



NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING
 August 20, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
 Location: 100 Wood Hollow Dr. Suite 300
 Novato, California

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

- | Item | Subject |
|------|---|
| | CALL TO ORDER |
| 1. | APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING , Aug 6, 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 |
| | CONSENT CALENDAR |
| | The General Manager has reviewed the following items. To his knowledge, there is no opposition to the action. The items can be acted on in one consolidated motion as recommended or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any person. |
| 5. | Consent - Approve: Revision to Low Income Rate Assistance, Policy No. 49 |
| | ACTION CALENDAR |
| 6. | Approve: Comment Letter for Senate Bill No. 1255 Water Rate Assistance Program |
| | INFORMATION ITEMS |
| 7. | FY 2023/24 End of Year Progress Report – Water Conservation and Public Communications |
| 8. | New State Guidelines for Cross-Connection Control |
| 9. | Boundary Adjustment and De-Annexation Process with Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) |
| 10. | WAC/TAC Draft Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2024 |
| 11. | TAC Draft Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2024 |
| 12. | MISCELLANEOUS |
| | Disbursements – Dated August 8, 2024 |
| | Disbursements – Dated August 15, 2024 |
| | Monthly Progress Report |
| | Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for June 2024 |
| | Status of Candidates who have taken out papers for office |
| | Letter of Intent – Building Resilience to Climate Change in Northern California Coastal Watershed |

Item

Subject

News Articles:

Marin IJ: Options in pump project expand – NOVATO

Marin IJ: Compensation for Marin elected officials varies wildly – DICK SPOTSWOOD

Marin IJ: Ballot set as filing comes to a close- MARIN ELECTION

Social Media Posts:

NMWD Web and Social Media Report – July 2024

13. ***ADJOURNMENT***

1

1 development requirements. He said the meeting serves the County for continuing to comply with SB
2 552, and the group is a Drought Task Force and the County will complete a Risk Assessment. Mr.
3 Williams also mentioned the County is involved in a sea level rise study which will determine what
4 type of governance structure there could be in the future to address the issue.

5 Mr. Williams said that on July 30 he attended a meeting regarding LAFCo and the District
6 boundaries in West Marin, specifically to separate from IPUD and de-annex Marshall. He said this
7 meeting was to prepare for a public meeting later this year at the Inverness Fire Department, with a
8 possible date in early October. He said that Supervisor Rodoni is in support and will assist with
9 public outreach.

10 On July 31, Mr. Williams attended a quarterly Marin-Sonoma Water Coordination Meeting.
11 The other attendees were Grant Davis, Don Seymour, Jay Jasperse of Sonoma Water; Jed Smith,
12 Paul Sellier, and Ben Horenstein of MMWD, Supervisor Rabbitt, and Supervisor Rodoni.
13 Discussions included the Potter Valley Project and as well as how MMWD is doing with their water
14 supply studies. Mr. Williams asked Ben Horenstein to come and give update to the NMWD Board at
15 a future meeting.

16 Mr. Williams mentioned some regulatory updates. He said that for the proposed Making
17 Conservation a Way of Life framework, the state Water Board has extended the final comment
18 period and once we receive the final language, it will be official. Mr. Williams said he and Ryan
19 Grisso will bring it back to the Board.

20 Mr. Williams said that the cross-connection control policy handbook has been approved by
21 the state Water Board in July. This will mean changes for our Regulations 6 and 36 at a minimum.
22 Draft changes to those regulations will be brought to the Board for approval in the near future. The
23 cross-connection policy will affect both customers building ADUs and well as those that already
24 have ADUs among other impacts.

25 **OPEN TIME**

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

28 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

29 Robert Clark informed the Board that a Tesla battery will be installed at the San Marin Pump
30 Station soon, he said it should arrive within the next 30 days. This will be an emergency backup
31 system. Director Joly asked if it will be visible from the road and Mr. Clark said that staff will be
32 replanting approved shrubs in order to hide the battery. Director Joly also asked if the recent tree
33 trimming was part of this project and Mr. Clark said it was and also because the tree was not healthy
34 and needed to be addressed.

1 Eric Miller gave a short update on active or recently completed capital construction projects.
2 He said the water main replacement on Arthur Street has been completed. He said the Oceana
3 Marin Pond Rehabilitation project is about 40% complete and that it is on schedule and on budget.
4 Director Joly asked about the bridge on Grant Avenue. Mr. Williams said we did the work there
5 about 2 years ago and that it is a Caltrans-funded bridge.

6 **ACTION CALENDAR**

7 **APPROVE: CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR WEST MARIN WATER RATE STUDY**
8 **WITH HILDEBRAND CONSULTING**

9 Tony Williams said that the West Marin Rate Study, completed in 2021, was originally
10 scheduled to be updated in FY 25/26. However, it is being done a year early due to significant
11 change in assumptions used in the 2021 study. The rate study has a budget of \$45,000 which
12 includes the cost of the rate consultant as well as legal counsel review or other contingencies.
13 Director Eichstaedt asked Eric Miller if the capital improvement projects are an important aspect of
14 the rate study and Mr. Miller said that long term planning for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
15 is critical and that many major projects have been identified in West Marin. Mr. Williams mentioned
16 that construction costs are very high and that the West Marin area is unique in that material and
17 supplies can be difficult to transport in, and these types of constraints increase costs. Director Joly
18 noted that Mark Hildebrand worked on the previous West Marin Rate Study and Julie Blue
19 confirmed this. Before a formal approval, Director Petterle commented that in the past, when there
20 was a rate increase, the rates were raised according to CPI, but it has now become more
21 complicated. He said he likes Mr. Hildebrand's work and requests that the upcoming rate study
22 presentations be clear and concise. He added that it is a complex topic, and any efforts to make it
23 easier for our customers to understand would be appreciated. Ms. Blue said she will pass the
24 comments on to Mr. Hildebrand. Director Eichstaedt added, in regard to the CIP, that customers
25 need to understand that the water rates contribute directly to those projects, budgeted each year,
26 and it is critical in maintaining an operational system.

27 Mary Stompe, an audience participant, asked to comment to the Board. She asked how the
28 District properly captures staff time between Novato and West Marin, and said she hopes Novato
29 rate payers are not paying for part of the West Marin system. She noted that Novato rate increases
30 are higher than West Marin's. Ms. Blue addressed her comments noting that staff time is allocated
31 to the various service areas by posting job codes through the timesheet program. She added that
32 that revenue for each service area is tracked separately, and therefore, rates are evaluated
33 separately. She also noted that indirect costs are allocated monthly, and this will be reviewed as
34 part of the rate study.

1 On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Eichstaedt, the Board
2 approved by the following vote:

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

4 NOES: None

5 ABSENT: None

6 ABSTAIN: None

7 **APPROVE: AGREEMENT WITH SONOMA WATER FOR WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**
8 **GRANT REIMBURSEMENT**

9 Ryan Grisso addressed the Board and gave a brief description of the Water and Energy
10 Efficiency Grant (WEEG) Reimbursement for the agreement with Sonoma Water. The WEEG
11 provides funding for projects that result in quantifiable water savings. Sonoma Water recently
12 applied for grant funds on behalf of the Sonoma-Marin Drought Resiliency Program that will offer
13 funding for consumer rebates including high efficiency toilets and washers as well as other water
14 saving devices. The programs approved for the grant include a 45% match from Sonoma Water for
15 our rebate programs. NMWD will provide the remaining 55%.

16 On the motion of Director Joly, and seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved by the
17 following vote:

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

19 NOES: None

20 ABSENT: None

21 ABSTAIN: None

22 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

23 **INTERIM DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

24 Mr. Williams said that interim District Strategic Planning is happening in this period before
25 the elections in November for four of the Board members and feed into the development of the next
26 Strategic Plan. He said the current work involves review and cataloging of organization charts from
27 other similar agencies. Mr. Williams also said that the employee survey that was conducted and a
28 total of 43 responses were received. He said one of the questions asked in the survey was if the
29 employees were proud to work for NMWD and 87% answered "strongly agree" or "agree". He said
30 he will bring more information back to the Board on other survey results. He also said that 7 staff
31 volunteers will be interviewed on a one-on-one basis with Kiosk. After that, Senior Management will
32 be interviewed and then finally the Board will be interviewed as well. Mr. Williams said he will come
33 back to the Board with a comprehensive report. Director Baker noted that he will be unavailable in
34 first part of September.

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1 **ADMINISTRATION & LABORATORY UPGRADE PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

2 Eric Miller gave a presentation on the construction update for the Administration &
3 Laboratory Upgrade project. In the progress photos, he noted that the new Board room will have the
4 District logo on the redwood wall that will be behind the Directors tables. He said the redwood used
5 throughout the interior is reclaimed wood from one of the District tanks that had been replaced. He
6 noted that the ceiling in some interior spaces has been done in reclaimed cedar. He said that 95%
7 of the exterior paneling on the lab is complete. Mr. Miller noted that the office will be very quiet as
8 the walls have been well insulated to help negate the freeway and train noises. Mr. Miller said the
9 office furniture is scheduled to be delivered in approximately 2 weeks. He also said the main
10 electrical panel is in route and should arrive within the next 2 weeks as well. The decorative glass
11 that is to be installed in the lobby as well as the protective glass for reception is still being worked on
12 and there is a possibility it may not be installed before we move back in, but should be soon after.

13 Mr. Miller went over the project schedule. Director Joly asked if we will ask for
14 reimbursement from the contractor for added costs, such as the rents at Wood Hollow and the Buck
15 Center. Mr. Miller said this can be brought into the negotiations at the end and there is a provision in
16 the contract. The 3-month look ahead schedule showed what is expected to be completed for both
17 buildings which includes exterior metal paneling, punchlist, doors, final cleanup, furniture installation,
18 lighting, and landscaping. The budget status slide showed that the contractor's billings to date are
19 at 94% on the contract, and 77% of the contingency is forecasted to be used from change orders.
20 President Baker asked if there is a time frame for an open house. Mr. Williams said that there are
21 other scheduling items once the construction is complete and we need to get the lab certification
22 done since the lab would be a key feature for the open house, not to mention the paving of the cul-
23 de-sac (Rush Creek Place) and the establishment of new landscaping. Mr. Williams also said that
24 he would like to get through the warranty period and make sure everything is working properly,
25 especially new building systems. He estimated an open house could be possible in early 2025.
26 Director Joly asked about the heating and cooling of the buildings and the possibility of using solar.
27 Mr. Williams said the building is "solar-ready" but no solar is included in the current construction. He
28 mentioned that there will be EV charging stations in the parking lot and a rainwater capture feature
29 as part of the landscaping as well as other sustainability elements. Director Petterle asked about the
30 meeting spaces and if we will be allowing other agencies to use. Mr. Williams said that we will be
31 updating one of our Board policies in that regard. Director Eichstaedt asked about the PG&E
32 electrical transformer and Mr. Miller said PG&E will mobilize but they will want the electrical system
33 approved by the City of Novato Building Inspector before they can energize. Director Eichstaedt
34 also asked about the punch list items and Mr. Miller said there are about 28 pages of items
35 currently, about 90 items in total. Director Joly then asked when we might be able to meet in the
36 new building. Mr. Miller said the earliest we can actually move would be September 30, and the first

1 Board meeting in October could be a possibility, however it will depend on how the final items are
2 completed, so the second meeting in October may be a reality. Director Petterle said it would be
3 good to have the next major project meeting for the Lynwood Pump Station in the new building as it
4 would be better able to accommodate attendees. There was more discussion regarding the first
5 Board meeting in the new building, as well as potentially scheduling a special meeting for the
6 Lynwood project.

7 **MISCELLANEOUS**

8 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements dated July 18, July
9 25, and August 1, 2024; NOAA Drought Outlook; Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook
10 effective July 1, 2024 – SWRCB; Letter from SCWA to SWRCB, July 17, 2024, re Notice of Change
11 in Russian River Hydrologic Conditions; Lake Mendocino Storage. The Board also received the
12 following news articles: Marin IJ – Reservoir levels still top norm amid heat – MARIN WATER
13 DISTRICTS, Marin ballots for Nov. election filled with open seats – FILING PERIOD STARTS, Dam
14 spillway plan could increase storage capacity – MARIN MUNICIPAL, Special districts can lean on
15 institutional advertising – DICK SPOTSWOOD, Pt. Reyes Light – Green Bridge plans updated by
16 Caltrans, County plans bigger restroom expansion.

17 Director Joly asked Julie Blue about a disbursement to CalPERS and she said that it was
18 expected and budgeted for.

19 **ADJOURNMENT**

20 President Baker adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

21 Submitted by

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Eileen Mulliner
District Secretary

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors

August 20, 2024

From: Julie Blue, Auditor-Controller *JB*

Subj: Revision to Low Income Rate Assistance, Policy No. 49

t:\ac\board reports\board memos\2024\lira update\lira update to policy 49 08.20.24.docx**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Revision to Low Income Rate Assistance Policy No. 49**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Approximately \$35,000 Annually (included in FY 24/25 Budget)Background

In March of 2020 the Board of Directors approved a Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program which is intended to assist low income customers with their water bill payments. The program was implemented in July of 2020 and the initial credit to proven low income customers was \$15/bill, for each two-month billing cycle. During the most recent Novato Water Rate Study and Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget approvals it was determined by the BOD to increase the customer credit to \$30/bill.

Revenue Sources

In order for the District to comply with Prop 218 and related legal requirements, the District may not use revenue from one class of customers to pay or subsidize the costs of another group of customers, including low income customers. The District may, however, use non-rate revenue to pay for the LIRA program. Staff has identified non-rate revenue sources including property tax proceeds, rent revenue and interest revenue.

Customer Participation and Annual Cost

There are currently 391 Novato Water and 13 West Marin Water customers participating in the LIRA program. At the current participation rates the annual cost of the LIRA program will approximate \$73,000. The non-rate revenue sources, identified above, are estimated at \$241,000 which will more than cover the cost of the program.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve revision to Low Income Rate Assistance, Policy No. 49.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Revised Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Policy No. 49

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

POLICY: LOW INCOME RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

POLICY NUMBER: 49

Original Date: 03/03/2020

Last Reviewed:08/20/2024

Last Revised:

North Marin Water District offers a water bill discount to assist customers who are deemed to be in financial need. This discount is available to water customers in the Novato and West Marin Service Territories. This policy is effective on July 1, 2020.

CUSTOMER AVAILABILITY:

The program is available to low income single-family residential customers who are already enrolled in the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program for their energy bill. Customers with a master meter or who do not otherwise have an account with the District are excluded.

The person applying for the program must be the NMWD customer of record. Family members, neighbors, or landlords cannot act on behalf of another customer.

DISCOUNT OFFERED:

A ~~\$45~~ \$30 discount per bi-monthly water bill.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS:

Qualified customers will fill out an application and provide a copy of their current PG&E bill which shows enrollment in the PG&E CARE Program. The application can be submitted via email, mail, or in person. The application must be approved by the Consumer Services (CS) Supervisor or Auditor/Controller. Once approved the CS Department will add the discount code to the customer's account through the billing system.

ELIGIBILITY CONFIRMATION:

A customer's eligibility will be reconfirmed every other fiscal year at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1. A customer would be required to notify the Water District if their income level changes and they no longer qualify for the PG&E CARE program.

Once enrolled a customer's discount will transfer automatically if they move to a new single-family residence served by the District within the Novato or West Marin Service Territories.

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors

August 20, 2024

From: Tony Williams, General Manager

Subj: Comment Letter for Senate Bill No. 1255 Water Rate Assistance Program

t:\gmbod memos 2024\8-20-24 meeting\sb 1255 lira\8-20-24 bod comment ltr sb 1255 lira.docx**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorize the General Manager to Send a Comment Letter regarding Senate Bill No. 1255 on Behalf of the District**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None at this timeBackground

The District has offered a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program to its eligible customers since July 1, 2020 after the Board approved the program and associate policy (Board Policy No. 49) at the March 3, 2020 Regular Meeting. As part of the recent rate hearings and fiscal year budget approval, the discount for program participants increased from \$15 per bi-monthly bill to \$30, using available non-rate revenue. The District's LIRA program is available to low income or fixed income single-family residential customers who are already enrolled in the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program for their energy bill. Utilizing the existing CARE program has minimized administrative costs of managing the program and has kept it consistent with a similar program offered through PG&E. There are currently 391 Novato Water and 13 West Marin Water customers participating in the LIRA program. At the current participation rates the annual cost of the LIRA program will approximate \$73,000.

Proposed Legislation (SB 1255)

State Senate Bill (SB) 1255 (Durazo, D-Los Angeles) would require each retail water supplier that serves more than 3,300 connections to establish a water LIRA program with specified minimum requirements, some of which staff feels are unworkable. Until June 3, 2024, SB 1255 was a study bill regarding water affordability at systems with fewer than 3,000 connections. It did not propose a mandate on public water agencies. The author and sponsors did not add the proposed LIRA mandate until the June 3 version, when the bill was already in the second house. The proposal was added with only two months left in the two-year Session. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has been following the bill and provided suggested amendments to SB 1255 Working Group. ACWA then submitted a position letter on

June 17 with a detailed mockup. In response to ACWA's letter and mockup, Senator Durazo immediately made some helpful amendments which went into print on June 19. However, those amendments did not address significant concerns about the bill. On June 21, ACWA submitted an updated position letter and provided testimony to an Assembly Committee on June 25, however the Committee passed the bill on July 1, despite a critical committee analysis and Legislators noting that the bill needed a lot of work. ACWA submitted another position letter on July 23 and a coalition position letter on July 29 and August 5 to the Assembly Appropriations Committee (see Attachment 1).

Proposed Action

ACWA is urging member agencies to contact their legislators to share concerns about SB 1255 and staff generally supports ACWA's position. Staff have prepared a draft comment letter (Attachment 2) that specifically points out two major issues with the proposed bill: the "opt-out" approach for voluntary contributions from non-eligible customers; and the upfront administrative costs and proposed administrative cost cap. The draft letter, addressed to Assemblymember Damon Connolly (District 12), also urges him to vote "No" if the bill moves to the Assembly floor.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to send the attached comment letter to Assemblymember Connolly on behalf of the District.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ACWA coalition position letter August 5, 2024
2. Draft SB 1255 Comment to letter to Assemblymember Connolly



July 29, 2024 Submitted/August 05, 2024 Signatories Updated

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
 1021 O Street, Suite 8140
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1255 (Durazo): Water Rate Assistance Program (June 19 Version)
POSITION: OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Chair Wicks:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the undersigned organizations have an “Oppose-Unless-Amended” position on SB 1255. This bill proposes to require retail water suppliers with more than 3,300 residential connections to implement a water low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program. We agree with the intent of the bill. **However, SB 1255 would create fiscal uncertainties, and the proposed approach would not allow for successful implementation of the program. ACWA and the undersigned organizations urge the Assembly**

Committee on Appropriations to hold the bill unless it is amended as suggested in ACWA's mockup (attached). Following are examples of concerns.

Uncertain Funding Levels – The bill would rely on **voluntary contributions** from ratepayers who would not receive the assistance. **The funding (i.e., total amount of the contributions) for any public water agency's SB 1255 program would be completely uncertain.**

"Voluntary" Contributions (Opt-Out) [Section 116932 (c)(d)(e)] – The bill proposes an "opt-out" approach with notice, but many ratepayers would likely not see the notice (e.g., if their water bills are on automatic payment). So many noneligible **ratepayers would be charged the "voluntary" contributions when they were not aware they could opt out.** This would set up a negative reputation for the program from the start. Customers could opt out and seek refunds, but that would create even more funding uncertainty. ACWA is suggesting an "opt-in" approach.

Funding Conundrum (Administrative Costs) [Section 116931 (c)(2)] – Beginning July 1, 2027, the bill would cap administrative costs for the program at not greater than ten percent of the voluntary contributions. This cap would not work because of the uncertain funding amount. As an example, to have the cost covered for one position to administer this program (e.g., \$70,000 salary plus \$30,000 in benefits), the agency would have to receive over \$1,000,000 in voluntary contributions each year, which is highly unlikely for many public water agencies. Agencies could not use rate revenue from noneligible ratepayers to cover the difference because that would violate Proposition 218 (the State Constitution). This provision needs to be deleted.

Communities with Many Ratepayers Just Above Eligibility – Residential ratepayers with an annual household income of no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines would be eligible for assistance. ACWA agrees with that threshold. However, funding the proposed rate assistance program would be extremely challenging for communities where many of the noneligible ratepayers have annual household incomes that are not much above the eligibility threshold.

Application of Bill Credit – Drinking Water Not Wastewater [Section 116931 (b)(2)] – **SB 1255 should limit the bill credit to drinking water charges and not apply it to wastewater charges.** SB 1255 would provide that if wastewater charges were on the same bill as drinking water charges, the bill credit would have to be applied for the wastewater charges also. This aspect is problematic. For example, some public water agencies provide drinking water service to all of their customers and wastewater services to some of their customers, etc. There is an **equity issue** if some customers receive a credit for wastewater charges and some customers (who are billed only for drinking water on the water bill) do not receive that additional credit.

