zone 3*	\$11.21	\$21.84	\$11.89	\$23.15
Commercial Elevation Zone 2*	\$12.43	\$23.06	\$13.18	\$24.44
Commercial Elevation Zone 4**	\$16.90	\$27.52	\$17.91	\$29.17

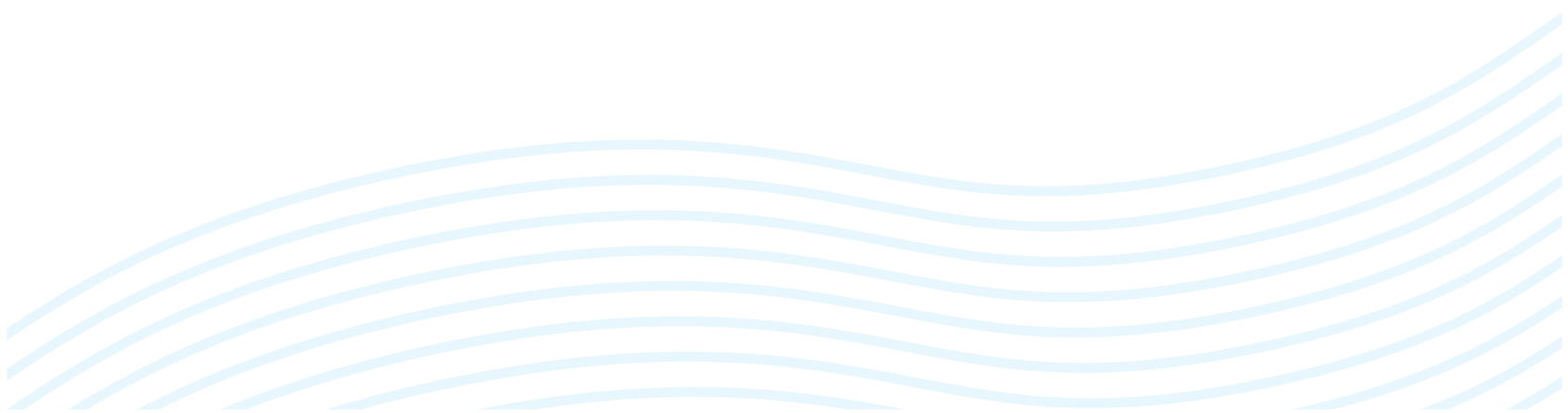
* Zone 3 (Olema) is at a lower elevation than Zone 2 (Inverness Park, Bear Valley, and Lower Paradise Ranch Estates).

** Zone 4 (Upper Paradise Ranch Estates).



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

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Proposed fire service charges

Fire service charges apply to commercial connections with fire sprinklers. The charges are based on the actual cost of maintaining fire service lines.

Proposed bi-monthly fire service charge		
Service Size	Current	Proposed
1"	\$16.96	\$17.98
1.5" & 2"	\$22.37	\$23.71
4"	\$62.40	\$66.15
6"	\$87.66	\$92.92
8"	\$116.52	\$123.51
10"	\$152.59	\$161.74

Proposed bi-monthly usage rates for other water services

These charges are for additional services that are offered to customers.

Proposed bi-monthly usage rates		
Quantity charge per 1,000 gallons		
Water Type	Current	Proposed
Temporary/Fire Svc	\$16.97	\$17.99
Outside Improvement District - Surcharge	\$4.58	\$4.85

nmwd.com

Phone: 415-897-4133 (Weekdays 8am – 5pm)

Email: info@nmwd.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948-0146

Board of Directors

Jack Baker, President

Michael Joly, Vice President

Ken Eichstaedt, Director

Rick Frites, Director

Stephen Petterle, Director

General Manager

Tony Williams



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

999 Rush Creek Place
P.O. Box 146
Novato, CA 94948-0146

PHONE
415-897-4133

EMAIL
info@nmwd.com

WEB
www.nmwd.com

May 2, 2024

RE: Notice of Proposed Oceana Marin Sewer Service Charge Increase

Dear Customer:

This letter is to advise you of a **proposed increase to the Oceana Marin sewer service charge** that would take effect on July 1, 2024. It also provides information about a **Public Hearing scheduled on June 18, 2024**, at which time written protests and oral comments will be considered and a vote on the proposed increase will be taken by the North Marin Water District Board of Directors.

How much is the proposed rate increase?

Current Oceana Marin sewer service charges are \$1,374/year. A **6% increase**, or \$82 per year, is proposed resulting in an increased rate of \$1,456/year.

How will the proposed increase affect my sewer bill?

Oceana Marin sewer service charges are collected on the Marin County property tax bill, which is charged annually for the fiscal year period July 1 through June 30. The proposed sewer service charge increase would add \$82 annually to the cost of sewer service for all customers in Oceana Marin. This will result in a fiscal year 24/25 sewer charge of \$1,456.

Why are rates being increased?

In January 2016 the District approved a 2015 Master Plan Update that identified over \$3 million in projects necessary to improve the reliability and redundancy of the Oceana Marin Wastewater System. Constructing these improvements will be financially challenging for the 236 customers of the Oceana Marin utility. Even if the projects are constructed over a 20-year period, the cost would still average \$150,000 annually. The proposed increase, if enacted, would generate \$19,000 of additional revenue annually. The entire Master Plan Update is available for review at:

<https://nmwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/4046-Oceana-Marin-2015-Master-Update-Final.pdf>.

The Master Plan is scheduled to be updated in 2025 at which time the assumptions and projections outlined in the current plan will be reevaluated to ensure they align with the changing and aging infrastructure needs of the Oceana Marin Sewer System.

Additional rate increases will be necessary in future years as the District continues to improve the reliability of the existing facilities and to construct redundant facilities in order to protect against potential system failure and sewage spills. Prior years' rate increases were in-line with financing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan on a pay-go basis while the current 5-year financial plan includes annual rate increases of 6% for FY 24/25 and thereafter, and forecasts borrowing funds to complete the plan.

DIRECTORS: JACK BAKER · KEN EICHSTAEDT · RICK FRAITES · MICHAEL JOLY · STEPHEN PETTERLE

OFFICERS: TONY WILLIAMS, General Manager · ERIC MILLER, AGM/Chief Engineer · EILEEN MULLINER, District Secretary · JULIE BLUE, Auditor-Controller

Public Hearing

A public hearing before the NMWD Board of Directors to consider the proposed sewer service charge increase is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at:

100 Wood Hollow Drive, Novato, CA 94945

The Board of Directors will accept and consider all written protests and will hear and consider all verbal comments to the proposed sewer service charge increase at the Public Hearing. Verbal comments must be accompanied by a written protest to qualify as a valid protest. At the conclusion of the Hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the proposed sewer service charge increase as outlined in this notice. If written protests to the proposed sewer service charge increase are presented by a majority of the property owners, the proposed increase will not be adopted.

Your written protest must be received prior to the close of the June 18, 2024 public hearing. Written protests must: 1) state that the property owner is opposing the proposed increase 2) include the name and signature of the property owner; and 3) must include a description of the parcel (parcel number or service address). Only one written protest will be counted for each property. Send written protests to:

District Secretary
North Marin Water District
PO Box 146
Novato, CA 94948

Per California Senate Bill 323, legal challenges to new or increased water or sewer rates must be initiated within 120 days of the effective date or date of final passage, adoption, or approval of the ordinance or resolution adopting the water or sewer rate.

For more information about the North Marin Water District, including a history of the Oceana Marin Sewer System, or to view the most recent Coastal Area Sewer Cost Comparison or the District's audited financial statement, visit NMWD's website at www.nmwd.com or call the office at (415) 897-4133.

Sincerely,



Tony Williams, PE
General Manager

2024 COASTAL AREA SEWER COST COMPARISON

Comparison of NMWD's Charges with Other Agencies based on Charges in effect on 7/1/24

Agency	No. of Sewer Services	Monthly Service Charge	Annual Tax Revenue ⁽¹⁾	Annual Total
Bolinas Community PUD	163	\$139.92	\$0	\$1,679
> NMWD Oceana Marin	236	\$121.33 ⁽³⁾	\$0	\$1,456 <
Marshall Community Wastewater System	52	\$118.03 ⁽²⁾	\$0	\$1,416
Tomales Village CSD	134	\$85.34	\$94 ⁽⁴⁾	\$1,118
Bodega Bay PUD	1,114	\$76.26	\$0	\$915
Stinson Beach Co Water - Inspection Only	710	\$39.65 ⁽⁵⁾	\$417 ⁽⁶⁾	\$893

Notes:

- (1) Includes taxes for debt service on outstanding sewer bonds and loans plus any applicable allocation of the AB8 1% County levy distributed to compensate for the Prop 13 elimination of the operation and maintenance tax.
- (2) Community wastewater step-system commenced October 2008. Each parcel has own septic tank, pumped to a community collection tank, then pumped into a community leach field. Rate shown is last year's rate. Rates are based on the Bay Area CPI at April 30th which will be available toward the end of May. Rate used is the April 2023 rate.
- (3) Includes proposed increase of \$82/year
- (4) Based on home with net AV of \$470,682 (average 2023/24 AV on 81 single family homes in Tomales) and tax rate of 2.0¢/\$100 AV.
- (5) On-Site Wastewater System - no sewer system. Services provided include septic inspections, ground and surface water monitoring and other inspections required by the State Water Quality Control Board. In addition to the cost paid to Stinson Beach Water Co., each customer must purchase and install their own on-site wastewater system.
- (6) Stinson Beach shares in 1% County levy. This "allocation" was projected by the County of Marin at \$988,031 for 2023/24 of which 30% was allocated to sewer amounting to \$417 per service.

3/28/2024

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7

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors Date: April 16, 2024
From: Eric Miller, Assistant General Manager / Chief Engineer *EM*
Subject: Administration & Laboratory Upgrade Project – Construction Update
r:\folders by job no\6000 jobs\6501.44 nmwd office_yard bldg renovation\bod memos\2024 0416 - project update ppt\04-16-24 bod memo bldg project update.docx

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information Only

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None at this time

On April 29, 2022, your Board approved award of a contract to D.L. Falk Construction Inc. for the construction phase of the Administration and Laboratory Upgrade Project. The project consists of a renovation of the District's existing nearly 60-year old office building and a new one-story addition to provide a new water quality laboratory, new staff lunchroom, and lobby area.

The construction phase began with a pre-construction meeting on June 21, 2022. Since that meeting, District staff has been deeply involved in coordination with the design team, construction administrator and the contractor. The contractor's most recent schedule indicates project completion in May 2024, although current progress indicates a more realistic completion date of August 2024.

District staff provided a project update at the January 16, 2024 Board meeting and plans to continue providing quarterly informational presentations to the Board with details regarding schedule updates, progress photos, unforeseen issues, and budget status.

