



## NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

### NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING August 5, 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 MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING</b> , July 15, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2.   | <b>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3.   | <b>OPEN TIME: (Please observe a three-minute time limit)</b><br><br>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><br><b>ACTION CALENDAR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5.   | <b>Approve:</b> Declaring Surplus Properties Exempt Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|      | <b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 6.   | 2025 District and Regional Water Supply Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 7.   | FY2022 through FY2025 Stafford Dam Activities Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8.   | JM Manufacturing Company PVC Pipe Legal Settlement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9.   | WAC/TAC Meeting Agenda – August 4, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10.  | <b>MISCELLANEOUS</b><br>Disbursements – July 17, 2025<br>Disbursements – July 25, 2025<br>Disbursements – July 31, 2025<br>Lab Accreditation<br>NOAA Drought Outlook - July 17, 2025<br>Potter Valley Project Update – Powerpoint<br><u>News Articles:</u><br>Marin IJ – Affordable housing proposal advances – POINT REYES STATION<br>Marin IJ – Reducing irrigation – SAVING STRATEGIES<br>Marin IJ – Push to save will continue rain or shine - EDITORIAL<br>Press Democrat – Sonoma County officials try to assuage water-shortage fears sparked by Potter Valley Project decommissioning plan<br>Press Democrat – PG&E advances water system exit plan – NORTH COAST<br>USACE- Public comment begins for Coyote Valley Dam water control manual update<br>Pt. Reyes Light – Grandi owner revives hotel, restaurant plan<br>SF Gate – Letting a Northern California river run free comes at a cost |
| 11.  | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**1**



**DRAFT**  
**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
July 15, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

District employees Chris Kehoe, Construction Superintendent, Tim Fuelle, Lia Solar, and Corey Reed were also in the audience.

**MINUTES**

On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Baker, the Board approved the minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

President Joly thanked Tony Williams and Ryan Grisso for the efforts in entering the Water District into the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, he said he and his family enjoyed it very much. He also thanked Eric Miller and his wife, Haylee DeMartini and her daughter, Brian Northen, and Danny McDonald for their participation in the parade.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Tony Williams gave a brief Potter Valley Update saying that PG&E is on track to submit their decommissioning plan. He also said that there is a good report from Sonoma Water that the application will include the NERF project. He said a new water diversion agreement (WDA) will stipulate how water will go through the facility. The ERPA Board will consider the WDA at their next meeting, then it will go on to get approval from the Sonoma Water board and the other agencies in the group.

Mr. Williams told the Board that Robert Clark's successor, Tim Kennedy, will be starting on August 18. He said that Mr. Kennedy is from Marin Water and comes highly recommended. Mr. Williams noted that he has T5 and D5 water certification and that he lives in Novato.

Lastly, Mr. Williams reminded the Board that there is a closed session at the end of the meeting.

1 **OPEN TIME**

2 President Joly asked if anyone in the audience wished to bring up an item not on the  
3 agenda and there was no response.

4 **STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS**

5 President Joly asked if there were any staff or director's reports.

6 Eric Miller said that some volunteer work was done in the small median in the Rush Creek  
7 Place cul-de-sac by a local Eagle Scout (Corey Reed's son) along with Corey Reed. They removed  
8 the dying plants and installed rock scape. Mr. Miller said he will have the scout come to a future  
9 meeting.

10 Director Petterle said he had read the comments in the Customer Service Report and noted  
11 that Gina and Travis were called out and that they, as well as staff, are amazing and he noted that  
12 he receives calls from customers complimenting how great our staff is. He thanked Gina and  
13 Travis.

14 President Joly said that he, Director Petterle attended a joint "Board to Board" ad-hoc  
15 committee meeting along with Tony Williams, and Ben Horenstein, Larry Russell, and Diana Meier  
16 of Marin Water (MW) on July 9. He said it was a good meeting where they explored opportunities of  
17 sharing resources, and cost savings, specifically water conservation and co-sharing at regional  
18 events such as the county fair. He said that MW did ask about the potential of contracting their lab  
19 work for water quality with our lab but that we made it very clear that we do not have the capacity to  
20 do that at this point in time. The proposed MW pipeline to Nicasio was discussed as well and Mr.  
21 Williams noted that the project involves connecting off the North Marin aqueduct, then down San  
22 Marin Drive and down Novato Blvd, and that we have offered the use of District land off Novato Blvd  
23 for a pump facility and a turnout at Stafford Lake. The estimated cost of the project is \$167M and is  
24 approximately 13 miles long. During the meeting Mr. Horenstein said that construction could start in  
25 about 18 months and would be completed sometime in 2028. Director Fraites said he doesn't like  
26 the project pipeline going through busy streets and asked if they had looked into other routes,  
27 Director Petterle agreed. President Joly said that MW has gone to Washington DC for legislative  
28 affairs and said perhaps we could be part of that in the future. He also said that MW has a good  
29 land surveying team that helped us during the landslide along the aqueduct. MW representatives  
30 suggested meetings every 2 months which would put the next meeting in September. President  
31 Joly asked the Board their opinion on that. Director Petterle said he liked the idea of cooperation  
32 but feels that should be it carefully evaluated. President Joly asked if he was ok with another  
33 meeting and Director Petterle said he was. Director Eichstaedt mentioned Nicasio Reservoir and  
34 that he has received several calls about this project and its effect out there. He said we should  
35 have some sensitivity to that. Directors Fraites and Baker were ok with another ad-hoc meeting  
36 with MW as well.