Use of Arrearage Data - Needs Assessment [Section 116772 (c)(2)(A) and (B)] – **The bill should not require the collection and use of arrearage data to estimate what funding is needed for a LIRA program for community water systems with fewer than 3,300 connections. Arrearages are not a good basis for estimating this funding need.** Arrearages for nonpayment exist for



multiple reasons. Some ratepayers with high incomes may have not paid their bills, and there will be ratepayers with low incomes who have paid their water bills and do not have arrearages, etc. ACWA suggests that the State use existing **income** information the State has and estimate the number of low-income ratepayers for these systems.

Incomplete Process - The bill was **amended in the second house on June 3 to propose a major new program** – a water LIRA program. **No Senate policy committee has heard the proposal, and the Senate Appropriations Committee has not heard the proposal.**

There can be a workable and efficient State water LIRA program in California. However, **ACWA and the undersigned organizations have serious concerns that SB 1255 cannot be successfully implemented.** ACWA and the undersigned organizations remain opposed to SB 1255 unless it is amended as suggested in the attached mockup. We urge your “NO” vote when the Assembly Committee on Appropriations hears the bill. If you have any questions, please contact ACWA Deputy Executive Director, Cindy Tuck at (916) 669-2388 or at cindyt@acwa.com.

Sincerely,

Cindy Tuck
Deputy Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies

Ernesto A. Avila
Board President
Contra Costa Water District

David J. Coxey
General Manager
Bella Vista Water District

John Bosler
General Manager/CEO
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Kristine McCaffrey
General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Joe Mouawad, P.E.
General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

Michael Flood
General Manager
Casitas Municipal Water District

Bruce Kamilos
General Manager
Elk Grove Water District

Bruce Houdesheldt
Mayor
City of Roseville

Nicholas Schneider
General Manager
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District



Brian M. Olney
General Manager
Helix Water District

Hannah Davidson
Water Resources Specialist
Hidden Valley Lake Community Services
District

Jennifer Cusack
Director of Public and Government Affairs
Hi-Desert Water District

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E.
General Manager
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Brett Sanders
General Manager
Lakeside Water District

Ursula Bosson
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Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Patrick Kaspari
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McKinleyville Community Services District

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District

Justin Scott-Coe
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Monte Vista Water District

David Stoldt
General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management
District

Kimberly A. Thorner
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Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Anthony L. Firenzi
Director of Strategic Affairs
Placer County Water Agency

Jason Martin
Interim General Manager
Rancho California Water District

Dan Denham
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

James Prior
General Manger
San Gabriel County Water District

Paul Helliker
General Manager
San Juan Water District

Matt Stone
General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Charles Wilson
Executive Director
Southern California Water Coalition



Sean Barclay
General Manager
Tahoe City Public Utility District

Sheryl Shaw, P.E.
General Manager
Walnut Valley Water District

Jose Martinez
General Manager
Valley County Water District

John Thiel
General Manager
West Valley Water District

Craig D. Miller, P.E.
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

Attachment: Mockup: *ACWA Recommended Amendments to SB 1255 (Durazo)* (Starts on Page 6)

cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Jacqueline Kinney, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

ATTACHMENT

Association of California Water Agencies Recommended Amendments to SB 1255 (Durazo) – June 19, 2024 Version

Inserts Shown with Red Underscore and Bold
Deletions Shown with Red Strikeout and Bold
June 25, 2024

SECTION 1.

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Existing state law declares that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

(b) In 2015, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 401 (Chapter 662 of the Statutes of 2015) that required the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a plan, informed by the public and the State Board of Equalization, for statewide low-income rate assistance for water.

(c) In 2020, the state board released a report pursuant to Assembly Bill 401, which is entitled "Recommendations for Implementation of a Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program," that found that it would take over \$140,000,000 annually to create a low-income water rate assistance program.

(d) However, the cost of water has continued to rise, outpacing the rate of inflation and putting too many California families at risk of water shutoffs.

(e) Many larger systems in California could provide ratepayer assistance, but are limited by Proposition 218. The Legislature should develop tools for larger water systems to provide more assistance to ratepayers without violating Proposition 218.

(f) Further, the options available to aid small water systems vary from those available to larger water systems, and include ongoing operations and maintenance assistance for some systems that serve all or nearly all low-income households.

(g) Therefore, to inform future legislation, the state board should develop regularly updated data on resources needed to support small water systems to guide the creation of a future program to fulfill the right of customers of these systems to affordable drinking water ~~and wastewater~~.

SEC. 2.

Section 116772 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

116772.

(a) (1) By January 1, 2021, the board, in consultation with local health officers and other relevant stakeholders, shall use available data to make available a map of aquifers that are at high risk of containing contaminants that exceed safe drinking water standards that are used or likely to be used as a source of drinking water for a state small water system or a domestic well. The board shall update the map annually based on new and relevant data.

(2) The board shall make the map of high-risk areas, as well as the data used to make the map, publicly accessible on its internet website in a manner that complies with the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code). The board shall notify local health officers and county planning agencies of high-risk areas within their jurisdictions.

(b) (1) By January 1, 2021, a local health officer or other relevant local agency shall provide to the board all results of, and data associated with, water quality testing performed by a laboratory that has accreditation or certification pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 100825) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 101 for a state small water system or domestic well that was collected after January 1, 2014, and that is in the possession of the local health officer or other relevant local agency.

(2) By January 1, 2022, and by January 1 of each year thereafter, all results of, and data associated with, water quality testing performed by a laboratory that has accreditation or certification pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 100825) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 101 for a state small water system or domestic well that is submitted to a local health officer or other relevant local agency shall also be submitted directly to the board in electronic format.

(c) (1) On or before July 1, 2026, and on or before July 1 of each three years thereafter, the board, in consultation with the advisory group established pursuant to Section 116768.5 and appropriate stakeholders, shall update the needs analysis of the state's public water systems to include an assessment of the funds necessary to provide a 20-percent bill credit for low-income households served by community water systems with fewer than 3,300 service connections and for community water systems with fewer than 3,300 service connections to meet the affordability threshold established pursuant to Section 116769.

(2) To develop this assessment, the board shall do all of the following for community water systems with fewer than 3,300 connections:

(A) Obtain income information from one or more State agencies that have the income information as to which ratepayers for those systems have an annual household income that is no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level. Collect arrearage data from water systems not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission and request data from the Public Utilities Commission on those systems they regulate.

~~(B) Estimate the number of households in need of assistance using arrearage data as well as information provided by the United States Census Bureau or other comparable data source.~~

~~(B)(C) Identify available data on water rates charged by those community water systems with fewer than 3,300 service connections.~~

~~(C)(D) Report the number of those systems for which the rates data was unavailable. Where data is unavailable for a water system, use an average of existing data to estimate the level of need for that system.~~

SEC. 3.

Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 116930) is added to Part 12 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 6.5. Water Rate Assistance Programs

116930.

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Affordability programs" means any of the following programs:

(1) CalWORKs.

(2) CalFresh.

(3) General assistance.

(4) Medi-Cal.

(5) Supplemental Security Income or the State Supplementary Payment Program.

(6) California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

(7) California Alternate Rates for Energy program.

(8) Family Electric Rate Assistance program.

(b) "Available information" means any of the following:

(1) Information provided pursuant to an agreement entered into pursuant to Section 116933 for the purposes of documenting the residential ratepayer's participation in an affordability program.

(2) A benefits award letter provided by the residential ratepayer documenting that the customer is an enrollee in, or is a recipient of, an affordability program.

~~*(3) Self-certification of eligibility, under penalty of perjury, by the residential ratepayer.*~~

(c) "Balancing account" means a reserved amount of sufficient funding to address fluctuations in voluntary contributions received or changes in eligible ratepayers, not to exceed 25 percent of the annual expenditures of the program.

(d) "Crisis assistance" means direct bill credits to accounts of eligible ratepayers to reduce accrued arrearages.

(e) "Eligible ratepayer" means a low-income residential ratepayer with an annual household income that is no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline level.

(f) "Program" means a water rate assistance program established pursuant to this chapter.

(g) "Qualified system" means any retail water supplier that serves over 3,300 residential connections.

(h) "Residential ratepayer" means an accountholder of a qualified system who resides in a single-family or multifamily residence and who receives a bill from a qualified system for water service.

(i) "State board" means the State Water Resources Control Board.

(j) "Voluntary contributions" means funds voluntarily remitted by ratepayers to qualified systems that are not derived from fees or assessments pursuant to Section 4 or 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

116931.

(a) On or before July 1, 2027, a qualified system, other than a system meeting the requirements of subdivision (f), shall establish a program meeting the minimum requirements of subdivision (b) and begin providing water rate assistance to eligible ratepayers in compliance with this chapter.

(b) A program offered pursuant to this chapter shall, at a minimum, include both of the following:

(1) Automatic enrollment of eligible ratepayers if available information indicates that they are qualified to receive assistance.

(2) (A) Provision of a bill credit for eligible ratepayers of no less than 20 percent of the ~~drinking total~~ water charges, ~~and, if present on the bill, wastewater charges~~, for a volume of water approximately similar to that identified in Section 10609.4 of the Water Code or, if the eligible ratepayer uses less, the actual volume used. In the event there is not sufficient funding, including any balancing account funds, to support a 20-percent bill credit, the program shall provide the maximum bill credit available that funding is able to support, unless the maximum bill credit available that funding is able to support is less than 10 percent, in which case the qualified system shall instead provide crisis assistance to the extent funds are available consistent with subdivision (j). The bill credit may be applied pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) The qualified system may select the element or elements of the drinking water charges, pursuant to subparagraph (C), upon which the bill credit is applied or may elect to provide a bill credit as a set percentage of the total water bill, provided that the total bill credit is equivalent in value to the bill credit required by this paragraph.

(C) Element, or elements, of the drinking water charges upon which the bill credit may be applied include, but are not limited to, the fixed, volumetric, or fixed and volumetric charges levied by the system.

(c) (1) On or before September 1, 2026, for the reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter and to establish ~~initial~~ program funding, a qualified system may begin collecting voluntary contributions. Reasonable costs include administrative costs associated with this chapter and for providing notice to ratepayers pursuant to this chapter.

~~(2) Beginning July 1, 2027, the reasonable costs associated with the administration of this chapter shall not exceed 10 percent of voluntary contributions collected pursuant to this section.~~

(d) In establishing a program pursuant to this section, a qualified system may establish a balancing account to manage fluctuations in voluntary contributions and the granting of bill credits to eligible ratepayers.

(e) This section does not require a qualified system to use funds other than voluntary contributions collected pursuant to Section 116932 to provide rate assistance to eligible ratepayers or to pay for associated administrative costs. A qualified system may use other funds available for this purpose that are not derived from fees or assessments pursuant to Section 4 or 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

(f) (1) Any qualified system that offers an existing water rate assistance program on or before September 1, 2026, that meets the minimum enrollment and bill credit requirements specified in subdivision (b) by July 1,

2027, shall not be required to comply with this chapter, but may collect voluntary contributions pursuant to Section 116932 to supplement or expand the existing program or to provide crisis assistance. **If an existing water rate assistance program of a qualified system no longer meets the minimum enrollment and bill credit requirements specified in subdivision (b), the qualified system shall meet the requirements pursuant to Section 116931 and Section 116932 within 2 years.**

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a qualified system from offering assistance to residential ratepayers that does either, or both, of the following:

(A) Provides a greater bill credit benefit.

(B) Exceeds the definition of low income as specified in this chapter for ratepayer eligibility.

(3) [PLACEHOLDER FOR REFINEMENTS AND/OR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL OPTION(S) FOR OTHER EXISTING PROGRAMS.]

(g) Any public water system that is not a qualified system may collect voluntary contributions to fund a water affordability program, but is not required to comply with this chapter.

(h) A qualified system may require verification of eligibility from a sample of enrolled eligible ratepayers on an annual basis **or less frequently** to verify the ratepayer's low-income status and eligibility for assistance. A qualified system may remove any ratepayers found to not be eligible for assistance from this program.

(i) A qualified system shall continue to have a program pursuant to this chapter as long as there is sufficient funding available pursuant to Section 116932 to provide water rate assistance or crisis assistance, pay for the qualified system's reasonable costs for administration of the program, and establish a balancing account if the qualified system chooses to do so.

(j) (1) If, after three months of accepting voluntary contributions, the qualified system can demonstrate there will not be sufficient funds to support a program at a minimum of a 10-percent discount or five dollars (\$5) per month, whichever amount is greater and adjusted for the consumer price index after July 1, 2027, and pay for the qualified system's reasonable costs for administration of the program, the system shall instead use the collected contributions to provide **ongoing** crisis assistance and pay for the qualified system's reasonable costs for administration of crisis assistance. Crisis assistance shall be offered on or before July 1, 2027. **When funding is available that exceeds the administrative costs, c**Crisis assistance shall be offered to eligible ratepayers, at a minimum, when a qualified system provides notice pursuant to Section 116908 or when the eligible **ratepayer customer** contacts the qualified system about a delinquent account. **For this purpose, a delinquent account means an account that is 90 days past due.**

(2) Crisis assistance shall only be provided to an eligible ratepayer once per year and limited to an amount determined by the qualified system, taking into account the overall past due amount and available funding. To the extent the amount of crisis assistance provided does not eliminate an eligible ratepayer's arrearages, the ratepayer **may** enter into an amortization agreement, alternative payment schedule, or plan for deferred or reduced payment, pursuant to Section 116910, to be eligible for crisis assistance.

116932.

(a) On or before September 1, 2026, a qualified system **offering a program pursuant to this chapter** shall provide an opportunity for each ratepayer of the system **who has opted in pursuant to this section** to provide a voluntary contribution as part of the ratepayer's water bill to provide funding for the qualified system's program.

(b) A qualified system shall establish a recommended voluntary contribution amount **on the bill of each for** ratepayers other than an eligible ratepayer based on available information as of July 1, 2026, at a level intended to raise sufficient funding to provide a bill credit to eligible ratepayers pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 116931, pay for the qualified system's administrative costs to implement this chapter beginning January 1, 2025, and establish a balancing account if the qualified system chooses to do so. When setting the recommended voluntary contribution, a qualified system shall assume that **XX60** percent of ratepayers other than eligible ratepayers will **opt in to providing** the contribution. **After January 1, 2028** **On or before July 1, 2027**, a qualified system may adjust the **recommended** voluntary contribution, as necessary, considering the previous year's actual participation rate. The recommended voluntary contribution shall not exceed 5 percent of the charges for **drinking** water **and wastewater** on the water bill for any residential ratepayer.

(c) **On or before July 1, 2026, A bill from** a qualified system shall **identify the option to opt in to providing a label** the voluntary contribution in a way that describes the purpose of the funds. The qualified system shall notify their ratepayers of the **option to provide a** voluntary contribution and, in a visually accessible manner and using clear and unambiguous language, shall provide each ratepayer the option and method of opting **in to out of** providing the voluntary contribution **at least three months prior to beginning collection of the voluntary contribution**, and thereafter on at least an annual basis. **If a ratepayer opts in to providing the voluntary contribution, the v**Voluntary contributions shall commence on the qualified system's subsequent billing cycle **following from** the **ratepayer's opt in notice**. The qualified system may choose to include alternative amounts for contributions. A qualified system shall also provide this information on its internet website in English, the other languages listed in Section 1632 of the

Civil Code, and any other language spoken by at least 10 percent of the people residing in its service area.

*(d) A ratepayer **who opts in to providing a voluntary contribution** may opt out of the voluntary contribution at any time in a manner that may be specified by the qualified system and shall be included in the notice in subdivision (c), with voluntary contributions terminating on the qualified system's subsequent normal billing cycle **following the opt out and no longer appearing on the ratepayer's bill.***

*(e) A ratepayer **who opts in to providing a voluntary contribution but subsequently opts out** may only request a refund for contributions made since the ~~ratepayer opted out~~**last notice of opportunity to opt out of the program was provided or for the period of the last billing cycle prior to the date the ratepayer opts out, whichever time period is greater.** Qualified systems may provide refunds in the form of a bill credit.*

(f) A qualified system shall not sanction, take any enforcement or collection action against, impose any late charge or penalty against, or otherwise hold liable a ratepayer in any manner for exercising the option of not paying a voluntary contribution described in this section.

(g) The voluntary contributions shall be used only to provide rate assistance to eligible ratepayers, pay for associated administrative costs to implement the program, and establish a balancing account. Administrative costs of establishing the program may be reimbursed from voluntary contributions.

(h) A qualified system may contract with a third party to receive the voluntary contributions and comply with this section.

(i) Any partial payment made by a ratepayer that is insufficient to pay for charges on the bill shall be used to pay the qualified system's charges shown on the ratepayer's bill before being attributed to a voluntary contribution.

(j) No penalty or late fee may be assessed by a qualified system for the failure of a ratepayer to make timely payment of a voluntary contribution described in this section, ~~regardless of whether the ratepayer has exercised the option of not paying a voluntary contribution.~~

(k) A qualified system may use any state or federal funds that are available to support a program by offsetting or supplementing the funds collected from voluntary contributions.

116933.

(a) On or before January 1, 2026, the Public Utilities Commission shall establish a mechanism for electrical corporations and gas corporations to provide data to all qualified systems no later than April 1, 2026, and annually by April 1 thereafter, regarding ratepayers enrolled in, or eligible to be

enrolled in, the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program established pursuant to Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code and the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program established pursuant to Section 739.12 of the Public Utilities Code.

*(b) All qualified systems may enter into agreements with local publicly owned electric utilities and local publicly owned gas utilities, including, **but not limited to,** municipal utility districts ~~and irrigation districts~~, for the purpose of regularly receiving data regarding ratepayers enrolled in, or eligible to be enrolled in, affordability programs benefiting eligible ratepayers.*

(c) Data provided pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) is subject to Section 7927.410 of the Government Code and the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code).

(d) Data provided pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) shall not be considered a disclosure under Section 1798.83 of the Civil Code.

116934.

Beginning in 2028, the state board shall require qualified systems, in technical reports required by the state board pursuant to Section 116530, to annually report the following:

(a) The total amount of voluntary contributions collected, the administrative costs of operating the program, the number of eligible households that were provided rate assistance or crisis assistance, and the total amount of rate assistance or crisis assistance provided to eligible households.

(b) An evaluation of available relevant information regarding any arrearages that remain after application of bill assistance.

116935.

(a) The Attorney General may bring an action in state court to restrain, by temporary or permanent injunction, the use of any method, act, or practice in violation of this chapter by a qualified system, other than a system that meets the requirements of subdivision (f) of Section 116931, including nonparticipation by a qualified system pursuant to this chapter.

(b) The Attorney General shall not bring an action against a qualified system for failing to meet the requirements of subdivision (f) of Section 116931, as long as the qualified system makes a good faith effort to raise sufficient funding pursuant to Section 116932.

~~116936.~~

~~**The provisions of this chapter are severable. If any provision of this article or its application is held invalid due to a conflict with federal requirements, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.**~~

116XXX - PLACEHOLDER TO ADDRESS OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS:

(1) Confidentiality issues related to income data;

(2) Any tax implications of bill credits.

SEC. 4.

No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

August 21, 2024

The Honorable Damon Connolly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Sent via email: Assemblymember.Connolly@assembly.ca.gov

RE: SB-1255 (Durazo) Water Rate Assistance Program (June 19 version) Comments

Dear Assemblymember Connolly:

The North Marin Water District (District) has a Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program that was initiated on July 1, 2020 and provides a \$30 reduction to eligible customers on their bi-monthly water bill. The District's LIRA program is available to low income single-family residential customers, in both our Novato and West Marin Water enterprises, who are already enrolled in the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program for their energy bill. Qualified customers simply fill out an application and provide a copy of their current PG&E bill which shows enrollment in the PG&E CARE Program. This program structure minimizes administrative burden on the District's limited resources and relies on guidelines of an existing proven program. We currently have 404 customers enrolled in the program and use non-rate revenue sources to fund it.

The District supports the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) suggested amendments. There are several major issues with the proposed legislation including the "opt-out" approach and upfront administrative costs. Each retail water supplier with more than 3,300 connections, including the District would be required to create a program funded with voluntary contributions from customers who would not receive the assistance. The bill would use an opt-out approach that raises transparency concerns. Unless a customer saw a notice and affirmatively opted out, the customer would be charged a "voluntary" contribution. We are aware that not all customers read their water bill as some are on auto-pay. The opt-out approach would frustrate customers and make funding even more uncertain. ACWA has been recommending a true "opt-in" mechanism so that the contributions would actually be voluntary.

Another example of a major issue are the upfront administrative costs. Under SB 1255, public water agencies would incur costs before they received voluntary contributions, and more costs would be incurred as contributions were received. This is problematic because the amount of voluntary contributions that would be received by an agency would be completely uncertain and could be insufficient to cover the costs. Beginning July 1, 2027, the bill would cap administrative costs for the program at not greater than ten percent of the voluntary contributions. This cap would not work because of the uncertain funding amount. As an example, to have the cost covered for one position to administer this program which is likely needed (e.g., \$70,000 salary plus \$30,000 in benefits), the agency would have to receive over \$1,000,000 in voluntary contributions each year, which is highly unlikely for many public water agencies, including the District.