ATTACHMENTS: Presentation slides dated April 16, 2024



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

**Administration & Laboratory
Upgrade Project
Construction Update**

April 16, 2024



Progress Photos



03/15/2024

1	Progress Photos
2	Unforeseen Issues
3	Schedule Update
4	Budget Status



Progress Photos



01/19/2024



03/22/2024

Boardroom Northern and Southern Wall



Progress Photos

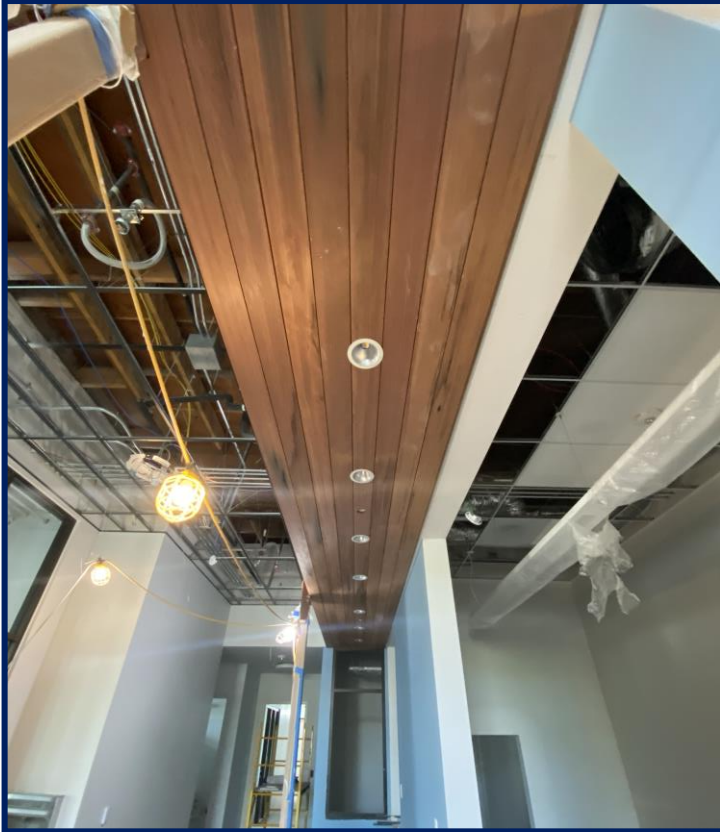
Aerial Drone Footage



3/15/2024



Progress Photos



03/22/2024



03/22/2024

Front Lobby



Progress Photos



03/22/2024

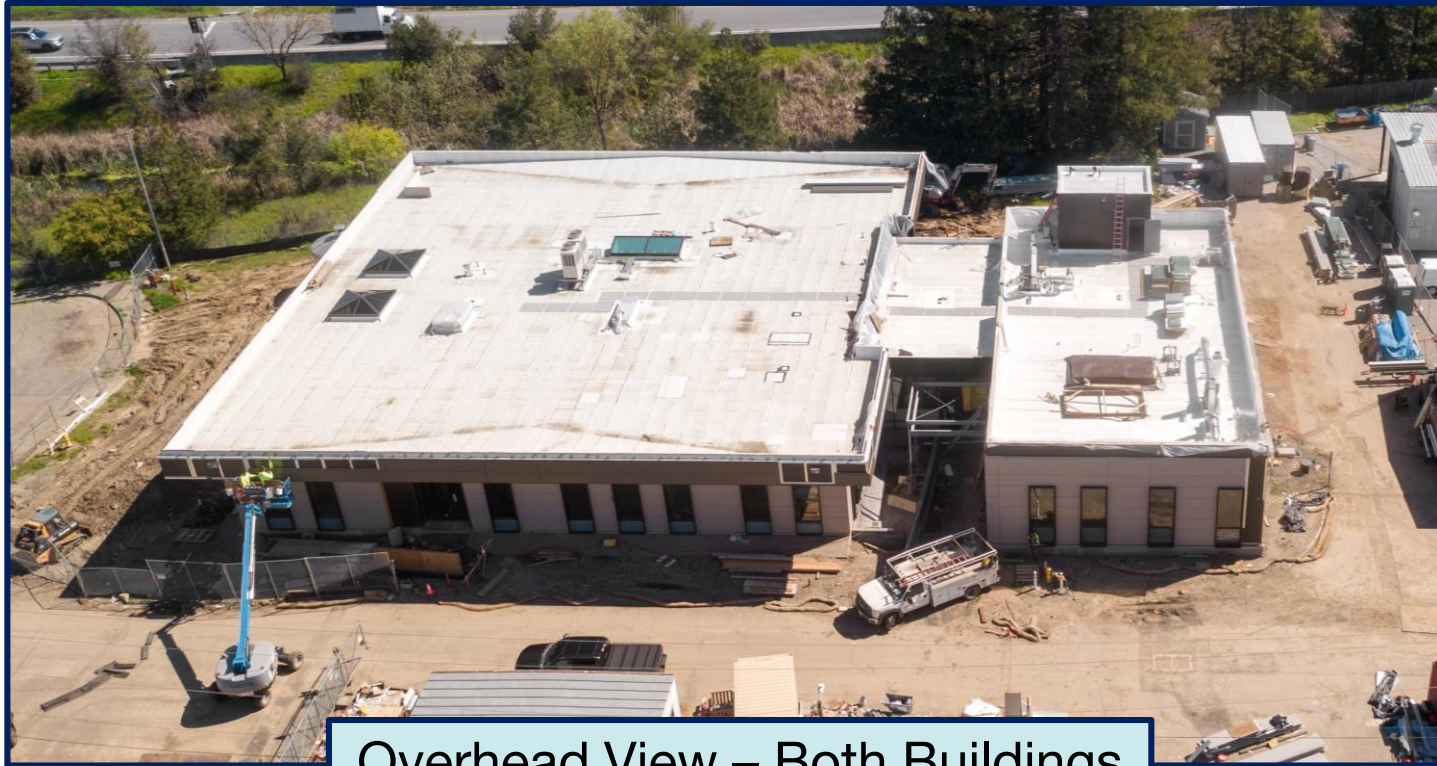


03/22/2024

Lab Exterior Panels



Progress Photos



Overhead View – Both Buildings

03/15/2024



Progress Photos



03/22/2024



03/22/2024

New Lab Cabinets



Progress Photos

Employee Entrance



03/22/2024



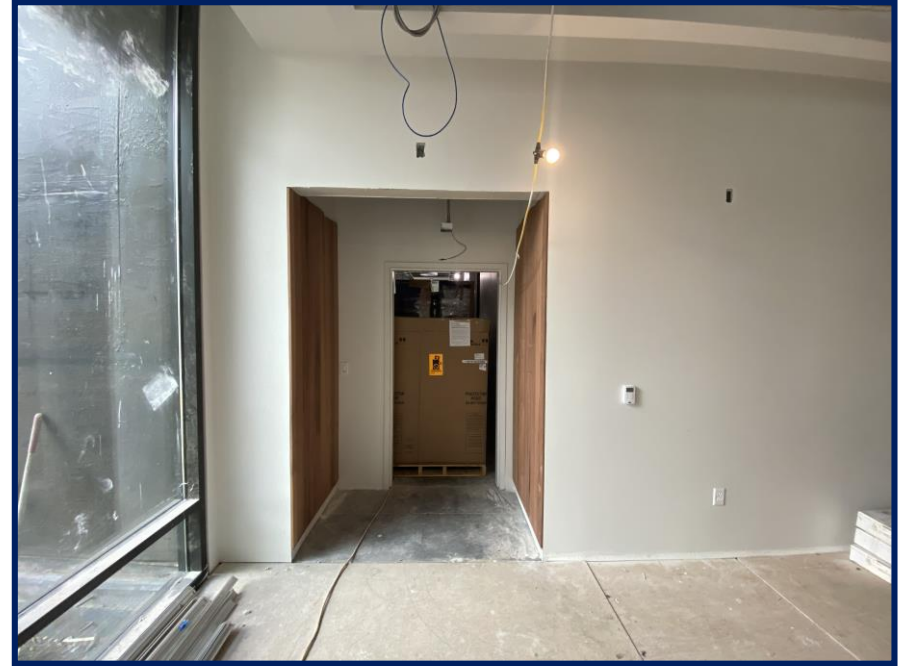
03/22/2024



Progress Photos



03/22/2024

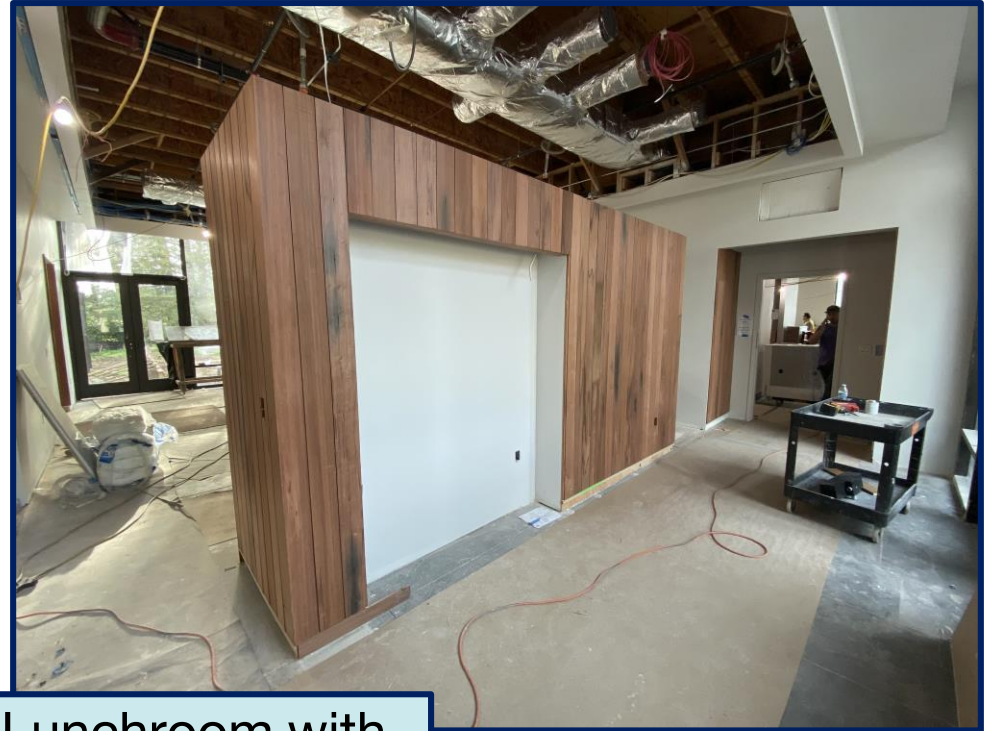


03/22/2024

Employee Lunchroom and Hallway to Admin Building



Progress Photos



Staff Lunchroom with
Reclaimed Redwood

03/22/2024

03/22/2024



Progress Photos

03/22/2024

Preparations for New Decks



Old Public Entrance

03/22/2024



Lunchroom





Unforeseen Issues

Supply Chain Delays



03/01/2024

Material procurement continues to be an issue of discussion and uncertainty

Electrical Main Switch Board (MSB) is the remaining major unknown.

Materials Impacted

Electrical Equipment ¹

Delivery Unknown

Mechanical Equipment

Installation In Progress

Glass / Storefronts

Installation Complete

Exterior Paneling

Installation In Progress

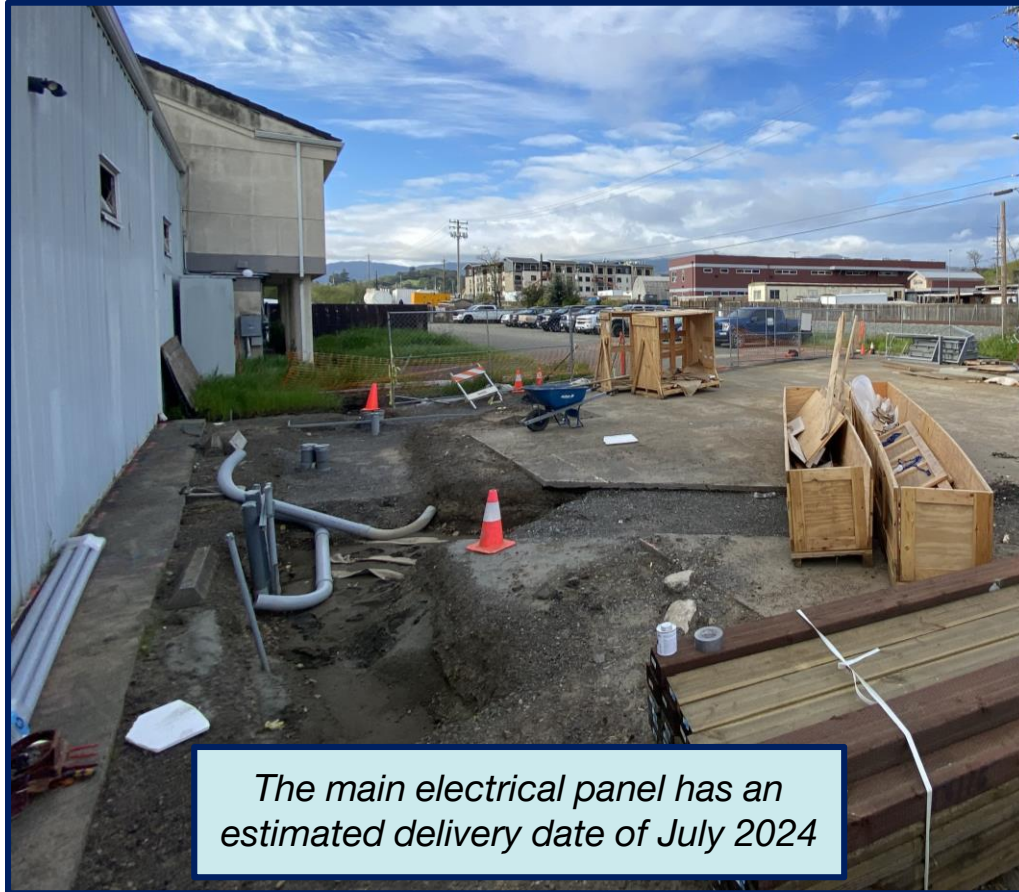
Lab Equipment

Installation In Progress

¹ Main Switch Board (MSB) delivery expected in July 2024



Electrical Panel Delays



The main electrical panel has an estimated delivery date of July 2024

03/22/2024





Project Schedule

Project Schedule



11/08/23

1st Day of Work	July 11, 2022
Original Project Duration	420 calendar days
Time Elapsed as of 3/31/24	616 calendar days (146%)
Original Project Completion	September 4, 2023

Weather Days Added	35 working days ¹
Days Added via Change Order	86 working days ²
Adjusted Project Completion	February 19, 2024

Contractor's Scheduled Completion	May 24, 2024
Difference in Completion Dates	95 calendar days

¹ base contract included 15 assumed weather days. (50-15=35)

² includes 33 working days negotiated due to owner-caused delays



3-Month Look Ahead Schedule

Item of Work	April				May				June			
Administration Building												
M.E.P. Trim Out and Ceiling Close-In	X	X	X	X								
Exterior Metal Paneling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Exterior Site Work (ramps, decks, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Floor Prep, Tile, Carpet					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Lab Building												
Lab Casework and Lab Equipment	X	X	X	X	X	X						
M.E.P. Trim Out and Ceiling Close-In	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Exterior Site Work (ramps, decks, etc.)						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
System Commissioning											X	X

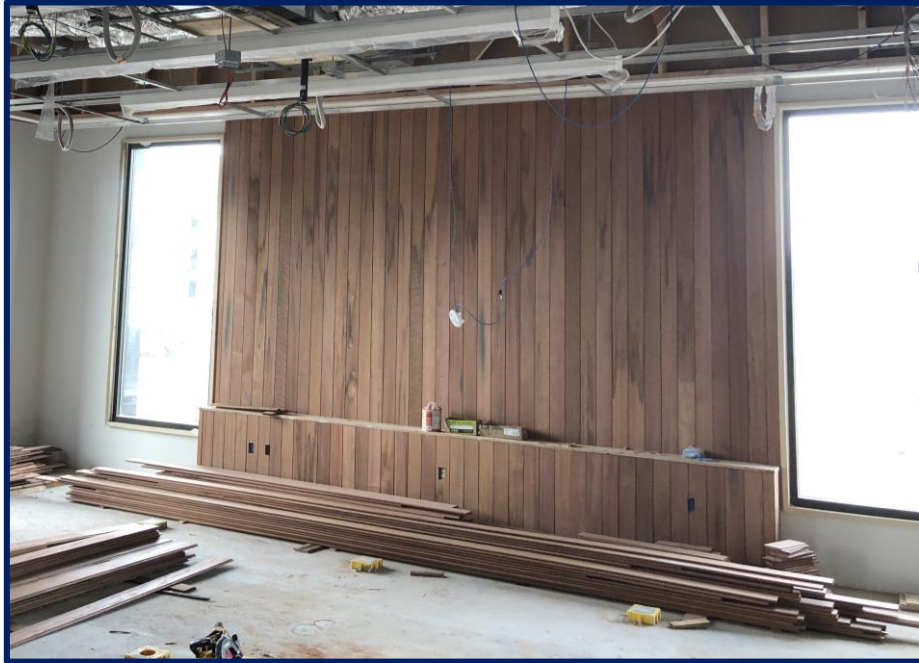




Budget Status

Contractor Budget Status

¹ through March 2024



03/01/2024

DL Falk Contract	\$	11,614,000	
Base Contract Paid ¹	\$	9,812,874	84%

Contingency	\$	1,252,000	
Change Order Paid ²	\$	854,174	68% ³

Project Start	July 11, 2022	
Time Elapsed	616 days	
Orig. End Date	Sept. 4, 2023	146%
Adj. End Date	Feb 19, 2024	115%

² includes bid add. for landscape - \$96k (7.7%)

³ represents change orders 1-19, add'l change orders pending



Overall Budget Status

¹ through March 2024



03/15/2024

Construction ¹	\$	10,667,000
Soft Cost (Design & Legal)	\$	1,488,000
Soft Cost (Const. Mgmt.)	\$	2,055,000
Permit Fees	\$	228,000
Temp. Facilities (Office & Lab)	\$	1,000,000
NMWD Supplied Work ²	\$	739,000
NMWD Supplied Equipment ³	\$	294,000
Cost of Financing	\$	124,000
Sub-Total	\$	16,595,000

Webster Bank Loan Balance	\$	4,573,000
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¹ includes base contract (84%) and contingency expenditures (68%) to date

² includes District staff time and contracts outside the base construction contract

³ includes office furniture, lab equipment and audio/visual technology





Questions?



8

North Bay Watershed Association

Board Meeting - Agenda

March 1, 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE
City of Sonoma - Council Chambers**

[177 First Street West, Sonoma CA 95476](#)

For those wishing to attend virtually

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630673971?pwd=dm94TXJCRWMyWFBLc3U5V2pTSmNRZz09>

Webinar ID: 816 3067 3971 Password: 216460

Agenda and materials will be available the day of the meeting at: www.nbwatershed.org

AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Proposed Action
9:30	Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions <i>Jean Mariani, Chair</i>	<i>N/A</i>
9:35	General Public Comments This time is reserved for the public to address the Committee about matters NOT on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Committee.	<i>N/A</i>
9:40	Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes Review <i>Jean Mariani, Chair</i> Treasurer’s Report <i>Jean Mariani, Chair</i>	<i>Approve/ Accept</i>
9:50	Guest Presentation - 2024 Outlook and Dialogue with the San Francisco Bay Water Board Executive Officer <i>Eileen White, Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board</i> Eileen will provide a forward-looking overview of water board priorities in 2024/2025 that may be of interest to north bay utilities and municipalities, describe State budget impacts to water board programs, and prompt a dialogue with attendees.	<i>Presentation slides</i>

10:20	<p>Executive Director Report <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i></p> <p>Andy will provide updates and solicit board input on activities since the February 2 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs and communications.</p>	<p><i>ED updates, Board questions, and input</i></p>
10:30	<p>NBWA FY 2024/25 Draft Workplan <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i></p> <p>Andy will provide an overview of a draft workplan and solicit feedback.</p>	<p><i>Presentation slides</i></p>
10:40	<p>NBWA Biennial Conference Planning Update <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i></p> <p>Andy will provide an update on conference planning activities and progress for the event scheduled for April 19, 2024, at Sonoma State University.</p>	<p><i>Presentation slides</i></p>
10:50	<p>Board Information Exchange and Updates <i>Members</i></p> <p>Members will highlight issues and share items of interest.</p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>
11:30	<p>Announcements/Adjourn</p> <p>April 19 - 2024 NBWA Conference: Imagine Our Future North Bay</p> <p>Next Board Meeting: May 3</p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>