1 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

2 On the motion of Director Baker, and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the  
3 Consent Calendar by the following vote:

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

5 NOES: None

6 ABSENT: None

7 ABSTAIN: None

8 **BASE SALARY SCHEDULE REVISION**

9 A miscalculation was identified in the application of Operators certificate pay in the salary  
10 tiers in the updated salary schedule that was approved by the Board at the June 3, 2025 meeting.  
11 The Board approved the revised salary schedule effective July 1, 2025.

12 **ACTION CALENDAR**

13 **APPROVE: APPEAL OF REPAIR REIMBURSEMENT DENIAL – 14 CAMPOLINDO RD., POINT**  
14 **REYES STATION**

15 Tony Williams gave an overview of the situation. There had been a main break in Highway 1  
16 in Pt. Reyes Station, and during repairs it was necessary for the construction crews to shut off the  
17 water to some of the customers on Campolindo Rd. Subsequently, Mrs. Lynn Axelrod Mitchell's  
18 pressure pump, the customer at 14 Campolindo Rd., needed repairs due to the water being shut off.  
19 Mrs. Mitchell had the repairs done by Nor-Cal PumpWorks in the amount of \$2,001.43 and  
20 requested reimbursement from the District. Because this parcel has a Low Pressure Water  
21 Agreement, any liability of the District is waived. Mr. Williams said he initially denied the  
22 reimbursement request based on the agreement and Regulation 11. He said that since the early  
23 1960's we have had low pressure services. Mr. Williams said that it is clear in the regulations that  
24 the customer is responsible on their side. He also said that if a fire service is needed at the house,  
25 that to have the correct pressure can be difficult without a pumping system and tank. He mentioned  
26 that in our Regulation 11, which has been modified many times, a waiver of District responsibility  
27 has always been a part of the regulation. He said that all the homes in this particular subdivision  
28 are low pressure services after Director Eichstaedt mentioned Mrs. Mitchell said she was the only  
29 one. President Joly asked if we have had issues with other low pressure services and Mr. Williams  
30 said we have not. He said many of our pipes are in a local agency's right-of-way, and this one  
31 happens to be in a Caltrans right-of-way. He said the homeowner should have had a pump low-  
32 pressure shut off valve. He also said we carry insurance but not for these types of situations,  
33 anything under \$100,000 is the District's responsibility. Mr. Williams said his reason for denial was  
34 to not set a precedent. There was some discussion about the history of the services in the area.  
35 Director Eichstaedt thanked Chris Kehoe and the construction crew, and Tony as well. He noted  
36 that he spoke with the customer. He was concerned with the amount of water that was lost and

1 how that can impact many things. He asked how we capture this in GIS and will there be  
2 information for future employees. He also noted how aged the pipes are in the area. President Joly  
3 asked if the area is vulnerable and Mr. Miller said that we understand the situation and it is common  
4 with many agencies across the country regarding aging pipelines. Mr. Williams noted that we have  
5 good as-builts but not necessarily a lot of information about how deep pipes are but that we are  
6 improving in that area. He said that it is not clear who originally installed the pipes, it could have  
7 been the prior private water provider in the area. Mr. Williams said he understands that there could  
8 be issues if there is a main break and water is lost. Director Eichstaedt asked how the information  
9 goes in the GIS system and Mr. Williams said we put break information into the GIS system and a  
10 database. Mr. Williams said that although he denied the claim on principle, he offered to bring the  
11 customer's written request to the Board for an appeal. Director Petterle said he would like to put  
12 some money towards this; he understands that the District is not obligated to but that this customer  
13 is in need. He said he is not adverse to the District paying the customer \$500 to help her. Director  
14 Eichstaedt said he agrees but is conflicted. He said he feels we have regulations regarding this but  
15 he likes the idea Director Petterle suggested. Director Fraites said he agrees with the position that  
16 Mr. Williams took, and Director Baker agreed with that as well. He said we should stick with our  
17 policies and regulations. President Joly said he liked Director Petterle's suggestion but understands  
18 the other directors' position. Director Petterle said we have had some similar situations regarding  
19 leaks and have made some exceptions in the past. He said he would like to motion that we  
20 understand that we do have an agreement and have protected ourselves and are not obligated to  
21 make a payment but as this is a long time customer he would like the District to contribute \$500.  
22 President Joly said the original motion is to deny the request for reimbursement but as a gesture of  
23 goodwill we would like to offer a \$500 donation. Director Fraites said we should stick to our rules  
24 and regulations and doesn't support the payment, Director Baker agreed. Director Petterle said the  
25 motion is to deny the request but to make a \$500 donation. He asked if there is anything else we  
26 can do for the other customers with low pressure, and Mr. Williams said we can look into it.  
27 President Joly noted that we just approved a rate increase with no complaints from customers,  
28 which is why he agreed to the payment. Chris Kehoe said that we should as part of the \$500,  
29 encourage the customer to install a pressure switch so the system can accommodate in the future.

