



**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**  
**AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING**  
 May 6, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.  
 Location: 999 Rush Creek Place  
 Novato, California

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Item	Subject
	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
1.	<b>APPROVE</b> Minutes from Regular Meeting, April 15, 2025
2.	<b>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT</b>
3.	<b>OPEN TIME: (Please observe a three-minute time limit)</b>  This section of the agenda is provided so that the public may express comments on any issues not listed on the agenda that are of interest to the public and within the jurisdiction of the North Marin Water District. When comments are made about matters not on the agenda, Board members can ask questions for clarification, respond to statements or questions from members of the public, refer a matter to staff, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. The public may also express comments on agenda items at the time of Board consideration.
4.	<b>STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS</b>
	<b>CONSENT CALENDAR</b>  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.	<b>Consent - Approve:</b> Text for Spring 2025 Novato "Waterline", Issue 54
	<b>ACTION CALENDAR</b>
6.	<b>Approve:</b> Water Conservation Program Incentive Increase <span style="float: right;"><b>Resolutions</b></span>
	<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>
7.	Preview of FY 25/26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
8.	WAC/TAC Meeting Agenda – May 5, 2025
9.	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b> Disbursements - Dated April 17, 2025 Disbursements - Dated April 24, 2025 Disbursements – Dated May 1, 2025 Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for March 2025 NOAA US Seasonal Three-Month Drought Outlook – April 17, 2025 NOAA US Seasonal Three-Month Precipitation Outlook – April 17, 2025 "Conservation as a Way of Life" Compliance Summary: North Marin Water District – SWRCB Call for Candidates for ACWA President/Vice President for the 2026/27 Term

Item	Subject
	<u>News Articles:</u>
	Marin IJ – District advances pipeline project – MARIN MUNICIPAL
	Marin IJ – Water utility aims to hike its rates in areas near coast – NMWD
	Marin IJ – Spending ramps up for water projects - MMWD
	Marin IJ – Plan shifts for pump station overhaul – MARIN MUNICIPAL
	Pt. Reyes Light – Dillon Beach, Tomales local power projects get grants
	Pt. Reyes Light – Pt. Reyes housing proposal set back
	Pt. Reyes Light – NMWD rates to increase
	SF Gate - Trump administration mulls intervention in California dam removal
	Mendofever – Setting the record straight: Inviting Trump to Interfere with the Potter Valley Project
10.	<b>CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Real Property Negotiator</b> (California Government Code Section § 54956.8). Property: APNs 160-274-07 and 160-020-15; Agency Negotiators: General Manager, AGM/Chief Engineer, and Eric Lueder of Associated Right of Way Services, Inc. (AR\WS); Negotiating Party: AT&T Services, Inc.; Under Negotiation: Price
11.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>

1

1 **DRAFT**  
2 **NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**  
3 **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
4 **OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
5 April 15, 2025

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

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

12 District employees Chris Kehoe, Construction Superintendent, Robert Clark, Operations  
13 and Maintenance Superintendent, Ryan Grisso, Susan Dove, Vincent Verissimo, Karen Clyde,  
14 Nancy Williamson, and Pablo Ramudo were also in the audience.

15 **MINUTES**

16 On motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved the  
17 minutes from the April 1, 2025, meeting by the following vote:

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

19 NOES: None

20 ABSENT: Director Baker

21 ABSTAIN: None

22 **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

23 Tony Williams gave a brief Potter Valley Update. He said there have been many meetings  
24 among water contractors and Sonoma Water staff and attorneys. He said the focus is to get a  
25 water diversion agreement between ERPA and the Round Valley Indian Tribe some time in June or  
26 July. He said he will keep the Board updated as things progress.

27 Mr. Williams said that at a recent Board meeting the Oceana Marin (OM) enterprise and the  
28 2022 Dillon Beach Village study conducted by the County was discussed. He said he submitted a  
29 letter to the county which he hopes conveys the wishes of the Board and that a copy of the letter is  
30 in the Miscellaneous section of the agenda. He said that he and Director Fraites attended a Marin  
31 Sonoma Water Managers meeting on April 3, here in NMWD's Board room. Attendees were Grant  
32 Davis, Ben Horenstein and Paul Sellier, of Marin Water, Chelsea Thompson from City of Petaluma,  
33 and Supervisor Dennis Rodoni. The focus of the meeting was discussion of Marin Water and  
34 Sonoma Water trying to renew two agreements and to merge them into one. It is possible that Ben  
35 Horenstein of Marin Water will be back at a future meeting to discuss.

36 Mr. Williams said that NMWD has been involved with the Novato Chamber's Leadership  
37 program, mentioning that Chris Kehoe is currently attending the program, and that one of the

1 groups in the current class has developed a program to display art from artists that have either  
2 developmental or intellectual disabilities and that we currently have a painting from one of the artists  
3 on display in our lobby. He said the piece is very nice and is actually for sale as well. We will have  
4 it on display until April 25. There are several businesses in Novato that have art on display as well  
5 and there is map that shows where they are all located. He also mentioned that there will be a  
6 Leadership Novato session here at the District tomorrow.

7 Director Baker joined the meeting.

8 President Joly asked about the status grant for Dillon Beach in regards to provisions in OM  
9 letter. Mr. Williams said that provision have not been met. He said we have received a  
10 reimbursement check but there is a an approximately 10% retention of the total grant still pending.

11 Director Baker asked in regards to a LAFCO meeting last fall in Inverness and if Mr.  
12 Williams has heard anything since. Mr. Williams said he did attend a LAFCO Commission meeting  
13 with Eric Miller last week and the application to adjust the boundary was approved. He said it will  
14 take several months before the state officially approves it.

#### 15 **OPEN TIME**

16 President Joly asked if anyone in the audience wished to bring up an item not on the  
17 agenda. Director Baker noted that he attended the last NBWA meeting and that the topic was on  
18 golden mussels and the issues some lakes in California are having with them. Director Fraites  
19 noted that he can provide additional information during the NBWA item later in the Agenda.

#### 20 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

21 President Joly asked if there were any staff or director's reports. Pablo Ramudo commented  
22 on the golden mussels and that we have no issues with the species in Stafford Lake and we have  
23 protocols for mitigating them. He said our operators are trained to keep an eye out for them.

#### 24 **ACTION CALENDAR**

#### 25 **APPROVE: ACCEPT 2025 WEST MARIN WATER RATE STUDY DRAFT REPORT AND** 26 **APPROVE WEST MARIN WATER RATE INCREASE NOTICE (PROP 218)**

27 Mark Hildebrand, Hildebrand Consulting, gave a presentation to the Board on the West  
28 Marin Water Rate Study Draft Report. Mr. Hildebrand said the report covers the following points:  
29 rate studies overview & scope, review financial plan, proposed capital spending plan, rate design &  
30 structure topics, and project schedule. For rate studies, Mr. Hildebrand said the objective was to  
31 develop a multi-year financial plan and update the rates to make sure they comply with Prop. 218.  
32 He said there are three steps to the rate setting process: revenue requirements, also known as the  
33 financial plan, cost of service, and rate design. He said that in West Marin, 95.5% of the revenue is  
34 from water rates. The revenue totals \$1,103M and the operating expenses are \$1,109M, and debt  
35 service is about 17%. Mr. Hildebrand said that when the financial plan is developed, some cost  
36 escalation assumptions are made. It is being assumed that 5% per year for utilities, chemicals, and

1 supplies, and 3% for other costs. He said the rate increase drivers are a significant increase in  
2 capital spending required by Caltrans and the County to relocate pipes on two bridges and also  
3 construction of Gallagher Well No. 3. In addition, there will be the need for the major rehabilitation  
4 of the Water Treatment Plant. In addition to the increase in capital spending, operating and  
5 maintenance costs have increased by 39% since the 2021 rate study. Mr. Hildebrand said that for  
6 reserves, there are the minimum reserves, which are made up of the operating reserve and liability  
7 contingency reserve, and that the District has policies to maintain a certain amount of operating  
8 reserves. He said there are also the target reserves which are made up of the maintenance accrual  
9 fund.

10 Eric Miller then gave an overview of the proposed capital spending plan for West Marin. He  
11 said it is divided into three categories: near term, medium term, and long term projects. He said the  
12 near term projects are over a five year period and consist of the two bridge pipeline projects, the  
13 Gallagher Well No. 3 project, which is intended to replace Well No. 1, and some interim Water  
14 Treatment Plant rehab projects. He said we are assuming that these projects will be 100% debt  
15 financed. The medium term project is the full scale treatment plant rehabilitation. The long term  
16 projects are made up of other assets in the system that require significant repairs or replacement.  
17 The rate increases will generate enough revenue to have a \$700K long term pay go. President Joly  
18 asked if the Treatment Plant rehab project could be pushed out and Mr. Miller said there are pros  
19 and cons of that option. Director Baker asked in regards to Gallagher Well No. 1 if we want to keep  
20 it as long as possible and Mr. Miller said at least until we can get Well No. 3 up and running. He  
21 added that it has reached the end of its useful life.

22 Mr. Hildebrand showed a graph of the West Marin financial plan including the cash flow  
23 forecast out 20 years. He said the proposed rate increases will be 19% for 4 years, 15% for the 5<sup>th</sup>  
24 year, and then 3% thereafter to keep up with the cost of inflation. President Joly asked about a  
25 debt service ratio dropping below our policy level. Craig Hill from NHA Advisors was in attendance  
26 and answered at the request of Julie Blue. He said the debt assumptions were very conservative in  
27 the model but as the market moves, we can adjust accordingly and that it is assumed that the debt  
28 would be amortized over twenty years so a one year drop is not concerning. He said if the interest  
29 rates are low, the time can be shortened, if the rates are high then it can be adjusted.

30 Mr. Hildebrand went on to discuss the rate structure. He said the existing rates are a fixed  
31 service charge by meter size and quantity charge. The proposed rates will be tiered rates and that  
32 seasonal rates would be replaced with uniform rates for commercial accounts. He said the  
33 hydraulic zone charge will depend on electricity cost, the expense associated with delivering water.  
34 He showed a graph of a survey of different water providers and NMWD was 2<sup>nd</sup> from the lowest  
35 cost. Mr. Williams noted again, that infrastructure is a big factor in increasing rates for the  
36 comparable agencies in the region. Director Baker asked if Estero Mutual, one of the comparison

1 agencies, is a private district and who it serves. Mr. Williams said they serve the northern half of  
2 Oceana Marin and only provide water, not sewer. Director Petterle asked if we have had any  
3 contact or comments from our West Marin customers regarding the rate increase. Mr. Williams  
4 noted that one of the agenda attachments outlined the communications and outreach and that we  
5 have not heard from any of our customers to date. Director Eichstaedt noted that he has discussed  
6 the rate study with some Point Reyes customers and he will be attending the Point Reyes Village  
7 Association meeting to discuss further. He thanked Mr. Williams for the attachment showing the  
8 various outreach efforts. President Joly thanked Mr. Hildebrand and Mr. Hall and also Claire and  
9 Camille of Kiosk for support with outreach.

10 On the motion of Director Frites, and seconded by Director Eichstaedt, the Board approved  
11 the 2025 West Marin Water Rate Study Draft Report and Approve West Marin Water Rate Increase  
12 Notice (Prop 218) by the following vote:

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

14 NOES: None

15 ABSENT: None

16 ABSTAIN: None

17 **APPROVE: OCEANA MARIN SEWER RATE INCREASE NOTICE (PROP 218)**

18 Julie Blue addressed the Board and said that the Oceana Marin Sewer Rate Increase  
19 Notice is similar to what has been sent out in previous years. She said there are a few assumptions  
20 built into the financial forecast, one of which is a rate increase. The rate increase of 8% is shown  
21 for five years. However, she said the proposed Prop. 218 notice is for only year, and she said that if  
22 we do a rate study in the future we may consider a longer term rate plan. Ms. Blue said the  
23 operating and maintenance expenses are forecasted to rise about 3% per year which is in line with  
24 historical inflation rates. She said the forecast also includes borrowing \$200,000 in FY27/28 to  
25 support the capital improvement plan and for operational expenses. For the upcoming year, there  
26 are no new connections projected. She said the five year financial forecast is similar to prior years'  
27 forecasts and budgets with a few changes, one being \$50,000 budgeted for a master plan in the  
28 next fiscal year. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) repair that is scheduled annually is also included which  
29 is projected to cost about \$30,000-40,000 a year which helps to keep the system functioning. She  
30 said the Prop. 218 notice outlines what the increase is going to be and that the annual sewer  
31 service charge will be billed on property tax bills. President Joly asked is this is a one year notice  
32 and Ms. Blue confirmed it is. Director Eichstaedt asked if the I&I work is limited to investigations  
33 and Robert Clark said we do this work annually and the system is inspected with cameras to  
34 determine if there are any issues and needed repairs are then made.

35 On the motion of Director Eichstaedt, and seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved  
36 the Oceana Marin Sewer Rate Increase Notice (Prop 218) by the following vote:

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

2 NOES: None

3 ABSENT: None

4 ABSTAIN: None

5 **APPROVE: DEVELOPMENT OF A 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN – AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT**  
6 **WITH KIOSK CREATIVE LLC**

7 Tony Williams gave a brief overview saying that there were interim planning efforts done  
8 with support from Kiosk in calendar year 2024. He said that significant data was collected from not  
9 only customers but also from staff at all levels and the Board. He said with the assistance from  
10 Kiosk, if the agreement is approved, they will develop a written strategic plan that will be our road  
11 map for the next five years. Claire Garvie, of Kiosk, gave a presentation that summarized the work  
12 done to date and the next steps. She said the first piece of the project was to identify the focus  
13 areas and themes. She said they did research looking at our previous strategic plans but also at  
14 other agencies' plans as well, reviewed organization charts, conducted interviews of staff and the  
15 Board, synthesized the results and now presenting the findings. She said the key themes are:  
16 infrastructure resilience, water supply and regional partnership, safety and regulatory compliance,  
17 organization structure review and leadership succession, workforce development and retention,  
18 financial sustainability and cost management, emergency preparedness and risk mitigation, public  
19 engagement and education, technology and operational efficiency, and governance and Board  
20 effectiveness. She said they are planning to complete a phase 2 between April and June, prepare  
21 the plan, and have the final phase ready between July and September of 2025 with the hope of  
22 including a new Operations department head. Director Petterle said that it seems like an  
23 aggressive schedule and Ms. Garvie said it is, however most of the work is done via the data  
24 gathering and research. Director Eichstaedt asked what was the engagement with other  
25 companies and she said that most of their plans and organizational charts are on their websites.  
26 He also asked how the plan won't 'gather dust' once completed and Mr. Williams said there is a  
27 commitment to provide periodic reports to the Board on actions, similar to the past plan. He added  
28 that the 2018 plan was more 'Board driven' with little employee input. Robert Clark added that he  
29 was very involved in 2018 plan. President Joly mentioned the possibility of having Board members  
30 more involved in the final planning process. President Joly thanked Claire and Camille.

31 On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the  
32 Development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan and Authorize an Agreement with Kiosk Creative LLC by  
33 the following vote:

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

35 NOES: None

36 ABSENT: None



1 ABSTAIN: None

2 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

3 **WAC/TAC MEETING AGENDA – APRIL 7, 2025**

4 Tony Williams said that the focus of the April meeting was the final Water Advisory  
5 Committee's approval of Sonoma Water's (SW) FY 2025-26 budget. He said there was unanimous  
6 support of the budget. He also said that we will have a 6.3% rate increase from SW, and that it was  
7 a lower rate than what the other agencies are going to receive.

8 **NBWA MEETING AGENDA – APRIL 4, 2025**

9 Director Fraites and Director Baker attended the April 4 NBWA meeting. Director Fraites  
10 said the topic was on the prevention program for golden mussels at Lake Berryessa. He said the  
11 mussels are most likely being brought in on recreational boats going up the delta to the lake. He  
12 said they are very aggressive and hard to eradicate. They consume good algae and then spit out  
13 bad algae which then spreads. He said there seems to not be a lot of interest for water districts and  
14 agencies about getting rid of these mussels. The Board asked if they could get into Stafford Lake or  
15 in our pipes but Mr. Williams said that because our water comes from Sonoma Water and they don't  
16 draw their water from a lake, but a river, there is a very low chance of them getting into our system.  
17 And also, Stafford Lake is not a boating lake so there isn't an opportunity for them to get into the  
18 lake.

19 **MISCELLANEOUS**

20 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated April 3 and  
21 10, 2025, Monthly Progress Report, Letter to County re Oceana Marin, and ASCE Report Card –  
22 Dams.

23 The Board received the following news articles: Marin IJ – Marin Oks \$9.39M more for rural  
24 housing plan, Marin IJ – Developer challenges county planners – POINT REYES, Pt. Reyes Light –  
25 NMWD West Marin Water Rate Study ad.

26 The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – March 2025.

27 **ADJOURNMENT**

28 President Joly adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

29 Submitted by

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31  
32  
33 Eileen Mulliner  
34 District Secretary  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors May 6, 2025  
 From: Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation and Communications Manager RG  
 Subject: Approve Text for Spring 2025 Novato “*Waterline*”, Issue 54  
V:\Memos to Board\General BOD memos\Spring 2025 Novato Waterline Text Final.doc

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Spring 2025 Novato “*Waterline*” Text  
**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** \$10,000 (Included in FY 2024/2025 Budget)

Draft text and design for the Spring 2025 Novato “*Waterline*”, Issue 54, is attached for your review. This issue contains important informational updates from the General Manager regarding fire protection, critical infrastructure and an announcement of our move back to the remodeled administration building and laboratory. The issue also announces the new Demonstration Garden and contains water conservation program updates, information on the cross connection/backflow program that builds on previous communication, and an announcement of the upcoming water rate increase effective July 1, 2025 that was previously approved by the Board in 2024 as part of a multi-year Prop 218 process. The rate announcement published in this issue results in a savings of an additional ~\$10,000 in mailer fees should this have been sent out on its own.

Should any Board member have individual comments please provide them to the General Manager at the Board meeting on May 6, 2025. It is expected the Spring 2025 Novato “*Waterline*” will be mailed in mid to late May 2025. An electronic version of this issue will also be distributed through the WaterSmart group messenger (email) to approximately 13,000 customer/recipients.

### RECOMMENDATION

Board authorize General Manager to approve final text and design of Spring 2025 Novato “*Waterline*”, Issue 54, and subsequent final version of the electronic Spring 2025 Waterline newsletter.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Draft Novato *Waterline*, Issue 54

## Important Information About Your Water Rates

New water rates will go into effect on July 1, 2025. The increases are needed to cover rising operating costs, fund critical infrastructure projects, and include a pass-through from Sonoma Water, our main supplier. Following a detailed rate study and public review process, the Board accepted the study's findings as the basis for the rate adjustments. Through this process, proposed increases were recommended to ensure continued water reliability, system improvements, and financial stability.

View the full rate study and learn more  
[nmwd.com/rates2024](https://nmwd.com/rates2024)



## Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) Program

This program is available to eligible low-income customers and provides a credit on a two-month billing cycle of \$30 per bill or \$180 per year.

A direct water customer who has a single-family residential account and is eligible for PG&E's income-based CARE program is eligible for the District's LIRA Program. Once approved, the discount would apply to your next billing cycle.

To request an application or for further information call our billing department at 415-897-4133 or visit the website at [nmwd.com/lira](https://nmwd.com/lira)

For more info visit [nmwd.com](https://nmwd.com)

Save up to  
**\$180**  
a year

Visit [nmwd.com/lira](https://nmwd.com/lira)  
or scan the code below.



**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

# The Waterline

Novato Service Area Newsletter | Issue 54



## Message From Tony Williams, General Manager

### Fire Safety and Water Infrastructure

At North Marin Water District (District) we are thankful for our various regional partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders. In light of the LA Fires and ongoing impacts from climate change, our partnership with the Novato Fire Protection District couldn't be stronger. In January Chief Tyler and I gave a presentation to the Novato City Council covering both what residents can do to harden their properties and the District's capabilities to supply water for firefighting. To view the presentation, please visit [nmwd.com/protectingnovato](https://nmwd.com/protectingnovato).