9

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED APRIL 4, 2024

Date Prepared 4/1/24

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	Able Tire & Brake	Tires (6) ('18 Dodge Ram & '22 Chevy Bolt)	\$2,627.00
2	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	192.00
3	Ammons Backflow Certified	Backflow Testing Services (72)	4,500.00
4	Autoworld	Parts & Labor to Program Key Fobs (2) ('18 Dodge Ram)	216.94
5	Backflow Distributors	Backflow Test Kits (4) & Check Relief Valve Seat Kits (4)	689.05
6	Bold & Polisner	February Legal Fees--General (\$1,620) & NMWD Portion Potter Valley FERC	1,845.00
7	Calif Dept of Wtr Resources	FY25 Annual Dam Fees	21,680.00
8	Comcast	Internet Services (100 Wood Hollow)	364.81
9	Core Utilities, Inc	IT Design for Admin Building/Lab Refurbish, February IT Support (\$6,000), PRTP Pipe Gallery PLC Replacement (\$3,000), SCADA/PLC Support (\$3,075) & CORE Billing Maintenance	12,225.00
10	Core & Main	Couplings (46), Nipples (10), Tees (20), Corp Stops (10) & Magnetic Lid Lifter	2,370.72
11	Electrical Equipment Co	Motor Starters for PRTP (2)	3,400.23
12	Grainger	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	1,986.66
13	Home Depot	Tripod Light Stands (2), Plumber's Strap, Cable Ties (500) & Rapid Set Concrete (100-60lb bags) (\$1,461)	1,670.82
14	Kurfirist, Eric	Exp Reimb: Meals While Attending Backflow Class in Sacramento	73.94
15	MISCOWater	Replacement Chemical Metering Pumps (4) (PRTP)	7,627.76

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
16	North Bay Watershed Assoc.	Sponsorship for Annual North Bay Watershed Association Conference (Water Steward Level)	1,500.00
17	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	143.43
18	O'Reilly Auto Parts	Cleaning Products for Fleet	52.04
19	Pace Supply	Couplings (3) (\$2,057), Nipples (10), Reducer, Tapping Sleeve (\$1,217), Valve (\$1,701) & 4' Pipeline Probe	5,991.70
20	Pape Machinery Inc.	Bracket, Miscellaneous Hardware ('24 JD Backhoe) & Replacement John Deere Backhoe (\$180,898)	181,271.48
21	Peterson Trucks	Service Parts ('12 Int'l Dump Truck)	176.50
22	PG&E CFM/PPC Department	Upgrade Service at Lindsey Court for Relocation of Bahia Hydropneumatic Pump Station	6,188.86
23	Redwood Painting Co., Inc.	Painting for STP Corrosion Assessment Project (Balance Remaining on as-needed Contract \$189,139)	19,628.82
24	Redwood Health Services, Inc.	February (\$5,965) & March (\$6,835) 2024 Dental Claims & Fee Expense	12,800.39
25	Saute, Allen	Novato "Washer Rebate" Program	100.00
26	Stompe, Brad	Exp Reimb: Lunch During Novato Distribution System Audit & Snacks for Safety Training (10/18/23-3/28/24)	404.17
27	Thompson, Steve	Refund Over Payment on Closed Account	24.87
28	USA BlueBook	Valve Repair Kits (3) (STP)	386.66
29	Waste Management	Waste Disposal	136.79
30	ZORO	Locks (24), Portable Band Saw (\$371), Actuator Kit, Battery Charger, Cordless String Trimmer Kit, Trimmer Line (200') & Light Bulbs (2)	1,418.03
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$291,693.67</u>

Seq Payable To For Amount

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$291,693.67 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

Julie Blue 04/02/24
Auditor-Controller Date

[Signature] 4/2/24
General Manager Date

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED APRIL 11, 2024

Date Prepared 4/8/24

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 3/31/24	\$190,785.81
90694*	Internal Revenue Service	Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 3/31/24	84,690.12
90695*	State of California	State Taxes & SDI PPE 3/31/24	19,017.66
90696*	CalPERS	Pension Contribution PPE 3/31/24	52,008.26
90693*	CalPERS	April 2024 Health Insurance Premium (Employer \$56,956, Retirees \$12,548 & Employees \$8,179)	77,683.47
1	Alameda Electrical Distributors	Unistruts (68)	251.54
2	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	106.00
3	Ammons Backflow Certified	Backflow Testing (60)	3,750.00
4	A.S.T.I.	Backflow Testing (110)	14,505.00
5	AT&T	Telephone, Fax, Leased Lines & Data	533.50
6	Automation Direct	Pressure Transmitters (2), Control & Signal Cable	620.62
7	Badger Meter	Straight Connector	308.89
8	Bearings & Hydraulics	Bearings (2) & 4" Lever Valve ('13 Vac Excavation Trailer)	346.04
9	Brady Industries	Safety Vests (4), Gloves (248) & Rain Gear	643.93
10	Buck Institute for Research on Aging	Monthly Lease for Lab Space @ Buck Institute (4/16/24-7/15/24)	39,960.00
11	Building Supply Center	Storage Box, Miscellaneous Hardware, Paint & Plumbing Supplies (PRTP-Pipe Gallery)	299.25
12	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Lab Testing (O.M.)	115.30
13	Chris Gatewood Industries, Inc.	Onsite Inspection of Centrifuge @ STP	922.31

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
14	Charles Custom Welding	Welding Services (PRTP-Pipe Gallery)	1,400.00
15	Comcast	April Phone Services (Wood Hollow, Buck Institute, Yard & STP)	1,548.57
16	Comcast	April Internet Services (999 Rush Creek Pl)	1,567.93
17	Consolidated CM	Prog Pymt#35: Construction Management Services for Admin Building Renovation (Balance Remaining on Contract \$402,126)	58,086.82
18	Core & Main	Corp Stops, Couplings (10), Clamp (12" x 24"), Flanges (6), Nipples (5), Bushings (5), Gaskets (6), Valve Wrench & 6" Double Check Detector Assemblies (2) (\$15,423)	17,028.79
19	DataTree	March Subscription to Parcel Data Information	100.00
20	Diesel Direct West	Diesel (486 gal) (\$2,520) & Gasoline (609 gal) (\$3,075)	5,595.77
21	Direct Line Inc	March Telephone Answering Service	187.78
22	East Bay MUD	Bay Area Chemical Consortium Participation Fee (5/24-5/25)	1,598.40
23	Electrical Equipment Co	High Service Replacement Motor (STP)	14,953.62
24	GHD Inc.	Prog Pymt#11: GIS Conversion to ESRI & Mapping Support (Balance Remaining on Contract \$11,504)	4,500.24
25	Grainger	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	738.81
26	Kehoe, Chris	Exp Reimb: Food for Department Meeting	45.70
27	Kurfirst, Eric	Exp Reimb: Parking Fee & Lodging While Attending Backflow Certification Class 4/18-4/20/24	504.98
28	Department of Labor and Industries Washington	Quarterly WA Worker's Comp Premium for Employee Working Remotely	23.85
29	Lemos, James	Exp Reimb: Lodging While Attending Backflow Certification Class 4/18-4/20/24	369.99
30	Lincoln Life Employer Serv	Deferred Compensation PPE 3/31/24	10,996.78
31	Marin Landscape Materials	Soil (1 yd)	48.83

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
32	Martinez, Vicki	Novato "Cash for Grass" Rebate Program	800.00
33	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Compression Fittings (8), Tubing & Multipurpose Aluminum	409.45
34	Mutual of Omaha	April 2024 Life (\$1,321) & Vision Insurance Premiums (\$853)	2,173.74
35	Nationwide Retirement Solution	Deferred Compensation PPE 3/31/24 Deferred	5,290.45
36	NEXGEN	2024 Conference Registration Fee (10/22-10/24/24-Sacramento) (Ladd)	1,300.00
37	North Bay Gas	5" Welding Rods (3), Carbon Dioxide, Wire Gun for Mig Welder, Welding Wire, Gloves, Argon & Nitrogen (STP)	925.80
38	Novato Builders Supply	Lumber & Concrete (2 yds)	525.48
39	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Miscellaneous Office Supplies & Toner	372.45
40	O'Reilly Auto Parts	Wiper, Diesel Exhaust Fluids, Coolant Cap & Anti-Freeze	252.95
41	Pace Supply	Box Lids (4) & Spool Flanges (2 - 6" x 4') (\$1,285)	2,224.74
42	Pape Machinery Inc.	Reissue Check (to Correct Vendor) Bracket & Miscellaneous Hardware ('24 JD Backhoe)	373.28
43	Pape Machinery	Reissue Check (to Correct Vendor) for 2024 John Deere Backhoe	180,898.20
44	Parkinson Accounting Systems	March Accounting Software Support	97.50
45	Peterson Trucks	Repair Electronic Control Module (\$3,483) ('09 Peterbilt Crew Truck) & Service Parts ('12 Int'l 5 Yd Dump Truck)	3,671.13
46	Pini Hardware	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	870.59
47	Point Reyes Light	Display Ad: Budget Review Schedule on 3/8-3/28/24	550.00
48	Point Reyes Prop Mgmt Assn	April HOA Fee (25 Giacomini Rd)	75.05
49	Recology Sonoma Marin	March Trash Removal	662.98
50	Sigma-Aldrich Inc.	Sodium Standard (Lab)	137.28

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
51	Soiland Co., Inc.	Asphalt Recycling (3 yds) & Rock (32 yds) (\$1,076)	1,207.73
52	Survival CPR & First Aid LLC	CPR & First Aid Training on 3/13 & 3/14 (41 Employees)	4,059.00
53	USA BlueBook	Eyewear Wipes (200)	44.21
54	Verizon Wireless	March Cellular Charges	1,740.01
55	Verizon Wireless	SCADA & AMI Collectors (\$650)	1,096.82
56	VWR International LLC	Phosphorus Buffer, Rack, Culture Controls (2) & Nutrient Agar (Lab)	469.19
57	ZORO	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	791.71
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>816,864.30</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$816,864.30 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


Auditor-Controller

04/09/2024

Date


General Manager

4/9/2024

Date

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR MARCH 2024
 April 16, 2024

1.

Novato Potable Water Prod - RR & STP Combined - in Million Gallons - FYTD

Month	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	FY19/20	24 vs 23 %
July	218.6	224.5	282.9	341.7	317.7	-3%
August	230.9	235.9	212.4	290.1	287.1	-2%
September	212.4	203.5	214.5	225.6	280.5	4%
October	197.0	191.6	198.5	307.8	286.0	3%
November	145.7	137.43	94.1	201.6	226.3	6%
December	121.6	106.62	137.1	183.0	141.2	14%
January	122.4	113.82	118.3	156.6	111.9	8%
February	117.5	105.15	118.6	110.5	120.3	12%
March	121.0	123.05	130.3	124.1	151.8	-2%
FYTD Total	1,487.1	1,441.5	1,506.8	1,940.8	1,922.7	3%

West Marin Potable Water Production - in Million Gallons - FY to Date

Month	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	FY19/20	24 vs 23 %
July	7.1	6.3	6.0	8.2	8.9	13%
August	7.5	6.8	5.7	9.2	8.4	9%
September	6.7	6.3	5.9	7.9	7.8	6%
October	6.4	5.7	5.1	6.7	7.5	11%
November	5.0	4.6	3.5	5.8	6.7	10%
December	4.2	4.3	4.0	5.1	4.8	-3%
January	4.6	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.1	17%
February	3.7	3.3	4.0	3.8	4.4	10%
March	5.1	3.7	4.1	5.1	5.2	41%
FYTD Total	50.2	45.0	42.0	56.0	57.8	12%

Stafford Treatment Plant Production - in Million Gallons - FY to Date

Month	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	FY19/20	24 vs 23 %
July	67.0	56.3	67.0	105.8	68.2	19%
August	98.3	67.9	31.3	81.1	103.8	45%
September	112.6	57.8	41.7	16.1	115.0	95%
October	109.4	54.0	28.2	7.7	103.4	102%
November	21.8	30.0	0.0	0.6	102.8	-27%
December	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
January	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
February	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
March	0.0	50.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
FYTD Total	409.1	316.5	168.1	211.3	493.0	29%

Recycled Water Production* - in Million Gallons - FY to Date

Month	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	FY19/20	24 vs 23 %
July	31.0	43.1	42.9	39.0	36.5	-28%
August	34.8	41.6	41.4	43.2	33.3	-16%
September	26.1	29.2	39.6	29.5	29.7	-11%
October	22.4	24.7	18.3	22.8	26.6	-9%
November	3.6	5.1	0.8	10.9	10.8	-29%
December	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	44%
January	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.6	-18%
February	0.9	0.4	1.3	0.5	0.6	143%
March	0.9	0.4	14.3	11.4	11.7	114%
FYTD Total*	120.5	145.3	159.8	157.8	150.4	-17%

*Excludes potable water input to the RW system: FY24=9.5MG, FY23=10.8 MG FY22=10 MG; FY21=24.7 MG; FY20=16.7

2. Regional and Local Water Supply

Lake Sonoma

	Current	2023
Lake Storage*	86,854 MG	82,548 MG
Supply Capacity	101 %	103 %

*Normal capacity = -245,000 AF (79,833.5 MG); deviation storage pool of 264,000 AF (86,025 MG)

Lake Mendocino

	Current	2023
Lake Storage *	31,432 MG	27,524 MG
Supply Capacity	100 %	118 %

*Normal capacity = 70,000-110,000 AF (22,800-35,840 MG); FIRO pool 26,000-36,170 MG

3. Stafford Lake Data

	March Average	March 2024	March 2023
Rainfall this month	3.56 Inches	6.00 Inches	9.12 Inches
Rainfall this FY to date	24.22 Inches	32.99 Inches	41.98 Inches
Lake elevation*	193.4 Feet	197.5 Feet	196.8 Feet
Lake storage**	1,206 MG	1,512 MG	1,453 MG
Supply Capacity	98.6 %	101 %	101 %

* Spillway elevation is 196.0 feet (NGVD29)

** Lake storage less 390 MG = quantity available for normal delivery

Temperature (in degrees)

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
March 2024 (Novato)	36	84	57
March 2023 (Novato)	31	75	51

4. Number of Services

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March 31	Novato Water			Recycled Water			West Marin Water			Oceana Marin Swr		
	FY24	FY23	Incr %	FY24	FY23	Incr %	FY24	FY23	Incr %	FY24	FY23	Incr %
Total meters installed	21,012	20,970	0.2%	103	102	1.0%	801	800	0.1%	-	-	-
Total meters active	20,860	20,821	0.2%	101	100	1.0%	792	792	0.0%	-	-	-
Active dwelling units	24,096	24,097	0.0%	-	-	-	836	837	-0.1%	236	235	0.4%

5. Oceana Marin Monthly Status Report (December)

Description	March 2024	March 2023
Effluent Flow Volume (MG)	0.727	0.866
Irrigation Field Discharge (MG)	1.166	0.772
Treatment Pond Freeboard (ft)	5.3	4.3
Storage Pond Freeboard (ft)	5.2	4.0

6. Safety/Liability

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Industrial Injury with Lost Time				Liability Claims Paid		
Lost Days	OH Cost of Lost Days (\$)	No. of Emp. Involved	No. of Incidents	Incurred (FYTD)	Paid (FYTD) (\$)	
FY 24 through Mar	1	\$368	1	1	2	\$13,624 ⁽¹⁾
FY 23 through Mar	152	\$90,752	3	3	1	\$37,590 ⁽²⁾
Days since lost time accident through March 31, 2024			257 Days			

⁽¹⁾ Vehicle damage by NMWD valve cap, Planter/Driveway Repair Highland Drive & Homeward Bound Lightpole damage.