Honorable Connolly
August 20, 2024
Page 2 of 2

For these reasons, the District is concerned with the current language in SB 1255. As approved by the District's Board of Directors at the August 20, 2024 regular meeting, I am sending you this comment letter and urging a "No" vote if the bill moves to the Assembly floor.

Should you have any questions please contact me at (415) 897-4133 or twilliams@nmwd.com.

Sincerely,

Anthony Williams, P.E.
General Manager

7



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors August 20, 2024
From: Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation and Communications Manager
Subject: FY 2023/24 End of Year Progress Report - Water Conservation and Public Communications

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

Water Conservation and Public Communications Summary

This memo provides an update on water conservation and public communication activities implemented during Fiscal Year 2023/24 (FY 24). Water Conservation program participation numbers for FY 24 and the previous two fiscal years are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Year End Water Conservation Program Participation (FY 24)

Table with 4 columns: Program, FY 22, FY 23, FY 24. Rows include Water Smart Home Surveys, Water Smart Commercial Surveys, Toilet Replacements (Residential/Commercial), Retrofit on Resale, High Efficiency Washing Machine Rebates, Cash for Grass Rebates/Lawn be Gone, Water Smart Landscape Rebates, Weather Based Irrigation Controller Rebates, Pool Cover Rebates, Hot Water Recirculation Rebates.

(1) Cash for Grass/Lawn be Gone participants removed 18,808 square feet of turf in FY24 versus 33,404 in FY 23 and 48,304 in FY 22.

Water Conservation Programs

Water Smart Home Survey (WSHS) Program: This program provides the customer with an in-depth analysis of both their indoor and outdoor water use with water efficient recommendations for customers to implement. The WSHS Program also provides staff with an opportunity to present applicable rebate programs for which the participating customer may be eligible. In FY 24, participation slightly increased with 17 WSHSs completed. Staff is working with Sonoma Water to strategize ways to increase participation in the current fiscal year.

Water Conservation Fixture Distribution: The District typically distributes water conserving fixtures at the front counter of the District Administration Building, on service calls and WSHSs, and at various public outreach events. However, currently (since the COVID-19 period began in March 2020) and the subsequent temporary office move to the Wood Hollow location, the fixtures have been distributed by delivery or by appointment where staff would place the items in a bag or envelope out in front of the District temporary office. Fixtures include 1.5 to 1.75 gallons per minute (GPM) showerheads, 1.0 and 0.5 GPM sink aerators, hose nozzles (when available) and other related items. The District also offers commercial establishments installation of 0.5 GPM sink aerators on all hand-washing sinks when conducting a Water Smart Commercial Survey.

High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Replacement Program: The District provides \$100 rebates for residential and commercial customers, for purchase and installation of qualified HETs (1.28 gallons per flush) and \$200 rebates for customers installing Ultra High Efficiency Toilets (1.1 gallons per flush or less, meeting the Maximum Performance “Premium” rating). In FY 24, the District rebated 62 residential toilets.

Commercial Water Conservation Program: The Commercial Water Conservation Program currently contains the HET Rebate Program (previously covered in the High Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program), Water Smart Commercial Survey (WSCS), and a High Efficiency Clothes Washing Machine Rebate. In FY 24, the District conducted 2 WSCSs mainly in conjunction with new or remodeled businesses, and rebated two toilet installations.

Retrofit on Resale: The District currently requires toilets (1.6 gallons per flush or less), showerheads (2.0 GPM) and bathroom sink aerators (1.5 GPM) to be certified by the seller before the close of escrow on any property sold in the District’s Novato and West Marin service areas. Toilet rebates are available and fixtures (showerheads and sink aerators) are available free to customers to help ease compliance with this requirement. In FY 24, the District received water conservation certificates for 92 properties sold in the District Novato and West Marin service areas, which is a decline from the previous few years.

High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program: The District currently offers rebates for qualified high efficiency clothes washing machines through the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership High Efficiency Clothes Washer Program, with \$75 rebates paid directly by the District to customers. In FY 24, the District rebated 44 clothes washing machines. Participation continues to be well below historical participation levels (with the absence of an energy provider rebate in the market), but the District saw a slight increase this past fiscal year.

Cash for Grass Rebate Program: The District rebated 24 Cash for Grass projects and funded 2 Lawn be Gone (sheet mulching) projects, removing 18,808 square feet of irrigated turf

in FY 24, for an average of 723 square feet per project. This amount of square footage removal is estimated to save approximately one million gallons per year. Cash for Grass program participation levels have decreased again in FY 24, following the drought, which is a similar trend following previous droughts. The approved a higher total maximum value for the rebates in late FY 24 which will hopefully help increase the participation in the current fiscal year.

Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program: The District offers rebates to customers for improving landscape water use efficiency. These rebates are provided for drip irrigation installations, multi-stream/low volume sprinkler retrofits, mulch, rain sensors and other water use efficiency landscape related retrofits. In FY 24, the District rebated 10 projects.

Weather Based Irrigation Controller Rebate Program: Rebates are available for purchase, installation and activation of District approved Weather Based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC) at a minimum level of \$200, or \$30 per active station, up to \$1,500. This rebate also extends to large landscape customers on a per meter basis. In FY 24, the District rebated 6 qualified controllers which is a decrease from the previous fiscal years and consistent with the downward trend in participation following the most recent drought. There has been an increase in the availability of reasonably priced mobile device operated Wi-Fi weather-based irrigation controllers which seems to be the preferred type of controller for District customers. The addition of an online form for the rebate submittal in the second half of the fiscal year, did not help increase participation in this program, however staff hopes to push the program and ease of the online form in the current fiscal year through various communication outlets.

Large Landscape Water Conservation Program: The Large Landscape Water Conservation Program consists of the Large Landscape Audit Program, the Large Landscape Budget Program, Water Smart Controller Rebate Program (previously covered in the Water Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program section) and the Large Landscape Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Rebate Program. All programs are aimed at assisting large landscape customers (dedicated irrigation and large mixed-use meters) to become more water use efficient in their landscape water management practices. In addition to the District's Large Landscape conservation efforts, the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership implemented Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) trainings throughout the year.

Communications

In FY 24, the District continued expanding customer communication efforts working with Kiosk to implement the public communications plan (or public outreach plan) in response to a goal from the 2018 Strategic Plan. This communications and customer education effort continued with the enhanced social media campaign with twice weekly posts in Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter). These posts include Board Meeting announcements, historically significant

events, conservation programs, the 2024 rate development process, water supply enhancement efforts, staff spotlights on service anniversaries, and many others that we plan throughout the year. Additionally, social media posts created by the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership were District branded and incorporated into our social media pages. The social media

The District continues to monitor and review the new website (launched in 2020) and make changes and updates as needed to keep it fresh and easily navigable. This included a customized page on Stafford Dam, updated Water Conservation pages and new online rebate application forms, and a Rates 2024 page (incorporating new graphics explaining the fixed rate, elevation charges and how the customer's dollar is spent). Website news stories are posted and updated regularly and the rotating news flash on the home page is adjusted for the most pertinent news stories for the given time period. A banner at the top of the website direct customers to the most important or emergency related news items of the time and these included the Lynwood Pump Station Project and the Rate Study and Hearing process and schedule during FY24.

The WaterSmart AMI dashboard and customer portal was used as a public outreach tool to help inform customers on water use patterns and leaks. The portal has been a useful tool to alert customers to continuous leaks (5 gallons per hour or more for 72 consecutive hours), burst leaks, and high use occurrences. The group messenger tool in WaterSmart was used to send important information out to customers with over 10,000 registered users and over 15,000 customer emails. These group messenger blasts included links to both the Fall and Spring Waterline newsletters, Water Quality Report, and it has been used to alert specific neighborhoods or areas of upcoming construction projects.

A Fall and Spring "Waterline" newsletter is sent out each year focusing on the most pertinent news updates and program updates at the time. The Fall of 2023 issue focused on the landslide and emergency preparedness, outdoor water conservation programs and also invited customers to participate in a "customer survey". The Spring 2024 issue, focused on the critical infrastructure, the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E) Water Affiliates Group partnership, new enhanced rainwater catchment rebate program, and the increase to the Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program. The newsletter still serves as a valuable tool for communicating to our customers evidenced by the increase in customer inquiries for water conservation programs and other District offerings after each letter drops. We are currently using a mailing technique for the newsletter that delivers to each postal recipient in our service area, which encompasses customers in multifamily and rental situations (commercial and residential), thus increasing the reach of the newsletter. In the future, we are planning to deliver these newsletters in a more modern electronic format, through the Watersmart portal, however, for a transitional period will retain the hard copy mailed newsletter option.

The District has been working with Kiosk to re-design all external documents to include the new branding guidelines from 2021. This has included the Annual Report, Water Report, Budget Report, Prop 218 Rate Increase Letter, and other flyers and collateral materials. Other notable public outreach projects included a “Rates 2024” campaign (including webpage devoted to the 2024 rate process, easy to understand rate graphics, and Marin IJ advertisements), co-branded water conservation messaging and banners at the Marin County Fair watering stations and shared booth with Marin Water, customer survey to help gauge customer awareness and knowledge of District operations (to help better plan our future communications), and the initiation of an Interim Strategic Plan.

All of the communication and outreach efforts (including social media, website, print-ads and newsletters) for the preceding month are provided to the Board in a report on the miscellaneous agenda item, typically at the second meeting of each month.

Water Conservation and Communications Budget and Staffing

Budget: Table 2 summarizes and compares the year end budget expenditures between the last three fiscal years (FY 22, FY 23 and FY 24). The FY 24 expenditures continued at increased levels this year due to the continued increase to the robust and comprehensive communication program implementation effort to educate the customers to District efforts and programs and Water awareness.

Table 2: Water Conservation and Communications Expenditures (FY 24)

	FY 22	FY23	FY 24
Total Budget	\$377,000	\$462,000	\$466,000
Actual Expenditures	\$449,814	\$409,259	\$434,571

Staffing: Water Conservation and Communications is currently staffed by one full time Water Conservation and Communications Manager and one half time Water Conservation Technician. The District has also partnered with Sonoma County Water Agency through the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership to implement some of the District Water Conservation Programs including the WSHS program.

ATTACHMENTS: None

8

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors August 20, 2024
From: Eric Miller, Assistant GM/Chief Engineer *EM*
Subject: New State Guidelines for Cross-Connection Control
r:\folders by job no\4000 jobs\4093 gateway commons backflow study\bod memos\2024 0820 cccph\8-20-24 cccph bod memo.docx

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information only
FINANCIAL IMPACT: Unknown at this time

SUMMARY

The State of California Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a new Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH) that became effective on July 1, 2024. The primary objective of the CCCPH is the protection of public health through the establishment of standards intended to ensure a public water system's (PWS) drinking water distribution system will not be subject to the backflow of liquids, gases, or other substances. In addition, by providing basic educational information on backflow prevention, the State Water Board intends to build a foundation of awareness within the regulated community regarding the importance of backflow protection and cross-connection control, leading to the implementation of a robust cross-connection control program for PWSs.

The CCCPH and its standards apply to all California PWSs, as defined in California's Health and Safety Code (CHSC, section 116275 (h)). As such, compliance with the CCCPH is mandatory for all California PWSs. Through the adoption of the CCCPH, the State Water Board is exercising its authority, under California's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), to establish enforceable standards applicable to California's PWSs. Failure to comply with the CCCPH may result in the issuance of compliance, enforcement, or other corrective actions against a PWS.

Prior to the adoption of the CCCPH, California's regulations pertaining to cross-connection control were set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, which were adopted in 1987 with minor revisions in 2000. Although protective of public health, the CCR Title 17 cross-connection regulations were vague or ambiguous in some instances, leaving PWSs without clear enforceable standards which resulted in inconsistent application throughout the state. The CCCPH updates those regulations, and supersedes them as of July 1, 2024.

CROSS-CONNECTION

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between a PWS and a customer's premise where there is the use or presence of a liquid, gas, or other substances including any unpermitted sources of water. Backflow is the undesired or unintended reversal of flow of water and/or other liquids, gases, or other substances into a PWS's distribution system or approved water supply.

The presence of a cross-connection represents a location in a distribution system through which backflow of contaminants or pollutants can occur. Backflow occurs when a non-potable source is at a greater pressure than the potable water distribution system. Backflow can occur from either backsiphonage or backpressure.

Backsiphonage occurs when a non-potable source enters the drinking water supply due to negative distribution system pressure. This may be caused by a variety of circumstances, such as main breaks, flushing, pump failure, or emergency firefighting water demand. Backpressure occurs when the pressure from a non-potable source exceeds the pressure in the potable water distribution system. This may occur when heating, cooling, waste disposal, or industrial manufacturing systems are connected to potable supplies and the pressure in the customer's service side exceeds the pressure in the distribution system.

Both situations act to change the direction of water which normally flows from the distribution system to the customer, so that non-potable substances from industrial, commercial, agricultural, or residential premises flows back into the distribution system through a cross-connection.

The most common practice to prevent backflow from occurring is the installation of an approved backflow prevention assembly (BPA) at each service connection to a premise where a hazard has been identified. A BPA is a mechanical assembly designed and constructed to prevent backflow. BPAs are installed in-line at the service connection and must be inspected and tested periodically to ensure proper function and are maintained, repaired or replaced when necessary.

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Under the State Water Board's CCCPH, a PWS must protect the public water supply through implementation and enforcement of a cross-connection control program (program). Each PWS must have operating rules, ordinances, by-laws, or a resolution to implement the program. The PWS must have legal authority to implement corrective actions in the event a water user fails to comply in a timely manner with the program's provisions regarding installation, inspection, field testing, or maintenance of a BPA. Corrective actions must include the PWS's ability to perform at least one of the following;

- a. Deny or discontinue water service to a water user,
- b. Install, inspect, and/or maintain a BPA at a water user's premises, or
- c. Otherwise address in a timely manner a failure to comply with the program.

The PWS must conduct a hazard assessment of its service area that identifies actual or potential cross-connection hazards, the degree of hazard, and any backflow prevention needed. Under the program each individual premise will be classified as either a high hazard cross-connection, a low hazard cross-connection, or having no hazard. Examples of some high hazard cross-connection activities are;

1. Premises with an auxiliary water supply, e.g. well, pond, storage tank, or swimming pool
2. Premises with more than one connection to the PWS
3. Recycled water or graywater systems
4. Commercial and/or industrial facilities
5. Private water distribution facilities
6. Premises with restricted or denied access

Under the District's program, any premise identified as either a potential high hazard or low hazard cross connection will be required to install, continually operate, and regularly test a BPA. The District has a cross-connection control specialist that has been designated as responsible for administration of the District's program, however ownership, maintenance and testing of the BPA device(s) will be the responsibility of the customer.

DISTRICT REGULATIONS

Staff is in the process of revising three (3) District Regulations in response to the State Water Board's CCCPH. Most notably, revisions to Regulation 6, Cross-Connection and Backflow Protection for Potable Water Service, will soon be presented to the Board which will contain detail on implementation of the District's program. Additionally, Regulation 36, Installation of Service to Private Fire Protection Systems, and Regulation 54, Water Rates, are impacted by the CCCPH and revisions will be presented to the Board concurrent with Regulation 6.

IMPACT TO DISTRICT OPERATIONS

The District has historically maintained a robust cross-connection control program and already has in-place many of the requirements mandated by the CCCPH. The most notable impact of the new guidelines will be to a portion of the District's residential customers. Specifically, to those residential customers with more than one connection to the PWS. For example, a single-family residence with an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is classified as a high hazard premise under the CCCPH, and now requires installation of a BPA at the water meter for both the single-family residence and their ADU.

Another example is customers with residential fire sprinkler systems, whether they are new or existing, now being required to install a BPA at their water meter. This requirement may have additional implications if their water meter is located within their driveway. BPAs are above-ground devices that require protection from vehicles to ensure proper function. If a customer's water meter is in their driveway, it must be relocated out of their driveway to accommodate installation of a new BPA. Water meter relocation often requires a new connection to the PWS and increased cost that is unavoidable under the CCCPH.

Multi-family residential dwellings such as apartment and condominium complexes are also impacted. These types of dwellings are classified as high hazard premises for cross-connection potential under the CCCPH, and now require installation of BPAs on each individual service connection within the complex. Depending on the number of units within the multi-family complex, capital costs associated with this new requirement may create a financial hardship for customers.

GATEWAY COMMONS

Gateway Commons is not the only condominium complex that will be impacted by the CCCPH, but it presents a notable example of the implications of the new requirements. Staff presented details of known backflow at Gateway Commons to the Board at the April 18, 2023 meeting.

In summary, the development contains fifty-seven separate four-unit buildings, each identical, with four water meters for the individual unit owners and a fifth water meter that serves the common laundry facility and provides hot water to the units through a shared water meter. In some cases, the irrigation system to common areas is also served by this shared water meter. There are a total of 285 water meters in the Gateway Commons development.

While District staff had been working toward implementing a site-specific cross-connection control plan for Gateway Commons based on previously documented observations of backflow and the continuing cross-connections site-wide, under the CCCPH, the District will be requiring that a BPA be installed at each individual meter. Preliminary estimates for only the capital costs associated with installation of 285 BPAs is upwards of \$1,500,000.

Staff recently re-engaged the Homeowners Association (HOA) of Gateway Commons and has requested that they prepare and submit a plan of action to comply with the CCCPH by November 15, 2024 that contains, at a minimum, details for funding the work, timeline for implementation, and design details for a typical installation in compliance with existing District standards. Staff believes that implementation is more feasible at the HOA level, however there has been a distinct lack of progress by the HOA since discussions began in early 2022. Should progress continue to stall, staff would consider an individual customer approach which would be more time consuming and burdensome on both staff and the customers.

CONCLUSION

The State Water Board's CCCPH represents a step in the right direction for ensuring a PWS's drinking water distribution system will not be subject to the backflow of liquids, gases, or other substances. However, it is not without implications to the District's operational procedures and workload. Staff is in the process of modifying the appropriate documents, handbooks, and Regulations to comply with the CCCPH, and will continue to work diligently to maintain the high quality of drinking water within our system(s).

Staff will also develop educational material for those customers that are soon to be impacted by these changes so that they better understand the additional costs and ongoing responsibilities.

ATTACHMENTS

None

9

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors August 20, 2024
From: Tony Williams, General Manager 
Subject: Boundary Adjustment and De-Annexation Process with Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

T:\GMBOD Memos 2024\8-20-24 Meeting\LAFCo_Boundary\8-20-24 BOD memo LAFCO Boundary_DeAnnex Update.doc

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information Only
FINANCIAL IMPACT: TBD (\$15,000 available in the FY25 Approved Budget)

A copy of the public draft of LAFCo's "Municipal Service Review Multi-Regional Services Study, May 2024" (MSR Study) was presented as an informational item at the May 21, 2024 Board meeting. At the June 18, 2024 meeting, the Board approved a final comment letter to LAFCo regarding the MSR Study which was sent the following day. The MSR Study focused on five Marin County local agencies only: North Marin Water District (District), Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County Open Space District, Marin County Service Area #31, and Marin Healthcare District.

This memorandum provides an update on two specific recommended actions related to the District that were either included in the draft MSR Study or were included in the District's comment letter, and are currently in the planning and coordination stages with LAFCo:

- Detaching the parcels within the jurisdictional boundary of the Inverness Public Utility District (IPUD) from the District boundary; and
- De-annexation of District's "Marshall" Service Area.

Communications with LAFCo staff regarding these actions began in early July and a formal meeting was held on July 30th that included staff from the District, IPUD and LAFCo. At that meeting, a tentative public meeting date and time of October 8, 2024 at 6pm was determined by the participants. IPUD agreed to host the meeting at the Inverness Fire Station. This meeting would provide an opportunity for residents that live in the zone where the District and IPUD boundaries overlap (Attachment 1), as well as Marshall Service Area (shown on Attachment 2) residents to understand the process of making the necessary changes to each Agency's boundary. Another outcome of the July 30th meeting, including subsequent communications through August 13th was the development of the following messaging for the tentative October 8th meeting:

Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is currently working with North Marin Water District (NMWD) and Inverness Public Utility District (IPUD) on correcting boundary issues involving both districts. The West Marin areas involved are located in Inverness and Marshall. The Inverness location is south of the downtown area of Inverness at Dream Farm Road off of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The Marshall area is generally along the east shore of Tomales Bay from Grand Canyon Road to approximately ½ mile south of Clark Road. The boundary corrections involve an eventual application to LAFCo to correctly identify each parcel in those areas that will be included in this effort.