### Critical Infrastructure

The District operates and maintains an extensive water distribution system to ensure there is always water available for human consumption and firefighting purposes. The key components include storage tanks, pump stations, water pipelines, and thousands of fire hydrants connected to the water pipes throughout the community. Treated water enters the system through two very different sources: the Stafford Treatment Plant (STP), which treats water from Stafford Lake; and the North Marin Aqueduct, which transmits Russian River water purchased from Sonoma

County Water Agency. In order to maintain water pressure and to move this supply from the lower elevations to higher elevations, the District operates 26 pump stations. The most critical pump stations are the San Marin Pump Station, Lynwood Pump Station, and the STP High Service Pump Station.

### Administration Headquarters and Water Quality Laboratory

In late February, our administration, engineering, and support staff moved back to the District's remodeled Administration Building. There are several highlights of this project, including a centralized computer server room for all system controls and communications; a board meeting room that doubles as an Emergency Operations Center; and a new state of the art water quality laboratory. The new laboratory will provide ample space to conduct required testing for the high-quality water provided to our customers and accommodate future testing needs in the ever-changing world of regulations and procedures. The District's laboratory staff will be running tests and ensuring new lab equipment is fully functional as part of a state certification process. It is expected that the new laboratory will be state-certified by July and can facilitate microbiology, metals, and inorganic chemical testing to ensure the water delivered to our customers meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards. The District laboratory also provides important testing services for its other water and wastewater enterprises in West Marin and to partner agencies throughout Marin County.

## North Marin Water District's New Demonstration Garden

The District would like to invite you to visit our new low water use Demonstration Garden located at our remodeled administration building at 999 Rush Creek Place, Novato. Created to provide examples of beautiful low water use plants that thrive in our Novato climate, we hope it inspires you to choose plants for your own landscape that flourish with less water.

The Demonstration Garden is drip irrigated using recycled water and rainwater, and a weather-based controller automatically adjusts the irrigation schedule based on the current conditions. Having a garden that is water-smart and beautiful is easy and the plants found in the garden are only a small sample of the possibilities for your water-wise garden. Bear with us as the plants are still a bit young, but you are welcome to come by and visit the front portion anytime.



Find the perfect plants for your garden and more information about the plants in this Demonstration Garden, including a self-guided garden map with a detailed plant list.

## New State Regulations on “Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention”

What is a “cross-connection” and a “backflow” and why does it matter? A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the District’s potable water distribution system and a customer’s property where there is another liquid, gas or an auxiliary water supply (such as a well or unpermitted water source). Backflow is the undesired or unintended reversal of flow of water or other liquids, gases or other substances from a customer’s property into the District’s water distribution system.

Controlling and preventing a “cross-connection” or a “backflow” is a public health priority that the North Marin Water District is tasked with upholding as part of our delivery of water to your house or business. Regulations that govern these standards of protection date as far back as 1924 and in July of 2024, the state of California mandated new rules for prevention.



For more information on these requirements, including examples of when a backflow prevention assembly is needed, see our website: [nmwd.com/your-water/backflow-protection](http://nmwd.com/your-water/backflow-protection)

## Cash for Grass

North Marin Water District recently increased the incentive for replacing regularly maintained, irrigated lawns with District-approved low water use plantings on drip irrigation. The incentive is now \$1.50 per square foot of lawn area if you replace it with qualified low water use planting (up to \$1,500 per single-family dwelling) and an additional per square foot rebate if the project meets the additional Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program’s criteria for delayed stormwater runoff.

Pre-qualification virtual inspection and re-landscaping plan approval are required for participation. To learn more about the program and the qualifications for the different rebate levels and to see if your project qualifies, visit [nmwd.com](http://nmwd.com) or call 415-761-8944.



## Water Smart Savings Program

North Marin Water District wants to help customers use water efficiently. That’s why we’ve put all of our water saving promotions under one umbrella with new and easier online forms for most programs to help encourage your participation. Call 415-761-8944 for program details or visit [nmwd.com](http://nmwd.com).



### Water Smart Home Survey

This free service includes thorough indoor and outdoor water efficiency checks. Virtual surveys or over-the-phone guidance can also be offered.



### Water Smart Landscape Rebate

Rebates available for water-efficient landscape equipment, such as a new drip irrigation system replacing a spray system or a rain shut off device, and approved mulch installations.



### Pool Cover Rebate

Rebate available for installing a new solar or safety pool cover with non-netted material only.



### Cash for Grass Rebate

Get cash for removing irrigated and maintained lawn and replacing it with low water use plants. Pre-qualification is required.



### High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate

North Marin Water District offers a rebate to customers when they purchase a qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer.



### Rainwater Catchment Rebate

Rebate for collection and storage of rainwater.



### High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Customers who replace an old water-guzzling toilet with a high-efficiency toilet may be eligible for a rebate.



### Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebate for weather-based irrigation controllers that use weather data and site information such as plant type and sprinkler system output to automatically adjust watering times and frequency.



### Greywater Rebate

Rebate available for installation of qualified greywater systems.

Pay your bills online, sign up for autopay and paperless billing.

Visit [onlinebiller.com/nmwd](http://onlinebiller.com/nmwd)





6



## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

From: Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation and Communications Manager

Subject: Water Conservation Program Incentive Increase

RG

May 6, 2025

V:\Memos to Board\General BOD memos\Water Conservation Rebate Increase Request.doc

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Adopt Revised Resolutions 06-01 and 06-02

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None (costs included in FY 24/25 and FY25/26 Water Conservation Budget)

The North Marin Water District (District) is participating in two grant programs (both previously approved by the Board) that offer incentive enhancements for certain water conservation programs. Specifically, for this requested Board action, we are focusing on the Cash for Grass (turf replacement rebate) component of the grants. The first is a federal grant through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation called the WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grant (WEEG) administered through Sonoma Water. The WEEG Grant offers a reimbursement amount of \$0.45 per square foot for eligible turf replacement projects through January 1, 2027 to a maximum \$87,750. The second grant is offered through the Marin County Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), which offers previously authorized a rebate enhancement for rainwater catchment system installation now has been expanded to include a turf replacement reimbursement of an additional \$1.00 per square foot for those projects that meet their qualifications up to maximum of \$4,968 per year (combined with the enhanced rainwater catchment rebate).

Traditionally, the District has adjusted rebate levels to be compliant with the minimum rebate level requirements specified in the grants and received reimbursement at a later date, however, in an effort to increase participation following the previous drought, staff is recommending to increase the rebate amounts equivalent to the financial reimbursement provided from the grants, giving the customer the largest possible incentive for replacing irrigated turf through the Cash for Grass Program.

A draft updated Resolution 06-01, which covers the Novato Service Area, and 06-02, which covers the West Marin Service Area, include the draft language to authorize this increase (Attachments 1 and 2). If approved, a participating single-family customer would now be eligible for \$1.50 per foot with a maximum of \$1,500 (1,000 square foot project maximum) and an additional \$1.00 per square foot (up to 1,000 square feet) if the customer were to meet the requirements of the MCSTOPPP Grant. Of note, the WEEG Grant only provides a reimbursement of \$0.45 per square foot, so technically the Board would be approving a District-funded rebate of \$0.05 per foot for a

total of \$1.05 per foot, however, the increment of \$1.50 is recommended as a more rounded number to use in program outreach efforts. The MCSTOPP requirements for stormwater will preclude some projects by where the roof downspout is not in proximity to the lawn removal project and/or the square footage of the roof is not in the prescribed proportion to the lawn area being removed, so eligible applicants may be limited. Therefore, this incentive level may only be offered to customers who pre-qualify and it is determined by District staff that they could possibly meet the requirements of the grant. The WEEG portion is approved and will likely provide funding through the end of calendar year 2026 and should be able to accommodate all eligible program applicants. At such time the WEEG grant of \$0.45 per square foot is subject to ending, staff will likely come back to the Board to decide to internally fund that additional amount at \$1.50 per square foot or revert back to the \$1.00 per square foot as it is currently funded.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Board adopt Revised Resolutions 06-01 and 06-02 to update water conservation program incentive levels for the Cash for Grass Program.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Revised Resolution 06-01
2. Draft Revised Resolution 06-02

**DRAFT  
REVISED RESOLUTION 06-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
SETTING WATER CONSERVATION REBATE AMOUNTS  
FOR NOVATO SERVICE AREA**

---

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District that following rebate amounts are available to customers of the Novato Service Area of the North Marin Water District effective ~~January 17, 2024~~May 6, 2025:

- Residential High Efficiency Toilet (HET) rebate amount to be set at up to \$100 for District approved HETs (1.28gpf or less) and up to \$200 for District approved Ultra High Efficiency Toilets (1.1gpf or less).
- Commercial High Efficiency Toilet (HET) rebate amount to be set at up to \$100 for District approved HETs (1.28gpf or less) and up to \$200 for District approved Ultra High Efficiency Toilets (1.1gpf or less).
- High Efficiency washing machine rebate set at up to \$75.
- Residential and Commercial Weather-Based Irrigation Controller (Smart Control) rebate amount to be set at \$30 per active station up to \$1,500 on qualified controller purchase. Rebate amount not-to-exceed cost of controller.
- Landscape Water Efficient Rebates shall cover up to 50% of the actual cost of District specified items up to a maximum of \$200 for residential customers and up to a maximum of \$1,000 for non-residential customers.
- Cash for Grass Rebates (in accordance with Regulation 15, Section H) are available at the rate of up to \$1.00 per square foot of formal lawn area(s) removed and replaced with eligible replacement plant materials but shall not exceed the following values:
  - Singe family detached residences and duplexes, each dwelling unit - \$1,000
  - Townhouses, condominiums, triplexes and fourplexes, each dwelling unit - \$300
  - Apartments (5 unites or more), each dwelling unit - \$100
  - While grant funding is available through the WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) Program, an additional \$0.50 per square foot shall be offered and the maximum level shall be increased to \$1,500 shall be available per singe family customer.
  - While grant funding is available through the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTPPP) and the projects meet(P), and the projects meets the specifications of the MCSTPPP, an additional \$1.00 per square foot shall be offered with an additional \$1,000 maximum available per single family customer.

- Pool Cover Rebate shall cover 50%of the actual cost of a District qualified covers up to \$75.
- Hot-Water Recirculation Rebate shall be up to \$100 for District qualified device.
- Rainwater Catchment Rebate shall be \$0.50 per gallon of storage up to \$1,000.
- Greywater system rebate shall be up to \$125 per eligible connected fixture or equivalent cost for equipment distribution.
- Pool removal rebate shall be set at the equivalent square foot Cash for Grass rebate level.

\* \* \* \* \*

Date Approved: January 17, 2006  
 Date of Revision: June 20, 2006  
 Date of Revision: July 15, 2008  
 Date of Revision: December 1, 2009  
 Date of Revision: June 21, 2011  
 Date of Revision: June 19, 2012  
 Date of Revision: June 3, 2014  
 Date of Revision: April 20, 2021  
 Date of Revision: January 16, 2024

Date of Revision: May 6, 2025

\* \* \* \* \*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of ~~January~~May 2024~~2025~~, by the following vote:

AYES:  
 NOES: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 ABSTAINED: None

(SEAL)

---

Eileen Mulliner, District Secretary  
 North Marin Water District

**DRAFT  
REVISED RESOLUTION 06-02**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
SETTING WATER CONSERVATION REBATE AMOUNTS  
FOR WEST MARIN SERVICE AREA**

---

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District that following rebate amounts are available to customers of the West Marin Service Area of the North Marin Water District effective ~~January 17, 2024~~May 6, 2025:

- Residential High Efficiency Toilet (HET) rebate amount to be set at up to \$100 for District approved HETs (1.28gpf or less) and \$200 for District approved Ultra High Efficiency Toilets (1.1gpf or less).
- Commercial High Efficiency Toilet (HET) rebate amount to be set at up to \$100 for District approved HETs (1.28gpf or less) and \$200 for District approved Ultra High Efficiency Toilets (1.1gpf or less).
- High Efficiency washing machine rebate set at up to \$75.
- Residential and Commercial Weather-Based Irrigation Controller (Smart Control) rebate amount to be set at \$30 per active station up to \$1,500 on qualified controller purchase. Rebate amount not-to-exceed cost of controller.
- Landscape Water Efficient Rebates shall cover up to 50% of the actual cost of District specified items up to a maximum of \$200 for residential customers and up to a maximum of \$1,000 for non-residential customers.
- Cash for Grass Rebates (in accordance with Regulation 17, Section H) are available at the rate of up to \$100 per 100 square feet of formal lawn area(s) removed and replaced with eligible replacement plant materials but shall not exceed the following values:
  - Single family detached residences and duplexes, each dwelling unit - \$1,000
  - Townhouses, condominiums, triplexes and fourplexes common area, each dwelling unit - \$200
  - Apartments (5 unites or more), each dwelling unit - \$100
  - While grant funding is available through the WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) Program, an additional \$0.50 per square foot shall be offered and the maximum level shall be increased to \$1,500 shall be available per single family customer.
  - While grant funding is available through the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTPPP) and the projects meet the specifications of the MCSTPPP, an additional \$1.00 per square foot shall be offered with an additional \$1,000 maximum available per single family customer.

- Pool Cover Rebate shall cover 50%of the actual cost of a District qualified covers up to \$75.
- Hot-Water Recirculation Rebate shall be up to \$100 for District qualified device.
- Rainwater Catchment Rebate shall be \$0.50 per gallon of storage up to \$1,000.
- Greywater system rebate shall be up to \$125 per eligible connected fixture or equivalent cost for equipment distribution.
- Pool removal rebate shall be set at the equivalent square foot Cash for Grass rebate level.

\* \* \* \* \*

Date Approved: January 17, 2006  
 Date of Revision: July 27, 2006  
 Date of Revision: July 15, 2008  
 Date of Revision: December 1, 2009  
 Date of Revision: June 21, 2011  
 Date of Revision: June 19, 2012  
 Date of Revision: June 3, 2014  
 Date of Revision: April 20, 2021  
 Date of Revision: January 16, 2024  
Date of Revision: May 6, 2025

\* \* \* \* \*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT at a regular meeting of said Board held on the ~~616~~<sup>th</sup> day of ~~January 16~~May, 202~~5~~4, by the following vote:

AYES:  
 NOES:  
 ABSENT:  
 ABSTAINED:

(SEAL)

---

Eileen Mulliner, District Secretary  
 North Marin Water District

**7**





## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors Date: May 6, 2025  
 From: Eric Miller, Assistant General Manager / Chief Engineer *EM*  
 Subject: Preview of FY 25/26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)  
r:\chief eng\miller\fy 25-26\bod cip preview\5-6-2025 bod memo cip preview.docx

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None at this time

Attached for review are presentation slides for the proposed Fiscal Year 25/26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) expenditure budget. The budget includes projects recommended for Novato Water, Recycled Water, West Marin Water, and Oceana Marin Sewer. The list of projects being proposed was developed in coordination with senior staff from all of the District's departments to ensure that the priorities of all District work programs are being addressed. Similarly, the CIP budget was prepared in close coordination with the Auditor/Controller to meet our targets for internally (or "Pay-Go") financed projects.

In previous budget cycles, the proposed CIP was presented to the Board with a heavy focus on financial details. While that level of financial information will again be included during this budget cycle, in subsequent meeting agendas, this presentation is intended to discuss the proposed CIP in a manner that focuses on the projects themselves.

The presentation slides also include a list of studies and special projects being proposed for Fiscal Year 25/26. Funding for studies and special projects are not included in the summary budget numbers as they are not considered capital assets in the same capacity as infrastructure improvement work.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Presentation slides dated May 6, 2025

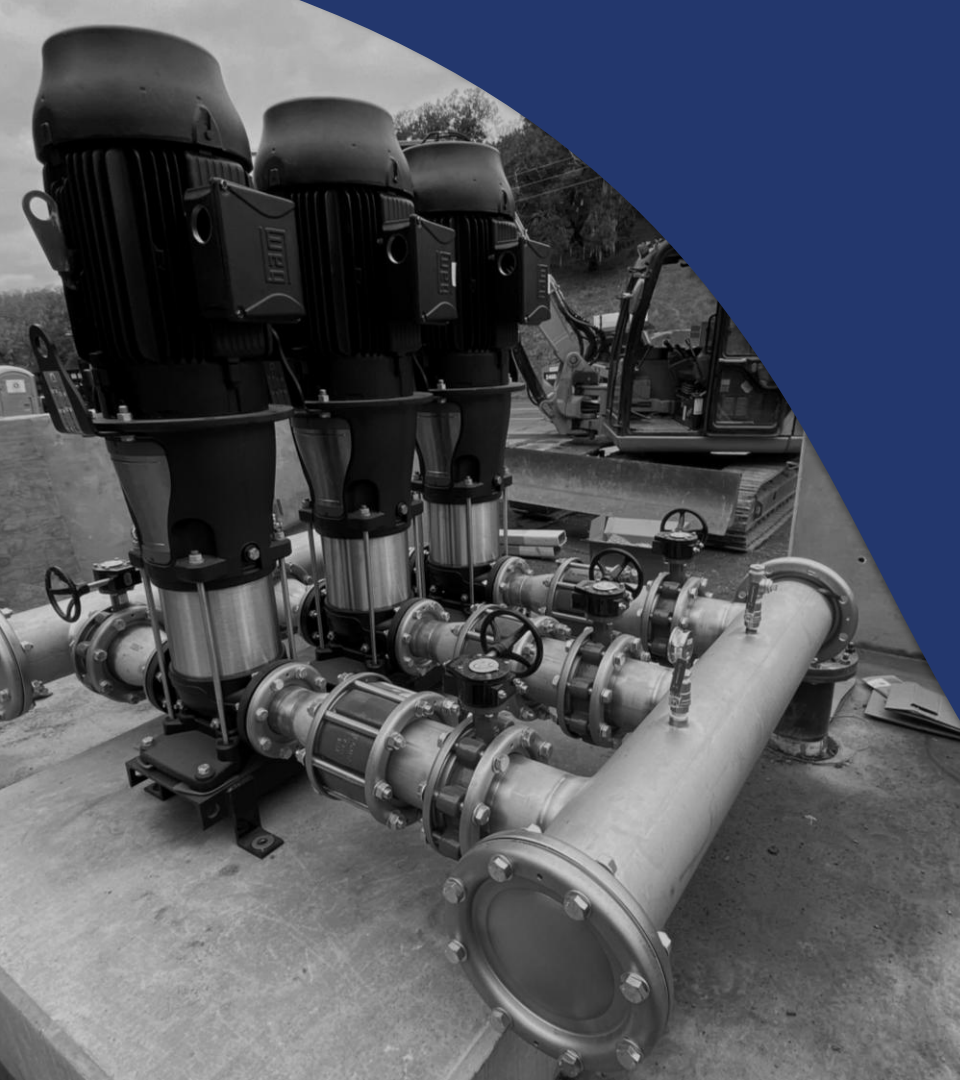


**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

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**FY 25/26 PREVIEW  
Capital Improvement  
Program (CIP)**

May 6, 2025



# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## Contents

- Novato System
  - Pipelines \*
  - Storage Tanks & Pump Stations \*
  - Stafford Improvements \*
  - Facilities Improvements
- West Marin System
  - Pipelines
  - Facilities Improvements
- Oceana Marin System
- Special Studies
- Budget Summary