⁽²⁾ Claim settlement for driveway and concrete repair due to water damage to a property on Bugeia Lane & (2) Landscape repair due to water line break on Taft Ct.,

7. Energy Cost

FYE	kWh	March		Fiscal Year-to-Date thru March		
		¢/kWh	Cost/Day	kWh	¢/kWh	Cost/Day
2024 Stafford TP	50,400	23.6¢	\$383	467,187	23.4¢	\$472
Pumping	69,838	38.0¢	\$855	1,007,572	34.9¢	\$1,274
Other ¹	32,398	40.4¢	\$422	306,510	42.5¢	\$394
	152,636	33.7¢	\$1,660	1,781,268	33.2¢	\$2,140
2023 Stafford TP	46,374	22.9¢	\$342	442,398	22.4¢	\$361
Pumping	68,409	30.4¢	\$716	988,964	28.3¢	\$1,023
Other ¹	40,025	37.7¢	\$520	305,622	32.7¢	\$365
	154,808	30.0¢	\$1,578	1,736,984	27.6¢	\$1,749
2022 Stafford TP	60,347	22.2¢	\$433	386,813	22.0¢	\$310
Pumping	90,477	28.0¢	\$873	942,641	27.7¢	\$958
Other ¹	37,272	32.6¢	\$419	373,133	31.2¢	\$427
	188,096	27.0¢	\$1,725	1,702,587	27.2¢	\$1,695

¹Other includes West Marin Facilities

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8. Water Conservation Update

	Month of March 2024	Fiscal Year to Date	Program Total to Date
High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebates	3	53	4,534
Retrofit Certificates Filed	3	49	6,836
Cash for Grass Rebates	1	16	1,079
Washing Machine Rebates	4	33	6,926
Water Smart Home Survey	2	13	3,934

9. Utility Performance Metric

March 2024 Service Disruptions

SERVICE DISRUPTIONS (No. of Customers Impacted)	March 2024	March 2023	Fiscal Year to Date 2024	Fiscal Year to Date 2023
PLANNED				
Duration Between 0.5 and 4 hours	6	12	98	104
Duration Between 4 and 12 hours	5	0	31	11
Duration Greater than 12 hours	0	0	0	0
UNPLANNED				
Duration Between 0.5 and 4 hours	2	16	61	125
Duration Between 4 and 12 hours	0	0	108	74
Duration Greater than 12 hours	0	0	0	0
SERVICE LINES REPLACED				
Polybutylene	2	4	31	44
Copper Replaced or Repaired)	9	0	34	14

Planned:

For the month of March, we had 11 planned service disruptions.

Plastic: 2 plastic service leaks on Alameda Del Prado, and Blackberry Ln in West Marin.

Copper: 9 copper service replacements on Wild Horse Dr, Simmons Ln, and Bolling Cir.

Unplanned:

There was a failure of a 6" repair clamp on a 6" AC main on Beatie Ln which affected 2 customers.

10. Summary of Complaints and Service Orders

Tag Breakdown:						
	Total:	121	Consumer:	63	Office:	58
Type		Mar-24		Mar-23	Added Notes	
Billing						
High Bill		4		2		
Total		4		2		
Meter Replacement						
		18		31		
Total		18		31		
Need Read						
		3		10		
Total		3		10		
No-Water						
		3		2		
Total		3		2		
Leak						
Consumer		45		119		
District		8		17		
Total		53		136		
Water Quality						
Illness		1		0		
Other		1		0		
Color		1		0		
Total		3		0		
Noisy Pipes						
		1		0		
Total		1		0		
Check Pressure						
		2		3		
Total		2		3		
Turn Off / On						
		21		30		
Total		21		30		
Other						
		13		14		
Total		13		14		
TOTAL FOR MONTH:		121		228	-47%	
Bill Adjustments Under Board Policy:						
March 24 vs. March 23						
	Mar-24	5		\$1,887		
	Mar-23	15		\$5,987		
Fiscal Year vs Prior FY						
	FY 23/24	130		\$33,659		
	FY 22/23	129		\$33,701		

Customer Service Questionnaire Quarterly Report


Quarter Ending **3/31/2024**



NMWD

	Response				Response		
Water Quality	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Pressure	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Courteous & Helpful	0	0	0	Courteous & Helpful	4	0	0
Accurate Information	0	0	0	Accurate Information	4	0	0
Prompt Service	0	0	0	Prompt Service	4	0	0
Satisfactorily Resolved	0	0	0	Satisfactorily Resolved	3	0	0
Overall Experience	0	0	0	Overall Experience	4	0	0
	0	0	0		19	0	0
Leak	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Noisy Pipes	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Courteous & Helpful	21	0	0	Courteous & Helpful	1	0	0
Accurate Information	20	1	0	Accurate Information	1	0	0
Prompt Service	21	0	0	Prompt Service	1	0	0
Satisfactorily Resolved	19	1	0	Satisfactorily Resolved	1	0	0
Overall Experience	17	0	0	Overall Experience	1	0	0
	98	2	0		5	0	0
Billing	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Other	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Courteous & Helpful	5	0	0	Courteous & Helpful	9	1	0
Accurate Information	4	1	0	Accurate Information	9	1	0
Prompt Service	4	1	0	Prompt Service	9	0	1
Satisfactorily Resolved	3	0	0	Satisfactorily Resolved	9	1	0
Overall Experience	5	0	0	Overall Experience	9	1	0
	21	2	0		45	4	1
				Grand Total	188	8	1
					95%	4%	1%
				Questionnaires Sent Out	89	100%	
				Questionnaires Returned	42	47%	

Customer Service Questionnaire Quarterly Report		
Quarter Ending : 3/31/24		
Customer Comments	Staff Response to Negative Comments	Issues NMWD Should Address In The Future
PRESSURE		
Darrell was very helpful in explaining my problem and helped resolve my issue.		
Spoke to Rich on the phone and he explained everything clearly. He also made suggestions I could do myself. NMWD was out the next day to check my water pressure. Thanks so much for the swift service!		
BILLING		
Rich was knowledgeable, professional and friendly. He answered all my questions. He gave detailed information, which I like.		
We are so appreciative Rich could assist us in the same day. The individual I spoke with on the phone was a huge help as well. Keep up the great work.		
The staff was courteous and helpful.		
LEAK		
Outstanding Service, Thank you!		
Thank you for the service it was good.		
Darrell figured out the problem within 15 minutes. He is a very nice person and you should be proud to have him working for you.		
I was informed of a leak from December 26th. A handyman/ Gardner came out and found nothing. Darrell replaced the meter when he found nothing.		
Rich was friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. I could not have asked for more.		
We were told that it was an irrigation leak and quickly fixed the irrigation system. Then the leak persisted and we hired a leak detector and discovered it was the toilet.	The information provided to the customer was based on WaterSmart analysis. Consumer service reps relay the	Instead of saying the leak was in irrigation say it could be in the irrigation.
Could not be more pleased with the timeliness & helpful NMWD Staff.		
Came right away - Great!		
Fantastic service! I appreciate the text telling me I had a leak. Also the person who answered the phone was amazing. She helped me figure out a solution towards resolving my problem. The tech who met me at my house was professional, helpful and courteous and fantastic!		
Travis the technician was very professional & prompt. He answered all questions. Thank you.		
The gentleman came promptly and was courteous. It was in the middle of the night and there was no issues.		
Rich Roberto was extremely helpful.		
Travis was awesome!		
Dude was chill		
The fellows who did the repair were courteous and answered our questions. Was glad to get leak repaired as it must have gone for a very long time. Pin hole in copper pipe.		
Thank you Rich for coming out to the house to help us.		
Danny was great to work with. He showed up quickly on a Saturday night. And was very helpful. He located the source of the leak and helped find the shutoff. Very helpful!		
Travis was an outstanding Representative of the District. He was personable, thorough and very knowledgeable. He's a true professional.		
OTHER		
Rich Roberto was very helpful, Great service.		
Still need to locate the water leak.		
They were awesome.		
Everything is good.		
It turned out to be a water valve that had been left on and drained the tank overnight. We feel horrible about it. The timer was not set on the hose.		
Rich did an outstanding explanation of what could be the problem. He was very thorough in the testing of the pressure and any possible leakage. He was very knowledgeable and polite.		
I spoke to a gentleman on Thursday and he said they would be out Monday or Tuesday. I am very please that someone answered the phone and send someone out so quickly.		



**New Eel-Russian Facility Update
Technical Advisory Group
Fish Passage and Water Supply Alternatives
3-19-2024**

**EXCERPTS - PUMP STATION OPTION
ONLY**

David Manning
Environmental Resources Manager, Sonoma Water

Tom Johnson, P.E.
Consulting Engineer, Mendocino IWPC

Today's Presentation

- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Process
- Renderings for Alternative E-2 (Pump Station)
- Renderings for Alternative E-3 (Roughened Channel)
- Final Evaluation Criteria
- TAG Alternative Scoring Results
- Preferred Alternative
- Next Steps



Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

10 Meetings from July 2023 to March 2024

Biologists, Engineers, Water Managers from:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- California Trout
- Round Valley Indian Tribes
- Mendocino IWPC
- Sonoma Water
- McMillen, Assoc. and Stillwater Sciences

Current Conditions



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

Current Conditions



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

Current Conditions



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

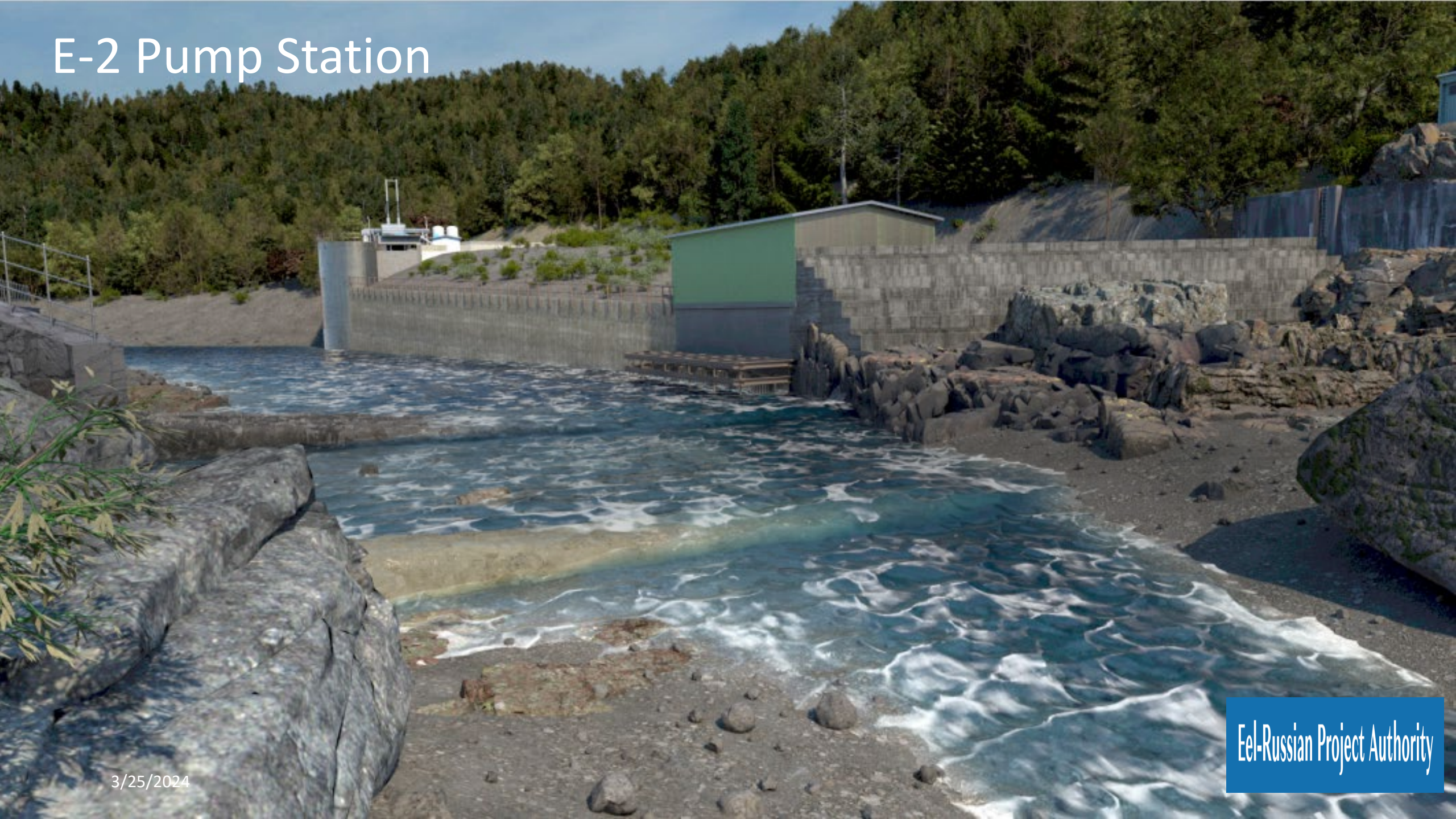
E-2 Pump Station



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

E-2 Pump Station



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

E-2 Pump Station



E-2 Pump Station



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

E-2 Pump Station



E-2 Pump Station



3/25/2024

Eel-Russian Project Authority

Directors share plan for reliable, resilient water supply

The Marin Municipal Water District has grappled with challenges facing many water agencies in the West — climate change impacts with droughts that have severely depleted supplies, aging infrastructure and rising costs due to inflation.

Marin Water, in partnership with its customers, has navigated these challenges and put the district on a track toward reliable water supplies and protection of our watershed. As the incoming and outgoing presidents of the Board of Directors, we think it is important to highlight these efforts as we look to the upcoming year's activities.

Following a strategic assessment of various water management alternatives to increase our resilience to drought and climate change with new water supplies, we adopted the district's "water supply roadmap" in February 2023. This approved roadmap combines demand management and short-term water supply strategies with developing longer-term supply options.

As work on a roadmap for bolstering our water supply was taking shape, the district was also building out a thoughtful, strategic approach to financial management that will enable Marin Water to recover from the revenue strains brought about by the recent drought emergency and inflation, while also augmenting investment into projects that will increase water supply, modernize water system infrastructure and mitigate wildfire impacts on the Mount Tamalpais watershed.

Additionally, the board adopted a two-year budget that supports efforts to address the reliability of our water system and is also strengthening employee engagement to ensure the district can retain and recruit high quality staff to serve the community. That's a win for the district, its employees and for Marin Water customers, who rely on high quality water service.

With these foundational elements in place, and with valuable input from customers, staff and stakeholders, the MMWD Board of Directors has ushered in 2024 by approving the district's strategic plan, charting our work for the next five years.

This plan demonstrates the board's commitment to a resilient water supply, fiscal responsibility and infrastructure investments.

It accelerates work on the Mount Tam watershed and creates a culture of support, as well as appreciation, for our customers and staff.

The district's plan demonstrates not only a commitment to those we serve, but a sense of urgency as well. In the next five years, we will:

- Increase our water supply by strengthening regional partnerships and augmenting existing supplies. Work is well underway to embrace water supply flexibility and efficiencies. The foundation

is being laid for investments in both demand management and new supplies that will improve the district's resiliency in the face of climate uncertainty.

- Strengthen the district's critical water infrastructure system to reliably deliver water with a forward-looking approach to wildfire and earthquake risk, as well as energy use and the district's carbon footprint.

Through the district's capital-improvement program, we are prioritizing the most critical projects while embracing transparency with online tools for customers to track our progress.

- Broaden district efforts surrounding our stewardship of watershed lands, including creek restoration, vegetation management, wildfire protection and thoughtful opportunities for expanding recreational activities on the Mount Tam watershed. This work will be coupled with greater efforts to increase the biodiversity and health of our watershed ecosystem.
- Manage our financial infrastructure to be cost-effective, and double our efforts to secure grants to reduce our costs now — and in the future.
- Achieve organizational excellence by fostering a strong workplace culture that thrives on innovation and customer service. Marin Water works tirelessly to not only attract a diverse, talented staff, but also to support growth through strategic training opportunities.

With more than 110 years serving customers in central and southern Marin County, the district is no stranger to adapting to change.

This five-year strategic plan, together with previous board action, represents a comprehensive approach to overcoming the modern challenges our district faces.

With these plans in place, and a collaborative, community-serving approach in hand, we know that we are on track to a more resilient water future.

Ranjiv Khush is president of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors. Director Monty Schmitt is the immediate past president of the board. Read more about the five-year strategic plan at bit.ly/4aOz0eT.

‘Capital intensive’

Utility weighs pros, cons of recycled drinking water



Employees spray a vehicle with recycled water at the Chevron gas station car wash in Mill Valley. PHOTOS BY SHERRY LAVARS — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL



A recycled water filling station stands at the Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael in 2021.

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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It doesn't look like wastewater will be turned into tap water in Marin County any time soon.