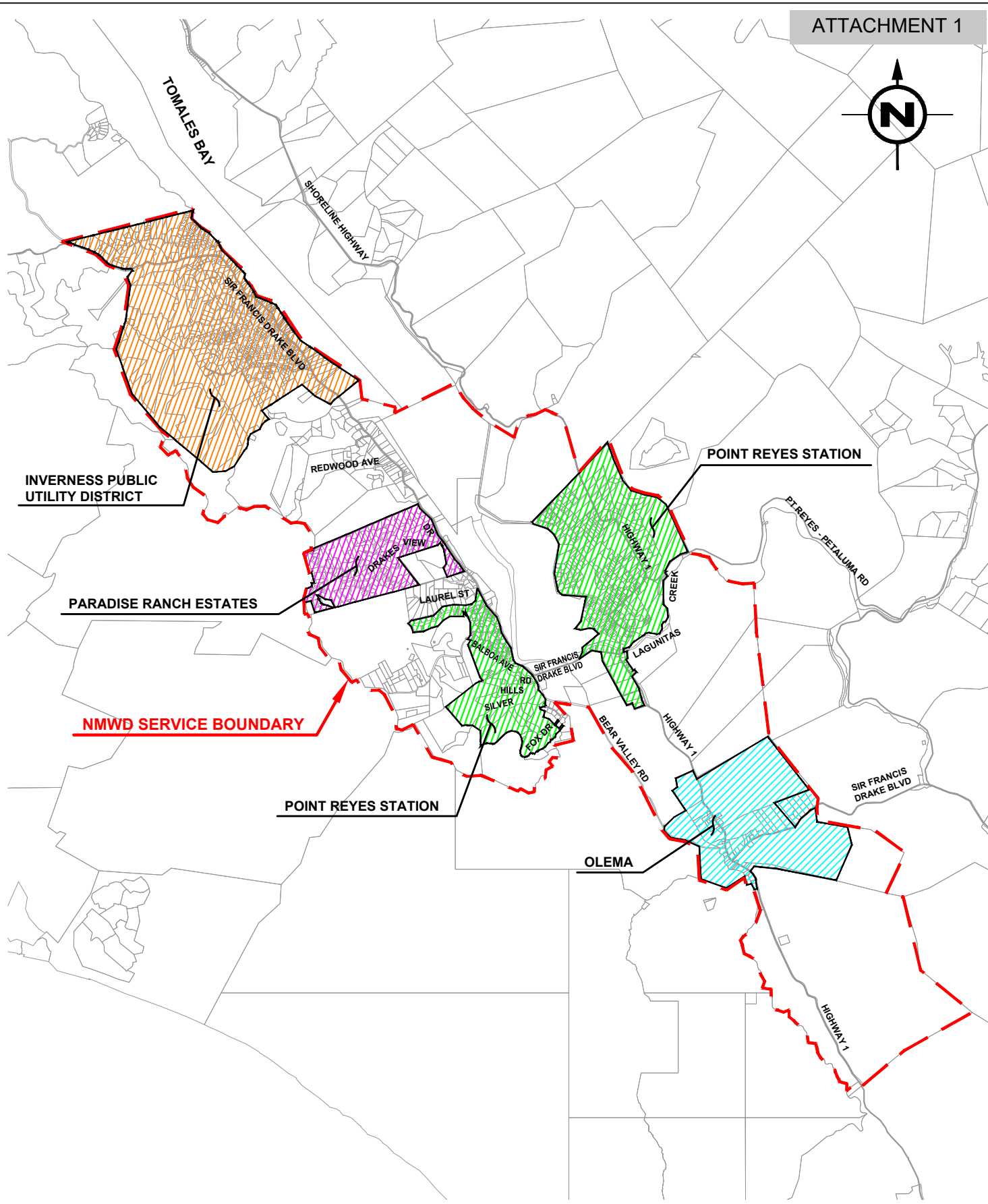
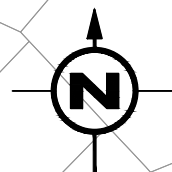
All three agencies want to make it clear that if you are currently connected to water service from either IPUD or NMWD, this application process will not impact that service, but will help correct the boundary lines on our service maps to clearly show who is serving each parcel.

As part of this process and prior to an application being submitted LAFCo, NMWD, and IPUD want to invite you to a community meeting to learn more about this issue, ask any questions you have and help all three agencies understand any concerns you may have so, if needed, they can be addressed in the upcoming application. The meeting will be on October 8 at 6pm at the Inverness Firehouse at 50 Inverness Way.

District staff have briefed Supervisor Rodoni on the planned meeting and proposed actions. Supervisor Rodoni serves as a “County Member” on the LAFCo Commission and was therefore aware of the MSR Study. District staff and IPUD staff are also developing an outreach plan that will include a notification for the future public meeting. As more details are developed and the October 8th meeting date is confirmed, staff will return to your Board and provide an update.




ATTACHMENT

1. NMWD West Marin-IPUD Boundary Map
2. NMWD Boundary Map (showing Marshal Service Area)



NMWD - IPUD BOUNDARY

North Marin Water District Boundary Map

-  Marin County
-  North Marin Water District Service Boundary
-  No services provided/available



10

DRAFT* MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
May 6, 2024

ITEM #10

Attendees: Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma
Jon Schribbs, City of Petaluma
Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Natalie Rogers, City of Santa Rosa
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA or Sonoma Water)
David Rabbitt, SCWA
Laura Sparks, City of Cotati
Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Sam Salmon, Town of Windsor
Emily Sanborn, City of Rohnert Park
Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park
Jed Smith, Marin Municipal Water District
Larry Russell, Marin Municipal Water District
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Pam Jeane, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Jake Spaulding, SCWA
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor
Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa
Stacie Hatfield, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection
Dick Dowd, Sonoma County Alliance
Bob Anderson

1. Check In
Vice Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Public Comment
None.
3. Recap from the April 8, 2024 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
Moved by Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Jack Baker, North Marin Water District. Unanimously approved.
No public comment.

4. Water Supply Coordination Council – April 29, 2024
The Water Supply Coordination Council met on April 29 and finalized today's agenda.
No public comment.

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA, presented.
Two very full reservoirs, with storage almost identical to this time last year. Lake Mendocino is currently just under 100,000 acre-ft and Lake Sonoma is just under 264,000 acre-ft, which is at the top of the minor deviation pool. Sonoma Water is currently managing the system under the temporary urgency change order that was issued by the state board in December 2023. Two weeks ago, Sonoma Water took control over making release decisions at Lake Mendocino. Lake Sonoma is still under Army Corps., since it is still in the deviation pool. They should maintain control through July. At this time, it is forecasted that we will stay in normal supply through end of June. Based on the 2008 Biological Opinion, the minimum stream flows must be reduced. The upper Russian River will reduce the minimum stream flows from 185 cubic ft per second (cfs) to 125 cfs and from 125 cfs to 70 cfs on lower Russian River. The Potter Valley project is currently importing 90 cfs into east fork of the Russian River. That amount will increase on May 15 to meet the minimum stream release of 80 cfs. PG&E filed flow variance on February 21, comments and motion to intervene have been received. PG&E has not yet acted on this variance.
No public comment.

6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership (TAC)
 - a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, presented.
Total deliveries in March 2024 relative to 2013 saw a 33% reduction in water use and a 24% reduction for year to date.

 - b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging
Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.
Eco-Friendly Garden Tour is coming up on May 18th. March wrapped up dye tab challenge, which had great participation. Getting ready for summer campaign that will include an irrigation scheduling tool, plant picker, water waste report form, and a regional and local program lookup tool.

 - c. Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment
Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, announced the item and said Paul Piazza, SCWA, was open for questions.

Brenda Adelman asked if the various years are compared for water conversation. Wants to know if it is flattening out or how each year is comparing to one another in regard to conservation.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, shared that the graphs shows there is a downward trajectory but there are variables to consider, including the weather.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update
Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.
Fish Flow Project – Continuing work and looking at long term change petitions for project.
Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Phases I - III completed in 2021. Phases IV - VI being worked on, with Phases IV and V being completed this summer. Phase VI is still having challenges with obtaining right of way and they are starting to consider doing something different. Not sure what that looks like exactly, or if they will have the support of

the resource agencies. Working on compensation, offers, and appraisals, but it has been a challenge to get participation from property owners. Reaching out to landowners to evaluate the feasibility of a project to replace the remaining two grade-control sills on Dry Creek with engineered riffles.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – Finished effectiveness monitoring in December 2023. Looked at twelve enhancement reaches which helps inform what type of maintenance is needed and provides the monitoring data that shows that Dry Creek Enhancement Project is working. Working on obtaining long range programmatic permit to cover maintenance.

Outreach – Nothing new to report.

Fish Monitoring – Out in creeks of Russian River for migrant monitoring. Fish traps are out in multiple locations, and staff are going out daily to count how many fish are coming down.

Russian River Estuary Management Project – Estuary is open. Season starts on May 15 and ends on October 15. Pinniped monitoring is already taking place and have seen harbor seal pups been seen. Water quality monitoring is beginning to get underway for the season as well.

New Biological Opinion – The new Biological Opinion is being drafted now. Not sure of exact timeframe but should be within next few months.

Brenda Adelman asked if there will be public review of the Biological Opinion.

Grant Davis, SCWA, was unsure of the public comment period.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, added that they are unsure of the National Fishery Service process for public comment.

8. Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) and Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, and David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Supervisor, presented.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, shared that PG&E is still working on their license surrender application. PG&E is working with SCWA in to get needed information, like project description, for the application and their schedule indicates that the draft will be released this summer, with the final draft being filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) next January. SCWA is working with Bureau of Reclamation to get grant funding for additional design work at the Cape Horne Dam site. Should have the assigned agreement no later than June. The Russian River Water Forum's last meeting will be held May 15th, virtually, at 2 p.m. The work being done taking the design from 30% to 60% is in a final review and is due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in June. The Potter Valley Water Resource investigation has work being done to get monitoring wells installed.

David Rabbitt, SCWA, shared that ERPA is going to meet in Sonoma with a more thorough update. This meeting should be in July.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked what the match funding is for the Bureau of Reclamation grant, and where is the funding coming from.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, answered that some of the work Sonoma Water has done will help match that grant, with the rest being part of their budget. It is expected to be a 35% match.

No public comment.

9. Government Affairs Update

Brad Sherwood, SCWA, presented.

Still looking at major deficit in the State budget, which puts our lobbying efforts in defend mode. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) did get a small cut from \$10 million to \$8.5 million. DWR's resiliency program, which funds most of their ongoing IRWM work, is being defended, and hopefully grown, by the climate bond that will be on the November ballot. Sacramento lobby day has not been scheduled yet.

On the federal side, the sub-seasonal to seasonal coalition letter garnered forty-four signatories to coalition effort. This gives grant funding from DWR to help with outreach and

education in Washington D.C. This effort is for a \$15 million pilot project to help increase forecasting out to the sub-seasonal to seasonal bases.

No public comment.

10. Communications Update

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

Earth Day with the City of Santa Rosa in April had a great turn out. Last month, the EPA came out with their new PFAS standards. The water quality website page has been updated with some information around this. Lake Sonoma visitor center is very busy and is expecting up to 800 students on the upcoming field trips.

No public comment.

11. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update

Grant Davis, SCWA, presented.

Will be in Sacramento this week negotiating with DWR over potential for North Coast pilot project. DWR is planning to have a series of 5 pilot regions in the state. Last week the Board of Supervisors authorized Sonoma Water to enter negotiations with DWR over what this would look like, including a \$2 million dollar grant. Must respond to two things, one is taking a three year grant for \$3 million dollars down to two year grant for \$2 million dollars. Secondly, with Sacramento facing major deficits, this has been caught in a 60 day freeze. North Coast Research Partnership met last month and reviewed a good number of grants for funding. On the Bay Area side, they are attempting to get two more radars installed. One is the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, down along the peninsula. The second is the C-band radar, which they are hoping to have installed by end of year. Scripps Institute, out of San Diego, will be taking on operational side of this project. Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked what the pilot is exactly. Grant Davis, SCWA, answered that it has evolved. It is a new iteration with the five different regions.

No public comment.

12. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is August 5, 2024)

None.

No public comment.

13. Check Out

Vice Chair Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

11

DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Utilities Field Operations Training Center

35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA

July 1, 2024

ITEM #11

Attendees: Oriana Hart, City of Petaluma
 Matt Fullner, Valley of The Moon Water District
 Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
 Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
 Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
 Craig Scott, City of Cotati
 Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
 Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park
 Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District
 Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Grant Davis, SCWA
 Pam Jeane, SCWA
 Paul Piazza, SCWA
 Jake Spaulding, SCWA
 Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA
 Kent Gylfe, SCWA
 Lynne Rosselli, SCWA
 Michelle Maxwell, SCWA
 Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park
 Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa
 Stacie Hatfield, City of Santa Rosa
 Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
 Dick Dowd, Sonoma County Alliance
 Duane DeWitt

1. Check In
 Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Public Comment
 Duane DeWitt spoke about the well groundwater level dropping in Roseland and suggested that there should be a forum for the people of Roseland to be able to discuss this topic.
3. Recap from the June 3, 2024 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
 A motion was made by Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District, seconded by Vanessa Garrett, City of Rohnert Park. Unanimously approved, with Windsor absent and Cotati abstaining.
No public comment.
4. Recap and Update On The Point Fire
 Michelle Maxwell, SCWA, presented.
 Staff was alerted of the fire on June 16. The first action was to remove staff out of visitor center at Lake Sonoma. For the rest of the event, their role was monitoring. Sonoma County Emergency Management stayed in contact with SCWA and they provide updates on if there is danger to infrastructure. For this fire event, no structures were threatened and there were no impacts to Lake Sonoma. In the off season, mitigation for fire risk at Lake Sonoma takes place through the vegetation management program. Sonoma Water

staff are working to formalize the Emergency Coordination Committee meetings and are working on standard operating procedures (SOPs), which will have triggers and activation criteria to guide when the contractors need to be called in during an emergency.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said the fire was confined to the Dry Creek watershed and not in the Lake Sonoma watershed. The fire burned 1 to 2% of Dry Creeks watershed and .1% of the Russian River watershed as a whole. Hatchery staff do live onsite at Lake Sonoma. They lost power to residences and hatchery, also had no landline or cell phone communication. Paul Sellier, Marin Municipal Water District, asked if the area was managed watershed lands.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said that the land that was affected is privately owned.

Grant Davis, SCWA, asked if the prescribed burn that took place contributed to the Point Fire and when the final report would be out.

Michelle Maxwell, SCWA, said that they have not heard if the prescribed burn and the fire were related or had any impact on one another.

Grant Davis, SCWA, stated that since 2017 SCWA has been trying to establish a wholesale water resource vegetation management with the Army Corp. of Engineers at both Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino.

No public comment.

5. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Lake Mendocino storage is at almost 94,000 acre-ft. Releases have been increased to 155 cfs, with the reservoir declining about 180 acre-ft per day. Lake Sonoma is still in the flood pool at 253,000 acre-ft, with releases at about 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), and with the reservoir declining by 270 acre-ft per day. On June 27, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order to PG&E for the flow variance they requested. That authorized PG&E to reduce releases out of the east branch of the Russian River from 80 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 25 cfs. Under the Temporary Urgency Change Order flows have been reduced from 185 cfs to 125 cfs on the upper Russian River and 125 cfs to 70 cfs on the lower Russian. These changes were requested per the Biological Opinion and expire October 15.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if the Army Corps of Engineers were still managing Lake Sonoma's releases.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, confirmed that the Army Corps is still in control of the releases at Lake Sonoma.

No public comment.

6. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership

a. 2024 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, presented.

Total deliveries in May saw a 31% reduction in water use and a 28% reduction in the year-to-date. Gallons per capita per day continue to be low thanks to conservation efforts.

b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

July campaign is focusing on irrigation scheduling, lawn conversation rebates, irrigation rebates, and finding and fixing leaks with a DIY toolkit. The toolkits are available at Sonoma County libraries.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, thanked Sonoma Water for attending this year's Water Smart Expo.

Brenda Adelman asked why the numbers are not changing with all of the new units being added. Wants to know if new units represent new population and how does new population effect these numbers.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, answered that all new builds have to be extremely water efficient and without landscaping.

Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa, answered that gallons per capita per day are revised yearly based on population.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, added that with Tubbs fire about 5% of our population numbers were lost.

7. Biological Opinion Status Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project – Phases IV and V are currently under construction. Phase IV final construction began on June 15. Phase V construction began on June 17. Phase VI is still having challenges with gaining right of way access. May be something that changes with the new Biological Opinion.

Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance – Finished effectiveness monitoring for 2023.

Working to obtain long term programmatic permits for maintenance on Dry Creek. There was some minor damage and sedimentation from the high flows. Working with the Army Corps. to figure out what type of maintenance or reconstruction is needed.

Outreach – No update.

Fish Monitoring – Traps have been pulled out based on the migration ending. The counts of out migrants were very low this year. This is not unique to Russian river, and they are seeing this trend all up and down the coast.

Estuary Management Project – The mouth of the Russian River closed. It was closed at the end of May and the water surface is elevated but are not too high. The lagoon management monitoring season is underway, and the water quality stations have been deployed.

New Biological Opinion – The National Marine Fisheries Service is working hard to get it done. Expecting to have the new Biological Opinion out by August 25 or 26.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked about the resistance of property owners in Phase VI.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they are willing to work together but are looking for more money that does not seem reasonable.

No public comment.

8. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update

Pam Jeane, SCWA, presented.

Bureau of Reclamation \$2 million dollar grant that covers the RFQ for services to take the design of the new Eel Russian facility from 30% to 60% has been officially executed. Proposals are due back by end of July. Event at Lake Mendocino went well. Discussed removal of Cape Horn Dam, as well as construction of a new Eel Russian facility. PG&E filed for time extension to turn in license surrender application and decommissioning plan. Under the Department of Water Resources grant, the McMillian report is posted on Sonoma Water's website. Trying to get out and do groundwater monitoring in Potter Valley. Have access to the properties now, except for one, which they should have access to later this week.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, asked about groundwater monitoring and how many monitoring wells there are and when results are expected.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, was unsure but will have Don Seymour, SCWA, get back to him.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, asked if there was a sense of when there would be a Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) meeting would occur.

Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they don't have any decision for ERPA board to make, so there is not one scheduled yet.

Brenda Adelman asked about reduction in flow on lower Russian river on permanent basis. Wants to know if that involves the State Water Board's approval and at what point

does that begin, or will it continue on an emergency basis. She asked if a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be done and what will the extent be of the flow study. Pam Jeane, SCWA, said they are looking at a permanent change, and believes the new Biological Opinion will have that requirement. State Board will need to approve it after an EIR is done. May take 7 to 10 years. Looking to file a limited term change to fill gap between the emergency orders and the new updated flows. Would be longer than 180 days.

9. Communications Update

Andrea Rodriguez, SCWA, presented.

Press release with Town of Windsor for operational agreement for wastewater treatment of Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone. ABC7 did an interview with Pam Jeane, SCWA, for the inflatable rubber dam. Water transmission and Dry Creek tour for with Chris Delany and Don Seymour of SCWA. Press coverage at Lake Mendocino and Potter Valley media event with Congressman Jared Huffman and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, added that ACWA region 1 will be hosting an event on October 30 Marin Water leading a watershed tour.

No public comment.

10. Items for Next Agenda

Jennifer Burke, TAC Chair, reminded the TAC members that there will be an election of WAC leadership at the next meeting.

No public comment.

11. Check Out

Chair Burke, TAC Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.