\* *Novato potable water system*



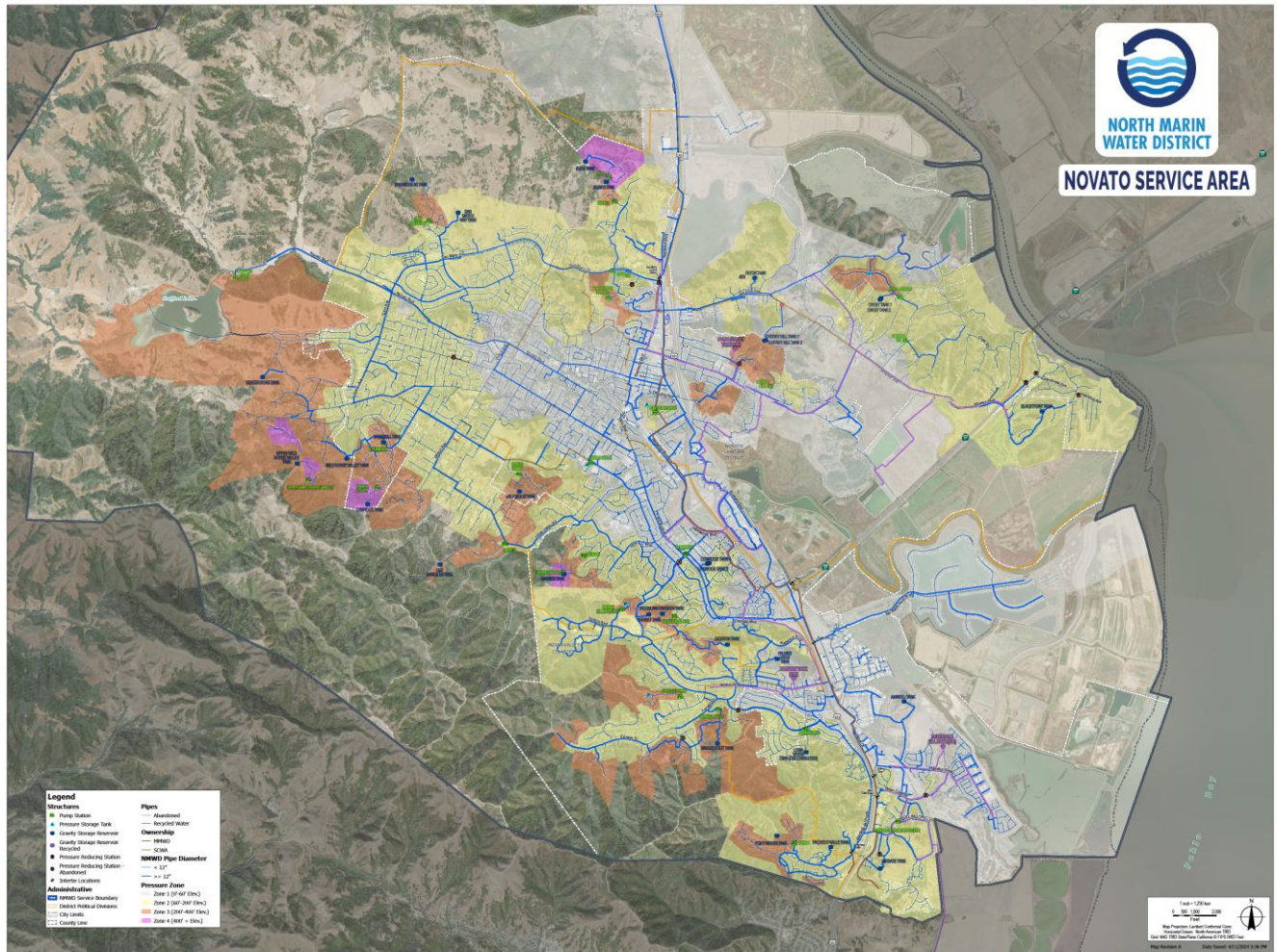


# Novato Service Area



NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT

### NOVATO SERVICE AREA



Legend	
<b>Structures</b>	<b>Pipes</b>
● Tank Station	— Abandoned
■ Pressure Storage Tank	— Recycled Water
● Gravity Storage Reservoir	— Ownership
● Gravity Storage Reservoir	— WSPD
● Recycled	— WSPD
● Pressure Lifting Station	— <b>NOVATO Pipe Diameter</b>
● Pressure Lifting Station	— < 12"
● Abandoned	— > 12"
● Meter Location	<b>Pressure Zone</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	Zone 1 (0' - 40' Elev.)
▭ NOVATO Service Boundary	Zone 2 (40' - 200' Elev.)
▭ District Water Divisions	Zone 3 (200' - 400' Elev.)
▭ City Limits	Zone 4 (400' - 500' Elev.)
▭ County Line	

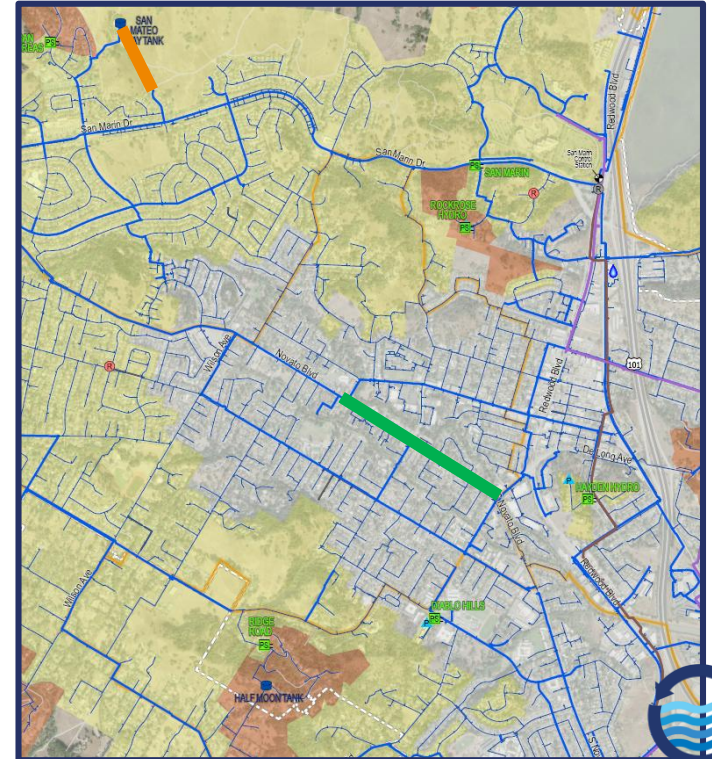
Scale - 1:25,000  
1" = 250 Feet

Map Prepared by: Robert Johnson, Esq.  
Date: 02/22/2016  
Map Number: 4      Date Stated: 01/22/2015 1:36 PM  
DWS, NWD, WWD, FWD, PWD, RWD

# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## PIPELINES – NOVATO POTABLE

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
1a. Pipeline Improvements		
1a1	Novato Blvd. Widening – Diablo to Grant (City)	\$1,200,000
1a2	San Mateo Tank Transmission Main*	\$1,650,000
1b. Pipeline Replacements		
	None	-
1c. Aqueduct Improvements		
	None	-
1d. Pipeline Contingency		
1d1	Sync w/ City or County Paving	\$50,000
1d2	Pipeline Resiliency Improvements	\$200,000
1d3	Polybutylene (PB) Service Line Replacements	\$10,000
	Pipelines – Subtotal	\$3,110,000

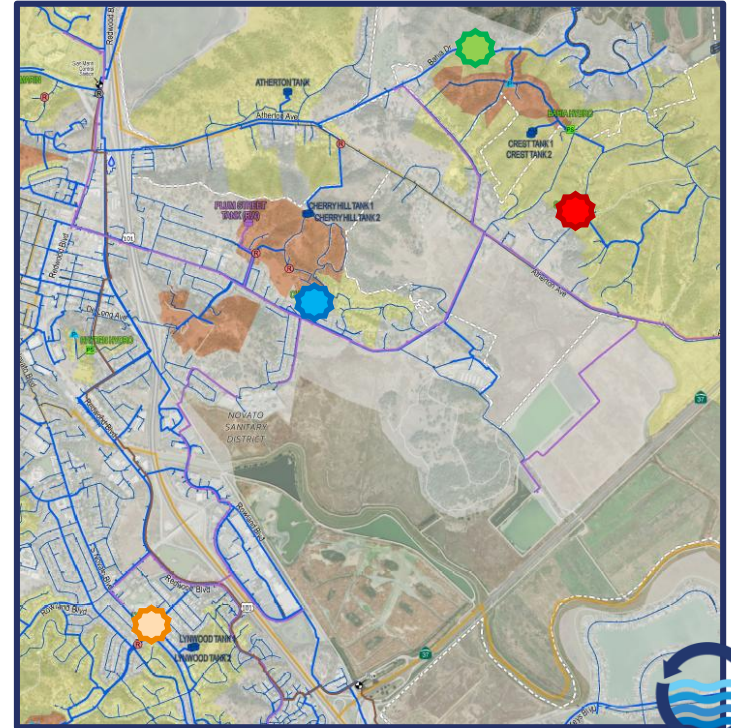


\* Bids open May 8<sup>th</sup>

# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## STORAGE TANKS & PUMP STATIONS – NOVATO POTABLE

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
2a. Tank Rehabilitation / Replacement		
	None	-
2b. Pump Station Rehabilitation / Replacement		
2b1	Lynwood Pump Station Replacement *	\$300,000
2b2	Crest Pump Station Construction (Reloc. School Rd. PS)	\$30,000
2b3	Cherry Hill PS Retaining Wall	\$260,000
2b4	School Road PS Decommissioning	\$30,000
2b5	Cherry Hill PS Improvements	\$50,000
2c. Hydropneumatic Systems		
	None	-
2d. Tank & Pump Station Contingency		
2d1	PS Pump Replacements (5/yr)	\$50,000
Storage Tanks & Pump Stations – Subtotal		\$720,000



\*does not include land acquisition cost, TBD

# FY 23/24 CIP PREVIEW

## STAFFORD IMPROVEMENTS – NOVATO POTABLE

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
3a. Stafford Treatment Plant (STP)		
3a1	STP PLC Replacements	\$125,000
3b. Stafford Dam / Watershed		
3b1	Water Supply Enhancement – Spillway ASG	\$50,000
3b2	Dam Spillway Concrete Repair	\$75,000
3b4	Dam Piezometer Automation	\$80,000
3c. Stafford Contingency		
3c1	Other Stafford Improvements	\$100,000
Stafford Improvements – Subtotal		\$430,000

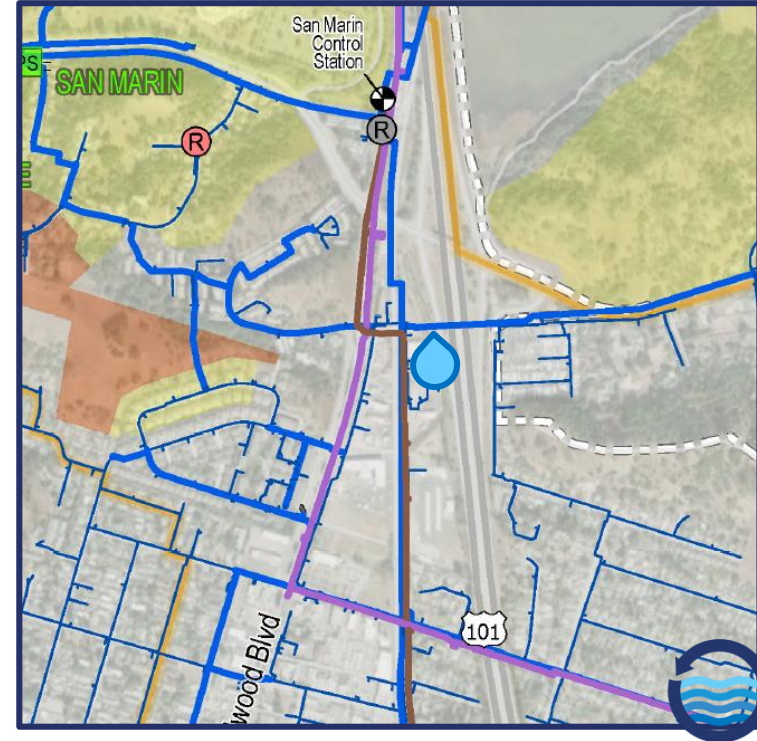




# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - NOVATO

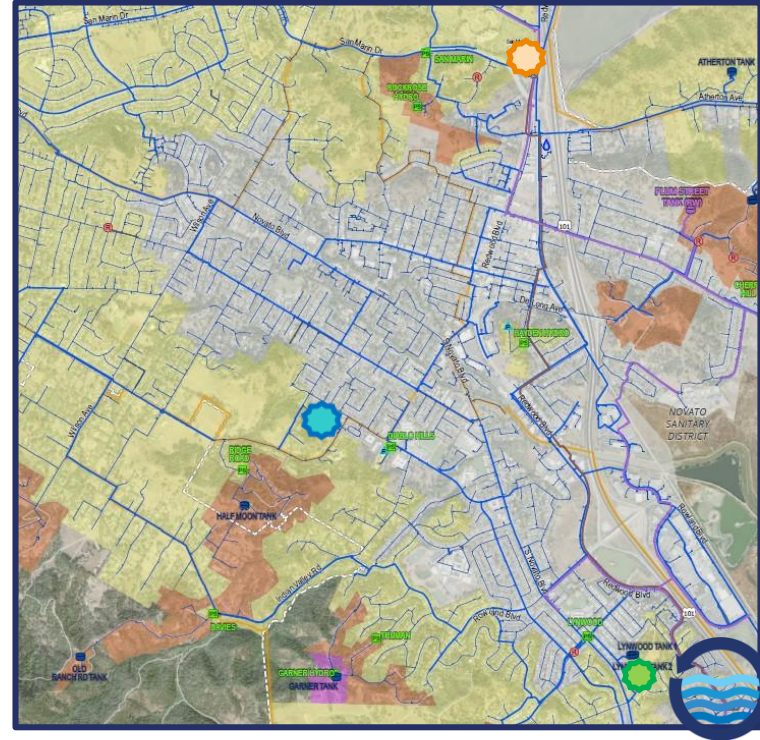
ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
4a. District Offices		
4a1	Construction Building 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Improvements	\$50,000
4a2	Construction Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Improvements	\$50,000
4a3	Construction Yard Improvements – Pipe Rack	\$25,000
4b. System Pressure / Valving		
4b1	System Wide PR Station Rehab	\$25,000
4b2	San Marin Valve Pit Improvements	\$15,000
4b3	DCDA Replacement - 655 Canyon Road	\$40,000
4b4	DCDA Replacement - 1180 Lynwood Way	\$40,000
4b5	Gateway Commons – Backflow Prevention	\$60,000
4c. Other Miscellaneous Improvements		
4c1	Cathodic Protection - Anode Installation (Annual)	\$10,000
4c2	Other System Improvements	\$50,000
Facilities Improvements (Novato) – Subtotal		\$365,000



# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - NOVATO

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
4a. District Offices		
4a1	Construction Building 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Improvements	\$50,000
4a2	Construction Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Improvements	\$50,000
4a3	Construction Yard Improvements – Pipe Rack	\$25,000
4b. System Pressure / Valving		
4b1	System Wide PR Station Rehab	\$25,000
4b2	San Marin Valve Pit Improvements	\$15,000
4b3	DCDA Replacement - 655 Canyon Road	\$40,000
4b4	DCDA Replacement - 1180 Lynwood Way	\$40,000
4b5	Gateway Commons – Backflow Prevention	\$60,000
4c. Other Miscellaneous Improvements		
4c1	Cathodic Protection - Anode Installation (Annual)	\$10,000
4c2	Other System Improvements	\$50,000
Facilities Improvements (Novato) – Subtotal		\$365,000



# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW SUMMARY – NOVATO

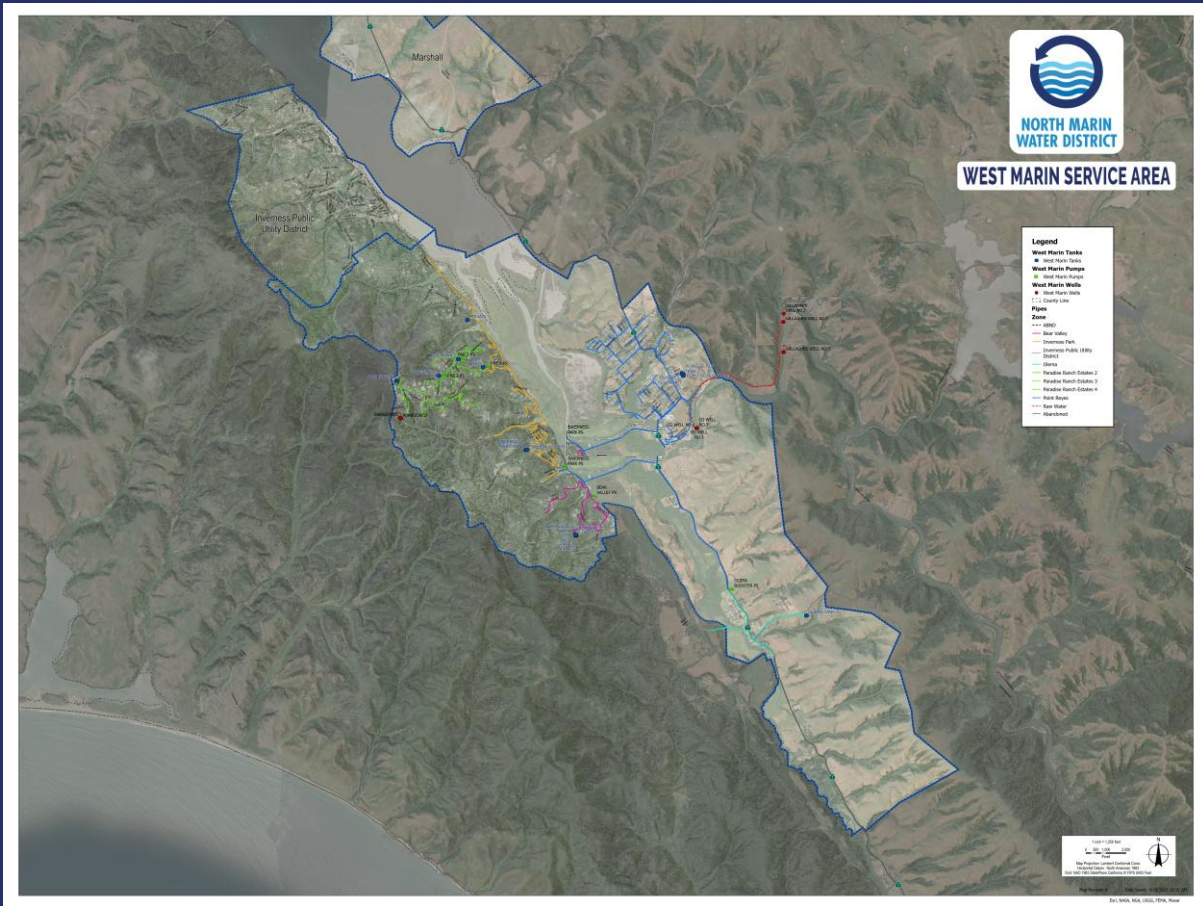
Capital Improvement Program Category	FY 25/26 Budget
Pipelines	\$3,110,000
Storage Tanks & Pump Stations	\$720,000
Stafford Improvements	\$430,000
Facilities Improvements (Novato)	\$365,000
Recycled Water (Novato)*	\$100,000
Novato – Subtotal	\$4,725,000
Loans / Grants / Other Funding Sources	\$160,000
<b>Novato – Total</b>	<b>\$4,565,000</b>