California regulators approved new rules in December allowing water agencies to purify wastewater and put it back into the pipes that carry drinking water to homes, schools and businesses.

Officials at the Marin Municipal Water District said potential projects come with a high cost and lots of complexities.

"Where we stand is we look forward to continuing to monitor the regulations and larger agencies," said Lucy Croy, water quality manager.

With that said, members of the district board said they are interested in pursuing expansion of its purple pipe system that delivers recycled water for such purposes as irrigation, toilet flushing and industrial cooling.

The district board and staff held a discussion last month on the latest cost estimates, water yields and challenges of expanding its recycled water system, including opportunities for turning sewage into drinking water.

“In summary, expansion of purple pipe is definitely possible,” Croy said.

However, she said, “It’s capital intensive, and from what we’ve seen it’s supply limited.”

The district, which serves 191,000 residents in central and southern Marin, launched a study into new water sources in 2022 after facing potential reservoir depletion from the drought. Rains in late 2021 nearly refilled 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 resulting study is the water supply roadmap that was approved last year, which, in addition to increasing reservoir storage, explores expanded recycled water opportunities.

The district’s recycled water program provides more than 700 acre-feet of recycled water to 330 customers in the Terra Linda area of San Rafael. The district was one of the first California agencies to recycle wastewater, pioneering the use for car washes, commercial laundries and more.

The district operates approximately 25 miles of recycled water pipeline, three pump stations and two storage tanks and a treated water clear well with a combined storage capacity of 1.7 million gallons. The Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District provides the recycled water.

At a board presentation on March 19, Croy said district staff conducted a recycled water feasibility study in 2000. Those findings have been refreshed with new estimates, she said.

There are several expansion opportunities to increase recycled water use, including through infill — which is adding new customers within the existing recycled water system.

Other opportunities include expanding the purple pipe system throughout the county, and partnering with other agencies to create a new recycled water system.

The expansion was broken down into 21 phases.

One option would phase 10 projects throughout San Rafael, including in the Canal and Peacock Gap neighborhoods. In total, the phased approach is expected to yield 345 acre-feet of recycled water distributed through 24 miles of pipe.

However, it would cost an estimated \$60.6 million, plus an annual cost of nearly \$11,000 per acre-foot to operate.

Expansion for project phases 11 through 21 in the areas of San Quentin, Corte Madera, Larkspur and Greenbrae would yield 602 acre-feet of water through 17 miles of pipe at a cost of \$64.7 million. It would cost about \$7,000 per acre-foot annually.

Staff said that rather than this phased approach, the district could do a “project-based” expansion of the system, where it can pick and choose individual projects.

Board members seemed interested in exploring an option for Peacock Gap, which was a project that would yield the most recycled water on its own at 285 acre-feet. That project is estimated at \$26.7 million, with an annual expense of \$6,355 per acre-foot annually.

Board members were also interested in a partnership with Central Marin Sanitation Agency for an \$11.4 million expansion in the San Quentin area and a \$4.3 million project in coordination with the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin.

“I do think there are some further explorations that we could have here, and I would like us to make some efforts to continue our recycled water work,” said Jed Smith, a board member.

When it comes to making drinking water, Croy said, officials want to monitor the new state regulations and see how wastewater treatment technology might evolve. Croy presented possible projects for indirect potable reuse, or IPR projects, and direct potable reuse, or DPR.

IPR is where recycled water is used to replenish drinking water supplies either through groundwater injection or placement in surface water reservoirs.

One project being considered would collect wastewater from Las Gallinas and the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin and carry it to a treatment facility at the Central Marin Sanitation Agency to be purified.

The purified water would be distributed through 28 miles of pipelines and four new pump stations to Kent Lake, one of the district’s reservoirs.

The annual yield is estimated at 7,840 acre-feet of water. The project would cost \$452 million. It would cost about \$4,500 per acre-foot of water to operate annually.

However, because reservoirs have been spilling in recent years, the treatment method would need to operate intermittently. The startup and shutdown operations drive up the expected cost to \$13,512 per acre-foot, staff said.

When it comes to direct potable reuse projects, the purified water would be either placed in a raw water supply immediately upstream of a water treatment plant, or directly into a public water system.

These types of projects posed the same problems: high costs, complex treatments and coordination among agencies. One project that would transfer purified water to Bon Tempe Lake would cost about \$433 million. Continuous annual operation is estimated at \$5,100 per acre-foot, while intermittent operation is about \$15,000.

Another DPR option that would treat water at Central Marin Sanitation Agency is estimated at \$124 million. Continuous operation would be about \$3,500 annually, while intermittent operation is about \$10,686.

Board member Monty Schmitt said he believes the DPR method of treating sewage for drinking water is part of the future. He said he is interested in staff taking a deeper dive into the costs estimates and funding opportunities of the projects.

“If grant funding would substantially cover the costs of capital construction, that could really change these numbers,” Schmitt said.

Board member Matt Samson said the discussion around turning wastewater to tap water is directly related to storage capacity.

“I think we can start looking at some possible synergies that would start making sense for that, especially when it’s dry all winter and we have plenty of storage to be able to fill up,” Samson said.

Options for water pipeline narrowed

Marin reservoirs could get supply from Russian River

BY KRISSY WAITE

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Aiming to boost the county's water supply, the Marin Municipal Water District is exploring the idea of connecting pipelines in Petaluma and Cotati to its reservoirs.

District staff presented three main potential projects — narrowed from 13 — at Tuesday's board of directors meeting.

"It's getting exciting every time we whittle that list down," board member Matt Samson said.

The pipelines would transport water from the Russian River into Marin reservoirs. Treated Russian River water is transported to Marin through a 9-mile aqueduct along the Highway 101 corridor from Petaluma to North Marin Water District in Novato.

The district then sends the water directly to the Marin Municipal Water District's water distribution system.

Board members expressed concern over cost estimates, which ranged between \$140 million and \$380 million.

In February 2023, the board selected a roadmap for improving water supply. The aim of the project is to enhance the reliability, flexibility and resiliency of the district's water system to improve service to customers. Tim Taylor of Carollo Engineers, an environmental engineering firm hired by the district, recommended three alternatives. All three projects would be phased in design and construction.

The first would involve connecting the pipelines to NMWD's aqueduct system. Phase one would include a pipeline from Stafford Lake to the MMWD's Soulajule Reservoir.

Phase two would add another pipeline connecting Stafford Lake to the existing NMWD aqueduct system. An additional phase would add a pipeline to Nicasio Reservoir, part of the MMWD system.

The project would total 16.2 miles and could increase supply by 24 million gallons per day. Its capital cost is estimated at \$129 million to \$196 million.

A second option presented would use the same aqueduct system and add a pipeline via San Antonio Road to the Soulajule Reservoir. Later phases would build a pipeline system from water tanks in Cotati down to Kastania and connect the new Soulajule pipeline to Nicasio Reservoir.

This alternative would add 14.8 miles of pipeline and cost between \$148 million and \$378 million. It could increase supply by up to 39 million gallons per day.

The last option, and most expensive with an estimated cost of \$380 million, would involve new construction along the Highway 101 corridor through downtown Petaluma and to the Soulajule Reservoir. The next phase would extend it to the Nicasio Reservoir. It could increase water supply by 30 million gallons per day.

Options involving Stafford Lake and the south transmission system — a network of pipes and pump stations in southern Sonoma County — were ruled out as standalone projects because they did not significantly increase the water supply.

The list was narrowed to three by evaluating criteria like how it would increase resiliency, its overall sustainability, the environmental and community impacts and the project's flexibility and feasibility.

“So what would represent a favorable criteria score would be a project that adds some substantial sustainable dry-year yield,” said Paul Sellier, the district's water resources director. “If it was a project that allowed us to adapt to climate change, for example.”

Board member Larry Russell said the budget estimates were concerning, and wondered if the district would need that much water.

“These are big dollars,” Russell said. “I'm concerned that we're at levels that are too high for the district to afford any of the alternatives.”

Board member Jed Smith said the cost estimates raise questions about how financial feasibility was weighed in the options.

“It does kind of make you question the scoring,” Smith said. “That should have knocked it out to zero.”

District staff said more information, including specific costs and environmental constraints, needs to be gathered.

Ben Horenstein, district general manager, said a more detailed analysis of costs and funding was yet to come, but said he recognized that it is a significant issue.

“I think it's important for the public to understand that if we want the perfect system, it's going to be really expensive,” Samson said. “So we have to understand what is going to be the best for our money.”

A final recommendation is expected to be made to the board this summer.

Marin water reservoirs flush as summer nears

Positive outlook at utilities tempered by La Niña prospect



Pedestrians walk in the rain Thursday on Rowland Boulevard in Novato. Parts of Marin County have received nearly 60 inches of rain since October. PHOTOS BY SHERRY LAVARS — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL



BY KRISSY WAITE

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A rainy winter and early spring have replenished reservoirs in Marin County, but water suppliers remain cautious heading into the dry months.

Despite wet weather recently, April signals the waning of state's rainy season, providing a clear picture of how much water the region has to work with until the rain returns in the fall.

Since October, Mount Tamalpais has received 41.47 inches of rain, according to Nicole Sarment, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Sarment said the number does not account for the recent snowfall reported on the peak on Thursday.

Marin Municipal Water District reservoirs, which serve most of the county, were at 100% capacity on March 31; the average storage capacity for that date is 91.49%.

The district's reservoirs have been full and spilling since Jan. 22, according to spokesperson Adriane Mertens.

In Novato, the North Marin Water District's sole reservoir, Stafford Lake, has been full and spilling since Feb. 4, according to Tony Williams, general manager for the district.

Water managers in Marin look to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for seasonal outlooks on precipitation and temperature. The current El Niño, a climate pattern that influences

temperatures and precipitation globally, is one of the strongest on record, according to the federal agency. But that might be about to change. Experts at NOAA are predicting the probability of La Niña — and its drier conditions — beginning to build in June and August.

“It’s too soon to predict the forecast for later summer weather conditions, but we know to expect dry conditions based on what we’ve seen the last several years,” Mertens said. “Fortunately, thanks to above-average rainfall and continued lowered consumption from customers, we have adequate water supply to provide for customers for the next year.”

About 75% of the Marin Municipal Water District supply relies on rainfall on the Mount Tamalpais watershed, which fills the district’s seven reservoirs. Mertens said that from October to March of this year, Lake Lagunitas received 57.2 inches of rain — a total that is in the top 25 percentile of the 146 years of the district’s rainfall data.

“It’s great to see that we’re just about at the total rainfall that we’d expect for a full water year,” Lucy Croy, water quality manager at the district, said in an update on the water supply at a meeting on March 5.

Croy said the water year began in October with reservoirs around 10,000 or 15,000 acre-feet below capacity. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons of water.

Croy said to fill to capacity — 80,000 acre-feet — with 50 inches as of March, seems impressive, but that the timing of the rain helped.

“If you can have these storms one after another, this is the kind of impact we do see,” Croy said. “So we’ll see how many more storms we have over the next few months, but right now we’re sitting well in our local storage.”

Mertens said the average total rainfall for the six-month period is 45.9 inches, which is below recent years. In 2017, Lake Lagunitas received 88.7 inches, in 2019 it got 64.7, and last year 71.2 inches of rainfall were recorded.

In drier years, Lake Lagunitas has not fared as well: In 2020 it got 30.6 inches of rainfall, and in 2021, only 19 inches. However, the average cumulative rainfall for April and May is 5.3 inches.

“So there’s a chance we could see more rain through May,” Mertens said.

The North Marin Water District has tracked about 32 inches of rain from July 2023 to April 4. The prior year tracked about 10 more inches of rainfall for the same time period.

The Marin Municipal Water District still buys about a quarter of its supply from the Sonoma County Water Agency, whose water comes from the Russian River.

Comparatively, the North Marin Water District reservoir can only supply on average around 20% of the demand in the Novato service area. Williams said a better metric for predicting water supply through the summer is the Sonoma County Water Agency’s reservoirs at Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. Both are full.

“We rely on imported water from Sonoma Water on a regular basis and have been since the 1960s, so purchasing imported water every year is a given,” Williams said.

Mertens said water usage typically goes up in the summer because of swimming pools, spas and outdoor irrigation. However, Williams said the district has not seen a similar increase.

“We are seeing a flat trend in water use for the last three years likely due to the dry conditions in 2021 and 2022 and resulting emergency conservation ordinances mandated by the state,” he said. “We are assuming continued flat growth for the coming year in light of the past trends and the second year of good rainfall and late season rains.”

Project to overhaul bridge starts along Grant Avenue

BY GIUSEPPE RICAPITO

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Work is underway to rebuild the Grant Avenue bridge near downtown Novato.

The effort, 15 years in the making, aims to improve the span over Novato Creek between Eighth Street and Virginia Avenue.

Built in 1936, the 36-foot-long bridge will be widened by 23.5 feet, lengthened to about 70 feet and have new bicycle lanes and a new pedestrian walkway.

Pedestrian traffic is currently limited to the north end of the span. A pedestrian bridge on the south side was removed in 2005 after it deteriorated beyond repair.

The intention of the project is to improve street conditions and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, said Gosia Woodfin, a city engineer.

“Everything is going well and started on time. The work is progressing,” Woodfin said.

The effort, which began on April 1, will cost \$3.65 million, which includes a \$3.2 million grant and an approximately 11% match from the city, she said. Work is expected to continue weekdays through January 2025.

The bridge remains open in both directions for motorists. The city has no plan to close the span completely during the work, though there will be an eastbound lane closure at some point, Woodfin said.

Much of the work completed thus far has been preparatory, such as putting up signs to inform the public of the project and preparing to begin heavy equipment work. The team also met with a wildlife biologist who will make regular trips to the site to monitor for potential impacts to birds and other fauna, Woodfin said.

Kevin Brady of Minerva Construction, a San Francisco general contractor, said the company began mobilizing equipment on Monday.

“We are excited to get started on this project,” he said.

Sunny Jhutti of Substrate Inc., the Novato construction manager on the project, said the effort has been in the works for years. In 2009, Caltrans told the city the guardrails required upgrades to meet current state standards.

Funds to design a new bridge were granted in 2015. Permit acquisition was completed in 2019. Construction funds were received in November.

Once complete, the project will double the width of the bridge, Jhutti said.

“It’s sort of a strange, y-shaped intersection,” Jhutti said. “The new bridge will increase mobility and connectivity for bicyclists and motorists and even add a new pedestrian walkway on the other side of the bridge.”

The new bridge will use slabs of concrete and air-filled voids to reduce the weight of the bridge. The foundation will include six, 36 inch-diameter piles drilled approximately 45 feet deep.

The new bridge will have scour countermeasures to protect the bridge foundations, Jhutti said.

NEW STUDY

NMWD rate increase proposed

Hike needed to cover rising charges from Sonoma Water

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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With the cost of imported water continuing to climb, the North Marin Water District is proposing to explicitly pass on a portion of the tab to its Novato ratepayers for the first time.

A new rate study suggests that the district needs to increase its revenue by 8.5% in the next fiscal year to cover rising charges from Sonoma Water, its wholesale water supplier, and to continue its capital projects.

Under a proposed plan, the median single-family home will have an increase of about 8.5%, or about \$9.54, starting in July.

The district is also proposing a “pass-through” provision starting in the 2025-26 fiscal year that will allow officials to modify rates to reflect the fluctuating charges from the wholesale water provider.

Any wholesale water cost increases will be “passed through” to customers to ensure the district does not overcharge or undercharge its customers, said Tony Williams, the district’s general manager.

If the pass-through provision is approved, ratepayers will be notified in advance of any changes on their bill, he said.

Williams said the district maintains an approximate asset value of \$330 million, which includes pipelines, pumps and reservoirs. It’s expensive to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure, and the district is doing it without issuing loans or bonds, he said.

The district conducted an extensive cost-of-service analysis for water purchase, treatment and delivery, facility replacement and upgrades, daily operations, and many other factors to arrive at the proposed rate plan.