30 On the motion of Director Petterle, and seconded by Director Eichstaedt, the Board  
31 approved the Appeal of Repair Reimbursement Denial – 14 Campolindo Rd., Point Reyes Station  
32 by the following vote:

33 AYES: Director(s) Eichstaedt, Joly, and Petterle

34 NOES: Director(s) Baker and Fraites

35 ABSENT: None

36 ABSTAIN: None

1 **APPROVE: AUTHORIZE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE FOR NEW WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT**  
2 **BETWEEN MARIN WATER AND SONOMA WATER**

3 Tony Williams gave an overview of the item. He said that Sonoma Water and Marin Water,  
4 who is not one of the eight water contractors, have drafted a new agreement that will take the two  
5 existing agreements between them and combine them into one agreement that would expire in  
6 2040. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC ) leadership as well as Mr. Williams, who is the  
7 District's TAC member, have reviewed the draft agreement and have recommended approved to  
8 the TAC. President Joly asked about the 75,000 acre feet per year limit on SW's water rights and  
9 asked if that is the total that MW can take from the Russian River, and Mr. Williams said it is.  
10 President Joly also asked who oversees this and Mr. Williams answered that the State Water Board  
11 does. Director Petterle expressed concern that this agreement will not impact our water supply and  
12 Mr. Williams said he does not believe it will.

13 On the motion of Director Fraites, and seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the  
14 Authorize Affirmative Vote for New Water Supply Agreement Between Marin Water and Sonoma  
15 Water by the following vote:

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

17 NOES: None

18 ABSENT: None

19 ABSTAIN: None

20 **APPROVE: NOVATO BLVD. CONSTRUCTION PHASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF**  
21 **NOVATO**

22 Eric Miller spoke and said an item on this subject was brought to the Board in May and gave  
23 an overview. He said we are partnering with the City of Novato for cost savings but the City will be  
24 taking the lead and we will pay our part at the end, and that this is in the terms of the agreement.  
25 President Joly asked if our rights are protected and Mr. Miller said they are, and that we have the  
26 first right of refusal. Director Fraites asked what the duration of the project will be, Mr. Miller said it  
27 could be 2 years. He said the City's schedule is to start in the Spring of 2026, but this is not definite.  
28 He said the pipeline is about 3/4 miles long and that our 6" waterline will be abandoned in place and  
29 a new 24" line will be installed.

30 On the motion of Director Baker, and seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved the  
31 Novato Blvd. Construction Phase Agreement with the City of Novato by the following vote:

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

33 NOES: None

34 ABSENT: None

35 ABSTAIN: None

1 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2 **ADMINISTRATION & LABORATORY – OPEN HOUSE**

3 Eileen Mulliner said that the date for the Open House has been set for Friday, September  
4 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. She said it is still in the planning stages with an invite list being put  
5 together but there will be the unveiling of the dedication plaque, live demonstrations, and guided  
6 tours of the Administration and Laboratory buildings, and the demo gardens. Director Baker asked  
7 if there will be refreshments, Ms. Mulliner confirmed there will be. President Joly asked to see the  
8 invite list when it is completed and also asked how the information that there will be an Open House  
9 will be put out to the community. Ms. Mulliner said aside from invites going out, that the information  
10 will be pushed out on our social media and on our website as well.