\*Contingency budget, no planned projects for FY 25/26





**West Marin**

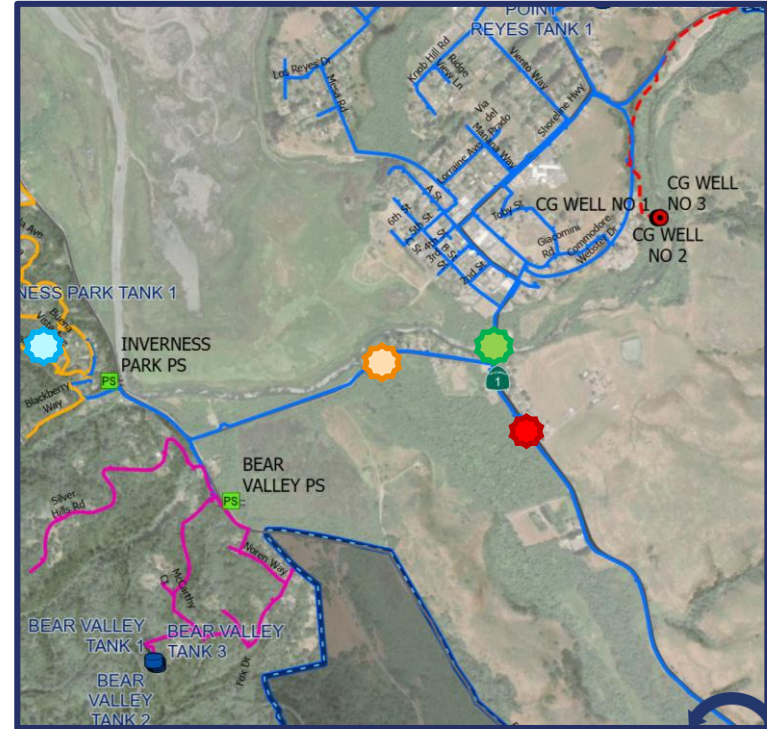


**West Marin Service Area Map**

# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## PIPELINES - WEST MARIN

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
6a. WM Pipelines		
6a1	Lagunitas Creek Bridge Pipe Replacement (Caltrans)	\$750,000
6a2	Olema Creek Bridge Pipe Replacement (County)	\$25,000
6a3	Replace 2-inch Galvanized Pipe –Sunnyside/Drakesview	\$250,000
6a4	St. Rt 1 Caltrans Pipe Relocate	\$40,000
	Pipelines – Subtotal	\$1,065,000



# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - WEST MARIN

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
6b. WM Tanks & Pump Stations		
	None	-
6c. WM Wells		
6c1	Gallagher Well No. 3	\$100,000
6d. WM Treatment Plant		
	None	-
6e. WM Contingency		
6e1	Sync w/ County Paving	\$25,000
6e2	Other Water System Improvements	\$100,000
6e3	Gallagher Ranch Streambank Stabilization	\$5,000
	Facilities Improvements - Subtotal	\$230,000



# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW SUMMARY – WEST MARIN

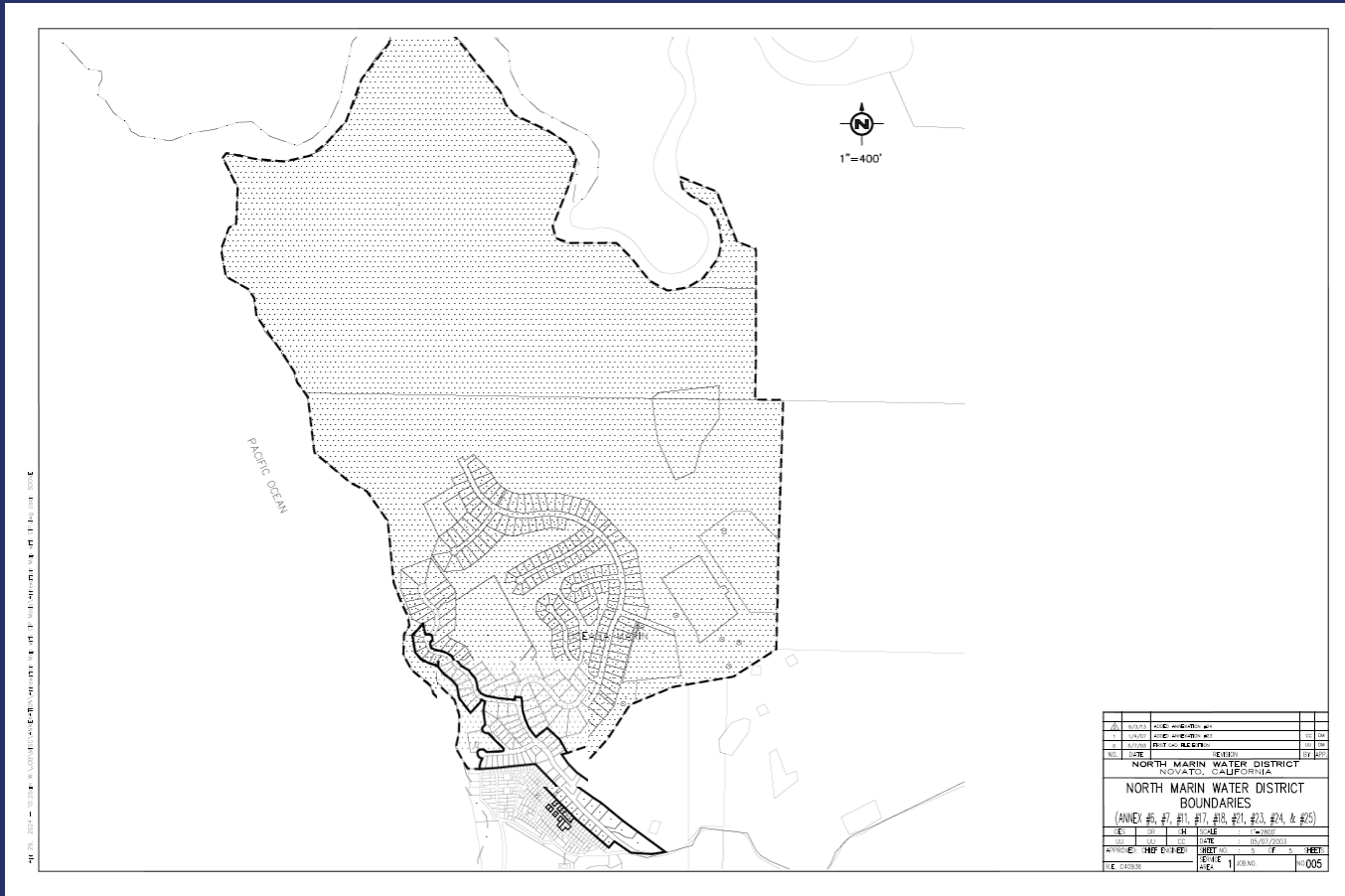
Capital Improvement Program Category	FY 25/26 Budget
WM Pipelines	\$1,065,000
WM Wells	\$100,000
WM Contingency	\$130,000
West Marin – Subtotal	\$1,295,000
Loans / Grants / Other Funding Sources	\$0
<b>West Marin – Total</b>	<b>\$1,295,000</b>







**Oceana Marin**

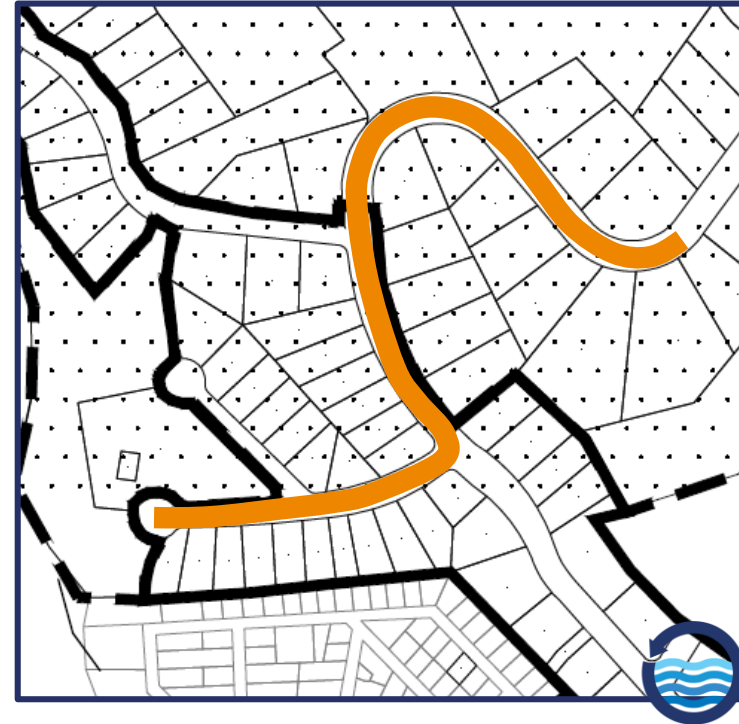


# Oceana Marin Sewer Service Area Map

# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## OCEANA MARIN SYSTEM

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
7a. OM Pipelines		
7a1	Sewer Force Main Improvements - FM 1A (Design Only)	\$25,000
7b. OM Lift Station		
	None	-
7c. OM Treatment Ponds		
	None	-
7d. OM Contingency		
7d1	Other Sewer System Improvements	\$25,000
	7. Oceana Marin – Subtotal	\$50,000
	Loans / Grants / Other Funding Sources	\$0
	<b>7. Oceana Marin System – Total</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>





# Studies & Special Projects

# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## ENGINEERING STUDIES & SPECIAL PROJECTS

ID	Project	FY 25/26 Budget
8a. General Studies		
8a1	GIS Implementation Support	\$12,000
8a2	Grant Consultant	\$10,000
8b. Novato Service Area Studies		
8b1	Urban Water Management Plan - 2025 Update	\$80,000
8b2	Novato Water Master Plan Update	\$225,000
8b3	Stafford Lake Bathymetric Survey	\$15,000
8b4	Stafford Dam Monument Survey	\$10,000
8c. WM Service Area Studies		
8c1	West Marin Master Plan & Resiliency Study	\$75,000
8d. OM Service Area Studies		
8d1	Oceana Marin Master Plan	\$50,000
Studies & Special Projects – Subtotal		\$477,000





# Budget Summary

# FY 25/26 CIP PREVIEW

## SUMMARY (All Service Areas)

Capital Improvement Program Category	FY 25/26 Budget
Novato System	\$4,565,000
Recycled Water (Novato)*	\$100,000
West Marin System	\$1,195,000
Oceana Marin System	\$50,000
Capital Improvement Program – Subtotal	\$5,910,000
Loans / Grants / Other Funding Sources	\$160,000
<b>Capital Improvement Program – Total**</b>	<b>\$5,750,000</b>

\*Contingency budget, no planned projects for FY 25/26

\*\*Studies & Special Projects (\$477,000) not included in CIP Total





# Questions?





8

FOR ACCESSIBLE  
MEETING INFORMATION  
CALL: (707) 543-3350  
ADD: (707) 543-3031



**WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AND  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY: MAY 5, 2025**

Utilities Field Operations Training Center  
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA

**9:00 a.m. Utilities Field Operations Training Center 35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA**

*This is a combined WAC and TAC meeting.*

1. Check In
2. Public Comment
3. Elect TAC Chair and Vice Chair **(TAC)**
4. Recap from the April 7, 2025 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
5. Water Supply Coordination Council – April 21, 2025
6. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
7. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership **(TAC)**
  - a. 2025 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
  - b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging
8. Sonoma Water Operations Update
9. Biological Opinion Status Update
10. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update
11. Business Services and External Affairs Division Update
12. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update
13. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is August 4, 2025)
14. Check Out

9

**DISBURSEMENTS - DATED APRIL 17, 2025**

Date Prepared 4/14/25

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


Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
1	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	\$2,364.00
2	Ammons Backflow Cert. Testing	Backflow Testing (77)	4,812.50
3	ARB Inc	Refund Security Deposit on Hydrant Meter Less Final Bill	528.92
4		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	1,572.71
5	Boucher Law, PC	Dec 2024 (\$1,492), Jan 2025 (\$17,336) & Feb 2025 (\$341) HR Legal Fees	19,167.82
6	Brady Industries	Safety Gloves (2,496) (Construction)	764.68
7	Buck's Saw Service	Chain Saw Loops (4)	111.39
8	B.W.S. Distributors	Repair Escape Breathing Apparatus Bottle (STP)	172.36
9		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	595.05
10	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Lab Testing	125.30
11		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	626.75
12		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	626.75
13	Comcast	April Internet (1250 Lynwood Dr)	224.11
14	Core & Main	16" Saddle (\$519), 8" PVC Caps (4), 1" Meter Boxes (20) (\$1,009), 12" Flange Tee (\$1,117), Elbows (4) (\$546), Couplings (3) (\$639) & Nipples (10)	4,067.53
15	Crane Tech Inc	Annual Crane Inspection & Service	1,396.00
16	Durkin Signs & Graphics	Various Signs & Installation (Rush Creek Place)	7,479.91
17	E & M	Programming Support for Variable Frequency Drive (STP) (\$950) & Lynwood Pump Station Power Module Upgrade (\$9,789) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$99,697)	10,739.67

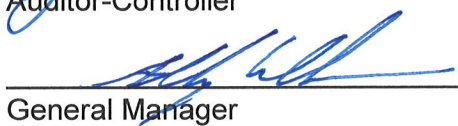
Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
18	Enterprise	Monthly Leases for Nissan Rogue (2), Nissan Frontier, F-150's (7), F-250's (4), Ford Rangers (6), Chevy Bolts (2), Chevy Colorado & Nissan Leaf	14,122.47
19	Environmental Resource Assoc	Lab Testing	5,728.91
20	Environmental Express	Glass Fibers (2) (Lab)	225.45
21	Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc	Lab Testing	1,146.20
22	Fisher Scientific	Double Burette Clamps (2), Cylinder & Standard (Lab)	249.04
23	Friedman's Home Improvement	Grout Sponge & Hole Saw Bits (3)	116.47
24	Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services LLC	Insurance Premiums-Property, General & Excess Liability, Public Officials & Mgmt Liability, & Auto (4/1/25-3/31/26)	316,069.07
25	GHD Inc.	Prog Pymt#8: Construction Management Services for Crest Pump Station Project (\$18,589) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$50,010), Prog Pymt#22: GIS Conversion to ESRI & Mapping Support (\$903) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$3,800) & Prog Pymt#6: Stafford Dam Stability Analysis Project (\$6,956) (Balance Remaining on as needed Contract \$165,428)	26,448.68
26	Grainger	Utility Carts (2) (\$379) (Lab), Utility Pumps (2) (\$773) (STP), Disposable Gloves (2,000) (\$449) (STP), Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,952.31
27	High-Purity Standards	Standards (3) (Lab)	284.32
28	Idexx Laboratories	Colilert Media & Vessels (3) (\$4,340) & Reference Sample (\$419) (Lab)	4,759.31
29	InfoSend, Inc.	March Processing Fee for Water Bills (\$1,443), Postage (\$4,324) & March Monthly Support Fee (\$992)	6,758.89
30	Joly, Mike	Novato "Toilet Rebate" Program	100.00
31		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	626.75
32	Kemira Water Solutions	Ferric Chloride (10 dry tons) (STP)	16,857.45

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
33	Kiosk Creative LLC	Interim Strategic Plan (Final Payment)	3,240.00
34	Depart. of Labor and Indust. WA	Quarterly WA Worker's Comp Insurance	21.36
35		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	626.75
36		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	1,572.71
37		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	626.75
38	Marin County Ford	Service Parts ('21 Ford Ranger, '22 Ford Ranger, '12 F250 & '24 F250)	522.06
39	McLellan Co, WK	Miscellaneous Paving	26,275.07
40	Nikpour, Haideh	Refund Overpayment on Closed Account	58.51
41	Novato Sanitary District	January 2025-RW Operating Expense	12,869.01
42	Novato Chevrolet Inc.	Engine Oil Sensor ('20 Chevy Colorado)	102.19
43	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	176.23
44	O'Reilly Auto Parts	Diesel Exhaust Fluid (8) (\$190), Wiper Fluid (8), Wash & Wax (6)	327.45
45	Pace Supply	Elbows (50) (\$535), Couplings (93) (\$1,561), Nipples (73) (\$1,468), Unions (40) (\$685), Gaskets (10), Meter Stops (10) (\$1,253), Tees (30) & Valves (21) (\$4,365)	10,002.28
46	Pearlman, Avram	Exp Reimb: Lunch During Pressure Reducing Valve Training (35 Employees)	710.00
47	Pacific Gas & Electric Co	Power: Bldgs/Yard (\$2,685), Other (-\$23), Pumping (\$45,520), Rect/Cont (-\$247), T/P (\$-65)	47,869.25
48		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	626.75
49	Safeguard	Checks for Operating Account (5,000)	879.15
50	Sigma-Aldrich Inc.	Turbidity Standards (2) (Lab)	286.16
51	Sound Vision	Prog Pymt#2: Materials for Audio Visual System (Balance Remaining on Contract \$177)	25,123.49
52	Staples Advantage	Misc Office Supplies	57.14
53		Retiree Exp Reimb (April Health Ins)	1,572.71

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
54	Survival AED, LLC	Surface Mounted AED Cabinet	183.37
55	Thomas Scientific	Medium, Lauryl Tryptose Broth & Agar (Lab)	544.62
56	Unicorn Group	Demonstration Garden Sign (2-18" x 24")	168.94
57	USA BlueBook	Phosphate Buffer (STP)	420.18
58	US Bank	March Safekeeping Treasury Securities	131.50
59	Verizon Wireless	SCADA & AMI Collectors (\$650)	1,137.41
60	VWR International LLC	Oven Gravity Binder (\$1,180), Buffer, Filter Acid, Steel Test Tube, Conductivity Standards (4), Test Tube Racks (3) & Cell Samples (6)	1,699.74
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b><u>1,699.74</u></b>
			<b><u>\$588,651.55</u></b>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$588,651.55 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


04/15/25  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auditor-Controller Date


4/15/2025  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager Date

## DISBURSEMENTS - DATED 4/24/2025

Date Prepared 4/21/25

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 P/E 4/15/25	\$ 199,644.54
90854*	US Bank Card	Freezer for the Lab, Hose Adaptors (3), Retirement Party Supplies, Office Supplies (\$312), OPS/ Maint Manager Posting (\$1,413), Internet PRTP & Gallagher Well #2, Zoom Subscription, Starlink Monthly, Indeed Job Posting (Temp Util Worker) (\$480) & , CSMFO Annual Membership, CalGovHR Annual Membership, ACWA Event Registration (\$949) & American Concrete Institute Training (\$390)	5,042.58
90857*	Internal Revenue Service	Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 4/15/25	93,503.04
90858*	State of California	State Taxes & SDI PPE 4/15/25	22,045.84
90859*	CalPERS	Pension Contribution PPE 4/15/25	59,988.83
90855*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation-457 PPE 4/15/25	16,501.73
90856*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation 4/15/25-401A Match	2,858.50
90860 & 90861*	Amazon	Magnetic Whiteboard (\$210), Computer, Kitchen, Lab & Office Supplies, Laser Printer Server Room (\$321), WebCam (\$250)	2,917.72
1	All Star Rents	Propane (22 Gal)	100.02
2	ABC Testing, Inc.	Backflow Testing (58)	3,625.00
3	Associated Right of Way Services	Prog Pymt#20: Valuation Services for Lynwood Pump Station (Balance Remaining on Contract \$32,935)	460.00
4	Backflow Distributors	Packing Bolts (4), Nuts (4) & Gate Valve (4)	146.46
5	Bank of Marin	Bank of Marin Loan Principal & Interest (Pymt 162 of 240)	46,066.67
6	Borges & Mahoney	CI2 Injector Rebuilds	524.47





Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
7	Buck Institute	May 2025 Rent for Lab Space @ Buck Institute	13,584.00
8	California Water Service	April Water Service	35.36
9	Cal-West Rentals, Inc.	Ditch Witch Mud Vac Rental (3/21/25-4/3/25)	4,970.64
10	Clark, Robert E.	Exp Reimb: Travel Expenses AWWA Conference 4/07-4/10	2,624.30
11	Consolidated CM	Prog Pymt#48: Construction Management Services for Admin & Lab Upgrade Project (Balance Remaining on Contract \$38,189)	7,647.50
12	Core Utilities, Inc	Consulting Services: March IT Support Scada & PLC Support CORE Billing Maintenance	7,150.00
13	Core & Main	Coupling (2)	786.60
14	Electrical Equipment Co	Sub Turbine 6" Motor (\$4,006), Submersible 15HP Motor (\$2,340) & 100 HP Motor (2) (\$23,814)	30,160.15
15	Fike, William	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots	161.69
16	Grainger	Potassium Iodide (STP) (\$269), Utility Pump (STP) (\$386), Chemical Phosphate Buffer (STP) (\$250), Truck Tool Box (\$1,106), Tape Measure 30' (8) (\$260), & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	3,314.75
17	Hildebrand Consulting LLC	West Marin Rate Study (Balance Remaining on Contract \$3,750)	4,500.00
18	LGVSD	Recycled Water Deliveries (1/1/2025-3/31/2025)	2,554.38
19	Lincoln Life Employer Serv	Deferred Compensation PPE 4/15/25	7,400.31
20	Maggiora & Ghilotti	Prog Pymt#9: Crest Pump Station Project (Balance Remaining on contract \$256,747)	127,447.25
21	McLellan Co, WK	Misc. Paving	7,793.11
22	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Key Switch	139.28
23	MISCOWater	Sigma 3 Prominent Pump (STP)	8,938.62
24	Nerviani's Backflow	Backflow Testing (35)	2,275.00

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
25	Outlander Construction, Inc.	Prog Pymt#6 : Construction Locker Room Remodel Project (Balance Rem on Contract \$95,000)	30,000.00
26	Pace Supply	Service Saddle (2) Nipple Brass (6) Meter Gasket (200) & 6" Check Valve (\$1,147)	1,526.76
27	Pape Machinery Inc.	Service Parts (\$364) & Nozzle Injector (\$532)	896.34
28	Piket, Bonnie	Refund Over Payment on Closed Account	64.97
29	Point Reyes Light	West Marin Water Rate Study Ad	300.00
30	Point Reyes Prop Mgmt Assn	April HOA Fees (25 Giacomini Rd)	75.05
31	RH & Sons Water Services	Backflow Test (214)	13,910.00
32	Shoushtarian, Ali	Refund overpayment on open account	1,607.57
33	SMART	Easement Access @ Golden Gate Crossing	989.00
34	Soiland Co., Inc.	Asphalt Recycling (4 yds)	137.75
35	Sonoma County Water Agency	March Contract Water	339,185.00
36	SPG Solar Facility XII, LLC	March Energy Delivered Under Solar Services Agreement	11,889.41
37	Tamagno Green Products	Sludge Removal from STP (15 yds)	675.00
38	USA BlueBook	Tube Assembly (3) (\$314) & Pressure Relief Valve (\$491)	804.92
39	US Geological Survey	FY26 Gallagher Stream Gauge Maintenance	9,290.00
40	Volvo Construction Equipment	Service Parts (Compressor)	760.04
41	White & Prescott	Prog Pymt#51-#53: Water Line Easements - Grant Ave, Sweetser Ave & Ignacio Facility (Balance Rem on Contract \$17,525)	2,250.00
42	Woodward, Brian	Refund Over Payment on Closed Account	99.43

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
43	ZORO	Mooring Buoy (STP)	141.03
		<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u><u>\$1,099,510.61</u></u></b>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$1,099,510.61 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


04/22/25  
 Auditor-Controller Date


4/23/2025  
 General Manager Date

## DISBURSEMENTS - DATED 5/1/2025

Date Prepared 4/28/25


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


Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
1	AED Inc	Electrical Supplies	\$221.96
2	All Star Rents	Air Compressor Rental (1 Day)	207.92
3	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Tests	282.00
4	American Family Life Ins	April 2025 Employee Paid Benefit	4,464.51
5	AT&T	Leased Lines	63.14
6	Boeck, Susanna	Novato "Cash for Grass" Rebate Program	624.00
7	Brady Industries	Construction Supplies	313.17
8	Calif Dept of Wtr Resources	FY 26 Annual Dam Fees	21,680.00
9	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Oxygen (Oceana Marin)	125.30
10	Chow, Wai	Novato "Toilet" Rebate Program	200.00
11	Clark, Robert E.	Exp Reimb: Car Wash for Vehicle 555	79.99
12	Cole-Parmer Instrument	Buffer (Lab)	205.23
13	DDL Imaging	Aerial/Ground Photos of Admin Building	259.00
14	Diesel Direct West	Diesel (329 Gallons) (\$1,592) & Gasoline (750 Gallons) (\$3,228)	4,819.95
15	Digi-Key	Ethernet	486.49
16	Environmental Resource Assoc	pH (Lab)	74.56
17	Environmental Express	Chloride (Lab)	280.62
18	Fisher Scientific	Cylinder (2) (\$156), Power Adapter (\$111), & Miscellaneous Lab Supplies	474.23
19	Forevergreen Landscape	Mowing Service (Lynnwood Pump Station)	490.00

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
20	Freyer & Laureta, Inc.	Prog Pymt #30 Engineering & Design Services for Lynwood Pump Station (\$1,383) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$65,784) & Prog Pymt #16: Master Plan Update (\$30,923) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$296,553)	32,305.56
21	Grainger	Mop Bucket & Wringer (\$223), CL2 Reagent (\$317) (STP) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,553.19
22	Hardy Diagnostics	UV Lamp (Lab)	331.70
23	Integrity Shred LLC	Document Shredding (3-64 gal Containers)	450.00
24	Kiosk Creative LLC	March Marketing Communication & Outreach Services (\$7,029) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$27,746) & Public Outreach for West Marin Study (\$555)	7,583.96
25	Joyce Lakrite	Refund Overpayment on Open Account	1,548.02
26	Marin Pool Service	Refund Security Deposit on Hydrant Meter Less Final Bill	597.74
27	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Steel Bar (3), Water Hose (8ft), Cable Tie (1), Hinge (2), Strip (2), Rubber Trim (2), Glue & Grip (2)	685.76
28	Miller Pacific Engineering	Prog Pymt #20: Geotechnical Services Admin & Lab Upgrade Project (Balance Remaining on As Needed Contract \$11,520)	2,328.54
29	Mutual of Omaha	May 2025 Group Life/ADD Insurance Premium (\$1,478) & Vision Insurance (\$825)	2,302.46
30	Novato Chamber of Commerce	Bus Rental for Leadership Novato Special Districts Day	300.00
31	NSI Solutions, Inc.	Lab Supplies	238.00
32	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Printer Ink (2)	127.17
33	Scott Technology Group	April Monthly Maintenance on Engineering & Admin Copiers & Contract Overage Charge	474.64
34	Soiland Co., Inc.	Asphalt Recycling (17 yds)	531.98
35	Steele, Benjamin	Exp Reimb: Safety Boots (STP)	294.13

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
36	Telstar Instruments	Calibration of Flow Meter and Pressure Transmitters (STP)	1,988.00
37	Thomas Scientific	Lab Supplies	962.08
38	USA BlueBook	Drum Pump Kit (\$898), Liquid Fill Guage (\$215) & Dry Guage (\$287) (STP)	1,400.72
39	VWR International LLC	Lab Supplies	394.69
40	Zenith Insurance Company	Workers Comp Insurance Premium (5/1/25-5/1/26)	179,626.00
41	ZORO	Backshell Connectors (18)	305.26
		<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>305.26</u></b>
			<b><u>\$271,681.67</u></b>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$271,681.67 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


04/29/2025  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auditor-Controller Date


04/29/2025  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager Date



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors

May 6, 2025

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

Subj: Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for March 2025  
t:\acl\word\invest\24\investment report 0325.doc

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

At month end the District's Investment Portfolio had an amortized cost value (i.e., cash balance) of \$23,330,087 and a market value of \$23,362,788. During March the cash balance increased by \$507,482. The market value of securities held increased \$507,482 during the month. The total unrestricted cash balance at month end was \$1,501,693 and 67% of the Target Reserves are funded.

At March 31, 2025, 68% of the District's Portfolio was invested in California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), 22% in Time Certificates of Deposit, 5% in the Marin County Treasury, and 5% retained locally for operating purposes. The weighted average maturity of the portfolio was 92 days, compared to 93 days at the end of February. The LAIF interest rate for the month was 4.31%, compared to 4.33% the previous month. The weighted average Portfolio rate was 4.01%, compared to 4.11% for the prior month.

Investment Transactions for the month of March are listed below:

3/4/2025	LAIF	US Bank	\$400,000	Trsf from LAIF account
3/11/2025	US Bank	LAIF	\$1,000,000	Trsf to LAIF account
3/17/2025	Keybank NA	US Bank	\$243,000	CD Maturity
3/19/2025	LAIF	US Bank	\$600,000	Trsf from LAIF account
3/21/2025	US Bank	Security First Bank	\$245,000	Purchase 4.00% TCD due 3/22/27 - Semi-Annual Pay

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Monthly Report of Investments – March 2025

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS  
March 31, 2025**

Type	Description	S&P Rating	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Cost Basis <sup>1</sup>	3/31/2025 Market Value	Yield <sup>2</sup>	% of Portfolio
<b>LAIF</b>	State of CA Treasury	AA-	Various	Open	\$15,865,951	\$15,898,652	4.31% <sup>3</sup>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Time Certificate of Deposit</b>								
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	n/a	6/11/24	6/11/26	248,000	248,000	5.10%	1%
TCD	First Merchant Bank	n/a	6/28/24	6/29/26	244,000	244,000	4.80%	1%
TCD	BMW Bank NA	n/a	7/9/24	7/13/26	244,000	244,000	4.70%	1%
TCD	Israel Disc Bk Ny	n/a	9/13/24	9/14/26	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Ally Bank Sandy Utah	n/a	10/3/24	9/28/26	245,000	245,000	3.80%	1%
TCD	Utah First Fec CR UN Salt Lake	n/a	10/18/24	10/19/26	249,000	249,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	American Express Nat'l Bank	n/a	11/7/24	11/6/26	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Bank of Hapoalim NY	n/a	11/26/24	11/23/26	245,000	245,000	4.10%	1%
TCD	Dr Bank Darien	n/a	12/20/24	12/21/26	249,000	249,000	4.10%	1%
TCD	Goldman Sachs Bk USA	n/a	1/28/25	1/28/27	244,000	244,000	4.15%	1%
TCD	Oregon Community CU	n/a	2/24/25	2/24/27	249,000	249,000	4.30%	1%
TCD	Security First Bk	n/a	3/21/25	3/22/27	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
					<b>\$5,161,000</b>	<b>\$5,161,000</b>	<b>4.29%</b>	<b>22%</b>

**Other**

Agency Marin Co Treasury	AAA	Various	Open	\$1,062,141	\$1,062,141	1.58%	5%
Other Various	n/a	Various	Open	1,240,995	1,240,995	0.16%	5%
<b>TOTAL IN PORTFOLIO</b>				<b>\$23,330,087</b>	<b>\$23,362,788</b>	<b>4.01%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Weighted Average Maturity = **92 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.

<sup>1</sup> Original cost less repayment of principal and amortization of premium or discount.

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

<sup>3</sup> Earnings are calculated daily - this represents the average yield for the month ending March 31, 2025.

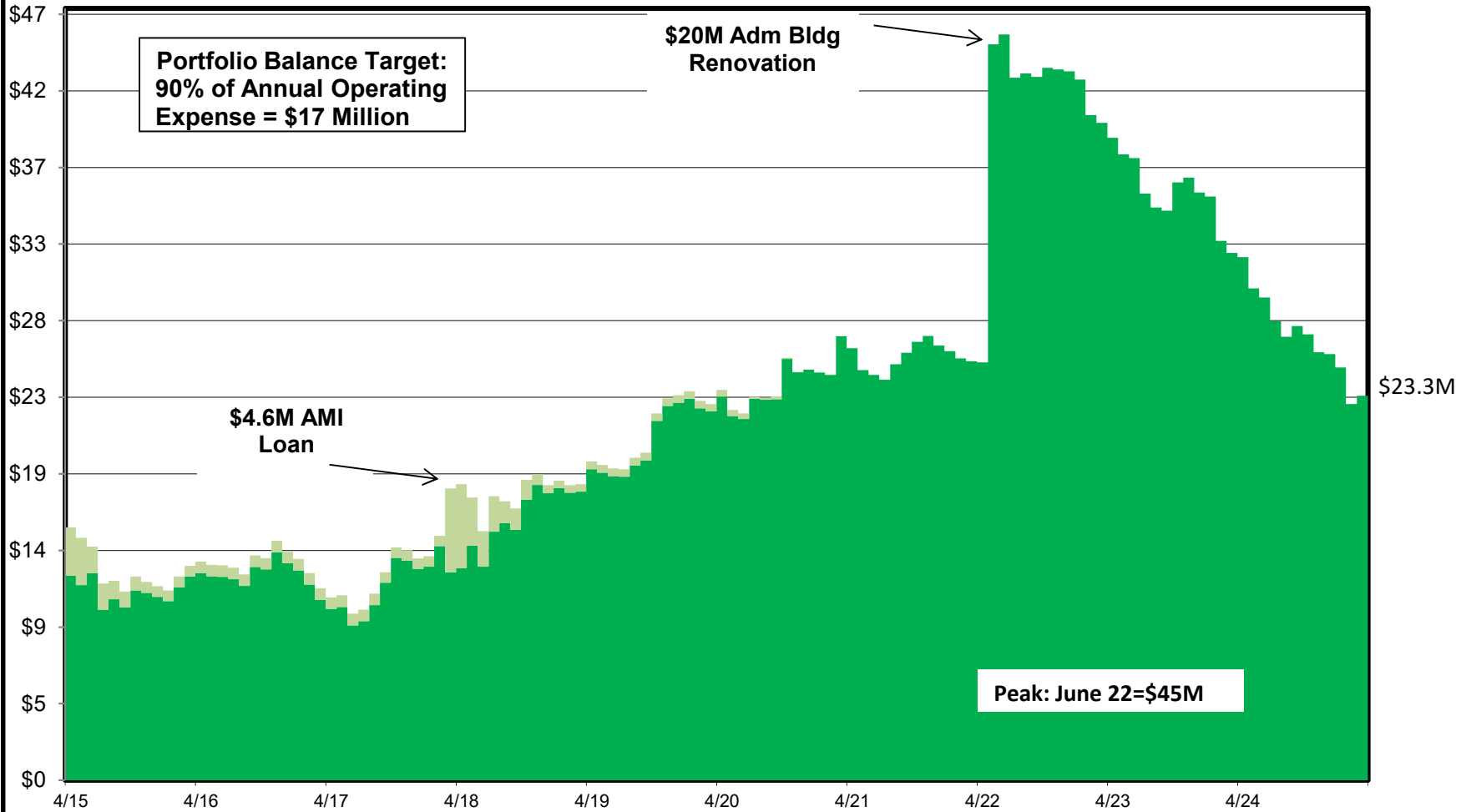
<b>Interest Bearing Loans</b>	Loan Date	Maturity Date	Original Loan Amount	Principal Outstanding	Interest Rate
Marin Country Club Loan	1/1/18	11/1/47	\$1,265,295	\$990,084	1.00%
Marin Municipal Water - AEEP	7/1/14	7/1/32	\$3,600,000	\$1,458,848	2.71%
Employee Housing Loan	Various	Various	550,000	550,000	Contingent
<b>TOTAL INTEREST BEARING LOANS</b>			<b>\$5,415,295</b>	<b>\$2,998,932</b>	

**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



Portfolio Balance Target:  
90% of Annual Operating  
Expense = \$17 Million

\$20M Adm Bldg  
Renovation

\$4.6M AMI  
Loan

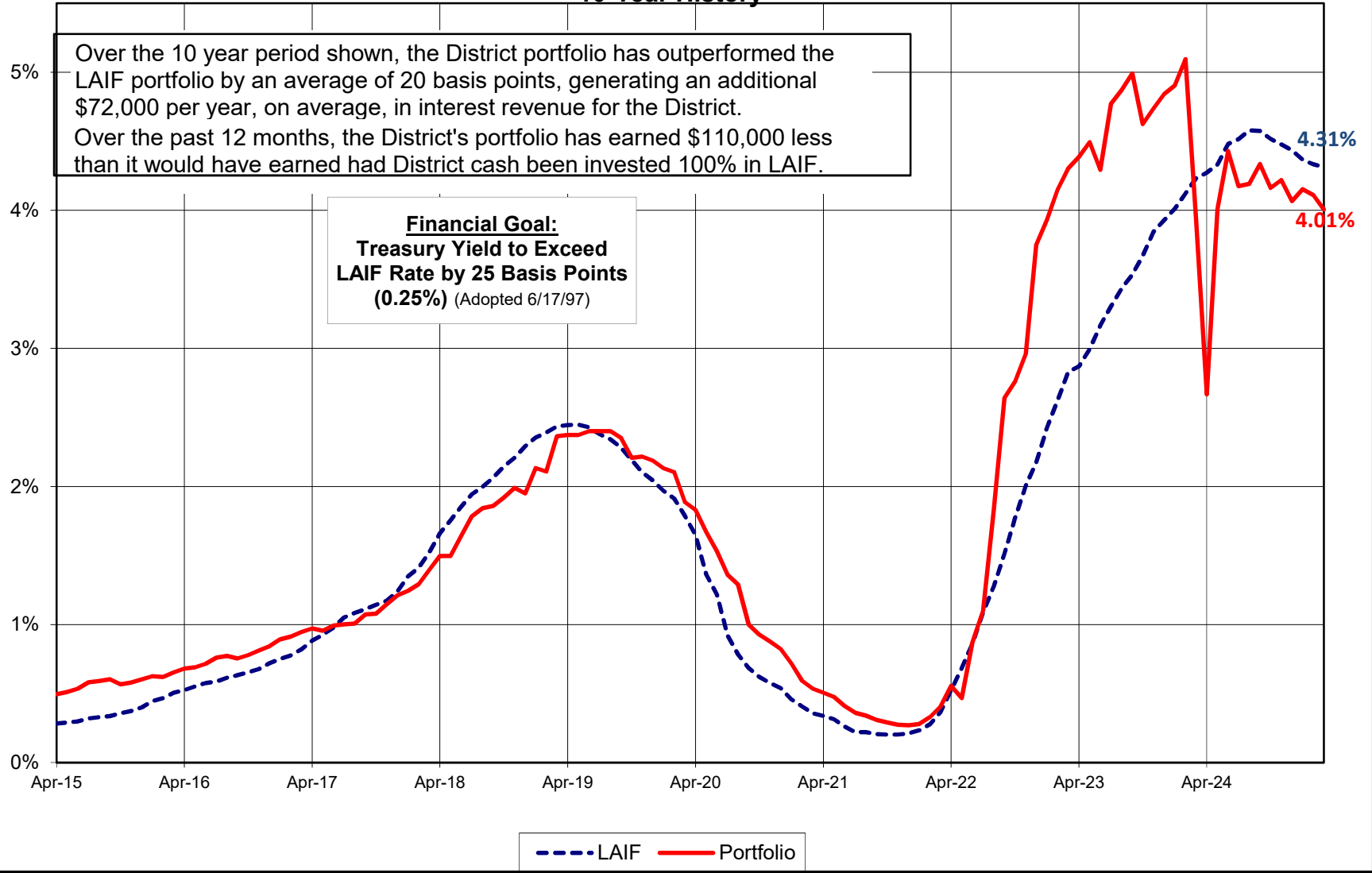
Peak: June 22=\$45M

\$23.3M

### 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 20 basis points, generating an additional \$72,000 per year, on average, in interest revenue for the District. Over the past 12 months, the District's portfolio has earned \$110,000 less than it would have earned had District cash been invested 100% in LAIF.