“The current cost-of-service analysis has resulted in modest updates to the rate structure, which ensures that each class of customer will continue to pay their fair and proportional share of costs,” Williams said. “These changes to the rates will result in billing changes that will vary by customer depending on the size of their meter and the amount of water that they use.”

Last week, the district board accepted the study and directed staff to prepare a notice for a public hearing set for June 18 to consider the proposed rate plan.

In addition to climbing costs for wholesale water, the impact of inflation and other factors have influenced the rate discussion.

Last year, the district increased its rates by 9.5%, a bump that raised the median residential bimonthly bill by about \$12. That was about 3% higher than the previous three years.

A forecast trend of costs outpacing revenue led the district to study its rate structure one year ahead of schedule. Hildebrand Consulting was hired for \$60,000 in October to produce the report.

The district serves about 60,000 residents in the greater Novato area as well as about 1,800 residents in areas of western Marin. The district sets different rates for Novato and western Marin because they are served by different water supply systems.

The district receives about 75% of its water from Russian River imports through Sonoma Water, with the remainder coming from its Stafford Lake reservoir.

Last year, the Sonoma Water board voted to increase its wholesale water rates, particularly for Marin's two largest agencies, North Marin and the Marin Municipal Water District.

This year's proposed increase for the North Marin Water District is 11.74%. Rate increases have been 6.5% on average over the past 10 years, said Andrea Rodriguez, spokesperson for Sonoma Water.

"The past two years have been higher than previous years due to three years of historic drought, state mandated conservation measures, which led to low water deliveries, revenue shortfalls, and depleted reserves," Rodriguez said.

The 2022-23 fiscal year was the lowest water sales year in the past 30 years for the agency, Rodriguez said.

"Sonoma Water's fully volumetric rate structure means that water deliveries are the biggest determining factor in annual rate increases," Rodriguez said. "Total water demand growth for the past 10 years is negative. Due to our fully volumetric rate structure, if water deliveries continue to decline, rate increases will rise."

Rodriguez said the Sonoma Water board is expected to vote on the proposed water transmission budget and rates at its April 16 meeting.

The North Marin Water District does not import water to western Marin, so it does not expect to change its rate plan for those customers, Williams said.

Marin Municipal Water District also increased rates last year, in part for similar reasons. The district approved a four-year rate plan that increased the median single-family home rate by about 20%.

In July, MMWD customers will see another increase that is dependent on three variables: meter size, water use and customer class — for example, single-family residential, multi-family or commercial.

A typical single-family home customer will have a 12% increase on the water bill, said Jessie Underhill, spokesperson for MMWD. Customers will first see this increase on the bimonthly bill they receive in September or October, Underhill said.

To help customers most accurately estimate what rate increase they can expect based on their use and meter size, MMWD provides a rate calculator at [marinwater.org/2023RateSetting](https://www.marinwater.org/2023RateSetting).

North Marin's water rates are expected to be discussed at a district budget and rates review session at the board's June 4 meeting. A public hearing is set for 4 p.m. June 18 at the district's temporary headquarters at 100 Wood Hollow Drive in Novato.

More information is at NMWD.org.



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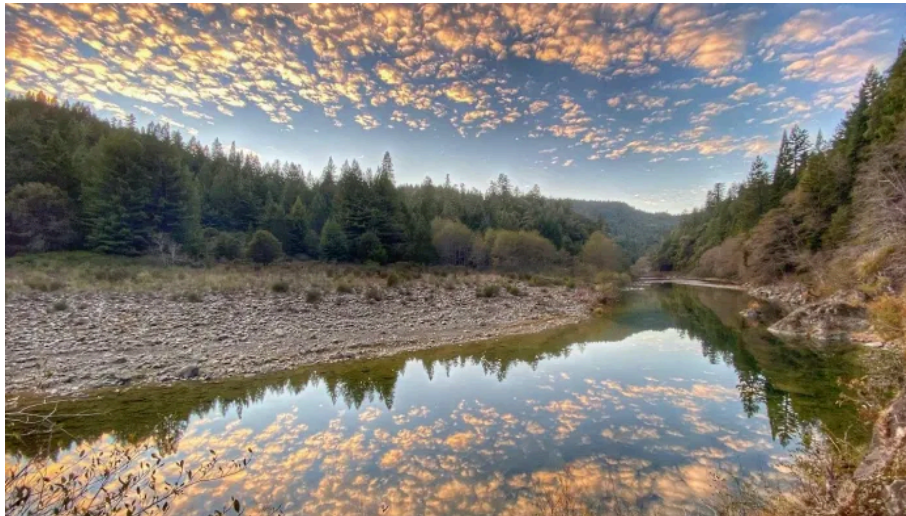
DIVIDED WATERS: DEBATE OVER SCOTT DAM'S FATE BOILS OVER IN EEL RUSSIAN PROJECT AUTHORITY MEETING

Categories: [Featured](#) [News](#) [Water](#)



Monica Huettl April 3, 2024

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The Eel River Near Confusion Hill [Photo by Matt LaFever]

The Eel Russian Project Authority convened its second Board meeting on March 19, 2024, addressing the debate surrounding the fate of Scott Dam and the future of water diversion along the Russian River. Held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Ukiah on March 19, the meeting saw arguments from residents and stakeholders, highlighting deep divisions over whether to preserve the dam or pursue alternative solutions. Amidst calls for preserving water storage and concerns over the impact on fisheries, the Board ultimately voted to advance alternative E-2, the Pumping Station, signaling a pivotal moment in the ongoing saga of water management in the region.

Board Chair David Rabbit opened the meeting by asking for public comments. Alexander Valley resident Frank Lynch, who owns property at Lake Pillsbury, and is a member of the Lake Pillsbury Alliance, an organization devoted to saving Scott Dam, said he appreciated the effort to secure water for all the downstream users, but there hasn't been a lot done to find alternative water sources. Lynch said that the dam at Lake Pillsbury is not the only cause for decline of the fish. Lynch asked for a cost-benefit analysis of what it would take to renovate Scott Dam and put in a new fish passage, versus tearing down the dam and rebuilding a diversion alternative.

The next speaker was David Fanucci, an elderly rancher from Alexander Valley. He said this "is probably the most severe damaging thing done to Potter Valley," and other towns downstream. "Taking the dam down is the most ridiculous thing. We need water storage." He advocated for preserving the dams and putting in a new fish ladder.

Next up was an angry elderly man, who did not give his name. He ranted that, "The salmon industry had been destroyed by 'the Japs' in the 1990s." He also blamed the Koreans and Russians for overfishing, saying their huge nets 200 miles off the coast "took everything in the damn water. The salmon should've been saved back in the 90s." He urged the Board to save

Lake Pillsbury for flood control, citing the disastrous flood of 1964, when Scott Dam could not prevent flooding downstream. Lake Pillsbury should be given to the Indians, "let them put in campgrounds, housing, and resorts." He ended with, "Our grandparents built dams, they knew what they were doing. I think we need to mobilize a militia and destroy the damn machines that are going to take the dams out."

Potter Valley resident Bruce MacLennan lives on the Russian River. "The salmon industry was ruined a long time ago. We can fix it with a fish ladder." There are three hydroelectric plants in Potter Valley, two smaller plants in addition to the large PG&E plant, that should be used to generate energy.

Pam Jeane, of Sonoma Water, reported on the status of negotiations with PG&E. PG&E management submitted a letter to the editor of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on March 14, 2024, reaffirming PG&E's commitment to work with ERPA on parts of its proposal that will not cause delay of the dam removal, as it prepares its license surrender application to FERC. Director James Russ cautioned that PG&E has changed its stance in the past. Consultant Tom Johnson said "FERC is not a problem solving entity." FERC will take comments from the public and it is hoped that the agency will direct PG&E to respond with something acceptable to everybody.

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Sonoma Water's David Manning spoke about the **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Grant** from the US Bureau of Reclamation. The grant award will be for 60% design of the new diversion facility. An announcement of funding is expected in May. The design work will probably take 2 1/2 years. The grant is \$2 million of federal money with local cost sharing.

David Manning, Tom Johnson, and Sonoma Water's Grant Davis presented the results of the Technical Advisory Group review of the two proposed designs for the diversion facilities at Cape Horn Dam. The two alternatives are labeled "E-2" (the pumping station) and "E-3" (the roughened channel).

The TAG met 10 times over the past nine months. The 30% design report on the two alternatives was funded by a California Department of Water Resources grant. The TAG reviewed fish passage methods, as PG&E will be responsible for dismantling the dams. Alternative E-2 would involve removing the Van Arsdale dam face, leaving a concrete sill at the bottom. Water would enter the tunnel in the same way that it currently does, with the water flow stabilized by the concrete sill. A pumphouse would pump water to the tunnel.

Alternative E-3 would be a boulder-filled roughened channel that would have no pump house. The water would be diverted at the existing diversion. Fish would swim upstream through the boulders and gravity flow of water. It would be an engineered cascade with deliberately placed large boulders. During the review meetings, it became clear to the TAG that E-3 would be more difficult to design. Johnson said there is not enough money to do the extensive modeling required for a roughened channel, which are mainly used for smaller passages, not for the main stem of a river.

The TAG ranked each alternative on various criteria, and after analysis, the TAG preferred alternative E-2, the Pumping Station. A final report with details is coming.

Grant Davis of Sonoma Water reported that the Steering Committee recognizes that E-2 is the lower risk alternative for water supply and a superior method for fish passage. Board Member Glenn McGourty asked if it was possible to estimate costs of pumping, as McGourty had sketched out some back of the envelope estimates, but he wanted input from experts. The costs to build and operate are not yet finalized.

Board Member Janet Pauli mentioned that at the TAG meetings the engineers estimated that during high water flows, gravity could possibly move the carefully placed boulders downhill.

Alternative E-2 seems less risky, with less sediment generated. If the roughened channel were to fail during high water, repairs would have to wait for low flows. David Rabbit said "E-2 is a known commodity."

When compared to the recent dam removal on the Klamath River, Manning said the Eel, with highly variable flows, is called a "flashy" river and is not similar to the Klamath. The decision to remove the dams rests with PG&E. ERPA's goal is to figure out how to keep the diversion and fish passage.

- Advertisement -



The Board voted to select alternative E-2 Pumping Station, and will inform PG&E of that decision.

Still to be discussed are: the amount and timing of diverted water from the planned facility, sediment transport modeling, water allocation and water rights.

Future ERPA meetings will be scheduled every other month, rotating between Ukiah and Santa Rosa, with video participation available. The next meeting will be in Santa Rosa, check the [ERPA webpage](#) for the meeting date and time, and for links to view the slides and video recording of the March 19 meeting.

- Advertisement -

An advertisement for Dunlap Roofing Inc. On the left, there is a red graphic of a roof gable. Below it, the text "Done once. Done right. Dunlap." is written in a serif font. Below that, "Dunlap Roofing Inc." is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. To the right of the roof graphic, there is a blue horizontal bar with the text "PREMIUM ROOFING SERVICES" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this bar, another blue horizontal bar contains the text "FOR THE DISCERNING PROPERTY OWNER" in white, bold, sans-serif font. A dotted blue line with diamond-shaped ends runs horizontally across the middle of the advertisement. Below the dotted line, the text "VALLEY: 707.462.ROOF" and "COAST: 707.964.ROOF" is displayed in a blue sans-serif font. To the right of the coast phone number, "CA LIC. #806498" is written in a smaller blue sans-serif font.

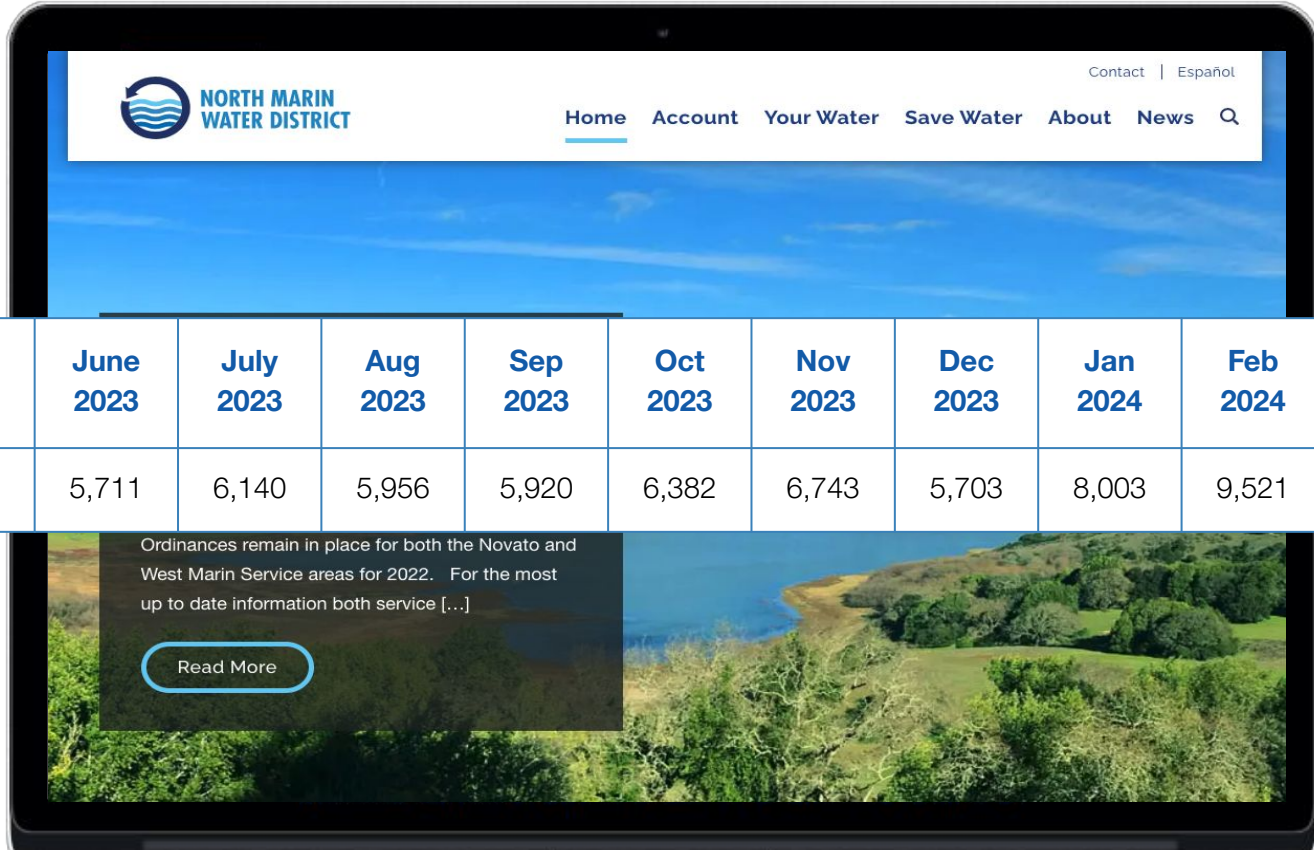


**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

Web & Social Media Report

March 2024

Website Statistics






	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024
2023/ 24 Visitors	5,733	5,711	6,140	5,956	5,920	6,382	6,743	5,703	8,003	9,521	8,689

Ordinances remain in place for both the Novato and West Marin Service areas for 2022. For the most up to date information both service [...]