11 **ADMINISTRATION & LABORATORY BUILDING – DEDICATION PLAQUE**

12 Eric Miller gave a presentation showing the new draft for the wording of the dedication  
13 plaque as well as the two options for location. He said the plaque will be brushed stainless steel  
14 with black etched wording. Director Eichstaedt asked if we have had Kiosk review the wording for  
15 suggestions. Mr. Miller said we have not but that we can send it to them to review. There was a  
16 great deal of discussion regarding the wording with no resolution. Mr. Miller will be sending it to  
17 Kiosk for their suggestions. The Board discussed location and ultimately decided on the left side of  
18 redwood wall in the lobby.

19 **5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

20 Tony Williams said that he would like to schedule a Board workshop meeting which will be  
21 informal enough to allow open discussion but still adhering to the Brown Act. He suggested several  
22 dates and the date decided on by the Board is July 30, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Williams said an agenda  
23 for the special meeting will be posted.

24 **NBWA MEETING AGENDA, JULY 11, 2025**

25 Director Fraites reported on the July 11 NBWA meeting. He said that the news isn't good for  
26 the fish in the San Joaquin Valley rivers. He said that certain fish populations have been reduced to  
27 very low levels due to non-native fish being introduced some time ago. He said the Chinook  
28 Salmon have disappeared. Director Fraites noted that Director Baker also attended the meeting.

29 **MISCELLANEOUS**

30 President Joly inquired about a \$143,882 payment to Marin County Flood Control. Mr.  
31 Williams said it was for a study of the Stafford Dam and creek and this was a final payment. He also  
32 noted the Board approved this work as part of an amendment of a long standing agreement with the  
33 Flood Control District.

1 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated June 19, 26,  
2 July 3, and 10, 2025, Auditor-Controller’s Monthly Report of Investments for May 2025, Monthly  
3 Progress Report, NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook – June 30, 2025, Trump Administration  
4 Releases Detailed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget – ACWA, Water Supply Roadmap – Sonoma Water,  
5 State of the Water Industry 2025 Executive Summary – AWWA.

6 The Board also received the following articles: Marin IJ – County to buy site for housing –  
7 POINT REYES STATION.

8 The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – June, 2025.

9 Regular Board meeting recessed at 5:50 p.m. before entering closed session.

10 **CLOSED SESSION**

11 President Joly President Joly convened the Board into closed session at 6:00 p.m. to  
12 discuss real property negotiations in accordance with California Government Code Section §  
13 54956.8 concerning property associated with APNs 160-274-07 and 160-020-15. In addition to the  
14 five Board Directors, Tony Williams General Manager, Eric Miller AGM/Chief Engineer, Criag  
15 Judson, District Counsel (via telephone), and Eric Lueder of Associated Right of Way Services, Inc.  
16 were present.

17 **OPEN SESSION**

18 Upon returning to regular session at 6:24 p.m., President Joly stated that no reportable  
19 action had been taken during closed session.

20 **ADJOURNMENT**

21 President Joly adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

22 Submitted by  
23

24  
25 Eileen Mulliner  
26 District Secretary  
27  
28

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**4**

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

August 5, 2025

From: Tony Williams, General Manager

Subj: Declaring Surplus Properties Exempt Status (APNs 153-064-07, 150-542-01, 150-581-26, 160-020-07, 143-160-31, 114-300-02, -03, 114-500-54, 144-100-60, 114-111-41 and 119-270-04)

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the Board Declare the Subject District Surplus Properties Exempt and Adopting the Resolution

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

At the September 5, 2000 Board Meeting, and again at the September 4, 2001 Meeting, the North Marin Water District (District) Board of Directors determined that the fourteen following Novato and West Marin Service Area properties were no longer in use and identified them as surplus lands:

**Table 1 – District Surplus Lands**

| APN                                                                   | Location                                         | Parcel Size (Acres) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 153-111-21*                                                           | Rosalia tank site (Oleander Dr)                  | 5.74                |
| 153-182-44                                                            | Rosalia tank site (off DeLong Ave)               | 0.26                |
| 153-064-07                                                            | Old Tresch tank site (Hayden Ave, Carlile Dr)    | 0.23                |
| 150-542-01                                                            | Woodland Heights pressure tank site              | 0.07                |
| 150-581-26                                                            | Woodland Heights tank site                       | 0.15                |
| 160-020-07                                                            | Loma Verde tank site                             | ~0.2                |
| 143-160-31                                                            | Lot adjacent to Atherton Tanks (Morning Star Ct) | 1.7                 |
| 141-110-06                                                            | Old San Marin tank site (Spinosa Way)            | 0.91                |
| 141-110-07                                                            | Old San Marin tanks site (Spinosa Way)           | 0.51                |
| 114-300-02                                                            | Old Adams tank/spring site                       | 0.92                |
| 114-300-03                                                            | Old Adams spring site                            | 0.06                |
| 114-150-54                                                            | Old Adams spring site                            | 0.06                |
| 114-100-60                                                            | Old Adams spring site                            | 0.08                |
| 114-111-41                                                            | Old Adams pump site (assumed)                    | 0.1                 |
| <i>*lot line adjustment in 2023; formerly APNs 153-111-10 and -15</i> |                                                  |                     |

Since that time, despite the intent to dispose of the properties, no action, such as the sale of the listed properties above, has occurred. In addition, since 2001, several changes have occurred to the state's Surplus Land Act (SLA) which provides the mechanisms and requirements for disposing of surplus land by public agencies, including the District. In 2021, the Board re-

declared the first two properties listed above (APNs 153-111-21 and 153-182-44) as surplus and adopted Resolution 21-19 so stating (Attachment 1).