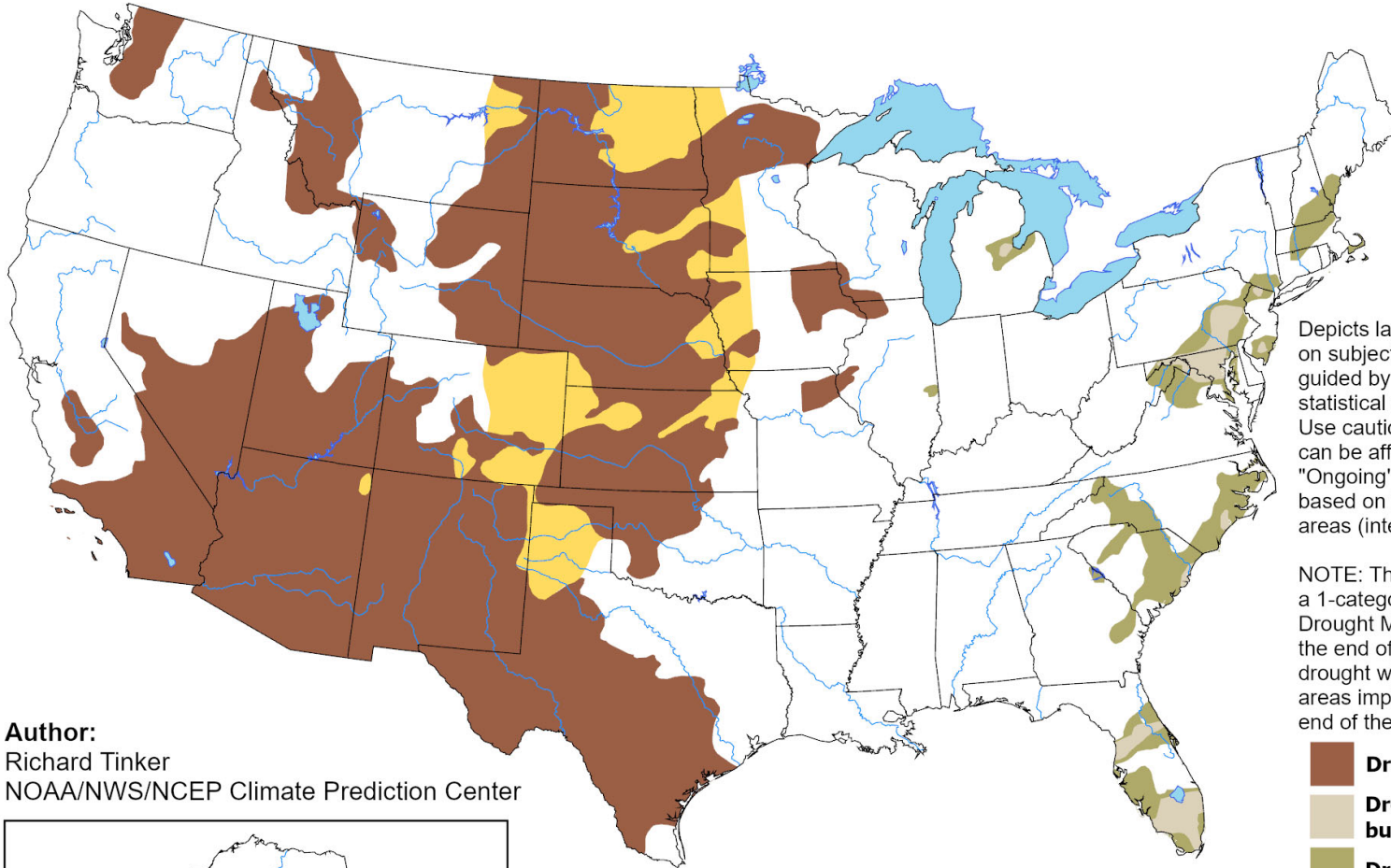
**Financial Goal:**  
Treasury Yield to Exceed  
LAIF Rate by 25 Basis Points  
(0.25%) (Adopted 6/17/97)



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 17 - July 31, 2025  
Released April 17, 2025

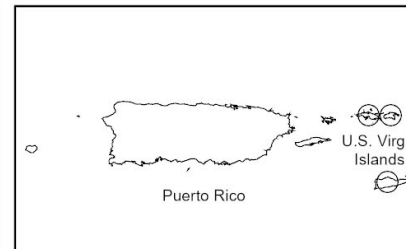
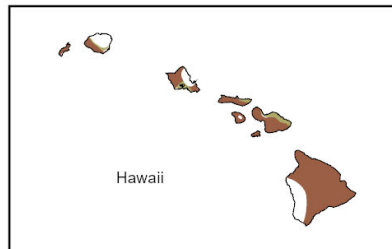
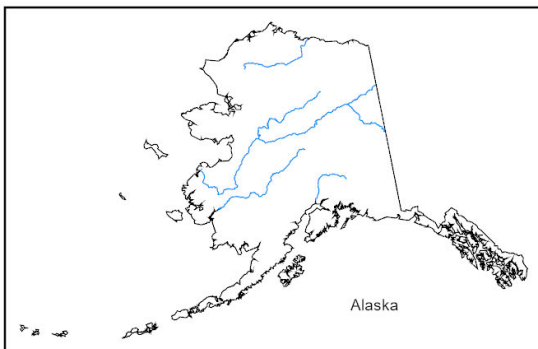


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

**Author:**  
Richard Tinker  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center

-  **Drought persists**
-  **Drought remains, but improves**
-  **Drought removal likely**
-  **Drought development likely**
-  **No drought**



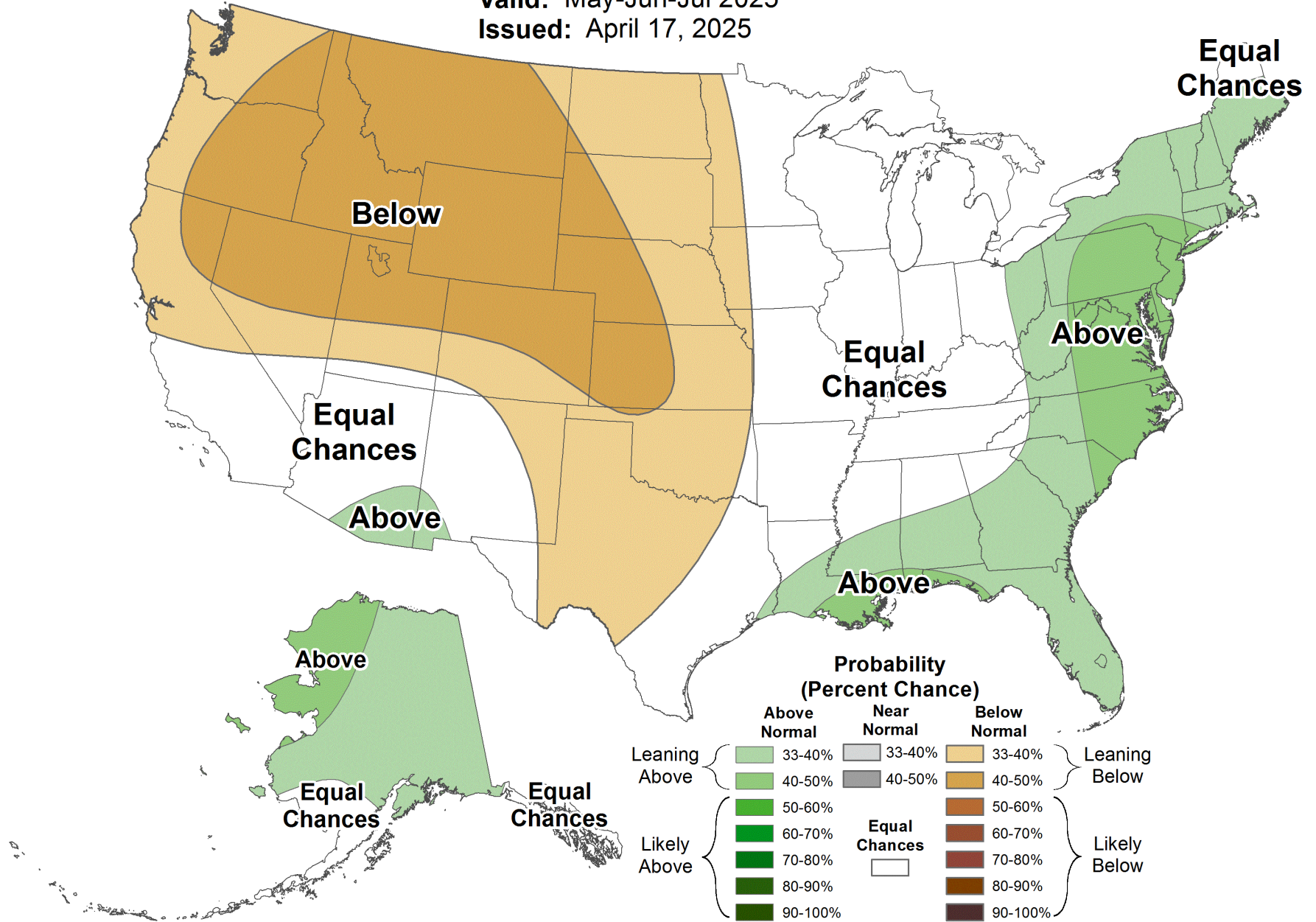
<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



# Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2025  
Issued: April 17, 2025





“Conservation as a Way of Life” Compliance Summary:  
 North Marin Water District (ORG ID 1748)  
 Report prepared by State Water Resources Control Board staff on April 22, 2025

## Report Sections

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# 1 Introduction

The “Making Conservation a Way of Life” regulation went into effect on January 1, 2025. Pursuant to the regulation, urban retail water suppliers are annually required to submit a reporting form to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) by January 1 of each year. This document is intended to provide the supplier with a high-level summary of their compliance with reporting requirements for the fiscal year 2023-2024, as well as some supplemental information that may help to inform future decision-making. Sections 2 through 6 summarize the information that the supplier provided on the required reporting form, as well as data quality issues identified by State Water Board staff. Section 7 calculates what the objective for fiscal year 2023-2024 would look like if future water use efficiency standards were applied.

Note: This is the first year that water use and water use objectives have been reported and calculated pursuant to the State Water Board’s regulation, and State Water Board staff are finding errors as review is ongoing; these errors may impact the values shown throughout this report. Staff are taking steps to identify the more common errors so that they are corrected by suppliers and no longer recur by the time water use objective compliance is assessed (i.e., reports submitted January 1, 2027).

This report was generated by the State Water Board on April 22, 2025.

## 2 Report Submittal Date

The fiscal year 2023-2024 report was due on January 1, 2025. The version reviewed by the State Water Board was submitted on December 23, 2024.

## 3 Comparing the Objective to Reported Water Use

The supplier has met its calculated objective for fiscal year 2023-2024.

The final urban water use objective and corresponding reported water use, as calculated in the reporting workbook, is summarized in Table 1 in both million gallons (MG) and acre-feet (AF). Please note that compliance with the objective will first be formally assessed for the fiscal year 2025-2026, based on the report due January 1, 2027.

Quantity	Value (MG)	Value (AF)
Objective	2,752.5	8,447.1
Actual Water Use	2,024.3	6,212.2

Table 1: Objective and reported water use for fiscal year 2023-2024

If you have any questions about how the objective was calculated, please refer to Appendix A.

## 4 Summary of Data Quality Flags for Objective Calculations

Table 2 summarizes objective data-related issues as identified by State Water Board staff.

Section	Data Checked	Reporting Issues Flagged
Objective	Calculated Final Volume	None
Objective	Intermediate Calculations	None
Residential Indoor	Calculated Volume	None
Residential Indoor	Required Cells Left Blank	None
Residential Outdoor	Calculated Volume	None
Residential Outdoor	LAM Data	None
Residential Outdoor	Required Cells Left Blank	None
Bonus Incentive	Calculated Volume	None
Water Loss Budget	Calculated Volume	None
Water Loss Budget	Service Connections/ Length of Mains	None
Actual Water Use	Calculated Volume	None
Actual Water Use	Missing/ Zero Potable Deliveries	None
Actual Water Use	Required Cells Left Blank	None
Real Water Loss	Reported Volume	None
Real Water Loss	Reporting Method	None

Table 2: Data quality flags for the objective-related data

## 5 Summary of Data Quality Flags for Variance Calculations

Tables 3 and 4 summarize variance data-related issues as identified by State Water Board staff.

### 5.1 Residential Indoor Variances

Variance	Response	Reporting Issues Flagged
Evaporative Cooler Variance	No	None
Seasonal Population Variance	No	None
Wastewater Provision	No	None

Table 3: Data quality flags for the residential indoor variances

### 5.2 Residential Outdoor Variances

Variance	Response	Reporting Issues Flagged
Livestock Variance	No	None
Dust Control Variance	No	None
Residential Agriculture Variance	No	None
Local Emergency Variance	No	None
High TDS Variance	No	None
Ponds and Lakes Variance	No	None
Existing Trees Variance	No	None
Climate-Ready Trees Provision	No	None
Qualifying Landscapes Provision	No	None

Table 4: Data quality flags for the residential outdoor variances

## 6 CII Performance Measures

Table 5 summarizes Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial (CII) Performance Measures data-related issues as identified by State Water Board staff. The table summarizes flags for the CII Classification, Dedicated Irrigation Meters (DIMs) and In-Lieu Technologies, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) sections in the reporting form.

Section	Data Checked	Reporting Issues Flagged
CII Classification (972)	Required Cells Left Blank	None
CII Classification (972)	Number of Service Connections	None
DIMs and In-Lieu Tech (973)	Large Landscapes Identification Method	None
DIMs and In-Lieu Tech (973)	Required Cells Left Blank	None
BMPs (974)	CII BMP Identification Method	None
974(c)(1)	Required Cells Left Blank	None

Table 5: Data quality flags for the CII BMP sections

## 7 Objectives Calculated with Future Standards

The current and future standards for the urban water use objective calculations are summarized in Table 6.

Year	Residential Indoor	Residential Outdoor	CII DIMs	Water Loss Budget
2024	55 GPCD	0.8 LEF	Volume as Reported	Reported or Budget
2025	47 GPCD	0.8 LEF	Volume as Reported	Reported or Budget
2030	42 GPCD	0.8 LEF	0.8 LEF (starts in 2028)	Budget (starts in 2029)
2035	42 GPCD	0.63 LEF	0.63 LEF	Budget
2040	42 GPCD	0.55 LEF	0.45 LEF	Budget

Table 6: Summary of the standards that inform objective calculations

Using the standards in Table 6 and the calculation steps explained in Appendix A, as well as the data provided in the fiscal year 2023-2024 report, State Water Board staff generated objective volume estimates as shown in Table 7.

Please note that these values do not represent the final calculated budgets for the corresponding years; they are intended to show what an objective for the fiscal year 2023-2024 would look like if future standards, rather than the standards in effect at the time, were applied to the reported data. The budget associated with irrigable-not-irrigated landscapes (INI) is conditionally included or not included in the budget as noted in the “INI Included?” column of the table (see item 6 in the list of assumptions below for details). Future water use objectives will be influenced by changes in local climatology, service area population, and square footage of irrigated landscapes, as well as other data points that are not yet available, such as the square footage of CII landscapes with DIMs.

Please note that issues with missing or incorrect data from the fiscal year 2023-2024 report may also affect these values.



Year	INI Included?	Capped?	Objective (MG)	Objective (AF)	FY 23-24 use lower than objective?
2024	No	Yes	2,752.5	8,447.1	Yes
2025	No	No	2,731.6	8,382.9	Yes
2030	No	No	2,619.0	8,037.5	Yes
2035	No	No	2,349.3	7,209.8	Yes
2040	No	No	2,222.4	6,820.4	Yes

Table 7: Objectives calculated using the values and standards specified in Table 6 (with the exception of CII DIMs due to lack of data; see point 3 below)

These values were generated using the following assumptions:

1. For all years, reported quantities such as population, irrigated residential landscapes, and excluded demands remained constant.
2. For all years, the volume of requested variances (with the exception of the seasonal population variance, if applicable) remained the same as the volumes requested in this year's submitted report.
3. For all years, the CII with DIMs budget was assumed to be equivalent to the reported actual water use for CII with DIMs, since the landscape area data is not yet available. Variances for CII with DIMs are therefore assumed to be 0.
4. The water loss budget prior to 2030 was equivalent to the value selected by the reporter in this year's submitted report. The water loss budget for 2030 onwards was set as either (A) the water loss budget calculated using the standards; or (B) the reported water loss, if one or more necessary components for the water loss budget calculation were missing.
5. The volume of the bonus incentive, if applicable, was capped according to the reported method and calculated objective for the corresponding year.
6. The 20% INI was included if actual water use exceeded the pre-"capped" objective for the corresponding year.
7. Before 2040, if the "no backsliding" provision was applicable and the supplier was part of a regional alliance that met its regional target, the pre-"capped" objective was used in place of the "capped" objective.

## A Steps to Calculate Objective

Table 8 summarizes the initial budget components as determined within the submitted workbook, in both million gallons (MG) and acre-feet (AF).

Budget Component	Equation Symbol	Budget Value (MG)	Budget Value (AF)
Residential Indoor	$RI_B$	1,241.7	3,810.6
Residential Indoor Variances and Provisions	$RI_V$	0.0	0.0
Residential Outdoor	$RO_B$	1,347.1	4,134.1
Residential Outdoor Variances and Provisions	$RO_V$	0.0	0.0
CII with DIMs	$DIM_B$	297.4	912.6
Real Water Loss	$RWL_B$	28.9	88.8
Bonus Incentive	$BI$	0.0	0.0
Sum (before INI)	$OBJ$	2,915.1	8,946.1

Table 8: Individual budgets within the objective for fiscal year 2023-2024

The following section describes the step-by-step calculations that produced the final objective for fiscal year 2023-2024. All calculations are shown in million gallons.

1. The initial water use objective (not including INI, the bonus incentive, or the “no backsliding” provision) was calculated as follows:

$$Obj_{init} = RI_B + RI_V + RO_B + RO_v + DIM_B + RWL_B$$

$$OBJ_{init} = 1,241.7 + 0.0 + 1,347.1 + 0.0 + 297.4 + 28.9$$

$$OBJ_{init} = 2,915.1 \text{ Million Gallons}$$

2. The bonus incentive was reported as 0 or not calculated. Therefore,

$$OBJ = OBJ_{init}$$

$$OBJ = 2,915.1 \text{ Million Gallons}$$

If you think the bonus incentive should be greater than 0, please review the values that were entered in the “Bonus Incentive” tab of the reporting form.

3. The calculated objective was greater than actual water use for FY 2023-2024, so the 20% INI buffer was not added to the objective.

Volume	Equation Symbol	Value (MG)	Value (AF)
Objective without INI	$OBJ$	2,915.1	8,946.1
Actual Water Use	$AWU$	2,024.3	6,212.2
20 pct INI Volume (if applicable)	$RO_{INI}$	119.4	366.3
Excluded Demands	$EXCL$	385.6	1,183.3

Table 9: Summary of volumes used in steps 3 and 4 to compare to the SBx7-7 target volume

$$OBJ_{ADJ} = OBJ$$

$$OBJ_{ADJ} = 2,915.1 \text{ Million Gallons}$$

4. The “no backsliding” provision was assessed.

SBx7-7 Component	Equation Symbol	Value (MG)	Value (AF)
SBx7-7 Target Volume	$SBX_V$	3,138.1	9,630.4
Process Water	$PW$	0.0	0.0
Indirect Recycled	$IR$	0.0	0.0
Total No Backsliding Volume	$SBX_{TOT}$	3,138.1	9,630.4

Table 10: Summary of supplier’s individual SBX7-7 target volume, plus any additional demands excluded from the original target

The sum of the objective plus excluded demands ( $OE$ ) is as follows:

$$OE = OBJ_{ADJ} + EXCL$$

$$OE = 2,915.1 + 385.6$$

$$OE = 3,300.7 \text{ Million Gallons}$$

$OE$  was greater than the no backsliding volume,  $SBX_{TOT}$ . Therefore, the “no backsliding” provision applies.

$$OBJ_{FINAL} = SBX_{TOT} - EXCL$$

$$OBJ_{FINAL} = 3,138.1 - 385.6$$

$$OBJ_{FINAL} = 2,752.5 \text{ Million Gallons}$$

**TO:** ACWA Agency Presidents and General Managers  
*(sent via email)*

**CC:** ACWA Board of Directors

**FROM:** ACWA Election Committee

**DATE:** April 30, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Call for Candidates for ACWA President/Vice President for the 2026-'27 Term

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ACWA recently distributed an Advisory announcing the Call for Candidates for President and Vice President for the 2026-'27 term. The Advisory also announced that each of ACWA's region nominating committees have issued a similar call for candidates interested in serving on the 10 region boards.