[Read More](#)



Social Media Followers

	May-2023	Jun-2023	Jul-2023	Aug-2023	Sep-2023	Oct-2023	Nov-2023	Dec-2023	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024
 Facebook Followers	2,322	2,363	2,390	2,416	2,436	2,454	2,471	2,502	2,537	2,548	2,569
 X (Twitter) Followers	121	122	122	122	123	124	125	128	130	131	131
 Instagram Followers	808	822	835	841	844	859	860	869	876	891	903



NMWD Most Visited Pages

Pages	Views
Home	12,942
Online Billing	2,629
Weather & Production Statistics	1,772
My Water Usage (WaterSmart Portal)	789
Stop Service	619
Lynwood Pump Station Replacement Project	591
What Is An Acre Foot?	372
Meetings 2024	300
Start Service	267





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook

 **North Marin Water District**
Published by Hootsuite · 1 March · 🌐

Nancy Williamson, our Accounting Supervisor, has been working for the District for 24 years. What an achievement! We are grateful for all you do. [#womeninwater](#) [#24years](#) [#anniversary](#)



321 people reached | 38 engagements

 **North Marin Water District**
Published by Hootsuite · 1 March · 🌐

It's [#nationalemployeeappreciationday](#)! We are so thankful for our employees and appreciate everything you do for the North Marin Water District. [#thankyou](#)



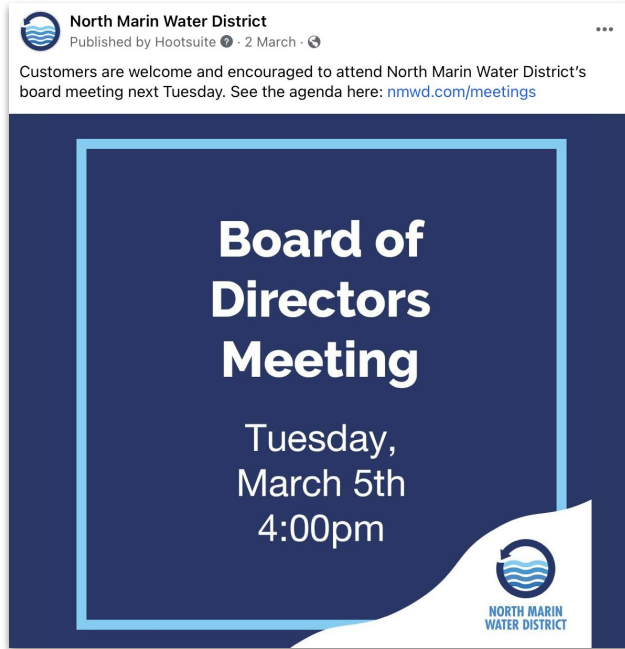
229 people reached | 28 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



148 people reached | 12 engagements



152 people reached | 3 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments

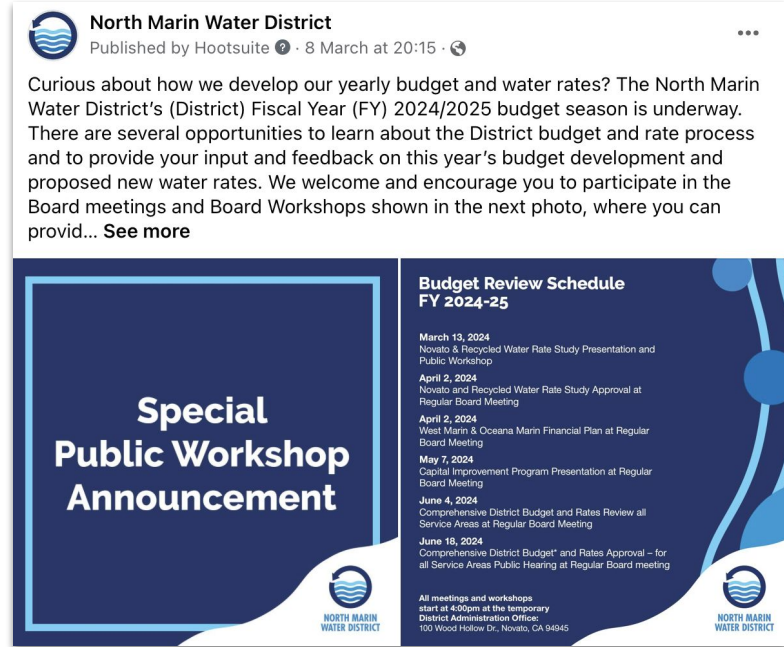




March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



255 people reached | 33 engagements



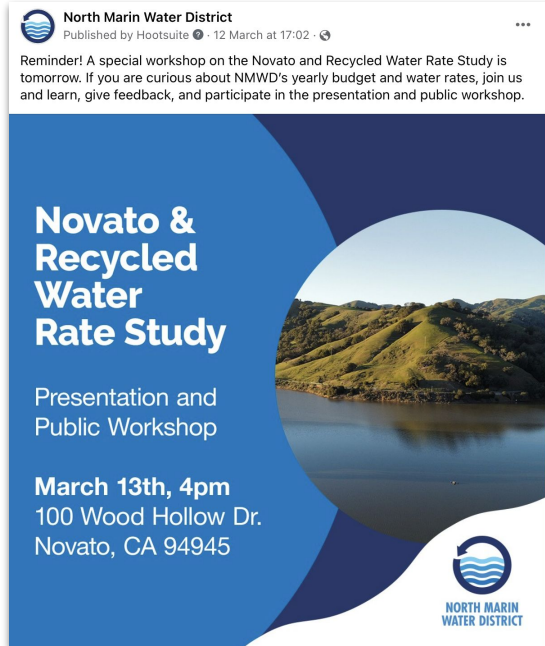
144 people reached | 10 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



119 people reached | 2 engagements



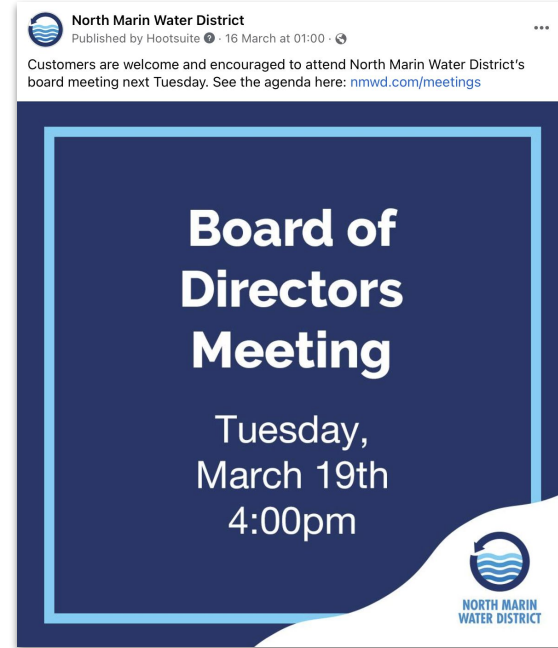
122 people reached | 4 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook

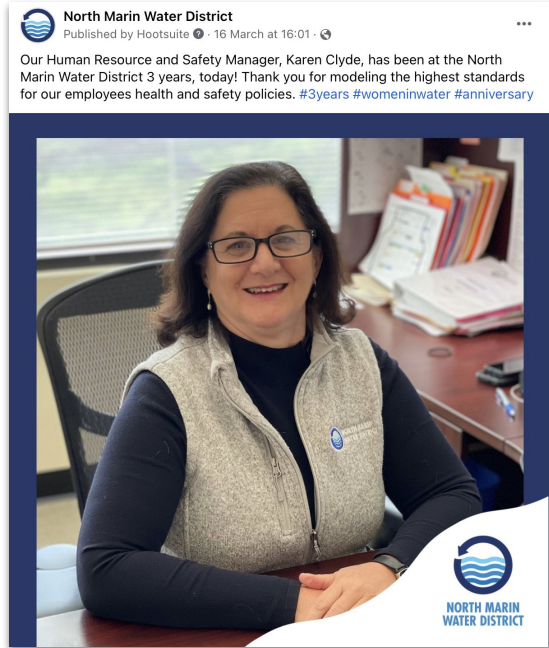


Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments

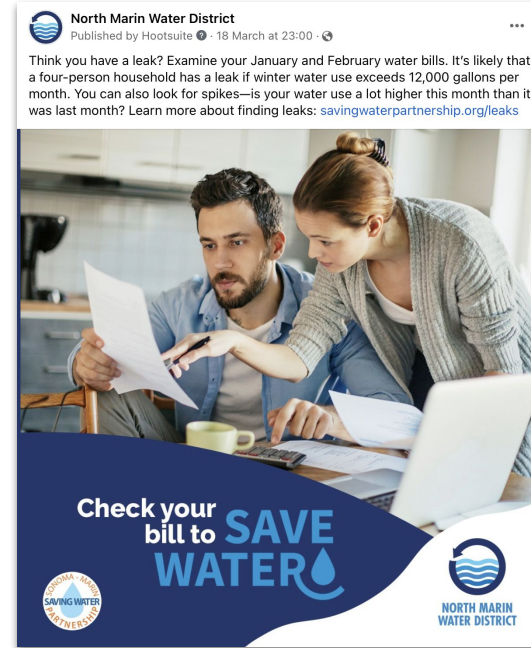




March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



197 people reached | 19 engagements



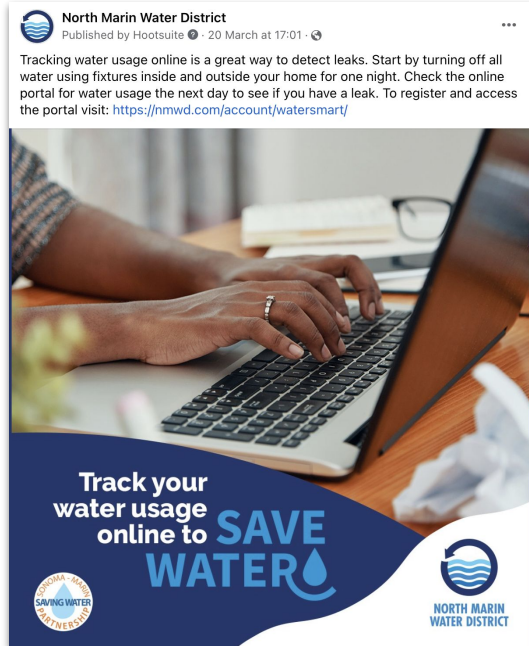
213 people reached | 6 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments

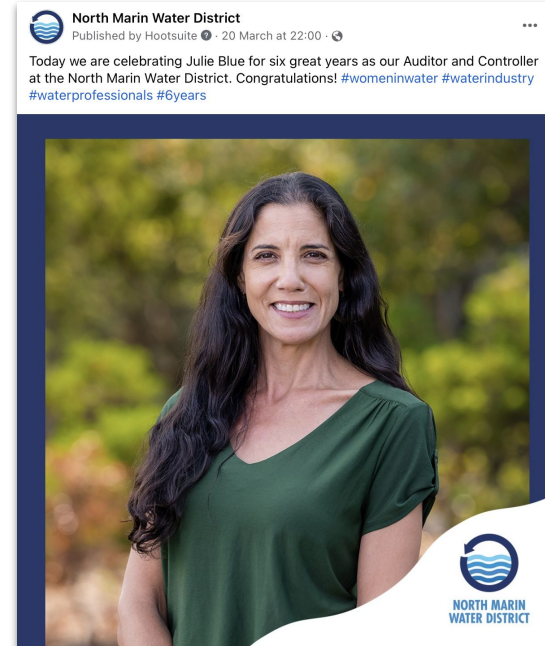




March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



117 people reached | 5 engagements



231 people reached | 20 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



117 people reached | 5 engagements



160 people reached | 4 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



125 people reached | 7 engagements



257 people reached | 36 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



122 people reached | 2 engagements



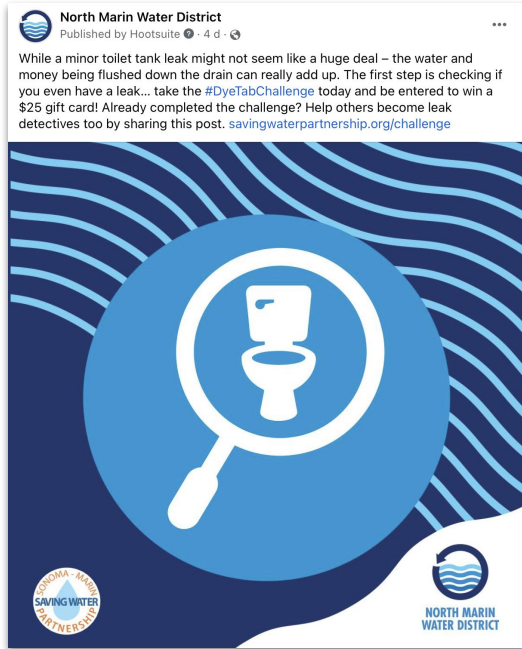
115 people reached | 1 engagement

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments

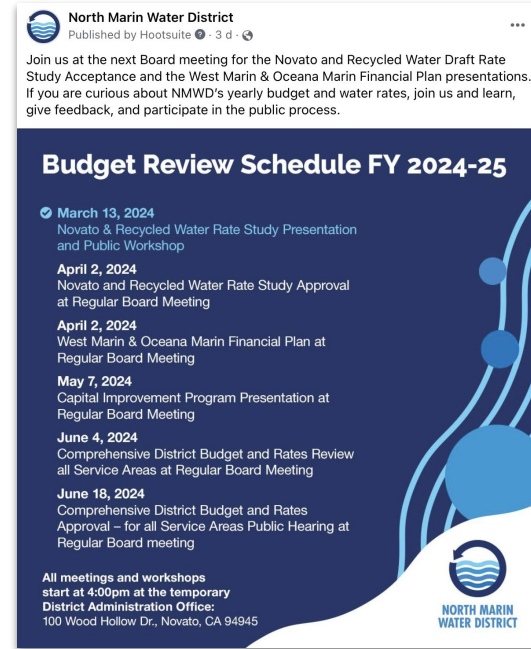




March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



111 people reached | 1 engagement



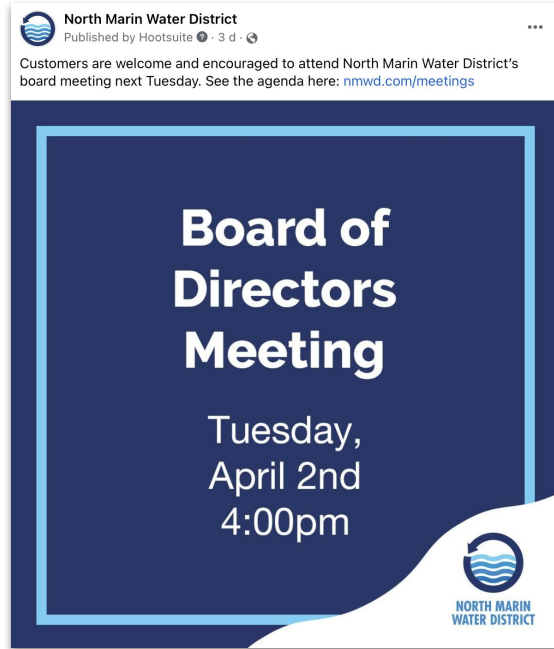
110 people reached | 1 engagement

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | Facebook



112 people reached | 4 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 1

Nancy Williamson, our Accounting Supervisor, has been working for the District for 24 years. What an achievement! We are grateful for all you do. [#womeninwater](#) [#24years](#) [#anniversary](#)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 1

It's [#nationalemployeeappreciationday](#)! We are so thankful for our employees and appreciate everything you do for the North Marin Water District. [#thankyou](#)





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 2 ...

Customers are welcome and encouraged to attend North Marin Water District's board meeting next Tuesday. See the agenda here: nmwd.com/meetings

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 5th
4:00pm



 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 6 ...

Is your toilet running? A leaky toilet is no joke and wastes a lot of money. Take the [#DyeTabChallenge](#) and find out if you have a sneaky toilet leak. Visit savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge and be entered to win a \$25 gift card.

Is your toilet running?
Better go catch it!







March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)


 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 8 ...

Today is International Women's Day! Thank you to all the women who continue to bring hard work and dedication to the North Marin Water District team. [#womeninwater](#) [#internationalwomensday](#)



 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 8 ...

Curious about our yearly budget and water rates? Join NMWD's FY 2024/2025 budget sessions! Learn, give feedback, and participate in Board meetings and workshops. A special workshop on the Novato and Recycled Water Rate Study is next Wednesday. Don't miss out!



Schedule FY 2024-25

- Study Presentation and Public Workshop
- Rate Study Approval at Regular Board Meeting
- Financial Plan at Regular Board Meeting
- Presentation at Regular Board Meeting
- and Rates Review all Service Areas at
- * and Rates Approval – for all Service Areas
- d meeting
- at 4:00pm at the temporary District Administration Office:
- 1945





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 12

Reminder! A special workshop on the Novato and Recycled Water Rate Study is tomorrow. If you are curious about NMWD's yearly budget and water rates, join us and learn, give feedback, and participate in the presentation and public workshop.