### **Point Reyes Residence**

In 2005, the District purchased a single-family home at 25 Giacomini Road (APN 119-270-04, approximately 0.29 acres) for \$652,000. The house was purchased with the intent of providing employee housing and benefiting from having a staff member living within the West Marin Service Area. Beginning in 2015, after a District employee residing in the house moved to another residence, and after receiving no interest from other employees, or other agencies, the house has been rented. In light of not fulfilling the original management costs and the potential revenue, the five-year financial forecast included in the approved FY 2024-25 Budget assumed sale of the property. Therefore, since this property was not previously identified as surplus, Staff is recommending it be declared surplus as well.

### **Exemptions in the SLA**

There are several exemptions allowed in the SLA for certain surplus lands. The exemptions most applicable to District properties include “Small Surplus Land Parcels” for any parcel smaller than ½ acre; “Exchange of Surplus Land”; “Local Agency to Agency Surplus Land Transfer” and “Land Transferred to a Community Land Trust<sup>1</sup>”. Staff are recommending eleven of the District’s surplus properties be declared exempt by the Board. The proposed eleven sites are presented in the table below and shown on the maps provided in Attachment 2.

**Table 2 – Proposed Exempt Surplus Lands**

| Site # | APN        | Location                       | Exemption                |
|--------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1      | 153-064-07 | Old Tresch tank site           | Small Parcel             |
| 2      | 150-542-01 | Woodland Heights tank site     | Local Agency Transfer    |
| 3      | 150-581-26 | Woodland Heights tank site     | Small Parcel*            |
| 4      | 160-020-07 | Loma Verde tank site           | Exchange of Surplus Land |
| 5      | 143-160-31 | Lot adjacent to Atherton Tanks | Exchange of Surplus Land |
| 6      | 114-300-02 | Old Adams tank/spring site     | Local Agency Transfer    |
| 7      | 114-300-03 | Old Adams spring site          | Small Parcel             |
| 8      | 114-150-54 | Old Adams spring site          | Small parcel             |
| 9      | 114-100-60 | Old Adams spring site          | Small Parcel             |
| 10     | 114-111-41 | Old Adams pump site            | Small Parcel             |
| 11     | 119-270-04 | 25 Giacomini Road**            | Small Parcel**           |

\*Also meets “Local Agency Transfer” or “Exchange of Surplus Lands” exemption.

\*\*Also meets “Land Transferred to a Community Land Trust” exemption

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<sup>1</sup> The SLA allows for sale, lease or transfer to a Community Land Trust under this exemption category.

Staff have had informal discussions with Marin County Parks about exchanging sites #4 and #5 for a parcel owned by the County near the Stafford Treatment Plant. In addition, Staff have reached out to the National Park Service about sites #6, #7 and #8 which are adjacent to NPS owned lands. Although no discussions have taken place with the City of Novato, site #2 adjoins city-owned property designated as open space and there may be interest in this parcel. Because it is contiguous with city-owned open space lands, it is not eligible for a “Small Parcel” exemption per the SLA. The District has previously been in contact with the Community Land Trust Association of West Marin (CLAM) about site #11. More recently CLAM reached out to the District about the sale of the property and Staff have offered further discussions. Regardless, site #11 is eligible under the “Small Surplus Land Parcels” exemption.

As required by the SLA, the District must take formal action to declare the eleven (11) properties identified in Table 2 as “Exempt Surplus Lands” and staff is recommending the Board adopt Resolution 25-XX to document this declaration. If approved by the Board, the Resolution must be submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and allow 30 days before disposition.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board: 1) declare District properties APNs 153-064-07, 150-542-01, 150-581-26, 160-020-07, 143-160-31, 114-300-02, -03, 114-500-54, 144-100-60, 114-111-41 and 119-270-04 as Exempt Surplus Lands; and 2) Adopt Resolution 25-XX (Attachment 3).