12

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED AUGUST 8, 2024

Date Prepared 8/5/24


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:

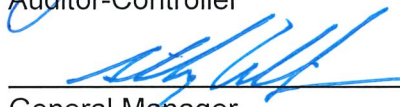
Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
90735*	US Bank Card	AT&T (Internet for PRTP & Gallagher Well #2) (\$251), Aeration System for Storage Pond in O.M. (\$2,117), Zoom for Board Meetings, Monthly Mobile Internet for PRTP, Microsoft Monthly Subscriptions (\$333), Supplies & Lunch Deposit for Staff Event (\$1,031), Water Bottles for Construction (\$326), Hose Adaptor, Office & Kitchen Supplies	\$4,771.02
90736*	CalPERS	August Insurance Premium (Employer \$57,199, Retirees \$12,845 & Employees \$7,884)	77,927.50
1	AT&T	Telephone, Fax, Leased Lines & Data	535.97
2	Backflow Distributors	Check Repair Kits (9) (\$439) & Replacement Parts for Double Check Detector Assemblies (\$30,486)	30,924.69
3	Bearings & Hydraulics	Service Parts ('13 Vac Excavator)	95.36
4	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Lab Testing (O.M.)	115.30
5	Comcast	August Internet (100 Wood Hollow)	354.81
6	Consolidated CM	Prog Pymt#39: Construction Management Services for Admin Building Renovation (Balance Remaining on Contract \$194,330)	36,869.50
7	Core & Main	Nipples (20), Couplings (6) (\$3,103), Service Saddles (6) (\$618), Hydrant Bury Flange, Elbows (6) (\$1,367) & Anodes (6) (\$2,669)	8,367.54
8	Cummings Trucking	Rock Deliveries (126 yds) (\$2,117) & Sand Deliveries (172 yds) (\$4,080)	6,196.40
9	DataTree	July Subscription to Parcel Data Information	100.00
10	Diesel Direct West	Diesel (222 gal) (\$1,043) & Gasoline (550 gal) (\$2,312)	3,354.78

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
11	Direct Line Inc	July Telephone Answering Services	321.04
12	Ebert, Richard J	Refund Overpayment on Closed Account	34.91
13	Express Evaluations	Employee Evaluation Software (7/1/24-6/30/25)	3,000.00
14	D.L. Falk Construction, Inc.	Prog Pymt#24 Admin & Lab Building Upgrades (Balance Remaining on Contract \$1,394,981)	181,591.71
15	D.L. Falk Construction Escrow Acct	5% Retainage-Pymt#24 Admin Bldg & Laboratory Upgrade	9,557.46
16	Ferguson Waterworks	Antenna Base (Consumer Services)	136.71
17	Grainger	Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	72.50
18	Golden State Construction & Utility, Inc.	Release of Retention (Recycled Water Extension Redwood Blvd)	10,005.17
19	Habitat for Humanity GSF, Inc.	Refund Over Payment on Open Account	51.31
20	Hach Co.	Electrolytes for PRTP	144.94
21	Ken Grady Company, Inc	Replacement Conductivity Sensor (STP)	2,211.71
22	Marin County Tax Collector	LAFCO Annual Expense Allocation FY24/25 (Budget \$14,000)	13,692.06
23	James McCarthy	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	284.03
24	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Grease & Sealant	126.08
25	MSI Litho	Business Cards (6 Employees)	232.24
26	New Pig Corporation	Spill Kit & Storm Drain Filter	360.63
27	OCT Water Quality Academy	Water Distribution Exam Review Fee (M. Williamson)	500.00
28	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Toner	139.23
29	Pace Supply	Steel Pipe (40') (\$1,829), Gasket, Elbows (20) (\$702), Nuts (900) (\$532), Meter Boxes (20) (\$1,063), Clamp, Nipples (28) (\$758), Valves (8) (\$3,870) & Bolts (400) (\$1,382)	10,344.32
30	Pape Machinery Inc.	Service Parts ('04, '09 JD Backhoe & '15 JD Skip Loader)	1,325.70
31	Rasmussen, Carl	Novato "Toilet Rebate" Program	100.00

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
32	RoadSafe Traffic Systems, Inc.	18' Safety Cones (20)	395.93
33	SMART	Flagging Services (Replacement PVC @ Railroad & Rose) (5/30 & 6/10/24)	1,917.00
34	Verizon Wireless	July Cellular Charges & Equipment	1,603.05
35	Volvo Construction Equipment	Service Parts ('12 Compressor)	1,307.06
36	VWR International LLC	Funnel & Bottle Stopper (Lab)	290.83
37	Watersavers Irrigation Inc.	Irrigation Valve & Key	127.69
38	Webster Bank	Webster Bank Loan Interest (Pymt #5 of 40)	285,608.05
39	Williamson, Matthew	Exp Reimb: D2 Exam Application Fee	65.00
40	Zenith Insurance Company	Workers Comp Final Audit Premium (5/1/23-5/1/24)	23,357.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			<u>\$718,516.23</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$718,516.23 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


08/06/24
 Auditor-Controller Date


8/6/24
 General Manager Date

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED AUGUST 15, 2024

Date Prepared 8/12/2024

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

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
P/R*	Employees	Net Payroll PPE 7/31/24	\$214,367.74
90740*	Internal Revenue Service	Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 7/31/24	96,640.00
90741*	State of California	State Taxes & SDI PPE 7/31/24	22,365.40
90742*	CalPERS	Pension Contribution PPE 7/31/24	57,263.25
90737*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation-457 PPE 7/31/24	12,196.56
90739*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation 7/15/24-401A Match	2,523.82
90738*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation 7/31/24-401A Match	2,579.79
1	Able Tire & Brake	Tire ('19 F150)	393.81
2	All Star Rents	Propane for Forklift (20)	90.92
3	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	106.00
4		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	1,417.18
5	Athens Administrators	July Indemnity Review Fee	105.00
6	Bank of Marin	Bank of Marin Loan Principal & Interest (Pymt #154 of 240) Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project	46,066.67
7	Bay Alarm	Deposit for Installation on Alarm System (999 Rush Creek Place)	275.00
8	Brady Industries	Safety Supplies	681.38
9	Buck's Saw Service	Small Tool Fuel (15)	449.16
10	Building Supply Center	Plumbing Supplies	29.20
11		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	427.04
12	Campbell Scientific, Inc.	Data Loggers & Multiplexer (Phase 1 - Dam Automation Project)	5,827.26

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
13		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	548.98
14	Charles Custom Welding	Welding Services (Zaragoza Residence Hydrant)	1,400.00
15		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	548.98
16	Clark, Robert E.	Exp Reimb: Service Award	99.99
17	Clyde, Karen	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	147.10
18	Comcast	August Internet (1250 Lynwood Dr)	212.81
19	Comcast	August Phone Services (Wood Hollow, Buck Inst., Yard & STP)	1,535.25
20	Comcast	August Internet (999 Rush Creek Place)	1,567.93
21	Enterprise FM Trust	Monthly Leases for Nissan Rogue (2), Nissan Frontier (2), F-150's (7), F-250's (4), Ford Rangers (6), Chevy Bolts (2), Chevy Colorado & Nissan Leaf	14,281.29
22	Ferguson Waterworks	3" (5) & 5/8" (5) Meter Registers (\$963) & 6" Meter (\$6,593)	7,556.16
23	Friedman's Home Improvement	Elbows (4)	20.12
24	Friesen, Terry	Bill Adjustment on Open Account	1,895.00
25	Frontier Communications	Leased Lines	1,687.34
26	Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Mgmt.	FY25 Cyber Liability Insurance (7/1/24-6/30/25)	6,707.73
27	Grainger	Copper Tubing (10') (\$367) & Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	2,074.19
28	Gu, Kevin	Refund Over Payment on Closed Account	35.95
29	Hildebrand Consulting LLC	Novato Rate Study for FY23/24	4,000.00
30	InfoSend, Inc.	July Processing Fee for Water Bills (\$1,005), Postage (\$3,535) & July Monthly Support Fee (\$981)	5,521.36
31	Johns, Adrienne	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	99.99
32		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	548.98
33	Ani Ladd	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	136.51

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
34	Zoe Ladd	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	136.51
35		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	548.98
36	Lebrun, Kent	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	290.97
37		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	1,417.18
38	Lincoln Life Employer Serv	Deferred Compensation PPE 7/31/24	8,823.90
39		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	548.98
40	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Pipe Flange & Strut Channel Brackets (28) (\$340)	503.38
41	Nerviani's Backflow	Backflow Testing (20)	1,300.00
42	North Bay Gas	Carbon Dioxide (Const) & Nitrogen (STP)	186.21
43	Novato Builders Supply	Rebar, Mason Mix (4) & Concrete	360.97
44	Novato, City of	Encroachment Permit Fee (84 San Miguel Way- Novato)	727.86
45	Pace Supply	Couplings (35) (\$1,451) & Copper Adapter	1,579.89
46	Parkinson Accounting Systems	Custom Programming for Mini-Mas Warehouse Software (8/1/24-1/31/25)	1,000.00
47	Pidgeon, James	Novato "Pool Cover" Rebate Program	75.00
48	Pini Hardware	Shovels (8) (\$422), Miscellaneous Maintenance Tools & Supplies	1,053.89
49	Pollard Water	Adaptors (2) & Meter Pit Pumps (4) (\$378)	482.80
50	Quincy Compressor	Maintenance Parts for STP Compressors	1,528.79
51	Rader Excavating	Traffic Control Services (Arthur Street Main Relocation)	8,215.50
52	Recology Sonoma Marin	July Trash Removal	662.98
53	RH & Sons Water Services	Backflow Testing (30)	1,950.00
54		Retiree Exp Reimb (Aug Health Ins)	548.98
55	Soiland Co., Inc.	Rock (31 yds) (\$1,015) & Asphalt Recycling (13 yds) (\$471)	1,485.99

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
56	T & T Valve & Instrument	Filter Regulator	104.20
57	Uline	Steel Drum (30 gal)	185.54
58	Underground Service Alert	Regulatory Cost for 2023 California Underground Service Alert Tags (3,921) (\$8,544) & California State Fee for Regulatory	11,104.78
59	United Parcel Service	Delivery Services: Sent Chlorine Scrubber Media for Analysis (STP) & Turbidimeter to Manufacturer for Repair (Lab)	109.88
60	US Bank	July Safekeeping Treasury Securities	136.75
61	Verizon Wireless	SCADA & AMI Collectors (\$650)	1,116.84
62	Vulcan Materials Company	Pea & Sand (31 yds)	2,134.22
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>562,751.81</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$562,751.81 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


Auditor-Controller

08/13/24
Date


General Manager

8/13/24
Date

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR JULY 2024
 August 20, 2024

1.

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

Month	FY24/25	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	25 vs 24 %
July	264.8	218.6	224.5	282.9	341.7	21%

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

Month	FY24/25	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	25 vs 24 %
July	8.9	7.1	6.3	6.0	8.2	25%

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

Month	FY24/25	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	25 vs 24 %
July	0.0	67.0	56.3	67.0	105.8	-

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

Month	FY24/25	FY23/24	FY22/23	FY21/22	FY20/21	25 vs 24 %
July	54.6	31.0	43.1	42.9	39.0	76%

*Excludes potable water input to the RW system: FY25=.7, FY24=13.8MG, FY23=10.8 MG FY22=10 MG; FY21=24.7 MG

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2. Regional and Local Water Supply

Lake Sonoma

	Current	2023
Lake Storage*	79,598 MG	78,204 MG
Supply Capacity	93 %	93 %

*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 *	27,084 MG	29,327 MG
Supply Capacity	75 %	81 %

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

3. Stafford Lake Data

	July Average	July 2024	July 2023
Rainfall this month	0.01 Inches	0.00 Inches	0.00 Inches
Rainfall this FY to date	0.01 Inches	0.00 Inches	0.00 Inches
Lake elevation*	187.7 Feet	193.4 Feet	191.5 Feet
Lake storage**	841 MG	1,206 MG	1,074 MG
Supply Capacity	60 %	86 %	77 %

* Spillway elevation is 196.0 feet (NGVD29)

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

Temperature (in degrees)

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
July 2024 (Novato)	49	104	72
July 2023 (Novato)	47	95	68

8. Water Conservation Update

	Month of July 2024	Program Total to Date
High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebates	1	4,544
Retrofit Certificates Filed	25	6,943
Cash for Grass Rebates	2	1,089
Washing Machine Rebates	6	6,941
Water Smart Home Survey	5	3,943

9. Utility Performance Metric

July 2024 Service Disruptions

SERVICE DISRUPTIONS (No. of Customers Impacted)	July 2024	July 2023	Fiscal Year to Date 2024	Fiscal Year to Date 2023
PLANNED				
Duration Between 0.5 and 4 hours	5	5	5	5
Duration Between 4 and 12 hours	0	0	0	0
Duration Greater than 12 hours	0	0	0	0
UNPLANNED				
Duration Between 0.5 and 4 hours	5	5	5	5
Duration Between 4 and 12 hours	0	78	0	78
Duration Greater than 12 hours	0	0	0	0
SERVICE LINES REPLACED				
Polybutylene	3	14	3	14
Copper Replaced or Repaired)	2	4	2	4

July 2024 Service Disruptions

Planned: For the month of July, we had 5 planned service disruptions:

Plastic: There were 3 plastic service leaks on Greenwood Dr in Novato and Silver Hills in West Marin.

Copper: We had 2 copper service leaks on Bahama Reef.

Unplanned:

There was a 6" AC main break at the intersection of Arthur St and Hayes St that affected 5 customers.

10. Summary of Complaints and Service Orders – July 2024

Total: **196** Consumer: 84 Office: 112

<u>Type</u>	<u>Jul-24</u>	<u>Jul-23</u>	<u>Added Notes</u>
Billing			
High Bill	5	3	
Total	5	3	
Meter Replacement			
	36	17	
Total	36	17	
Need Read			
	0	7	
Total	0	7	
No-Water			
	3	3	
Total	3	3	
Leak			
Consumer	87	87	
District	10	19	
Total	97	106	
Water Quality			
Taste/ Odor	0	7	
Other	0	1	
Color	0	1	
Total	0	9	
Noisy Pipes			
	0	1	
Total	0	1	
Check Pressure			
	1	5	
Total	1	5	
Turn Off / On			
	26	24	
Total	26	24	
Other			
	28	18	
Total	28	18	
TOTAL FOR MONTH:	196	193	2%

Bill Adjustments Under Board Policy:

July 24 vs. July 23

Jul-24	15	\$11,185
Jul-23	9	\$1,553



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

August 20, 2024

From: Julie Blue, Auditor-Controller *JB*
 Nancy Williamson, Accounting Supervisor *NW*

Subj: Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for June 2024
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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

At month end the District's Investment Portfolio had an amortized cost value (i.e., cash balance) of \$29,300,297 and a market value of \$29,276,409. During June the cash balance decreased by \$549,318. The market value of securities held decreased \$428,545 during the month. The total unrestricted cash balance at month end was \$1,069,635 and 95% of the Target Reserves are funded.

At June 30, 2024, 38% of the District's Portfolio was invested in California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), 18% in Time Certificates of Deposit, 36% in US Treasury Bills, 4% in the Marin County Treasury, and 4% retained locally for operating purposes. The weighted average maturity of the portfolio was 60 days, compared to 53 days at the end of May. The LAIF interest rate for the month was 4.48%, compared to 4.33% the previous month. The weighted average Portfolio rate was 4.43%, compared to 4.05% for the prior month.

Investment Transactions for the month of June are listed below:

6/4/2024	LAIF	US Bank	\$10,400,000	Trsf from LAIF account
6/5/2024	LAIF	US Bank	\$400,000	Trsf from LAIF account
6/6/2024	US Bank	U.S. Treasury	\$10,442,897	Purchase 5.20% Treasury due 7/3/24
6/10/2024	BMO Harris Bank	US Bank	\$246,000	CD Maturity
6/11/2024	US Bank	Wells Fargo Nat'l Bank	\$248,000	Purchase 5.10% TCD due 6/11/26 - Monthly Pay
6/12/2024	US Bank	LAIF	\$500,000	Trsf to LAIF account
6/18/2024	LAIF	US Bank	\$800,000	Trsf from LAIF account
6/28/2024	General Electric Credit Un	US Bank	\$249,000	CD Maturity
6/28/2024	US Bank	First Merchant Bank	\$244,000	Purchase 4.8% TCD due 6/29/26 - Semi-Annual Pay

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Monthly Report of Investments – June 2024

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS
June 30, 2024**

Type	Description	S&P Rating	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Cost Basis ¹	6/30/2024 Market Value	Yield ²	% of Portfolio
LAIF	State of CA Treasury	AA-	Various	Open	\$11,304,274	\$11,231,284	4.48% ³	38%
Time Certificate of Deposit								
TCD	Enerbank	n/a	9/25/20	9/25/24	249,000	249,000	0.45%	1%
TCD	Beal Bank	n/a	7/13/22	7/10/24	246,000	246,000	3.05%	1%
TCD	Synchrony Bank	n/a	8/5/22	8/5/24	245,000	245,000	3.30%	1%
TCD	Discover Bank	n/a	9/13/22	9/13/24	245,000	245,000	3.40%	1%
TCD	Sharonview Credit Union	n/a	10/17/22	10/17/24	249,000	249,000	4.35%	1%
TCD	Popular Bank	n/a	11/9/22	11/7/24	247,000	247,000	4.75%	1%
TCD	Alabama Credit Union	n/a	11/22/22	11/22/24	248,000	248,000	4.90%	1%
TCD	Community West Credit Union	n/a	12/19/22	12/19/24	249,000	249,000	4.78%	1%
TCD	Austin Telco Fed Credit Union	n/a	1/27/23	1/27/25	248,000	248,000	4.90%	1%
TCD	First Tech Fed Credit Union	n/a	2/17/23	2/18/25	249,000	249,000	4.85%	1%
TCD	Keybank National Assoc	n/a	3/15/23	3/17/25	243,000	243,000	5.00%	1%
TCD	Morgan Stanley Bnk NA	n/a	4/6/23	4/7/25	244,000	244,000	4.90%	1%
TCD	Morgan Stanley Private Bnk	n/a	4/6/23	4/7/25	244,000	244,000	4.90%	1%
TCD	Raiz Federal Credit Union	n/a	5/11/23	5/12/25	248,000	248,000	4.85%	1%
TCD	Hughes Federal Credit Union	n/a	6/29/23	6/30/25	248,000	248,000	5.25%	1%
TCD	Farmers Ins Credit Union	n/a	1/18/24	1/20/26	249,000	249,000	4.50%	1%
TCD	Eagle Bank	n/a	2/21/24	2/23/26	244,000	244,000	4.60%	1%
TCD	Bank of America	n/a	2/22/24	2/23/26	244,000	244,000	4.65%	1%
TCD	Pacific Premier	n/a	3/15/24	3/16/26	244,000	244,000	4.75%	1%
TCD	Valley National Bank	n/a	4/9/24	4/9/26	244,000	244,000	4.70%	1%
TCD	Wells Fargo Nat'l Bank (monthly on da)	n/a	6/11/24	6/11/26	248,000	248,000	5.10%	1%
TCD	First Merchant Bank (Semi-Annual 12/2	n/a	6/28/24	6/29/26	244,000	244,000	4.80%	1%
					\$5,419,000	\$5,419,000	38.36%	18%
US Treasury Bills								
Treas	Treasury Bill	n/a	6/6/24	7/3/24	\$10,442,897	\$10,492,000	5.20%	36%
Other								
Agency	Marin Co Treasury	AAA	Various	Open	\$1,075,120	\$1,075,120	0.84%	4%
Other	Various	n/a	Various	Open	1,059,005	1,059,005	0.07%	4%
TOTAL IN PORTFOLIO					\$29,300,297	\$29,276,409	4.43%	100%

Weighted Average Maturity = 60 Days

LAIF: State of California Local Agency Investment Fund.

TCD: Time Certificate of Deposit.

Treas: US Treasury Notes with maturity of 5 years or less.

Agency: STP State Revolving Fund Loan Reserve.

Other: Comprised of 5 accounts used for operating purposes. US Bank Operating Account, US Bank STP SRF Loan Account, US Bank FSA Payments Account, Bank of Marin AEEP Checking Account & NMWD Petty Cash Fund.

1 Original cost less repayment of principal and amortization of premium or discount.

2 Yield defined to be annualized interest earnings to maturity as a percentage of invested funds.

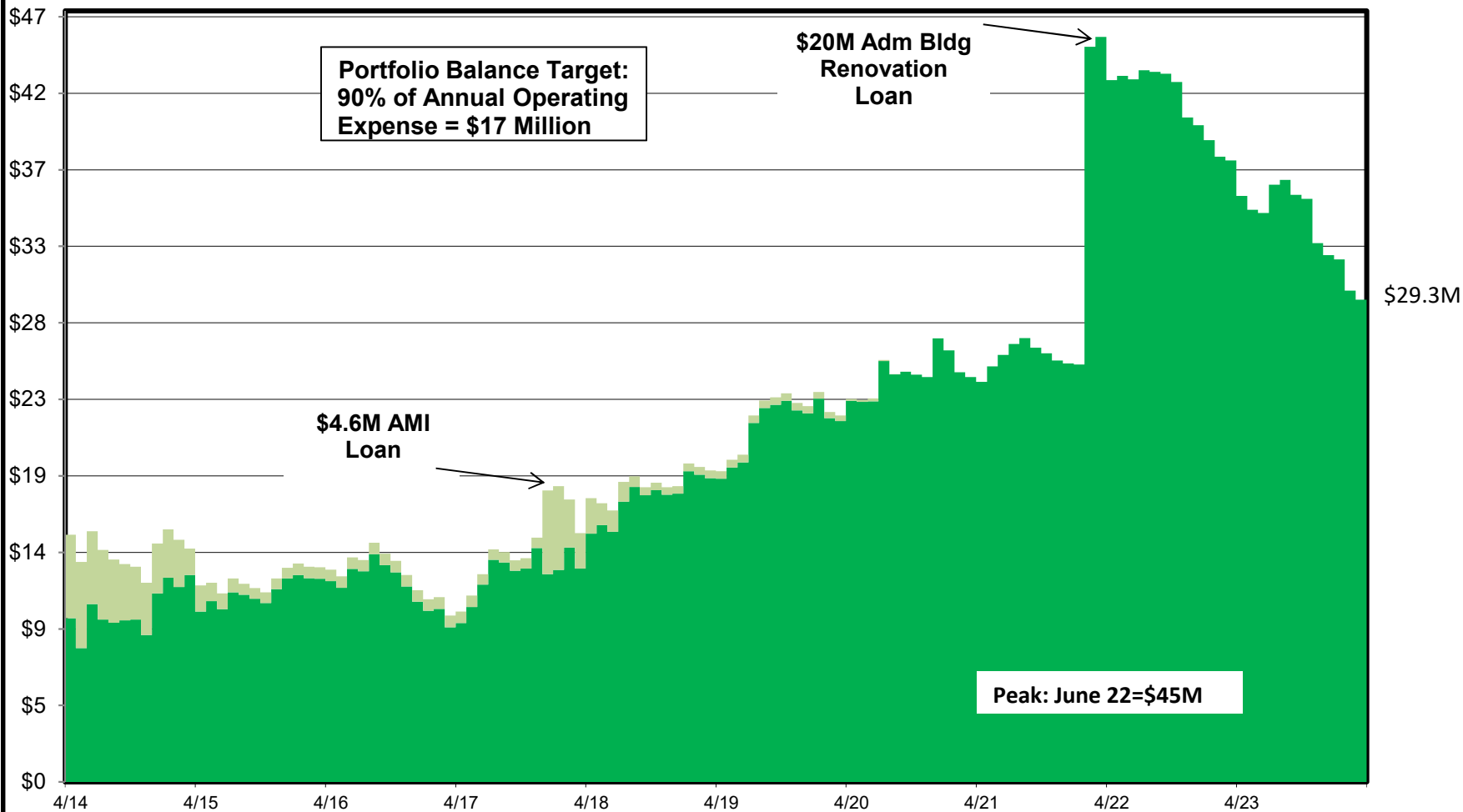
3 Earnings are calculated daily - this represents the average yield for the month ending June 30, 2024.