Novato & Recycled Water Rate Study

Presentation and Public Workshop

March 13th, 4pm
100 Wood Hollow Dr.
Novato, CA 94945



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 12

Take the [#DyeTabChallenge](#) – not only will you find out if you are flushing money down the drain, but you'll also be entered to win a \$25 gift card if you share your results by March 31. To obtain free dye tabs, share your results, and view rules, visit savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge






March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 14 ...

Do you need to fix your flush? Take the [#DyeTabChallenge](#). Get FREE dye tabs from NMWD or use a few drops of food coloring. Place dye in your toilet tank and wait 15 minutes without flushing. If the water in the bowl changes color, you have a leak. Visit savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge



 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 16 ...

Customers are welcome and encouraged to attend North Marin Water District's board meeting next Tuesday. See the agenda here: nmwd.com/meetings










March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 16 ...


Our Human Resource and Safety Manager, Karen Clyde, has been at the North Marin Water District 3 years, today! Thank you for modeling the highest standards for our employees health and safety policies. #3years #womeninwater #anniversary




 NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 18 ...

Think you have a leak? Examine your past water bills. It's likely that your household has a leak if winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. You can also look for spikes—is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month? Visit savingwaterpartnership.org/leaks




 NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT








March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 20 ...

Tracking water usage online is a great way to detect leaks. Start by turning off all water using fixtures inside and outside your home for one night. Check the online portal for water usage the next day to see if you have a leak. For more information: nmwd.com/account/waters...



Track your water usage online to **SAVE WATER**

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 20 ...

Today we are celebrating Julie Blue for six great years as our Auditor and Controller at the North Marin Water District. Congratulations! [#womeninwater](#) [#waterindustry](#) [#waterprofessionals](#) [#6years](#)



 NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 21 ...

Did you know the average household leaks nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry, and could be costing you an extra 10 percent on your water bills? Download the 10-Minute Challenge today! savingwaterpartnership.org/leaks



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 22 ...

Who knew checking your toilet for leaks could be that simple and save you hundreds of gallons of water a year? Learn where you can pick-up free toilet dye tabs - savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 23

By installing WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances you can save water, energy, and money on your utility bills. For a complete list of high-efficiency fixtures and appliances visit: savingwaterpartnership.org/leaks



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Mar 23

Connie Filippi, our Accounting Clerk, has been at the District for 20 years today! Thank you for two wonderful decades. [#womeninwater](#) [#20years](#)





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 26 ...

Can you imagine wasting 200 gallons of water a day? A leaky toilet that continuously running could be doing just that. The solution? Super easy. Take the [#DyeTabChallenge](https://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge) to find out more visit [savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge](https://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge)



 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 27 ...

It can be pretty easy to fix a leaky toilet but the first step is identifying if you have a leak! That's why we are asking everyone to take the [#DyeTabChallenge](https://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge). To obtain free dye tabs, share your results, and view rules, visit [savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge](https://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge)






March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)


 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 28

While a minor toilet tank leak might not seem like a huge deal – the water and money being flushed down the drain can really add up. Take the [#DyeTabChallenge](#) and be entered to win a \$25 gift card! savingwaterpartnership.org/challenge



 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 29


If you are curious about NMWD's yearly budget and water rates, join us at one of these scheduled meetings to learn, give feedback, and participate in the public process.



Budget Review Schedule FY 2024-25

- March 13, 2024**
Novato & Recycled Water Rate Study Presentation and Public Workshop
- April 2, 2024**
Novato and Recycled Water Rate Study Approval at Regular Board Meeting
- April 2, 2024**
West Marin & Oceana Marin Financial Plan at Regular Board Meeting
- May 7, 2024**
Capital Improvement Program Presentation at Regular Board Meeting
- June 4, 2024**
Comprehensive District Budget and Rates Review all Service Areas at Regular Board Meeting
- June 18, 2024**
Comprehensive District Budget and Rates Approval – for all Service Areas Public Hearing at Regular Board meeting

All meetings and workshops start at 4:00pm
at the temporary District Administration Office:
100 Wood Hollow Dr., Novato, CA 94945





March Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Mar 30

Customers are welcome and encouraged to attend North Marin Water District's board meeting next Tuesday. See the agenda here:
nmwd.com/meetings

Board of Directors Meeting

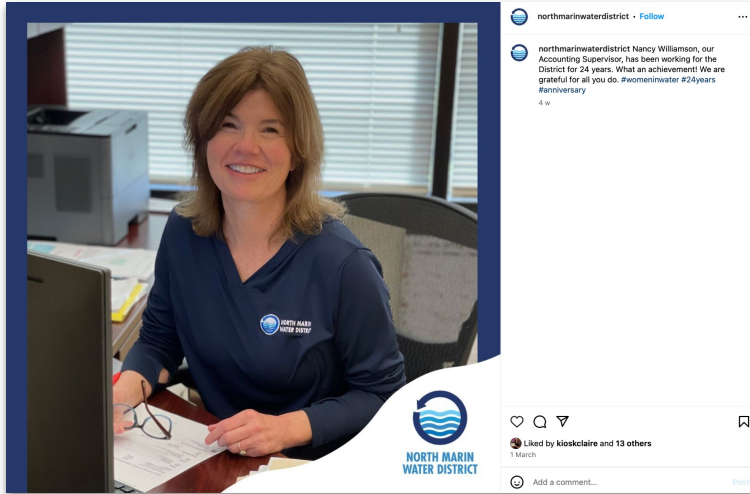
Tuesday, April 2nd
4:00pm


NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



13 likes



12 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



1 like



3 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



15 likes

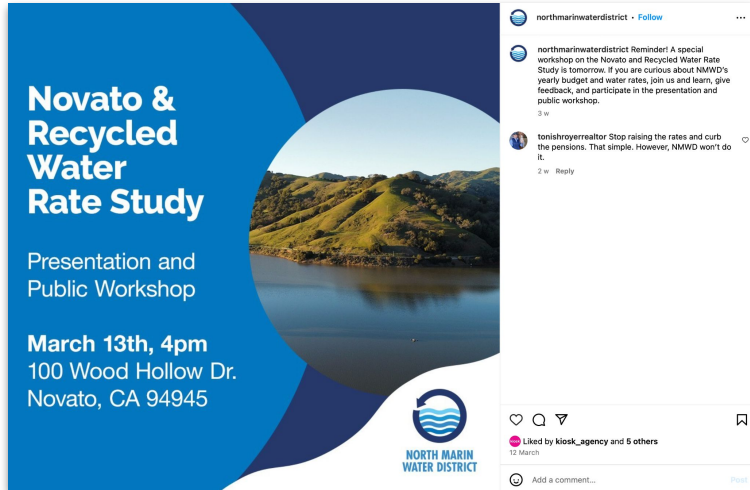


2 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



5 likes



3 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



3 likes



7 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



2 likes



1 like





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



1 like

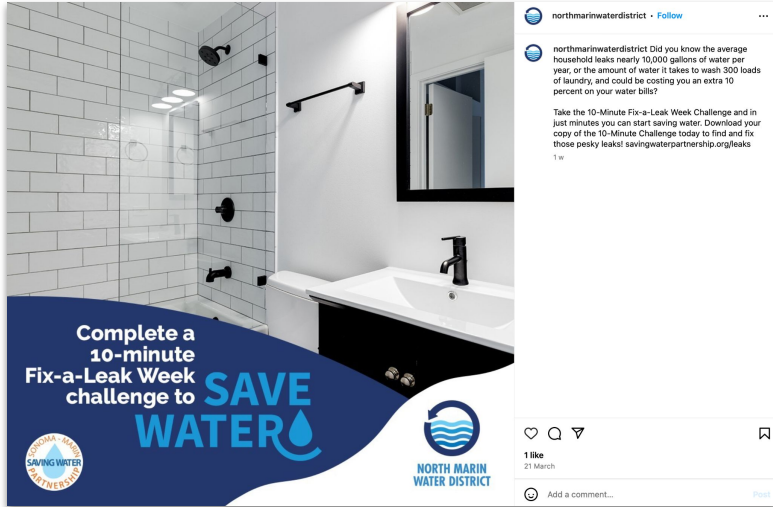


8 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



1 like



0 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



1 like



15 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



3 likes



2 likes

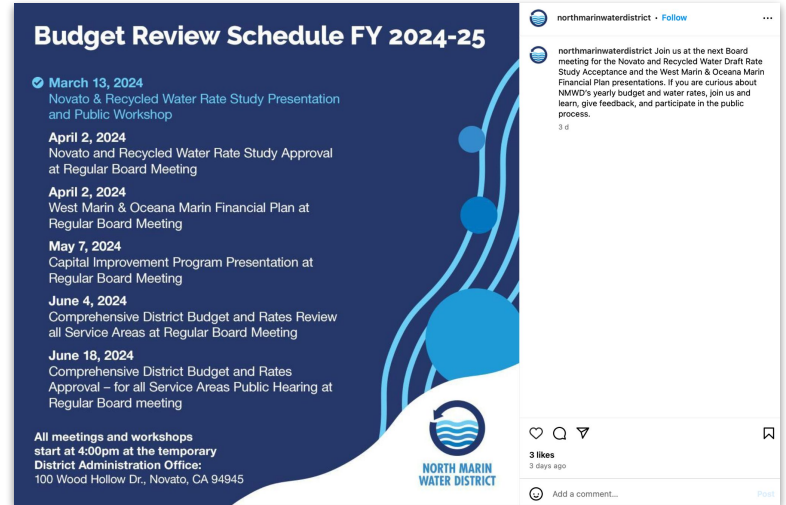




March Social Media Highlights | Instagram



1 like



3 likes





March Social Media Highlights | Instagram

The image shows a screenshot of an Instagram post from the account 'northmarinwaterdistrict'. The post features a dark blue graphic with a light blue border containing the text: 'Board of Directors Meeting', 'Tuesday, April 2nd', and '4:00pm'. Below the graphic is the North Marin Water District logo. The post text reads: 'northmarinwaterdistrict Customers are welcome and encouraged to attend North Marin Water District's board meeting tomorrow. See the agenda by visiting the link in our bio.' The post has 0 likes and a comment section with the text 'Add a comment...'. The interface includes icons for likes, comments, shares, and a bookmark.

northmarinwaterdistrict · Follow

northmarinwaterdistrict Customers are welcome and encouraged to attend North Marin Water District's board meeting tomorrow. See the agenda by visiting the link in our bio.

1 d

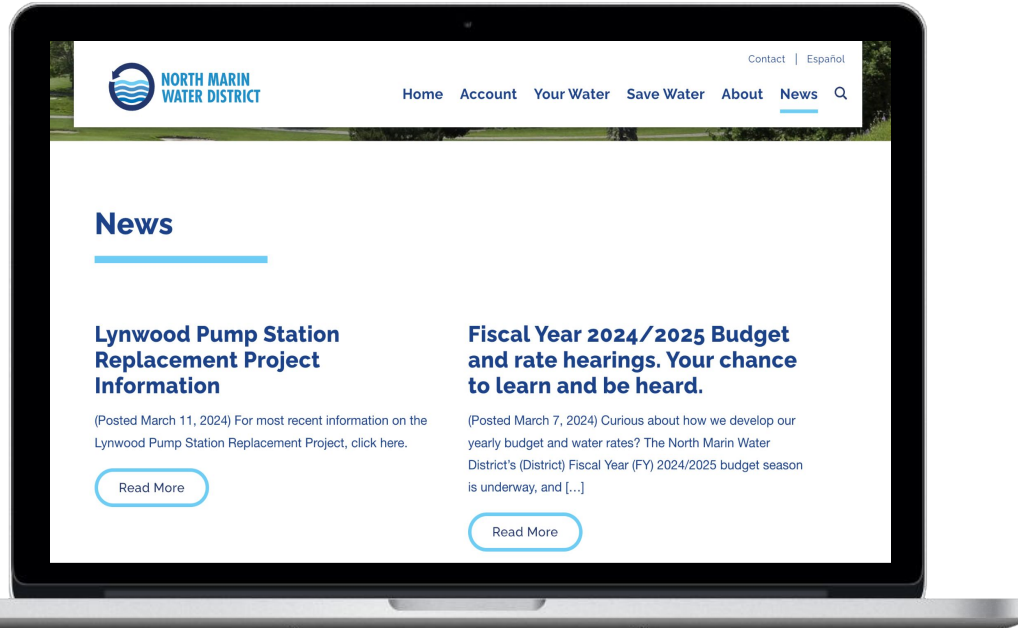
Be the first to like this
1 day ago

Add a comment... Post

0 likes

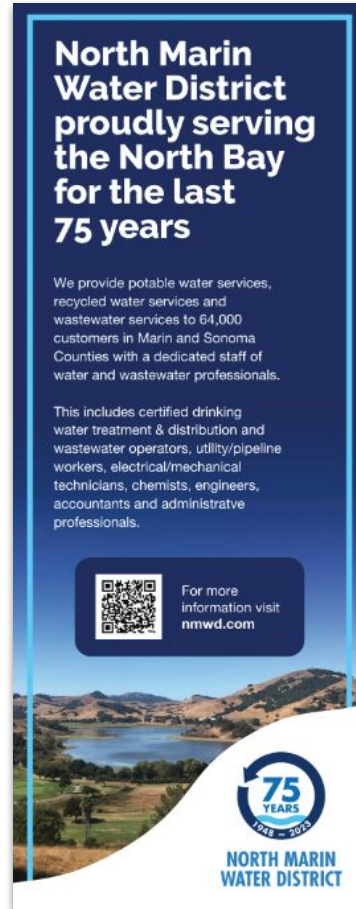


March Web News Stories



- [2024 Annual Backflow Testing to Occur March through August](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget and rate hearings. Your chance to learn and be heard.](#)
- [Lynwood Pump Station Replacement Project Information](#)

North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Ad





**North Marin
Water District
proudly serving
the North Bay
for the last
75 years**

We provide potable water services, recycled water services and wastewater services to 64,000 customers in Marin and Sonoma Counties with a dedicated staff of water and wastewater professionals.

This includes certified drinking water treatment & distribution and wastewater operators, utility/pipeline workers, electrical/mechanical technicians, chemists, engineers, accountants and administrative professionals.

For more information visit nmwd.com



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

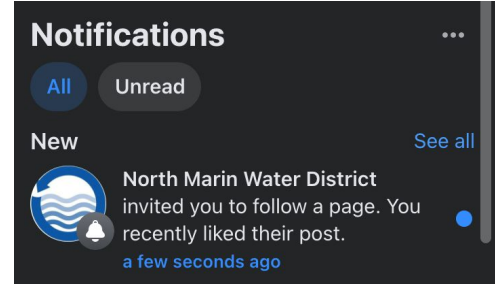
The advertisement features a dark blue background with white text. At the bottom, there is a landscape photograph of a lake and hills, and a circular logo celebrating 75 years from 1943 to 2018.

Kiosk created an ad for the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) conference that promotes sponsorship from North Marin Water District.

Facebook Likes Campaign - March Report



We are running an evergreen ad which encourages customers in the NMWD service areas to 'like' (follow) the NMWD Facebook page.




Spend in March 2024	Reach (Number of people who saw the ad)	Impressions	Results (New Page Likes)	Cost Per New Page Like
\$46.21	3,085	5,527	17	\$2.72

*This month, we were able to reach over **3,000** people with the Likes Campaign*



What's Next?

- Kiosk is working on the District's Annual Report design and layout
 - Kiosk is working on the Rate Increase Study/ Hearing Outreach Campaign Materials, Spring Waterline, and Marin County Fair Materials
 - Social media posts will feature employees on their work anniversaries, as well as highlight rebates and rate hearing infographics
 - Kiosk continues to work with staff to get photos of construction and maintenance projects throughout Novato and West Marin
- 



Thank You