ACWA's Bylaws and Board policies (Article 9, Section 9.10, and Board Policy 2.3.3.1) establish the eligibility criteria candidates must meet to serve as President or Vice President. Candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria to qualify:

- At the time of their election, the President and Vice President will each be an elected or appointed member of the governing body or commission of a member agency of the Association.
- An official nominating resolution from the Association member agency on whose board the nominee serves will accompany all nominations for the position of President and Vice President. An authorized signatory of the member agency's Board of Directors will sign said resolution. A sample resolution is available [online](#).
- Each nomination will include a statement of qualifications or resume highlighting the candidate's qualifications for the position, such as active involvement in ACWA task forces, region boards, committees, or the like. Candidates must also submit an abbreviated statement (maximum of 300 words) that can be included with the official ballot. A headshot photo is recommended but not required.

## Election Process

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This year, the election process for President, Vice President, and region board members is now combined. Voting for both sets of candidates will be done electronically by each member agency's designated voter on a single ballot. Agencies can designate their voting representative by visiting

[www.acwa.com/elections](http://www.acwa.com/elections) and submitting the [Authorized Representative and Information Form](#) by the June 20 deadline.

- An 11-member Election Committee has been appointed to facilitate the election of the President and Vice President. The committee will confirm that candidates' eligibility criteria have been met and endorse preferred candidates for each position.
- The Election Committee will present an open ballot on July 21 that lists all qualified candidates, including the committee's preferred candidates. All candidates will also be listed on the ACWA website and invited to participate in a town hall style webinar in which members can ask the candidates questions.
- Members of ACWA will elect the President, Vice President, and their respective region board by voting electronically July 21 – September 19. **There will be no voting during the fall conference.**
- Ballots will be emailed by a third-party vendor called Simply Voting. This web-based online voting system provides quick and verified results while keeping individual votes confidential.
- Each member agency may cast one vote and must designate their one [voting representative](#) by June 20. If an agency does not designate a representative to vote by the deadline, the agency's General Manager will be the authorized voter by default.

## Important Dates

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- Deadline to receive Authorized Voting Representative Form: **Friday, June 20**
- Deadline to receive candidate nominations: **Friday, June 20**
- Tentative date for candidate interviews: **Friday, July 1**
- Election Begins: **Monday, July 21**
- Election Ends: **Friday, September 19**

In addition to being accepted via email to [donnap@acwa.com](mailto:donnap@acwa.com), nomination items may also be submitted via mail to the below address.

Bruce Rupp, Election Committee Chair  
c/o Donna Pangborn, ACWA  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please be aware that candidates may contact general managers and board presidents to solicit their respective member agency's support. A sample resolution of support is available [online](#).

We appreciate your interest and participation in this process to find the best qualified individuals to serve in representing ACWA's statewide membership. Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact ACWA Senior Clerk of the Board Donna Pangborn at 916-669-2425 or [donnap@acwa.com](mailto:donnap@acwa.com).

**BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ**

**ARODRIGUEZ@MARINIJ.COM**

The Marin Municipal Water District took another step this week in pursuit of what the agency says is its largest supply and drought resiliency project in 40 years.

The district board voted unanimously Tuesday to authorize spending \$9.7 million to design a pipeline that would tap into an existing aqueduct system to get Sonoma County water to Marin reservoirs.

The pipeline project was selected in February as the district's priority effort to boost supply. If completed, it would be the largest water supply project since Kent Lake was expanded in 1982, according to the district.

"This is where the rubber hits the road; it's actually a pretty exciting evening," Matt Samson, board president, said ahead of the approval Tuesday.

"This is the logical next step in our water supply road map," he said, adding that bringing the project online, along with other planned efforts, "will allow us to then have more breathing room."

The project was derived from the district's water supply "road map" — a strategy developed in response to the 2020-2021 drought.

About 75% of the Marin Municipal Water District supply comes from the Mount Tamalpais watershed and hills of West Marin. Its seven reservoirs have a combined storage capacity of about 80,000 acre-feet of water. The district serves about 191,000 residents.

The rest of the water comes from the Russian River watershed. Treated water from the river is channeled through an aqueduct along Highway 101 for blending into Marin's distribution system. Excess water flows into the ocean. Right now, there is no way to capture that water for later use.

Estimated at \$167 million, the proposed project would construct a 13-mile, 36-inch pipeline and a pump station to redirect some of that water into the Nicasio Reservoir for storage. The pipeline could yield 3,800 to 4,750 acre-feet of water a year.

Paul Sellier, the district's water resources director, said staff expect the design and environmental review to be completed by early 2027.

Construction could begin soon after, and the pipeline could be operational by 2029, he said.

Potential future phases of this project, which would cost more money, could increase replenishment of stored water to up to 8,100 acre-feet, Sellier said.

The vote Tuesday awarded the design contract to Carollo Engineers, a firm headquartered in Walnut Creek.

District staff had reached out to Carollo and four other firms to solicit bids for the project design. Carollo was the only one to submit a proposal, staff said.

Board members said they were concerned that the process wasn't more competitive.

Sellier said the firm is the same group that performed the pipeline alternatives analysis that led to the project selection. If staff chose, they could have awarded the contract to them without making additional solicitations.

Lucy Croy, the district's water quality manager, said the firm also previously drafted design plans for a proposed emergency pipeline across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge amid the 2021 drought, and has worked with the district on other projects.

Typically, design contracts equal about 8% to 10% of the estimated project cost. Carollo's fee, is about 5.7% of the total cost, staff said.

"We are confident that the Carollo team can and will deliver on this project," Croy said.

General Manager Ben Horenstein agreed, adding that it's the same team that's been part of the project since the inception.

"We really do have confidence in their ability to execute," Horenstein said.

Some residents who attended the meeting had concerns about the district's naming of the project. When talked about in previous meetings, it was identified as the "PETA-3" project. For this meeting it was renamed to the "Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) project."

Those who complained said it was confusing and could be perceived as misleading. Staff and board members said they would consider a name change, and be consistent with that name moving forward.

Some showed support for the project.

"I've been here for five years watching this project, and I will say that it has been fully transparent," said Larry Minikes, a board member of the Marin Conservation League. "I'm very pleased with the progress that the board is making, and the rubber is hitting the road."

Croy said staff issued a request for proposals for the environmental review reporting, which is required to meet the California Environmental Quality Act. Staff expects to return to the board next month to recommend a consulting firm to hire to do that work.

At the same time, the district is pursuing a separate water supply project to modify the Nicasio Reservoir. That plan, estimated about \$5 million, involves modifying dam spillway gates to add 3,000 acre-feet of water storage. The district aims to have that project ready for approval next year.

# Water utility aims to hike its rates in areas near coast

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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The North Marin Water District is preparing to raise rates in West Marin to help pay for \$27.5 million in capital improvements.

The agency's board voted Tuesday to accept a rate study and call for a public hearing. If approved, the new water rate structure would apply to 775 connections for about 1,800 residents in Point Reyes Station, Olema, Bear Valley, Inverness Park and Paradise Ranch Estates.

The board also agreed to hold a hearing to consider an 8% increase to Oceana Marin sewer service for about 235 homes in Dillon Beach. Both hearings are set for June 17.

Under the proposal, customers would see incremental rate increases over the next five years beginning in July. For a median customer in Point Reyes Station, the bimonthly bill would increase \$25.15 to \$130.84, a 23.8% hike in the first year.

"The biggest driver of a rate increase is the need to replace, rehabilitate or upgrade existing water infrastructure over the next 10 years and beyond," said Tony Williams, general manager of the water district. "In general, the majority of the West Marin water system has reached the end of its design life."

Two large projects require the North Marin Water District to take out loans, Williams said.

The district must replace the pipeline across the Lagunitas Creek Bridge. The work is required as part of a \$21 million Caltrans project to replace the 95-year-old span in Point Reyes Station. The pipe replacement is expected to cost the district about \$1.25 million, Williams said.

"The total number of customers in our West Marin system is relatively small but the water system is extensive and complex."

— Tony Williams, North Marin Water District

A similar pipeline replacement project will be required at about the same cost as part of a county effort to replace the Olema Creek Bridge on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, also in Point Reyes Station, Williams said.

Other capital needs include a new water supply well for resiliency; upgrades to the treatment plant; and rehabilitation of storage tanks, pipelines and pump stations throughout the West Marin system, Williams said.

"The total number of customers in our West Marin system is relatively small but the water system is extensive and complex" and costly to maintain, Williams said. "The complexity is due to the ruralness of the area and overall mountainous terrain."



As part of the rate study, the district evaluated several financing options for the capital improvements as well several ways to get the work done. However, the total cost must be distributed across a small customer base and there are no other significant sources of revenue. This results in higher rates, he said.

“We hope to get grant funds to help offset the costs but there is no guarantee that we will be successful in obtaining grant funding,” Williams said.

The district will present its capital improvement program at its May 6 board meeting. The district has received no public comment on the rate study or proposed increase.

# Spending ramps up for water projects

## Utility outlines \$328M in upgrades to system

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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The Marin Municipal Water District is planning to spend \$328 million over the next five years on capital improvements.

The draft expenditure plan presented this week continues a trend of accelerated investments spurred by a rate hike approved nearly two years ago.

The program anticipates spending more than \$64 million each year through the fiscal year ending 2030, nearly tripling annual project investments made between 2015 and 2024.

Between the fiscal years ending 2016 through 2025, the district spent a total of \$249 million, said Elysha Irish, engineering manager.

“So this is a significant increase in our rate of investment into our capital program, which is something that we should all be pretty excited about,” Irish told the district board at a planning committee meeting Tuesday.

The district updates its capital improvements plan every two years. Irish said staff conducted a risk assessment of its infrastructure to help prioritize projects.

The budget is divided into six categories: pipelines, pump stations, storage tanks, treatment plants, watershed and system improvements.

The presentation Tuesday focused on spending for the next two fiscal years.

Under the pipelines category, the district is budgeting about \$25 million annually over the next two years.

That includes \$12.2 million in expenses to push ahead the “atmospheric river capture” project, a newly planned pipeline that will tap into the North Marin Aqueduct to redirect Sonoma County water to Marin reservoirs.

More than \$19 million is budgeted for replacing out-of-date and leak-prone pipes in Marin City and in Fairfax, among other areas.

The district is also budgeting more than \$8 million to upgrade to wireless “smart” meters and about \$10 million for its “fire flow program,” which upgrades pipes to increase the water pressure and capacity at fire hydrants for firefighting.

Pump stations are also getting a \$25 million a year investment the next two years, with planned upgrades at the Tocaloma pump station in West Marin and the Fairfax Manor pump station taking a good chunk of the funding.

The district is planning to spend more than \$10 million on a water storage project in the Ross Valley.

The project, which began in the summer of 2023, will decommission the century-old Pine Mountain Tunnel used as a water storage tank, and replace it with two 2-million-gallon storage tanks for treated water. The tanks will be on the western side of Concrete Pipe Road near Bolinas and Sky Oaks roads on the outskirts of Fairfax.

The district also plans to replace three redwood storage tanks at the cost of \$6 million.

Expenses for treatment tanks over the next two years is comparatively lower than the other categories. The district plans to spend \$2.9 million next year and \$6.7 million the year after for projects and maintenance.

On the watershed, one of the highlight projects is a water supply project at the Nicasio Reservoir. The district has budgeted a total of \$6.5 million for the next two years to support a plan to modify the spillway gates to boost storage capacity.

Other watershed projects, amounting to about \$11 million, include fire prevention and vegetation management, road repair and improvements and other projects and maintenance.

The district is budgeting \$12.8 million in system improvements next year and nearly \$9 million the following year. This includes building, ground, facilities and control systems upgrades and maintenance.

Irish said the draft capital improvements program will be part of the district's budget workshop planned for May 6.

The final CIP budget proposal will be presented for adoption at the board's June 3 meeting.

"I appreciate the ability to articulate how much is getting done, especially relative to what was done before, and how we're making up for a lot of lost time," said Matt Samson, the district board president. "It's really exciting to see the modernization."

# Plan shifts for pump station overhaul

## District pivots over new supply project

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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The Marin Municipal Water District might redesign a pump station overhaul because the utility's needs could change.

Now that the district is pursuing a supply project to convey more Sonoma County water into Marin reservoirs, the future demand on the pump station could be greater than what project plans call for.

The pump station is between Kastania Road and Highway 101 in Petaluma. Partial improvements are estimated at \$1.5 million, whereas the rebuilding project as designed would be about \$5.5 million.

It would be more prudent to do partial improvements on the pump station now to meet the near-term demand, and consider the full rebuild design at a later time, staff told the utility's board at a meeting last week.

"I think this is a good investment at this point," said Ben Horenstein, general manager of the district.

The Kastania pump station was constructed in 1977 and connected to the aqueduct that provides Sonoma County water to Marin, said Zachary Talbott, engineering manager at the Marin Municipal Water District. The district owned and operated the station until 1999, when it was transferred to the Sonoma County Water Agency.

In 2014, the pump station was disconnected because the North Marin Water District was replacing and relocating a portion of the aqueduct with a more energy-efficient pipe with greater hydraulic capacity. The project was completed in coordination with the Marin-Sonoma Narrows widening on Highway 101.

At the time, water providers said the Kastania pump station was no longer needed. Then the drought hit in 2021.

A study found that reconnecting the pump enabled the Marin district to move an additional 6.5 million gallons a day of Sonoma water, said Lucy Croy, water quality manager. The

Sonoma County agency transferred ownership of the pump station back to the Marin Municipal Water District so it could reconnect it to the aqueduct.

The reconnection was completed in 2022 as phase one of the Kastania pump station project, Croy said.

Phase two is rebuilding the pump station, and the design work began in 2023. The plan envisions two new pumps and motors capable of conveying 24 million gallons of water per day, Talbott said.

At the same time, the district had been studying a variety of other water supply projects to bolster the county's drought resiliency.

This year, the board decided to pursue the "atmospheric river capture" project, which would construct a pipeline to tap into the aqueduct system to redirect some Sonoma County water to the Nicasio Reservoir. The new pipeline could yield 3,800 to 4,750 acre-feet of water a year.

Staff also expect to select a firm next month to conduct the environmental review reporting of the project, which is required to meet the California Environmental Quality Act.

As long as the project clears environmental review, the board can move forward with the pipeline project. But that won't be decided until reporting is completed, which is anticipated to happen in 2027.

A second phase of the "atmospheric river capture" project could increase replenishment of stored water to up to 8,100 acre-feet, staff said.

This is where the Kastania pump station comes into play. Partial improvements will upgrade the station with a single pump, motor and suction to increase flow up to 24 million gallons a day. This is sufficient to convey water to the Nicasio Reservoir.

Phase two of the pipeline would require the pump station to handle a demand of 42 million gallons per day, staff said. Staff said they would need to scrap the pump station design for a new plan that is capable of meeting the potential demand.

Assuming the board adopts the environmental reporting and moves forward with the "atmospheric river capture" project, Horenstein said, "that could be a time, an opportunity, to talk about what does an upgraded Kastania pump station look like."

If the project does not move forward, the district could choose to proceed with its original pump station rebuild plan, Horenstein said.

The board supported the staff recommendation.

"I think it's really important to note this is a critical project. It's been important for a long

time,” said Jed Smith, a board member. “This is an essential component of our infrastructure puzzle that can help us optimize our Sonoma-Marín aqueduct and the conveyance of winter water to help meet our demand needs, especially during drought and low water years.”

Staff plan to seek a contractor for the pump station improvement this summer.

# POINT REYES LIGHT

NEWS

## Dillon Beach, Tomales local power projects get grants

by **Ben Stocking**  
April 9, 2025



Solar-powered microgrids may give two patches of West Marin relief during future blackouts. Dillon Beach and Tomales are among nine rural communities selected for

grants from PG&E to build the grids, which could provide enough clean energy to power key infrastructure and emergency shelters for at least 24 hours—and perhaps up to a week or two, depending on the sun. PG&E selected the projects from among 50 applications; others proposed for Point Reyes Station and Marshall, and a second in Tomales, did not win funding but have a chance to refine their applications and reapply during a second round of grants that opened last week. The first-round proposals will receive between \$1 million and \$6 million to finance their efforts. In Dillon Beach, solar panels and powerful batteries that store power could be installed on property owned by North Marin Water District. In Tomales, the project could be located on land owned by the county or Shoreline Unified School District. Pending county and coastal commission approvals, the projects could be up and running within three years, though new tariffs could complicate efforts. Energy produced by the microgrids will travel through PG&E lines but can be directed to specific infrastructure or sections of town. The Dillon Beach project is intended to keep the village’s water and sewage treatment systems functioning, while the Tomales microgrid would power the fire department and emergency shelters as well as some residences. If a microgrid is eventually approved in Point Reyes Station, it might supply the fire station, the sheriff’s substation, the Dance Palace and perhaps KWMR, keeping the station’s emergency broadcasts on the air. “One of the reasons that West Marin qualified for these grant funds is that it’s considered medically disadvantaged,” said Tom Flynn, a retired engineer and a Marshall resident. “A lot of people here live a long distance from medical services. It’s really important that vulnerable people, particularly people who are not well-off and living alone, have power available.” Energy resilience is crucial in areas at risk of earthquakes and wildfires, said David Rempel, a Point Reyes Station resident and chairman of West Marin Climate Action’s renewable energy subcommittee. “We face greater and greater fire risk, and we need to make sure that during a major disaster our emergency services remain active and functional,” he said. The PG&E microgrid incentive program funds the development of clean energy microgrids to support mostly rural communities vulnerable to outages. About 3,600 of the 9,000 customers served by the nine projects are people with disabilities, older adults, children, people with limited English proficiency, and people who have difficulty accessing transportation. The Dillon Beach application was submitted by the Oceana Marin Association and the Tomales application by Clean Coalition, a Menlo Park nonprofit that partnered with CLAM, West Marin Climate Action and an array of community groups.





# POINT REYES LIGHT

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NEWS

## Pt. Reyes housing proposal set back

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by **Sophia Grace Carter**

April 16, 2025

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A developer behind one of the largest proposed residential projects in West Marin has run squarely into the difficulties of building housing on the coast, where heightened oversight and an extra layer of permitting has long been a thorn in the side of ventures of any scale.

Last week, Yan Cui, a San Diego businessman, withdrew his appeal of a county planner's determination that his proposal to develop 37 residential lots in Point Reyes Station is subject to the strict rules of the coastal zone.

He now has until the end of August to complete his application, and his team is diligently at work to address the more than 20 items flagged by planners.

With panoramas of Tomales Bay and the surrounding hillsides, the 82-acre-property that Mr. Cui purchased in 2023 offers an enticing and potentially lucrative opportunity to reinvent open pastureland just north of town.

The proposed subdivision would result in parcels ranging from roughly one to eight acres, averaging two. At least five homes would be designated for affordable housing and the remainder would be market rate. The project calls for a network of roads to

access the lots, a series of storm drains, a community septic system and water service by North Marin Water District.