Interest Bearing Loans	Loan Date	Maturity Date	Original Loan Amount	Principal Outstanding	Interest Rate
Marin Country Club Loan	1/1/18	11/1/47	\$1,265,295	\$1,028,811	1.00%
Marin Municipal Water - AEEP	7/1/14	7/1/32	\$3,600,000	\$1,620,203	2.71%
Employee Housing Loan (1)	3/30/15	3/30/30	250,000	250,000	Contingent
TOTAL INTEREST BEARING LOANS			\$5,115,295	\$2,899,014	

The District has the ability to meet the next six months of cash flow requirements.

Peak: June 22=\$45M

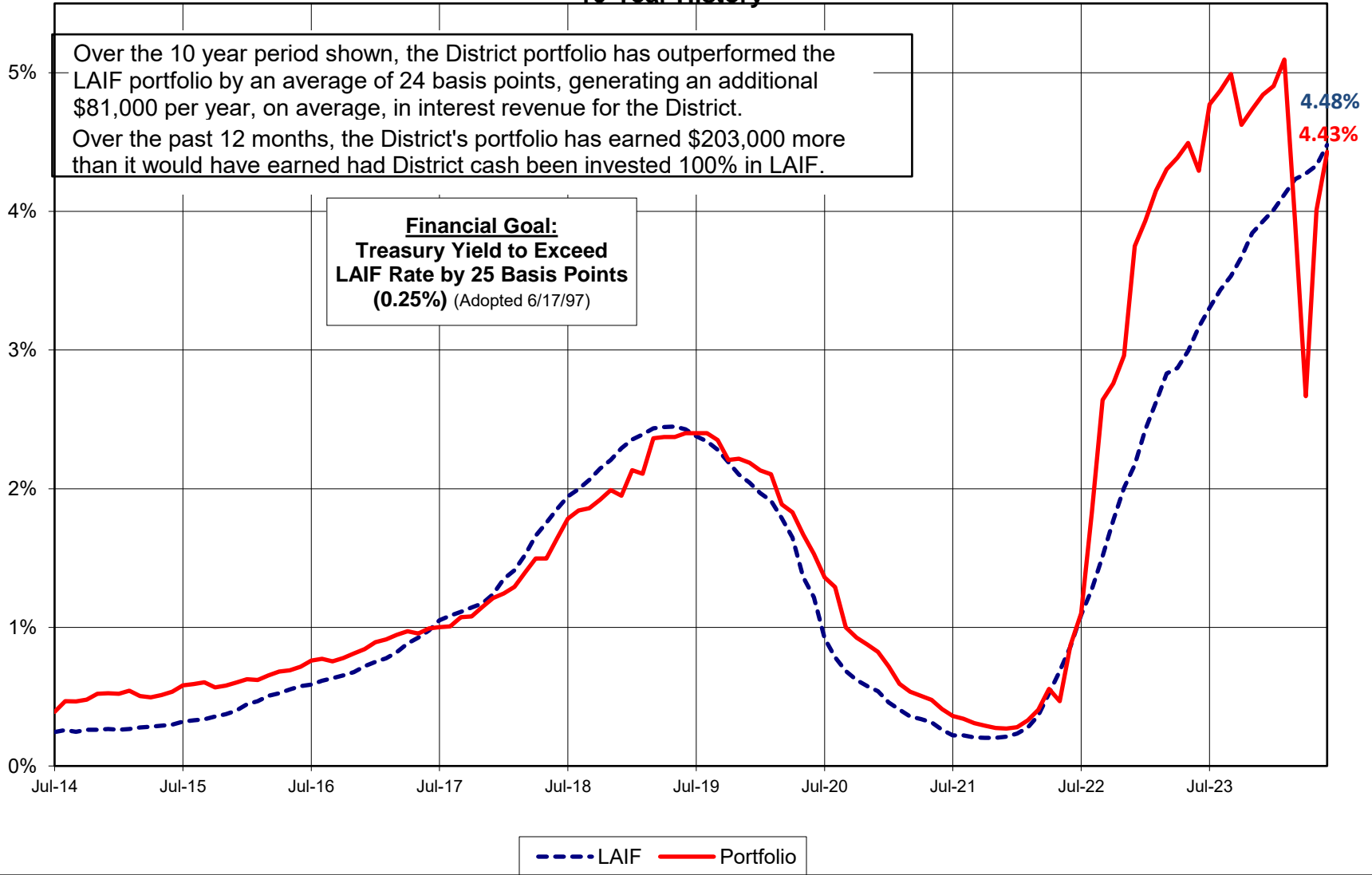
NMWD Portfolio Balance 10-Year History



NMWD Portfolio Rate of Return State of CA Local Agency Investment Fund vs District Portfolio 10-Year History

Over the 10 year period shown, the District portfolio has outperformed the LAIF portfolio by an average of 24 basis points, generating an additional \$81,000 per year, on average, in interest revenue for the District.
Over the past 12 months, the District's portfolio has earned \$203,000 more than it would have earned had District cash been invested 100% in LAIF.

Financial Goal:
Treasury Yield to Exceed
LAIF Rate by 25 Basis Points
(0.25%) (Adopted 6/17/97)



November 5, 2024 - Status of Candidates who have Taken Out Papers for Office

Lynda Roberts, Registrar of Voters, Elections

General Election — 11/05/2024

North Marin Water District Director, Division 1 - Short Term

Seats Open	Number of Candidates Who Took Papers	Number of Candidates Who Filed Papers
1	2	2
Candidates		
Name/ Occupation	Declaration of Candidacy Filed	Candidate Statement Filed
Kenneth Eichstaedt** <i>Appointed District Director</i>	7/19/2024	
Mary Stompe <i>Retired Executive Director</i>	7/24/2024	

North Marin Water District Director, Division 2

Seats Open	Number of Candidates Who Took Papers	Number of Candidates Who Filed Papers
1	1	1
Candidates		
Name/ Occupation	Declaration of Candidacy Filed	Candidate Statement Filed
Jack Baker** <i>Incumbent</i>	7/22/2024	

North Marin Water District Director, Division 3

Seats Open	Number of Candidates Who Took Papers	Number of Candidates Who Filed Papers
1	2	2
Candidates		
Name/ Occupation	Declaration of Candidacy Filed	Candidate Statement Filed
Michael H. Joly** <i>Incumbent</i>	7/22/2024	
Francis Drouillard <i>Registered Professional Engineer</i>	8/7/2024	

North Marin Water District Director, Division 4

Seats Open	Number of Candidates Who Took Papers	Number of Candidates Who Filed Papers
1	1	1
Candidates		
Name/ Occupation	Declaration of Candidacy Filed	Candidate Statement Filed
Stephen Petterle** <i>Incumbent</i>	7/16/2024	

LETTER OF INTENT COVER PAGE

CZM Program Name: San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SFB NERR)

Name of Partner Organization to be the final Applicant: Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA)

Project title: Building Resilience to Climate Change in a Northern California Coastal Watershed by Collaboratively Planning Water Supply Alterations and Wetland Restoration

Type of Project: Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design

Project Location: The Olema Marsh restoration project (Fig. 1, 38.05724, -122.80971) is located near the towns of Point Reyes Station and Olema at the southern end of Tomales Bay in Western Marin County, California, just north of San Francisco. The site is within the targeted watershed boundary of the SFB NERR that extends beyond SFB to the larger watershed (Fig. 5). The Olema Marsh is co-owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) and PRNS, which owns a large portion of the lands bordering this area to the north. The nearest intersection is Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (Levee Road) and Bear Valley Road.

Names and affiliations of the lead principal investigator(s) (PIs) with contact information:

Stuart Siegel, Coastal Resilience Specialist, SFB NERR, siegel@sfsu.edu, (415) 823-3746

Julie Gonzalez, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator, SFB NERR, gonzalez@sfsu.edu, (267) 210-4225

Donna Faure, Executive Director, PRNSA, donna@ptreyes.org, (415) 663-1200 x 303

Lorraine Parsons, Chief of Natural Resources, National Park Service/PRNS, lorraine_parsons@nps.gov, (415) 497-6546

Tony Williams, General Manager, North Marin Water District, twilliams@nmwd.com, (415) 897-4133

Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward, Audubon Canyon Ranch, jim.jensen@egret.org, 415-663-8203 Ext. 402

Proposed project start and end dates: August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2027

Total Federal Funding request: \$350,000

LETTER OF INTENT PROPOSAL

Statement of Purpose

The intent of this project is to build climate and community resilience within a northern California coastal watershed, including sea-level rise adaptation and habitat enhancement through the following actions: (1) Collaboratively plan and design restoration activities to improve hydrologic connectivity and enhance habitat for federally endangered and threatened, and common, wildlife species in Olema Marsh, while ensuring a safe and secure water supply for local communities. We aim to advance restoration design to construction-ready and update necessary local and environmental approvals/permits to restore Olema Marsh, and (2) evaluate water supply options to replace two nearby groundwater wells that supply water to Point Reyes Station, visitors, and the surrounding community that have been experiencing salinity intrusion due to sea-level rise and that could be further adversely affected by the Olema Marsh restoration.

Brief Project Description

As sea-level rise increasingly threatens coastal communities, the restoration of tidal marshes has become an essential strategy for mitigating these impacts. Tidal marshes serve as natural buffers, absorbing storm surges and protecting shorelines. However, to facilitate these restoration efforts, critical water supply infrastructure, such as wells, must sometimes be relocated. This project aims to explore the relocation of a municipal water supply well currently experiencing salinity intrusion, allowing efforts to restore Olema Marsh, which supports multiple endangered and threatened species, to proceed. Olema Marsh (project site, Fig. 1) and the surrounding watershed including Lagunitas Creek and Bear Valley Creek, serve as habitat or potential habitat for many federally listed species, such as coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*; Federally Endangered), steelhead salmon (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; Federally Threatened), tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), as well as California-listed species such as southwestern river otter (*Lontra canadensis sonora*) and saltmarsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*). Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) has conducted several restoration projects on Bear Valley Creek between 2007 and 2012, but the full ecological value of these restoration projects has not been realized, because only the first phase of the initial Olema Marsh restoration project (conducted as part of the 613-acre Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project) could be implemented due to potential impacts on local water supply infrastructure. The San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and its partners hope to implement the final phase of the Giacomini Project by conducting a second phase of the Olema Marsh restoration in the 63-acre historic tidal marsh in Tomales Bay, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, and thereby improving fish passage potential for coho and migratory steelhead salmon to move between Tomales Bay and the upper reaches of the Bear Valley Creek watershed. This proposed project contains a water supply resiliency study, and final restoration design and permitting work as the final step needed to have this project shovel ready. This project will also provide an important case study as a model for infrastructure adaptation combined with habitat restoration supporting more resilient coastal communities. Across the United States, similar strategies will be necessary to prioritize the natural buffers and environmental benefits provided by restored marsh habitats.

Objective 1: RESTORATION DESIGN PLANS & PERMITTING

This project will advance the permitting and planning process to restore 63 acres of Olema Marsh (Figs. 1, 2), a historic coastal tidal marsh, by improving hydrologic connectivity with Lagunitas Creek. This restoration will help restore approximately 7% of the historic tidal wetlands in Tomales Bay benefiting federally endangered species and enhancing the habitat for coho salmon and migratory steelhead. The area has suffered from over a century of anthropogenic impacts, including dam, road,

and culvert construction. Historically, the Bear Valley Creek subwatershed supported central California coast coho and steelhead, but their numbers declined due to overfishing and the introduction of non-native species. Tomales Bay remains a crucial population stronghold for these species and is vital for their regional recovery.

A previous 2007 planning effort resulted in a preliminary restoration design plan as part of an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and proposed restoration actions for the project site (Fig. 3). To improve hydrologic connectivity and access for salmonids, the remaining 0.27 acre of the Olema Marsh berm would be removed through excavation. The berm would first be cleared and grubbed, and then, the 275-foot-long, 24-foot-wide berm would be excavated approximately 5- to 6 feet. In addition to berm removal, shallow excavation (~2 feet) would be performed in a 20-foot corridor along the entire length of Bear Valley Creek in Olema Marsh (approximately 2,000 linear feet) to improve flow and hydraulic connectivity in this section of Bear Valley Creek and potentially improve passage conditions for salmonids.

This funding will support permitting, advancing the design to construction-ready design, and a Level A cost estimate for the Olema marsh restoration. NEPA/CEQA and Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance has already been completed, but a permit would need to be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and consistency determination from the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) will also be consulted for input around design, restoration, and cultural resource concerns. The team in collaboration with outside consultants will collect preliminary data necessary to develop a final restoration design and facilitate permitting, re-evaluate the preliminary restoration design, advance the design to final engineering, and develop specifications, construction drawings, and a Level A cost estimate to proceed with this project.

Objective 2: WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCY STUDY

Background on Coast Guard Wells Adjacent to Olema Marsh

The North Marin Water District (NMWD) Coast Guard Wells, located about 50 feet from Lagunitas Creek (Fig. 4), are 60 feet deep with perforations starting at 5 feet below the creek's surface. They are situated in alluvial deposits of unconsolidated sand, silt, and gravel, with bedrock typically below 60 feet. The Coast Guard Wells fall within the "Zone of Contribution" of Lagunitas Creek, making them susceptible to salinity intrusion. Historical data from 1976 onwards indicate salinity issues, particularly when creek water levels exceeded 5.1 feet, although these levels typically returned to baseline once the tides receded. NMWD currently has two additional Wells further upstream (located on the Gallagher Family Ranch), which are part of the primary water supply system in addition to the Coast Guard wells.

The potential for increased salinity intrusion at the Coast Guard Wells is a significant concern, especially with the full restoration of Olema Marsh and predicted sea-level rise. Hydrodynamic modeling has shown that restoring tidal exchange between Lagunitas Creek and Olema Marsh could lead to significant salinity increases, particularly during low flow conditions. Maximum predicted increases ranged from 5 to 10 psu, with sea-level rise exacerbating this issue, leading to even higher salinity levels. These findings highlight the potential impact on local water supply and the need to relocate the well to a less susceptible area.

Water Supply Resiliency Feasibility Study Plan

NMWD has identified water supply alternatives that could provide resiliency and redundancy as well as to address the impacts of salinity intrusion on the Coast Guard wells. These include conventional water supply alternatives such as construction of a reservoir (either on-stream or off-stream), inter-connection with another agency's water supply (Marin Municipal Water District, MMWD), modification

and upgrades to the Point Reyes Treatment Plant, and the development and construction of an additional groundwater well that is not susceptible to salinity intrusion or other natural hazards.

Preliminary analysis resulted in the development of following criteria to evaluate and ultimately rank the various supply alternatives: a) Supply Yield/Volume - minimum daily yield or production rate and a preliminary threshold of ≥ 150 gallons per minute (gpm); b) Treatment Requirements - whether the new supply is considered surface water or groundwater will have significant impacts on existing operations; c) Hazard and Climate Change Resiliency - how vulnerable a new supply is to existing as well as future hazards, especially the impacts of climate change; New Infrastructure Requirements - in addition to the actual capital improvements needed to construct a new supply, the associated new infrastructure to connect the supply to the transmission or distribution system needs to be evaluated; Regulatory and Permitting - the likelihood of successful permitting as well as the extent and breadth of the required regulatory approvals and overall permitting process; Overall Cost - quantitative value including design and construction costs as well as long-term operations and maintenance costs.

This funding would support the final analysis of available water supply options and ranking which based on preliminary assessments by NMWD seem to indicate a new groundwater well (or wells) upstream of the Coast Guard wells is the most preferred option. The study would also include review of available data, including prior subsurface investigations, test wells, and recent well testing of Gallagher Well no. 1; environmental documentation (CEQA), permitting, and well construction design using NMWD and state standards.

Milestones

1. Complete Initial Site Assessment and Data Collection

- Description: Conduct a thorough site assessment to gather baseline data, including hydrologic, ecological, and topographic information. These data will inform the design and permitting process for the marsh restoration and water supply resiliency study.
- Deliverables: Site assessment report, data collection summary, preliminary site maps, initial consultations with stakeholders including local communities, environmental agencies, and Tribal groups.

2. Finalization of Restoration Design

- Description: Develop detailed designs for the restoration of Olema Marsh, including hydrologic modeling, engineering plans, and environmental assessments. This will involve the integration of data collected in the initial site assessment to ensure that the design supports hydrologic connectivity and habitat enhancement.
- Deliverables: Detailed restoration design documents, cost estimate, and preliminary project timeline.

3. Completion of Water Supply Resiliency Study/New Groundwater Well Concept

- Description: Conduct a feasibility study for water supply with a goal of replacing existing wells currently experiencing salinity intrusion. This includes assessing and ranking alternative supply options, evaluating potential environmental impacts and overall resiliency, and developing a plan that minimizes disruption to the water supply while supporting the marsh restoration efforts.
- Deliverables: Feasibility study report for well relocation, including alternative site evaluations, impact assessments, and recommendations for the best course of action.

4. Securing Necessary Permits and Approvals

- Description: Obtain all necessary environmental permits and approvals from relevant agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Coastal Commission. This milestone also includes completing the consultation process with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) and addressing any cultural resource concerns.
- Deliverables: Issued permits and approvals, finalized environmental impact statements, and documentation of stakeholder engagement and consultation processes.

Equity and Inclusion

The proposed project will actively broaden the participation of underrepresented groups by leveraging the Point Reyes National Seashore Association's ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion. Located in Marin County, CA, the Point Reyes Station and Tomales Bay region is a site of significant ecological and cultural importance with a long history of community engagement in conservation efforts. The project will work closely with local communities to ensure that the benefits of tidal marsh restoration and environmental education are accessible to all, especially underserved youth. PRNSA engages community members through environmental education programs and brings 2,200 underserved youth to the park annually with the help of scholarships and free programming funded by individuals and foundations. With their collaboration, we hope to reach these groups and contribute to this effort by hosting field trips to the site and surrounding areas and providing educational experiences about tidal marshes and habitat restoration. Additionally, the location of this restoration effort parallels the Olema Valley Trail, connecting the community of Point Reyes Station to the PRNS Bear Valley Visitor center for all types of trail users, and those with limited access to transportation. We also hope to revamp an abandoned marsh overlook site in the restoration design to improve public access.

Lastly, in East Marin County, areas like Larkspur, Tiburon, and Ross have median income levels ranging from around \$150,000 to \$300,000. In contrast, the coastal communities of West Marin, of which the NMWD water supply, treatment and distribution system serves, have a median income closer to \$60,000, with 8.5% of households living below the federal poverty line. Many seniors in this region face financial challenges, and over half of the students in Shoreline Unified School District (over 60% hispanic/latino) are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Addressing salinity intrusion in wells and improving drinking water quality directly benefits the long-term health and resilience of this community.

Climate

Coastal watersheds such as Tomales Bay are already subjected to the effects of climate change, including sea-level rise. Sea-level rise has the potential to adversely affect municipal water supplies when wells are located in tidally influenced alluvial aquifers. The impacts of climate change on the coastal landscape can be minimized by restoring tidal-wetland interfaces between waters and land as nature-based solutions. Also, the water supply resiliency study aims to address salinity intrusion, which is exacerbated by sea-level rise. By evaluating water supply alternatives, the project ensures a reliable and safe water supply for the Point Reyes Station community as climate change impacts intensify.

Site Geography

The Olema Marsh restoration project (Fig. 1, 38.05724, -122.80971) is located near the towns of Point Reyes Station and Olema at the southern end of Tomales Bay in Western Marin County, California, just north of San Francisco. The Olema Marsh is co-owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) and PRNS, which owns a large portion of the lands bordering this area to the north. The nearest intersection is Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (Levee Road) and Bear Valley Road.

Landowner

(1) Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), PO BOX 577, Stinson Beach, CA 94970-0577

(2) Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS), 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Pre-Existing Uses

Olema Marsh is currently an impounded freshwater marsh jointly owned by ACR and PRNS. There are no current uses of this marsh other than hiking/biking/horseback riding on the Olema Marsh trail and wildlife viewing opportunities. These uses will continue and potentially be enhanced after the restoration.