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 21-19
2. Maps of Surplus Lands and Proposed Exempt Surplus Lands
3. Resolution 25-XX

## RESOLUTION 21-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTIES**

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**WHEREAS**, in August 2000 and August 2001, the North Marin Water District (District) identified and declared several vacant properties as surplus and approved their disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, since identifying the vacant parcels in August 2000 and August 2001, changes have been made to the Surplus Land Act (SLA) under the state Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, since no disposal action has been taken for the parcels to date and pursuant to Government Code Section 54221(b)(1) the District desires to reaffirm its intent to divest these properties and formally re-declare the three parcels of land as surplus lands.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District as follows:

1. The Board of Directors does hereby find, determine, and declare that the foregoing Recitals are true and correct, and incorporates these Recitals herein.
2. The Board of Directors does hereby reaffirm and re-declare that the following parcels, listed by Assessor Parcel Number (APN), as surplus under the SLA:
  - a. APN 153-111-10
  - b. APN 153-111-15
  - c. APN 153-182-44

\* \* \* \* \*

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 August 3, 2021 by the following vote:

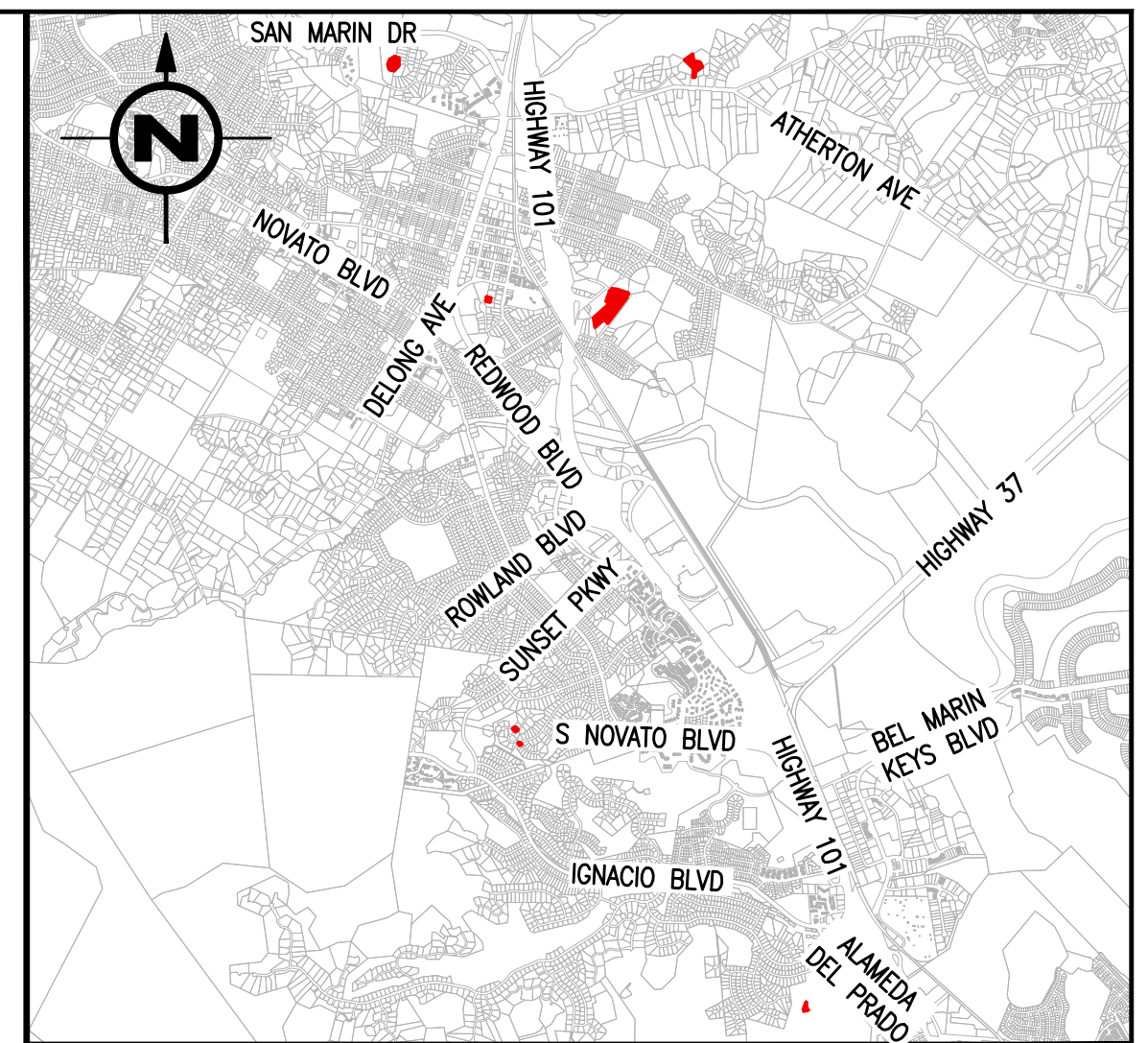
|            |                                                  |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| AYES:      | Directors Baker, Fraites, Grossi, Joly, Petterle |
| NOES:      | None                                             |
| ABSENT:    | None                                             |
| ABSTAINED: | None                                             |