Critics worry the proposed project skews toward the type of exclusive, upscale subdivision that county rules and the regulatory restraints of the California Coastal Commission were created to thwart. At the same time, most community members are full-throated in their support for more housing.

“The county’s housing element has identified our need for 1,100 new affordable housing units in West Marin,” said Steve Antonaros, president of the Point Reyes Station Village Association. “The number of affordable units should be tripled or quadrupled.” But, he added, “There is not a need for second homes.”

In March, Mr. Cui’s representatives, Ross Guehring and Xiaoqing Zeng, convened a public meeting attended by roughly 25 locals who reacted to the project with suspicion and occasional hostility.

“We don’t want a huge, spiraling-out-of-control development,” said Point Reyes Station resident Jonathan Allen. “We’re a small town, and we want to preserve it that way. We’re happy to welcome one family in one home, but we do not want 37 single-family homes. That would change our town tremendously and forever, and there would be no going back.”

Mr. Cui, who emigrated from China about a decade ago, purchased the property from the family of Toby Giacomini, a trucking tycoon and local legend, for about \$3.5 million. Consisting of four contiguous parcels, the land is bounded by Point Reyes-Petaluma Road and Lagunitas Creek to the south, Highway 1 to the west, rural residential housing to the north and open pasture to the east. While most of the acreage is undeveloped grassland, there is a farmhouse near the southwestern end of the property.

Mr. Cui had contended that his project should be shielded from the Local Coastal Program—the set of rules governing development in the zone established by the California Coastal Act of 1976—because of a 1980 county order. That order categorically excludes both the construction of houses and land divisions from coastal permitting requirements to encourage development in a designated expansion area

around Point Reyes Station.

But in a Feb. 26 letter, county planner Kathleen Kilgariff informed Mr. Cui that his project fails to qualify for the exemption, and he will be required to secure a coastal development permit. Although his property lies within the area covered by the exclusion order, Ms. Kilgariff explained that the project's scope exceeds the threshold allowed under the order.

Citing a 1982 letter from then-county planner Mark Riesenfeld, she explained that the order applies only to land divisions of fewer than five parcels. The Community Development Agency typically defines "land divisions" as involving one to four parcels, whereas "subdivisions" are five or more parcels.

Last week, the coastal commission's executive director, Kate Huckelbridge, echoed the county's stance, writing that the 1980 exclusion "only applies to land divisions of four parcels or fewer."

When Mr. Cui appealed the county's determination in March, he argued that it was an administrative interpretation that lacks legal weight. "I strongly disagree with this finding," he wrote.

The appeal was set to be heard by Marin County supervisors on April 22, but Mr. Cui withdrew it last Wednesday after planners told him they would seek the opinion of the coastal commission.

Now, the team is returning to the drawing board to revise and refine the plans to meet the requirements of the Local Coastal Program. Mr. Cui recently hired former Marin County supervisor Steve Kinsey, who served on the coastal commission during his time with the county, and attorney Andrew Giacomini. Mr. Giacomini—a cousin of the family that sold Mr. Cui the land—is currently representing dozens of tenants in a lawsuit aimed at preserving affordable housing on ranches within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

"That property ought to be developed," Mr. Giacomini told the *Light*. "We ought to use that property to develop as many houses as we can without completely disrupting the culture of Point Reyes Station. We need the houses, and there's not a lot of places to put

them. I mean, we're in a housing crisis!"

Mr. Giacomini will be focused on “delivering an approvable project within the rules that exist in Marin County,” he said. Meanwhile, Mr. Cui has retained an attorney from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schrec—one of the nation’s top-grossing lobbying law firms that has represented major oil, mining and western water interests—to handle his dealings with the coastal commission.

A disagreement persists over how to calculate the number of homes that must be affordable. In his pre-application filed with the county in January 2024, Mr. Cui outlined a plan to divide the property into 27 parcels—with five designated as affordable—the maximum permitted under the zoning requirement of one residence per three acres. By January 2025, he had filed a subdivision application requesting the categorical exclusion from the Local Coastal Program. That application stated that because the county requires 20 percent of the parcels to be deed restricted as affordable housing, the project qualifies for a 35-percent density bonus under state law. The bonus boosts the number of allowable homes to 37.

Yet county planners say the ratio of affordable homes to market-rate homes should be calculated from the final total of 37, meaning seven, not five, should be below market rate.

Mr. Kinsey, now a land-use consultant, said the focus in the coming months will be on technical studies examining everything from wastewater capacity to the property’s creeks and wetlands—information that will help shape the project’s revised application.

“I would not concentrate for the next six months on making a lot of noise or losing a lot of sleep over the number of units,” he said. “I think the main thing right now is to make sure that the studies that are needed are done, that they are done well, and are understood by the community and the county.”

## **NMWD rates to increase**

*By Ben Stocking*

North Marin Water District is planning hefty rate increases for its West Marin customers over the next five years to finance extensive repairs and upgrades to its aging infrastructure. The agency's board accepted a rate study last week that calls for a 23.8 percent rate hike starting this July and 19-percent increases in the following four years to help pay for \$27.5 million in capital improvements. The board will hold a public hearing on June 17, when it will vote on the package. The district serves about 1,800 customers, including 775 connections across Point Reyes Station, Olema, Bear Valley, Inverness Park and Paradise Ranch Estates. When the first round of increases takes effect, the median customer will see their bimonthly bill rise by about \$25.

"We're looking at a pretty significant capital improvement program over the next 10 to 20 years, with two big projects coming up in the short term," said Tony Williams, the district's general manager. "We don't have that kind of cash in the coffers, so we need to go get a loan or bond to make it all work. The increases are necessary to prove to a bank that we can repay the loan." When Caltrans replaces the Green Bridge in the summer of 2026, the water district will need to replace a pipeline below the span. And it will be required to reroute a second pipeline when the county replaces the Olema Creek Bridge on Levee Road. Each of those projects is expected to cost about \$1.25 million. The district's water comes from two wells at the Gallagher ranch outside Point Reyes Station, but one of them has a low production rate and needs to be replaced. The second well, which began operating in 2022, was built to replace wells at the former Coast Guard facility that were subject to occasional flooding and salinity intrusion. The Coast Guard wells are still used in the operation of the district's water treatment plant and as occasional short-term backup for the Gallagher wells. "We need to put some redundancy in the water supply," said Ken Eichstaedt, an Olema resident who serves on the district's board. "Then we have a treatment system in Point Reyes Station that is 50-plus years old that needs rehabilitation and replacement." In addition to the rate increases, the district plans to seek state and federal loans to cover some of the costs.

# Trump administration mulls intervention in California dam removal

*Matt LaFever*

Scott Dam, one of two dams that make up the Potter Valley Project, and behind is Lake Pillsbury.

Scott Dam, one of two dams that make up the Potter Valley Project, and behind is Lake Pillsbury.

Mike Nelson

In a major twist, the Donald Trump administration is now reviewing regional appeals to halt PG&E's plans to dismantle the [Potter Valley Project](#) — marking the first time the 47th president has weighed in on the fate of the century-old Northern California water system that diverts Eel River flows into the Russian River watershed.

The move follows [a unified plea](#) from farm bureaus in Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties, which warned that the utility's plans would devastate local farms, economies and wildfire defenses across the North Coast.

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In an April 14 letter, the Bureau of Reclamation responded to an inquiry from Aaron Sykes, a board member of the Lake Pillsbury Alliance, which represents the homeowners and stakeholders fighting to keep Scott Dam, the structure that holds back Lake Pillsbury. In the letter, which was reviewed by SFGATE, the federal agency said funding for the project is “undergoing reviews” to ensure it aligns with an [executive order](#) President Donald Trump signed on his first day in office that directs the government to explore any “undue burden” on the “use of domestic energy resources” including, oil, coal and hydropower.

The Bureau of Reclamation identified two potential federal funding streams for the Potter Valley Project, which could theoretically give the administration a means of intervention in its decommissioning. One is the [Department of the Interior's Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program](#), which offers grants covering up to 65% of costs for fish passages, wetland rebuilds and other habitat improvements. The other is the Inflation Reduction Act, an aspect of which is aimed at fortifying Western water systems against climate stress. It's worth noting that both of these pots of money come from legislation passed during the Joe Biden administration.

Built in 1922, Scott Dam created Lake Pillsbury and enabled the year-round flow of water to the Russian River — an essential supply for agriculture in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties. PG&E has announced it will surrender its license for the Potter Valley Project, citing mounting losses and aging infrastructure.

Local farm bureaus called on the Trump administration to step in via a joint letter on April 4, as SFGATE [previously reported](#). The entities urged the Bureau of Reclamation to assume ownership of the dam to maintain water deliveries to over 600,000 North Coast residents.

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Estelle Clifton, president of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau and a signatory on the joint letter to the administration, told SFGATE in an email that given “Scott Dam is in the Mendocino National Forest, a sensible outcome, of PGE abandoning their energy project, will be for it to be owned and managed as a federal water use project through the Bureau of Reclamation.”

The administration’s response in the April 14 letter signals a willingness to weigh those concerns. The letter, signed by acting Commissioner David M. Palumbo, stated that the Lake Pillsbury Alliance’s concerns were “consistent with other perspectives we have heard in recent weeks from the Lake County area.”

PG&E is expected to submit its final decommissioning plan for the Potter Valley Project by July 29, 2025. If Trump does intervene, it wouldn’t be the first time his administration has waded into California’s water wars. [In January](#), the president ordered the Army Corps of Engineers to release 2.2 billion gallons from Lake Kaweah and Lake Success — key Central Valley reservoirs — during a time of low irrigation demand. The White House called it wildfire support for Southern California, but water experts and lawmakers said none of the water could actually reach Southern California systems and dubbed the release a political stunt.

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April 18, 2025

Photo of Matt LaFever

North Coast Contributing Editor

**Matt LaFever has reported on California’s North Coast in print and radio for nearly a decade. A Humboldt State grad and 20-year Emerald Triangle resident, he strives to document the wilderness, wildlife, and wild people who call this place their home. Reach him at [matt.lafever@sfgate.com](mailto:matt.lafever@sfgate.com).**



# MENDOFEVER

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: INVITING TRUMP TO INTERFERE WITH THE POTTER VALLEY PROJECT—AN OP-ED

Categories: [News](#) [Op-Ed](#) [Water](#)



MendoFever Staff April 29, 2025

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***Welcome to our letters to the editor/opinion section. To submit yours for consideration, please send to [matthewplafever@gmail.com](mailto:matthewplafever@gmail.com). Please consider including an image to be used—either a photograph of you or something applicable to the letter. However, an image is not necessary for publication.***

***Remember opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect that of MendoFever nor have we checked the letters for accuracy.***



Our community – in a larger sense than perhaps many of us first imagine – is facing an existential question regarding our future water security. This question is being posed, not at our own initiative or design, but by circumstance. As many of us may know, even though we may not all fully apprehend its consequences, PG&E is surrendering the Potter Valley Project. How we will answer the only question that really matters will require the best from each of us.

Years ago, my grandmother, a remarkable woman of deep faith, encouraged me to pursue an education and to “*never stop learning, Philip.*” In a note that is now tucked into her old Bible on my bookshelf, she observed six virtues of knowledge. The first counseled that the honest pursuit of knowledge would allow me to “detect and confront error.” What follows is just that.

For over 120 years, the entire Russian River watershed, from Potter Valley to Jenner, has directly benefited



from PG&E's storage, release, and diversion of Eel River water into the Russian River watershed. Once those waters met PG&E's uses, partly for hydropower, and landed in the Russian River watershed, it was considered abandoned flow under California water law. Many of us – almost all of us – perfected appropriative water rights predicated on these foreign waters. Those of us relying on those waters have no right to insist on PG&E continuing to provide them. When they are gone, our appropriative water rights to that water are inchoate.

In anticipation of PG&E's surrender of the Potter Valley Project, with tremendous foresight, decades ago certain leaders took steps to ensure our community would be well-positioned to meet this moment and created the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission. We are all better for their efforts. Recently, those of us who find ourselves having inherited their vision have been laboring – and labor is the proper term here – to secure the most favorable terms the reality of our circumstances permit. One result of those labors is a memorandum of understanding between IWPC, Sonoma Water, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, California Fish and Wildlife, Humboldt County, and environmental groups on the Eel River. This MOU secures our ability to divert Eel River water for up to fifty years, and, more importantly, establishes a regime – constructs a framework – creates an ecosystem – that allows us to build on that success and that partnership for our longer-term collective water security. Given the circumstances, this is, I earnestly counsel, our only true imperative when it comes to the Potter Valley Project.

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On April 4, 2025, the Mendocino, Sonoma, Lake, and Marin County Farm Bureaus published an open letter to President Donald J. Trump and his kakistocracy. The letter denigrates the elegant, durable solution the MOU frames out, complaining that the group that negotiated the MOU did not invite the signatories to bless it with their extensive knowledge and expertise in these matters. The letter goes so far to invite President Trump to sabotage PG&E's decommissioning plan – a plan which includes the continued diversion of water into the Russian, and, instead, urges the Bureau of Reclamation to assume ownership and responsibility for the Potter Valley Project.

I detect three primary errors in the letter and offer them for our due consideration, believing that by confronting them head-on we may avoid the communal immolation the letter tempts us toward.

The first is the energy behind the letter – what is an injudicious and imprudent yielding to fear. This energy is expressed in two distinct ways. First, my good reader, if one has to publish an open letter to the President of the United States and a significant portion of his Cabinet, then one simply does not have the juice –the experience–wherewithal–required to be heard otherwise. Now, in our history there have been populations that have had to resort to this tactic – women, African-Americans, homosexuals, immigrants – because they have been institutionally disenfranchised. These are hardly those circumstances. Second, this is simply not how one develops or even affects a major water project. One should know to pick up the phone or send an email to the correct person requesting the kind of discrete, focused, and informed meeting where these

types of issues are thoughtfully addressed. The letter betrays a fundamental misconception of how to get important things – like our future water security – done in the real world.

I believe fear explains the tactic. Unfortunately, however, it does not excuse it. We are all afraid – some of us are simply refusing to yield to it. In these times, it will be a quiet courage and an unyielding (though not naïve) faith that count.

Second, while the letter rightly acknowledges the fundamental importance of continued Eel River diversions, it simultaneously “urges” the President to prevent FERC (how to do so within the bounds of our Constitution is not clear) from approving PG&E’s decommissioning plan – *the very plan that provides for those continued diversions.*

Compounding the incoherence of its stated policy preference, the letter is uninformed by facts and circumstances. The facts include that PG&E owns the assets of the Potter Valley Project, including Scott Dam, Cape Horn Dam, the associated infrastructure, and the water rights. It’s PG&E’s stuff, folks, and we simply do not get to dictate to them what to do with it. That’s how things like the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments work.

The circumstances include elements in Humboldt County, including environmental groups, which insist on Scott Dam coming down and do not seem to care whether there is any continued diversion at all. These folks include extraordinarily litigious and well-financed elements like Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman’s Association. The letter insinuates we did not fight hard enough – that we somehow, for some reason – an absence of courage or conviction, perhaps? – yielded to these elements. Here I am not being defensive nor am I engaging in apologetics – I simply know what Herculean effort has gone into this to get us this far. As an infantryman who fought in Iraq, I am far too used to those who stayed out of the fight criticize those who fought. This blemish on human nature and manly virtue is nothing new – it is, however, no less tiresome.

The prudent course required that we ask how best to deal with these energies. As much as they may insult our own legitimate interests in water, these competing energies are an important variable in any calculus that leads to any real and enduring solution. Rather than counsel the prudent path, the letter beckons us, Siren-like, to return the insult as if their interests were somehow necessarily subordinate to our own. This potential future only guarantees conflict. This potential future only results in tragedy – tragic because the resulting catastrophe will have been of our own making.

This regime of conflict is the governing regime in other areas of the state – I counsel my neighbors in the strongest possible terms to avoid that future. It is a future where executive directors, engineers, consultants, and, yes, lawyers, make boatloads of money and guarantee perpetual employment in the Sisyphean task of endlessly fighting over every drop of water while the end user – the family trying to buy a home, the irrigator, the harvester, the business owner, the kid at the park – suffers.

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The current path is a path toward a future where competing interests to Eel River water are recognized and provided for and which is the best guarantor of our collective water security. Thus the letter is as ill-conceived as it is uninformed by reality.

Finally, in the crescendo of its folly, the letter "urges" Reclamation to assume ownership and responsibility of the Potter Valley Project, citing Reclamation's expertise in federal water management and dam operations as "the best path forward." Perhaps. One wonders whether the authors are familiar with Reclamation's cost allocation policies, and with the fact that, yes, Reclamation does do large water projects – and does them rather well – but it does not do so for free. In fact, the cost of providing what would be federal project water, both in capital obligations and any attending water service or repayment contract terms, would exceed by several factors the likely cost of the present course the MOU provides. It would certainly be entire orders of magnitude more costly than the rates currently paid by our friends and neighbors in Potter Valley. Once again, one need only cast one's eyes and mind beyond the borders of Mendocino County or read something other than social media to understand the significant cost implications of Reclamation operating a future water project. This the letter does not even begin to address.

To beat the horse dead, the letter also fails to grasp the structural realities that Reclamation and its water contractors and end users regularly deal with. Reclamation does not operate in an administrative vacuum. As a bureau in the Department of Interior, its sister agencies, notably U.S. Fish and Wildlife, are able to influence decisions made at the policy level that manifest themselves in decreased water reliability – those of us who work in this arena describe it as a one-way knob. Furthermore – and under the critical, well financed eye of those who are currently our allies but who would now be our outright opponents – Reclamation's every action would be subject to indefatigable challenge under the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Clean Water Act, not to mention the tome that is Federal Reclamation Law, which is itself, as the Central Valley Project experienced in 1992, subject to "improvement" based on national politics. These constraints would very likely lead our home to operate under the same constant water insecurity as our neighbors, for example, south of the Delta, where, for the third year in a row, and after the third year of record or near-record precipitation, can count on only receiving perhaps 40% of what their contracts with Reclamation provide. Bear in mind they pay for 100%, regardless of the allocation.

The only thing the letter manages to get right is that we must raise and modernize Coyote Valley Dam. And here when I say "we" I mean Mendocino County. The greater Ukiah Valley's water future is entirely dependent on accomplishing this. Anything – any effort, any talking point, any other interest – that distracts from our ability to recover from the grave mistake our forebears made 70 years ago must be unapologetically treated as a clear and present danger to our collective water security. It's just math, folks, plain and simple – it's addition and subtraction. Tens of thousands of acre-feet of water will come. We must have somewhere to put it. Right now we do not.

An ill-conceived idea, born of fear and animated by a lack of information about the relevant facts, circumstances, and law – essentially concocting an alternate reality – results in something that is as unwise as it is existentially dangerous. It may seem harsh to offer these observations in public – much rather would I have had this discussion in private with my friends and neighbors in Mendocino County Farm Bureau leadership. With all my heart, I hoped the letter would go quietly into the night. But the public repetition of the letter's existence, pleas, and substance, such as it is, unfortunately, demands a public rebuttal given the gravity of the sin. My sincere and earnest hope is that my offering will counsel more thoughtful, constructive, and informed participation from men and women of the requisite moral fiber to meet the moment.

Error, undetected and unfronted, can pervert the truth and – worse – undermine our belief in and paralyze our pursuit of the truth. These times do indeed demand the best from each of us – I suggest we now have a glimpse of what the worst looks like and that, from this thalweg, we have nowhere to go but up.

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*Philip A. Williams lives just outside Ukiah; a former infantryman with two tours in Iraq, he is a registered Republican and holds a Master's in Public Administration, a Juris Doctor, and a Master of Laws in water; he has been practicing water law across the state for over ten years, with significant experience in major federal water projects and Reclamation law, very much of which has been spent defending and advocating for California agriculture. He dedicates this writing to his children and their friends, whose future home he is wholly and unapologetically committed to securing.*



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