Partnerships

Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) is a non-profit association affiliated with PRNS and will manage the project. PRNSA had a leading role in the previous Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project by not only raising monies for restoration but also managing the construction contract. PRNS is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), which manages its federal lands as well as that of the North District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Both PRNS and GGNRA are dedicated to preserving public lands or public benefit through conservation and stewardship, as well as active restoration. Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) is a local north bay non-profit that owns and stewards ~40 acres of Olema Marsh managing the property as a Natural Zone. ACR's mission is "Connecting nature, people, and science for a more resilient world". Both ACR and the PRNS recognize the importance of physical, biological, and social connections between Olema Marsh, the Bear Valley Creek watershed, and Tomales Bay, and share information to improve our understanding of how management strategies affect ecological function at a landscape scale. ACR will participate in this project by providing previous avian ecology data, management history, ecological studies, and support outreach and review of the planning and design work. In addition, ACR has been working closely with FIGR to improve culturally and ecologically important coastal habitat on Coast Miwok lands held by ACR, including Olema Marsh. This project aligns with ACR's two strategic initiatives — Resilient Lands and Waters and Empowered and Inclusive Communities in many ways. The North Marin Water District is focused on providing high quality water at affordable prices and will lead the water supply resiliency study in this project. The San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve works to restore tidal marshes and strengthen the coastal community through research, monitoring, training, and education. The NERR will collect baseline data and support the permitting process, developing the final design, and community outreach.

Project Timeline

August 2025 - July 2027. Initial Site Assessment and Data Collection (start: year 1, month 1); Restoration Design Development (start: year 1, month 7); Water Supply Resiliency Study (start: year 1, month 7); Permitting and Approvals (start: year 2, month 1)

Budget summary

We request \$350,000 to conduct a water supply resiliency study, conduct an initial site assessment and collect data to support planning and permitting, advance restoration design to construction ready design, and to finish the permitting process for the restoration. NMWD currently has \$125,000 in fiscal year (FY) 24-25 and FY25-26 some of which is earmarked for the water supply study. If the grant was awarded, NMWD could include some leveraged funding as part of the FY25-26 budgeting process.

Project Readiness

The project is at an advanced stage of readiness, with significant preliminary work already completed. Key environmental assessments and compliance with NEPA/CEQA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have been addressed, laying a strong foundation for the restoration efforts. Stakeholder consultations have been initiated, and essential data collection for site assessment will begin at the start of the proposed project. With a clear plan for finalizing restoration designs to construction-ready design (currently "preliminary design" via the EIS/EIR), conducting a water supply resiliency study, and securing necessary permits, the project is well-positioned to move swiftly into the implementation phase once these steps are completed. Permits for data collection (hydrology, vegetation, topography) have not been applied for but will be streamlined by project partners (PRNS and ACR). NMWD has conducted preliminary analysis of various water supply alternatives as well as previous groundwater investigations at a site well upstream of the Coast Guard wells. NMWD has several previously qualified "on-call" consultants that could be used for the water supply study.

MAPS



Figure 1. ACR parcel Map of the proposed restoration area.

Linking Restoration Projects to Benefit Multiple Listed Species

Point Reyes National Seashore



National Park Service
Point Reyes National Seashore
Marin County, CA

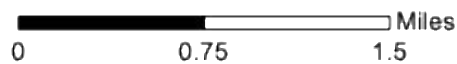


Figure 1. Location of Previous Restoration Projects and Proposed Project Area

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Figure 2. Map of the proposed restoration area within the context of the larger Lagunitas/Bear Valley Creek watershed

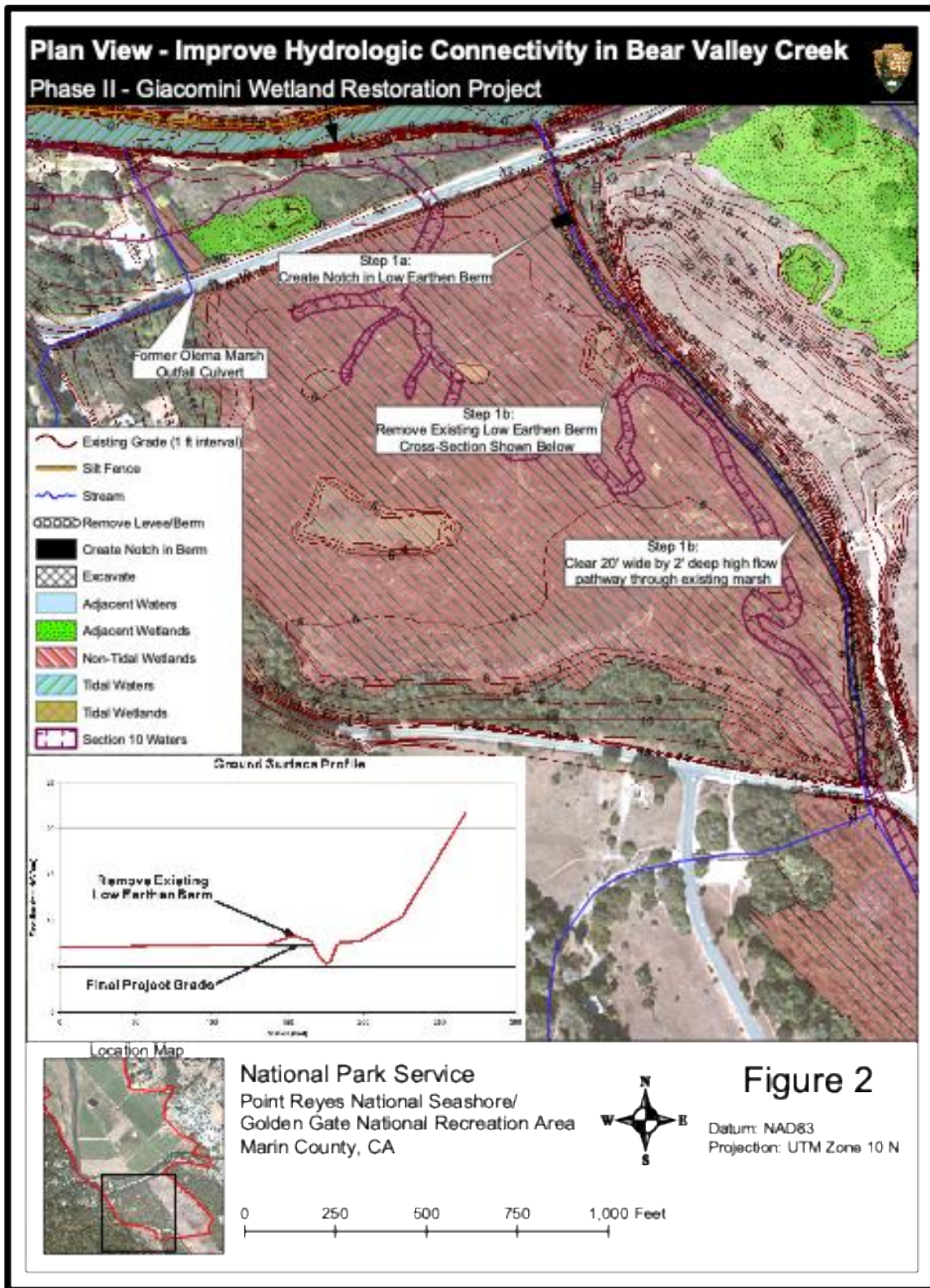


Figure 3. Suggested and proposed restoration actions from a previous collaborative restoration planning effort

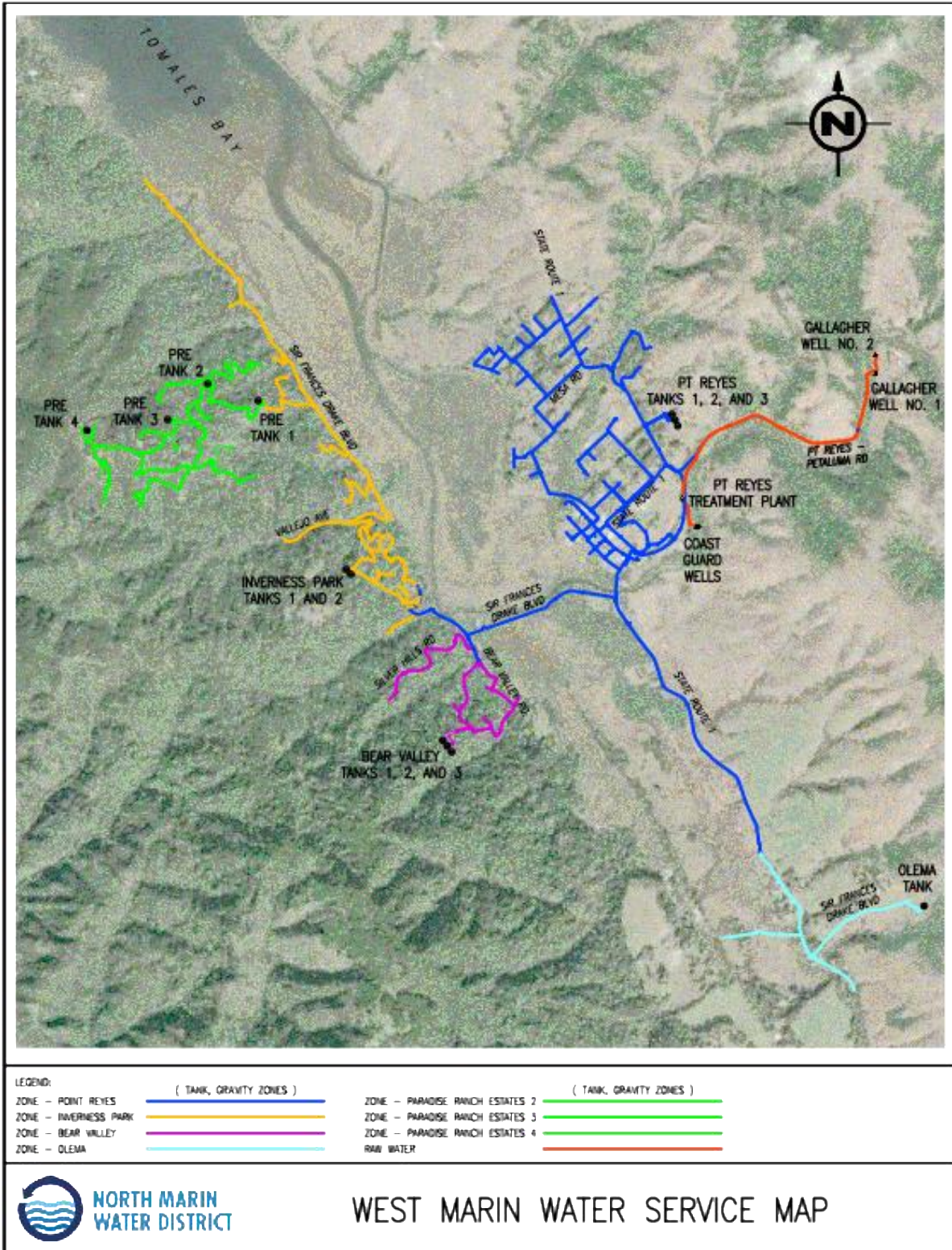


Figure 4. Map showing locations of coast guard wells in Point Reyes Station, near Olema Marsh



Figure 5. Map showing the SFB NERR's targeted watershed boundary, including Tomales Bay (www.nerrsdata.org)

Options in pump project expand

Water utility reviews new sites for station

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

ARODRIGUEZ@MARINIJ.COM

The North Marin Water District has new options to consider in its plan to replace an aging water pump station in Novato, a project that has generated community opposition.

Four sites have entered the mix as potential places where the pump station could be built, allowing the district to retire the nearly 60-year-old station near Lynwood Elementary School.

The district identified the new sites because its stated preference — a spot called “Site 2” on a city-owned greenway — was protested by neighbors. The greenway runs along Arroyo San Jose Creek near Ignacio Boulevard and Palmer Drive.

The new options were presented to the board at a meeting on July 16.

“The general consensus was to proceed with a deeper dive with those additional sites, to do more research to determine if there any fatal flaws,” said Tony Williams, general manager of the water district.

The project will likely involve one primary pump station and a secondary pump station at a separate site.

One option, referred to as “Site 6,” involves a primary pump station in the Ignacio Hills neighborhood off Ignacio Boulevard south of the Pacheco Plaza Shopping Center. It would involve about 7,500 feet of piping along Ignacio Boulevard and side streets.

A second option would place a primary pump station at “Site 12” on Alameda Del Prado, north of Posada Del Sol and up against Highway 101. It would involve 700 feet of piping under Highway 101 and 1,800 feet of discharge piping along Alameda Del Prado and side streets.

The third new location, “Site 15,” is on a district-owned parcel in the area of Lynwood Hill Park. A project there would require 950 feet of suction piping and 1,250 feet of discharge piping to be installed along Parkwood Drive and other side streets.

The other new option is “Site 22,” a county-owned lot at Calle Arboleda and Via Herbosa. Connecting the site to the district’s system would require about 3,650 feet of suction piping and 500 feet of discharge piping to be installed along Alameda de la Loma, Ignacio Boulevard and other side streets.

An environmental analysis initially concluded that Site 2 is the preferred location because it would yield the most benefit.

As proposed, a project at Site 2 would involve the construction of a 1,188-square-foot pump station and 3,750 linear feet of new piping to connect the station. If the district approves this option, the Novato City Council would need to agree to sell the land or grant an easement.

But neighbors say it would be an eyesore in a tree-lined linear park and that noise and vibration from a permanent pump operation could disturb the community.

Amid protests at a meeting in March, the board said it was premature to remove the site from consideration without having confidence that the district would find something better. The board decided in May to do more study to find out, resulting in the four new options.

Williams said Site 12 would have similar benefits to Site 2. Because it is up against the freeway with fewer residences nearby, it appears to be the most promising new option, winning some preliminary support from residents.

Peter Chuck, who lives near the Site 2 greenway, launched an online petition collecting 350 signatures against the plan for a pump station in his neighborhood. Chuck said the move to look at more options is “absolutely a positive development.”

“If they come up with a new pump station next to the freeway, problem solved, it’s not in my front yard anymore,” Chuck said.

Resident Leonard Shaw says he too hopes that Site 12 pans out.

“A pump station is not going to create any more noise there than the freeway creates, so it won’t be a new disturbance to the neighbors of the property,” Shaw said. “It’s a far better site from my perspective.”

Site 12 is owned by AT&T, and if the plans proceeded there, it would likely involve the district acquiring the property. Eric Miller, assistant general manager of the water district, said it has reached out to AT&T about the developing proposal, but declined to share more.

“We cannot provide detail about property acquisition at this time,” Miller said.

District staffers are expected to return to the board in September or October with a recommendation to advance one or two of the primary sites for further evaluation, Williams said.

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 Lynwood pump station serves approximately 25% of the district’s customers, staff said.

Compensation for Marin elected officials varies wildly

Most of Marin's city councils and special purpose districts pay their serving members little in meeting fees. When it comes to "total compensation," the totals vary widely. The big variable derives from one perk: medical and dental benefits. Some local elected officials don't receive a penny. Others have gold-plated health insurance plans funded at public expense.

Voters should care. Transparency empowers voters to learn what they are getting for their tax. Rest assured, all of the compensation is authorized by law. Yet, the virtues of restraint and frugality should be noted and rewarded at the ballot box.

Some of those whose total compensation is supersized have valid reasons for the expensive medical and dental insurance plans they've elected to receive. Voters need to know their reason when those incumbents seek another term.

The "honors list" for restraint includes Tiburon, Belvedere and Ross, where council members receive no remuneration.

In Marin's largest incorporated city, San Rafael, its directly elected Mayor Kate Colin has substantial responsibilities. The post is supposedly part-time, but in past decades Mission City's mayors voluntarily made it in effect full-time. Colin's pay in 2022 was \$8,424 and zero benefits.

Novato Mayor Mark Milberg is like "Mayor Kate." With meeting stipends of \$4,346, other meeting fees of \$401 and a total of \$2,244 for health and pension benefits, Milberg's total compensation is a modest \$6,980. This defines restraint and serving the public essentially as a community volunteer.

Mill Valley is typical of smaller cities. Council members each receive a flat \$350 a month and no benefits.

The sums reported here derive from two reliable databases: "Transparent California" and the secretary of state's "Government Compensation in California." They report total compensation by category and employee name. Both are valuable resources for those who care about local governments, the agencies that most directly affect our quality of life.

At the Marin Municipal Water District, some of its directors earn far more pay and perks than any city Marin council member or mayor. Being an MMWD director is a responsible post but service on its five-member Board of Directors is clearly part-time. It should take less time than serving as mayor of San Rafael or Novato.

According to the MMWD, Larry Russell, a 20-year veteran board member now seeking reelection, had total compensation in 2022-23 of \$46,010 for the part-time post. That includes meeting fees and conferences for \$21,258, plus \$24,802 in "medical/dental benefits." Russell, 76, is Medicare eligible and didn't elect to join Medicare. He instead remains on the more expensive MMWD insurance. His rationale is unknown as he hasn't replied to my inquiry.

Russell isn't alone. Other special-purpose districts allow their Medicare eligible retirees at their options to belong to the agencies' employee medical plans. Doing so is a waste of public funds with no real benefits for anyone.

This isn't to criticize all MMWD board members. Total compensation for the three new reform directors elected in 2022 is reasonable: Ranjiv Khush \$9,000, Jed Smith \$9,800 and Matt Samson \$10,255. Those represent meeting stipends. None elects to receive medical or dental benefits, except Samson who got a staggering \$55.

Then there's the under-the-radar Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. It isn't medical benefits that swell the compensation. This sewer board has long been known for generous meeting fees for directors. Topping the list is longtime director and unopposed candidate for reelection, Craig Murray. His total annual compensation is \$19,410. That's more than double what San Rafael's mayor earns.

The reason that these semi-obscure agencies are so generous is they're out of the public eye and face far less public scrutiny than do city councils and the county Board of Supervisors.

Columnist Dick Spotswood of Mill Valley writes on local issues Sundays and Wednesdays. Email him at spotswood@comcast.net.

Ballot set as filing comes to close

BY RICHARD HALSTEAD

RHALSTEAD@MARINIJ.COM

A runoff election for a seat on the Board of Supervisors and competitive races for spots on nine of Marin County's 11 city and town councils will be in play in the Nov. 5 general election.

The roster of local Marin candidates came together Wednesday as the extended deadline for filing ended.

Brian Colbert of San Anselmo and Heather McPhail Sridharan of Kentfield will square off for the District 2 open supervisorial seat.

In Fairfax, four people for Town Council — former council members Frank Egger and Mike Ghiringhelli, former San Anselmo council member Doug Kelly and former challenger Cindy Swift, have filed to run against three incumbents who are seeking re-election: Barbara Coler, Chance Cutrano and Bruce Ackerman.

For San Anselmo Town Council, six candidates filed to compete for three seats. Former council member Ford Greene, Chantel Walker, Yoav Schlesinger, Kurt Johnson, Guy Meyer and incumbent Eileen Burke filed. Incumbents Alexis Fineman and Brian Colbert did not file.

In San Rafael, Mark Galperin is challenging incumbent Councilmember Rachel Kertz for the District 4 City Council seat. Mahmoud Shirazi filed to run against Mayor Kate Colin, who is seeking reelection. No one filed to challenge San Rafael's city attorney, Robert Epstein, or clerk/assessor, Lindsay Lara, both of whom are seeking reelection.

The Novato City Council race will feature James Petray and Kevin Jacobs competing for the District 1 seat held by Susan Wernick, who did not file. No one filed to challenge either District 3 incumbent Tim O'Connor or District 5 incumbent Mark Milberg.

Jacqueline Amrikhas, Steven Woodside, Sandra Bushmaker and incumbents Ian Sobieski and Melissa Blaustein will compete for three openings on the Sausalito City Council. Incumbent Janelle Kellman did not file.

Seeking a spot on the Mill Valley City Council will be Leah Curtis, Katherine Jones and Mike Koo, who will challenge incumbents Urban Carmel and Caroline Joachim for three seats.

For Tiburon Town Council, Chuck Hornbrook, Andrew Thompson and incumbents Holli Thier and Isaac Nikfar have filed to compete for two seats.

In Corte Madera, the Town Council race will see James Andrews, Charlie Kirschner and incumbent Fred Casissa vie for two seats.

Incumbents Gabe Paulson and Scot Candell filed for the two full-term seats available on the Larkspur City Council. Lana Scott and Sarah Margulies filed to compete for a short-term seat available due to

the death of councilmember Kevin Carroll in March.

In Belvedere, Pat Carapiet, Kevin Burke and incumbent Sally Wilkinson filed for three open seats on the City Council.

The November election will also include competition for seats on the Marin Municipal Water District board, the Marin County Board of Education and the Marin Community College District board, as well as positions on other local boards.

School boards

The Marin County Board of Education race will feature Adam McGill, Barbara Zarate and incumbent Li Delpa competing for the Area 1 seat. Victoria Canby and Nancy McCarthy will compete for the Area 4 seat held by Fel Agrelius, who did not file. Denise Bohman and Jill Manning will compete for the Area 7 seat; the incumbent Clairette Wilson did not file.

For the Marin Community College District board, Crystal Martinez and Mila Schechter filed for the Area 2 seat held by incumbent Philip Kranenburg, who did not file. Ross Millerick and incumbent Stephanie O'Brien will compete for the Area 7 seat. Henry Faust was the only person to file for the Area 5 seat held by Crystal Martinez. Incumbent Paul Da Silva was the only person to file for the Area 4 seat.

In San Rafael, the terms of three Board of Education trustees are ending. In Area 1, incumbent Mark Koerner filed. In Area 3, incumbent Maureen de Nieva filed. In Area 5, Isai Rodas filed and incumbent Marina Palma did not file.

In the Tamalpais Union High School District, Amos Klausner, A. Ray Chaudhuri, Jennifer Holden, Ida Times-Green and Nicholas Ondrejka filed. There are two seats available.

In the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District, incumbent Nicolette Hahn filed and incumbent Georgia Woods did not.

In the Miller Creek School District, Sivan Oyserman and incumbents Francesco Ruggeri and Alissa Chacko filed for two full-term seats. Incumbent Caitlin McShane filed for a short-term seat.

Incumbent David Riedel and Sara Aminzadeh filed for full-term seats in the Kentfield School District. There are two seats available. No one applied for the short-term seat available.

In the Lagunitas School District, Breeze Kinsey and Celina De Leon filed. There are two seats available.

Charles Furcolo, Rachel Hudson, Ava Fruin and incumbent Beth Blair filed to compete for two seats open on the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District.

In Nicasio, Matthew Pickett filed and incumbent Daniel Ager did not.

In the Novato Unified School District, Area 1 incumbent Debbie Butler filed. In Area 2, Chandra Alexandre filed and incumbent Ross Millerick did not. In Area 3, incumbent Julie Jacobson filed. In Area 7, incumbent Gregory Mack filed.

In the Reed Union School District, incumbent Liz Webb and Sandeep Sahai filed. Incumbent Jacqueline Jaffee did not.

Vinay Patel, Erin Earls and incumbent Kelly Dwinells filed for two seats on the Ross School District. Incumbent Megan Callahan did not.

In the Ross Valley School District, Phillip Feffer and incumbents Shelley Hamilton, Rachel Litwack and Daniel Cassidy filed for three seats.

In the Sausalito Marin City School District, Rebecca Lytle, Lester Parham and Danielle Diego filed and incumbents Lisa Bennett and Alena Maunder did not.

In the Shoreline Unified School District, Buddy Faure and incumbent Thomas Tyson filed for the Area 1 seat. Area 2 incumbent Jill Manning did not file. Josie Lanker and incumbent George Flores filed for the two Area 3 seats; incumbent Kylee Lang did not file.

Water districts

Two of the five seats on the Marin Municipal Water District board are up for grabs in the November election. The terms of Larry Russell and Monty Schmitt are ending.

Robert Sandoval, Diana Maier and Jack Kenney filed for the Division 2 seat; incumbent Schmitt did not file. Dawn Matheson and Dave Keatley filed to challenge longtime Division 5 seat incumbent Larry Russell.

For the North Marin Water District board, Mary Stompe and incumbent Kenneth Eichstaedt filed for the Division 1 seat. Incumbent Jack Baker filed for the Division 2 seat. Francis Drouillard and incumbent Michael Joly filed for the Division 3 seat. Incumbent Stephen Petterle filed for the Division 4 seat.

For the Stinson Beach County Water District board, Laurie Ellis and incumbent Sandra Cross filed. There are three seats available.

Community services districts

In the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District, James Spaulding, Natalia Shorten, Kevin Dugan, David Bartnicki and incumbents Mercy Angelopulos and Cheryl Furst filed. Three seats are available.

Royce McLemore and incumbents Lynnette Egenlauf and Henry Mims will compete for two seats on the Marin City Community Services District board.

In the Tamalpais Community Services District, Courtney Di Carlo and incumbents Steven Levine, Matthew McMahon and Steffen Bartschat filed. Three seats are available.

Special districts

In the Southern Marin, Rich Riechel and incumbents Cathryn Hilliard, Clifford Waldeck and Ashley Raveche filed for the Southern Marin Fire Protection District board. Three seats are available.

In the Stinson Beach Fire Protection District, Michele Sileo and incumbents James Ritchie and Jeffrey Walsh filed. There are three seats available.

In the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, incumbents Craig Murray and Gary Robards filed for full-time seats. Nicholas Lavrov and incumbent Barry Nitzberg filed for one available short-term seat.

Incumbents Christian Michael and Cale Nichols filed for full-term seats on the Strawberry Recreation District board; Pamela Bohner, who holds the other full-term seat, did not file. Sarah Waterfield filed for the short-term seat.

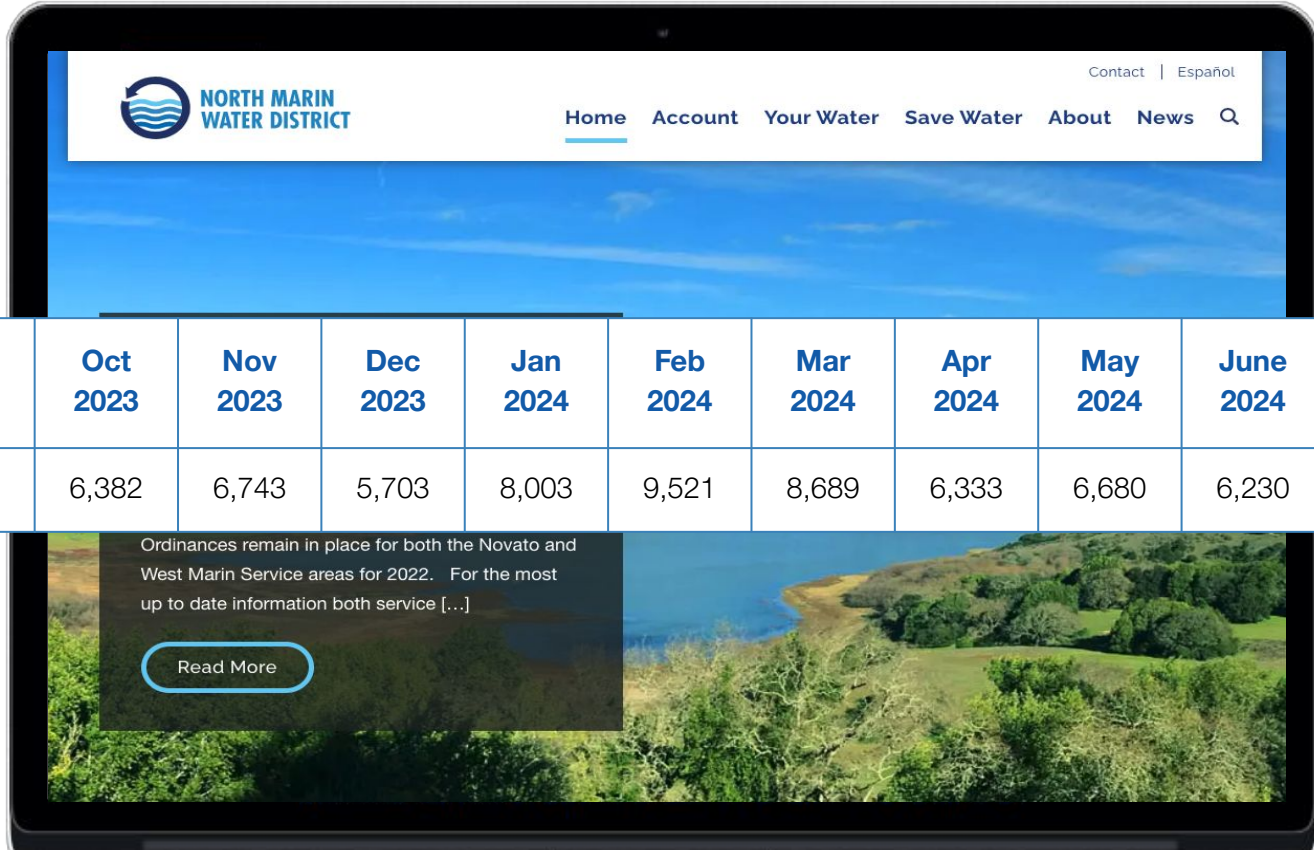


**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

Web & Social Media Report

July 2024

Website Statistics






	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
2023/ 24 Visitors	5,920	6,382	6,743	5,703	8,003	9,521	8,689	6,333	6,680	6,230	7,269

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

	Sep-2023	Oct-2023	Nov-2023	Dec-2023	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024
 Facebook Followers	2,436	2,454	2,471	2,502	2,537	2,548	2,569	2,581	2,606	2,627	2,658
 X (Twitter) Followers	123	124	125	128	130	131	131	130	132	132	133
 Instagram Followers	844	859	860	869	876	891	903	907	914	922	928



NMWD Most Visited Pages

Pages	Views
Home	3,531
Online Billing	2,631
Water Quality	1,092
My Water Usage (WaterSmart Portal)	1,049
What Is An Acre Foot?	445
Stop Service	253
Meetings 2024	236
Contact	226
Employment Opportunities	18

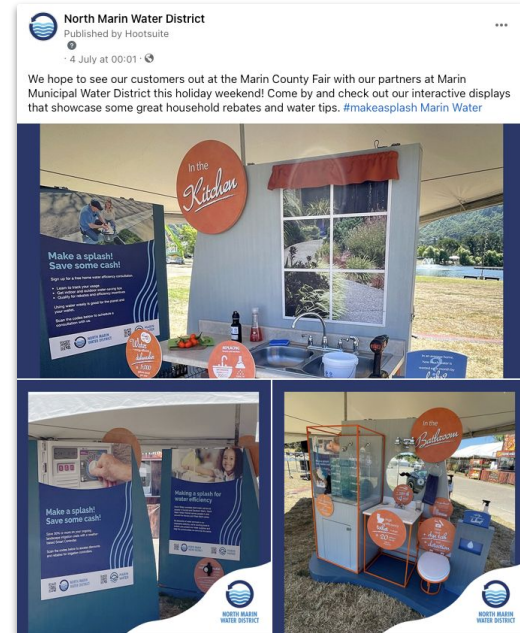




July Social Media Highlights | Facebook



434 people reached | 67 engagements



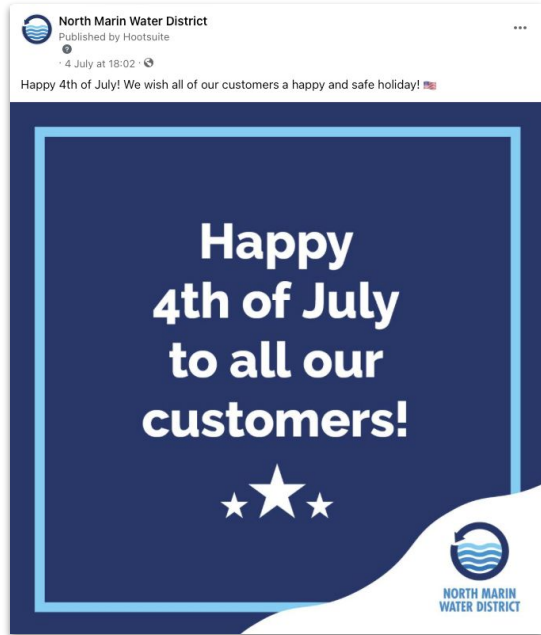
218 people reached | 17 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





July Social Media Highlights | Facebook



154 people reached | 5 engagements



357 people reached | 39 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





July Social Media Highlights | Facebook



162 people reached | 2 engagements



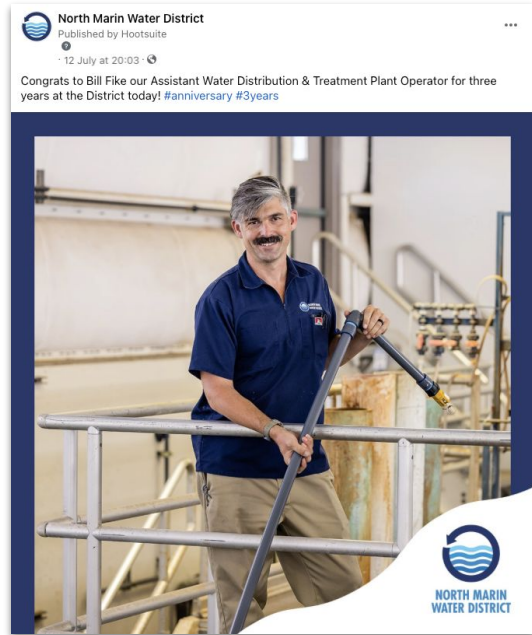
406 people reached | 19 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





July Social Media Highlights | Facebook



202 people reached | 10 engagements




153 people reached | 6 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments






July Social Media Highlights | Facebook


 **North Marin Water District**
Published by Hootsuite
· 15 July at 21:00 · 🌐

NMWD staff are currently conducting a survey of service line materials to help ensure high quality and safety in water delivered to your tap. NMWD has never used lead plumbing and lead was banned in homes constructed in 1985, but customer-owned service lines made from lead may be present in older homes. If your home or business was constructed prior to 1985 you may see NMWD staff members at your meter box inspecting the service line connecting your building to the meter.


The... [See more](#)



167 people reached | 21 engagements

 **North Marin Water District**
Published by Hootsuite
· 19 July at 00:39 · 🌐

Did you know that NMWD has a pool cover rebate? Customers can receive up to \$75 back when you install a qualified pool cover. Visit nmwd.com/outdoors to learn more. #rebate #poolcover #summersavings



150 people reached | 5 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





July Social Media Highlights | Facebook

North Marin Water District
Published by Hootsuite
· 25 July at 00:00 ·

Check out the Irrigation Scheduling Tool for an irrigation schedule customized to your home. The tool uses local weather data to estimate the amount of water your plants need to stay healthy. Visit savingwaterpartnership.org/watering-times/ for more information.
[#irrigateefficiently](#)



Be Climate Ready
Irrigate efficiently.



123 people reached | 5 engagements

North Marin Water District
Published by Hootsuite
· 2 days ago ·

In summer a 1,000 sq-ft lawn can use 5,000 gallons of water per week. Changing to a low water use landscape reduces your water usage by 70%! Check out our rebates to convert your lawn to a low-water use landscape by visiting nmwd.com/outdoors. [#landscape](#) [#lawntransformation](#)



Be Climate Ready
Transform your landscape.



264 people reached | 13 engagements

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





July Social Media Highlights | Facebook



69 people reached | 1 engagement

Engagements include likes, reactions, clicks and comments





July Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 3

Shout out to our staff on their anniversaries today!

- Robert Clark, Operations and Maintenance Superintendent (20 years)
- Brian Northern, Pipeline Foreman (5 years)
- Eric Kurfirst, Cross Control Connection Tech II (17 years)
- Jose Ochoa, Water Quality Tech (2 years)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 4

We hope to see our customers out at the Marin County Fair with our partners at Marin Municipal Water District this holiday weekend! Come by and check out our interactive displays that showcase some great household rebates and water tips. [#makeasplash](#) @MarinWaterInfo






July Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Jul 4 ...
Happy 4th of July! We wish all of our customers a happy and safe holiday! 🇺🇸





Happy 4th of July
to all our
customers!



NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT


 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · Jul 9 ...

NMWD has started relocating two water mains alongside Novato Sanitary District's new sewer main project on Arthur St. near Novato High School. Both agencies aim to minimize customer impact, scheduling work between school years. Minor delays may occur. Thank you for understanding.




NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT


NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT


NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT





July Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 12

Congrats to Bill Fike our Assistant Water Distribution & Treatment Plant Operator for three years at the District today! [#anniversary](#) [#3years](#)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 13

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





July Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 15

NMWD staff are surveying service line materials to ensure water quality and safety. Homes/ businesses built before 1985 may see staff inspecting their service lines as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect against lead exposure by cataloging and replacing lead lines.



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 19

Did you know that NMWD has a pool cover rebate? Customers can receive up to \$75 back when you install a qualified pool cover. Visit nmwd.com/outdoors to learn more. #rebate #poolcover #summersavings

**Keep your
pool and your
wallet full.**

Cut down on water evaporation with a pool cover.

We'll help cover the cost.





July Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 25

Check out the Irrigation Scheduling Tool for an irrigation schedule customized to your home. The tool uses local weather data to estimate the amount of water your plants need to stay healthy. Visit savingwaterpartnership.org/watering-times/ for more information. #irrigateefficiently



North Marin Water District @NorthMarinWater · Jul 30

In summer a 1,000 sq-ft lawn can use 5,000 gallons of water per week. Changing to a low water use landscape reduces your water usage by 70%! Check out our rebates to convert your lawn to a low-water use landscape by visiting nmwd.com/outdoors. #landscape #lawntransformation





July Social Media Highlights | X (Twitter)

 **North Marin Water District** @NorthMarinWater · 17h ...

Drip irrigation is the most efficient way to water your plants by applying water slowly to the root zone. Check with your water provider for rebates to switch to drip. Visit nmwd.com/save-water/wat... for more information.



Be Climate Ready
Irrigate efficiently.

SANTA MONTE SAVING WATER PARTNERSHIP

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT





July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



22 likes



11 likes

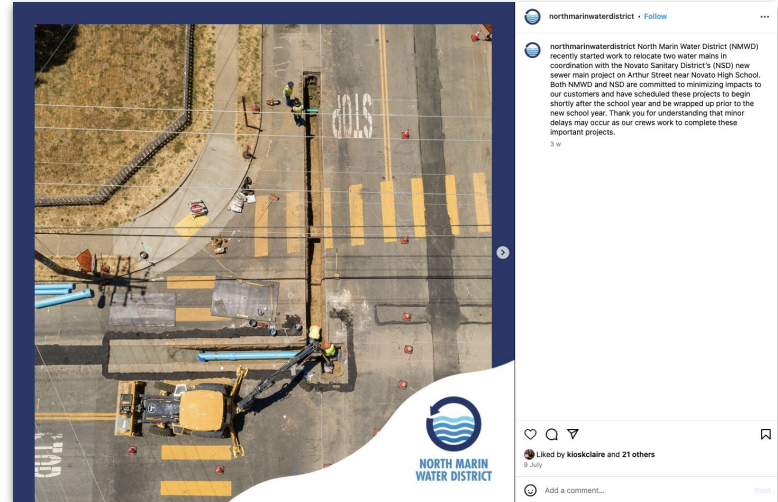




July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



4 likes



22 likes





July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



6 likes



8 likes





July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



11 likes



2 likes

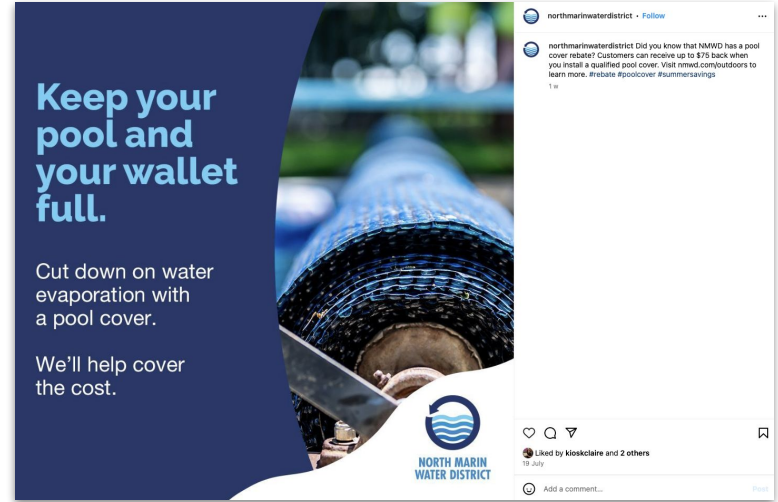




July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



10 likes



2 likes





July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



2 likes



2 likes





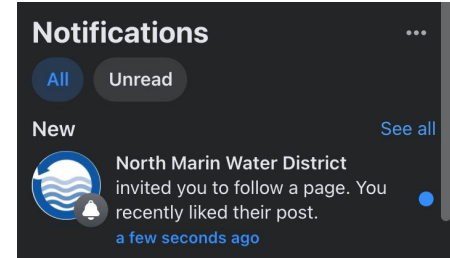
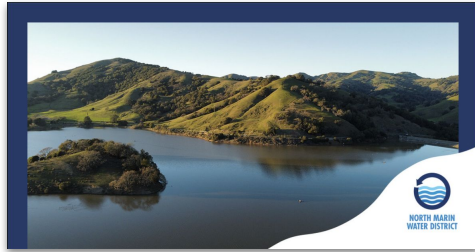
July Social Media Highlights | Instagram



3 likes



Facebook Likes Campaign - July Report




We are running an evergreen ad which encourages customers in the NMWD service areas to 'like' (follow) the NMWD Facebook page. We selected images that have historically performed the best to drive more likes.

Spend in July 2024	Reach (Number of people who saw the ad)	Impressions	Results (New Page Likes)	Cost Per New Page Like
\$46.59	4,348	8,804	32	\$1.46

*This month, we were able to reach **4,348** people with the Likes Campaign*



What's Next?

- Kiosk to begin work on the design and layout of the Fall Waterline
 - Kiosk will design and layout the Water Quality Report for Novato and West Marin in Spanish
 - Kiosk to begin work on the design and layout of summer outreach posts in partnership with Sonoma Water
 - Social media posts will also feature employees on their work anniversaries, as well as highlight rebates
 - Kiosk continues to work with staff to get photos of construction and maintenance projects throughout Novato and West Marin
- 



Thank You