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa, Secretary  
North Marin Water District

(SEAL



June 13, 2025 - 6:03 PM W:\JOB\MISC\Presentation\NMWD Surplus Parcels\3\_ISSUED\A\NMWD Surplus Parcel\_Novato.dwg User: Susan Dove



PROPOSED EXEMPT  
SURPLUS LAND SITE



EXISTING STREETS/HIGHWAY \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY LINES/R.O.W. \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|--|-------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------|---------|
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
|  | X/XX/XX | ISSUED FOR INFORMATION |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
| NO.                                                                                   | DATE    | REVISION               |  |                   |  |                           |  |         | BY APP. |
| NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT<br>NOVATO, CALIFORNIA                                      |         |                        |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
| NOVATO NORTH<br>SURPLUS PARCEL PROPERTY<br>SITE MAP                                   |         |                        |  |                   |  |                           |  |         |         |
| DES                                                                                   |         | DR                     |  | CH                |  | SCALE : 1" = 750'         |  |         |         |
| TW                                                                                    |         | SD                     |  | DATE : 05/08/2024 |  |                           |  |         |         |
| APPROVED: CHIEF ENGINEER                                                              |         |                        |  |                   |  | SHEET NO. : 1 OF 3 SHEETS |  |         |         |
| R.F. C78430                                                                           |         |                        |  |                   |  | SERVICE AREA              |  | JOB.NO. | NO. 001 |





EXISTING STREETS/HIGHWAY

PROPERTY LINES/R.O.W.

|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|--|---------|
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |         |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |         |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |         |
|  | X/XX/XX | ISSUED FOR INFORMATION |  |         |
| NO.                                                                                   | DATE    | REVISION               |  | BY APP. |

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
NOVATO, CALIFORNIA

NOVATO SOUTH  
SURPLUS PARCEL PROPERTY  
SITE MAP

|                          |    |    |                           |         |        |
|--------------------------|----|----|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| DES                      | DR | CH | SCALE : 1" = 500'         |         |        |
| TW                       | SD |    | DATE : 05/08/2024         |         |        |
| APPROVED: CHIEF ENGINEER |    |    | SHEET NO. : 2 OF 3 SHEETS |         |        |
| R.E. C78430              |    |    | SERVICE AREA              | JOB.NO. | NO.002 |





EXISTING STREETS/HIGHWAY

PROPERTY LINES/R.O.W.

|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|---|--------|----------|
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
|                                                                                       |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
|  | X/XX/XX | ISSUED FOR INFORMATION |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
| NO.                                                                                   | DATE    | REVISION               |  |                   |  |                   |   | BY     | APP.     |
| NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT<br>NOVATO, CALIFORNIA                                      |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
| WEST MARIN<br>SURPLUS PARCEL PROPERTY<br>SITE MAP                                     |         |                        |  |                   |  |                   |   |        |          |
| DES                                                                                   |         | DR                     |  | CH                |  | SCALE : 1" = 500' |   |        |          |
| TW                                                                                    |         | SD                     |  | DATE : 05/08/2024 |  |                   |   |        |          |
| APPROVED: CHIEF ENGINEER                                                              |         |                        |  | SHEET NO.         |  | :                 | 3 | OF     | 3 SHEETS |
| R.E. C78430                                                                           |         |                        |  | SERVICE AREA      |  | JOB.NO.           |   | NO.003 |          |



**RESOLUTION 25-XX****RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
DECLARING EXEMPT SURPLUS LANDS**

---

**WHEREAS**, in September 2000 and September 2001, the North Marin Water District (District) identified and declared several vacant and unused properties as surplus and approved their disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, District land with a single-family house at 25 Giacomini Road in Point Reyes Station (APN 119-270-04) no longer provides a function or benefit for the District; and

**WHEREAS**, since identifying the vacant parcels in 2000 and 2001, changes have been made to the Surplus Land Act (SLA) under the state Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, ten (10) of the previously identified surplus properties meet the exemption provisions of the SLA under the state Government Code, and the additional property located at 25 Giacomini Road does as well; and

**WHEREAS**, since no disposal action has been taken for the parcels to date and pursuant to Government Code Section 54221(f)(1) the District desires to declare eleven (11) parcels of land as exempt surplus lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the eleven parcels of land have been determined to be exempt pursuant to Government Code Section 54221(f)(1)(B through D) as detailed in the written findings provided in **Exhibit A**.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District as follows:

1. The Board of Directors does hereby find, determine, and declare that the foregoing Recitals are true and correct, and incorporates these Recitals herein.
2. The Board of Directors does hereby declare that the following parcels, listed by the Marin County Assessor Parcel Number (APN), as exempt surplus lands under the SLA:
  - a. APN 153-064-07
  - b. APN 150-542-01
  - c. APN 150-581-26
  - d. APN 160-020-07
  - e. APN 143-160-31
  - f. APN 114-300-02



- g. APN 114-300-03
- h. APN 114-150-54
- i. APN 114-100-60
- j. APN 114-111-41
- k. APN 119-270-04

\* \* \* \* \*

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 August 5, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

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Eileen Mulliner, District Secretary  
North Marin Water District

(SEAL)



## EXHIBIT A

| <b>Table – North Marin Water District Findings of Exempt Surplus Lands</b> |              |                             |                         |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| APN                                                                        | Size (acres) | SLA Exemption               | Citation (Gov't Code §) | Determination (size measurement; notes) |
| 153-064-07                                                                 | 0.23         | Small Parcel                | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | Assessor Parcel Map 153-06              |
| 150-542-01                                                                 | 0.07         | Local Agency Transfer       | 54221(f)(1)(D)          | See Note 1                              |
| 150-581-26                                                                 | 0.15         | Small Parcel                | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | Recorded Map 017-010-ALL                |
| 160-020-07                                                                 | ~0.2         | Exchange of Surplus Land    | 54221(f)(1)(C)          | See Note 2                              |
| 143-160-31                                                                 | 1.7          | Exchange of Surplus Land    | 54221(f)(1)(C)          | See Note 2                              |
| 114-300-02                                                                 | 0.92         | Local Agency Transfer       | 54221(f)(1)(D)          | See Note 3                              |
| 114-300-03                                                                 | 0.06         | Small Parcel                | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | Assessor Parcel Map 114-30              |
| 114-150-54                                                                 | 0.06         | Small Parcel                | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | Assessor Parcel Map 114-15              |
| 114-100-60                                                                 | 0.08         | Small Parcel                | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | Assessor Parcel Map 114-10              |
| 114-111-41                                                                 | 0.1          | Small Parcel                | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | Assessor Parcel Map 114-11              |
| 119-270-04                                                                 | 0.29         | Small Parcel <sup>4</sup> . | 54221(f)(1)(B)          | NMWD Drawing J-2529, Sht 08             |

**Table Notes:**

1. This parcel is contiguous with open space lands owned by the City of Novato (City). Transferring this parcel to the City would allow another ingress/egress point to that surrounding property.
2. NMWD has initiated discussions with the County of Marin (County Parks Department) regarding an exchange of these parcels for other County-owned lands near the NMWD Stafford Treatment Plant off Novato Blvd.
3. This land is adjacent to federal lands of the Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE), National Park Service, Pacific Region. NMWD has initiated discussions with PORE leadership and the regional lands management office.
4. This land also meets the exemption of Government Code Section 54221(f)(1)(R) as land that could be transferred to a community land trust.



6





## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

Date: August 5, 2025

From: Tony Williams, General Manager 

Subject: 2025 District and Regional Water Supply Update  
t:\gm\bod memos 2025\8-5-25 meeting\water supply update\8-5-25 bod memo water supply update.docx

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

This memorandum provides an overview of the water supply enhancement efforts by the North Marin Water District (District) as well as the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) since 2022 when two key related studies were completed by each agency.

### **2022 Local Water Supply Enhancement Study**

At the July 19, 2022 Regular meeting, the Board accepted the District's Local Water Supply Enhancement Study (LWSES)<sup>1</sup>. The LWSES focused on the Novato Water System only with a primary goal of the study was to identify potential local supplies that could provide at least 1,000 acre-feet (AF)<sup>2</sup> and potentially as much as 2,000 AF of water supply. This additional water supply volume is not based on a known or foreseeable deficit in the District's water supply portfolio but rather a goal based on achieving additional supply resiliency, especially in dry years. The evaluation of the following alternative water supplies was performed as part of the study:

- Aquifer storage recovery (ASR) in the "Novato Valley Basin" aquifer;
- Recycled water system expansion;
- Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) water use options;
- Improve Stafford Treatment Plant Process Water Recapture Efficiency;
- Capture and Conveyance of Stormwater into Stafford Lake from nearby watersheds;
- Increasing Stafford Lake water storage capacity;
- Desalination using brackish groundwater or bay water supplies.

The LWSES identified several water supply alternatives as "*not feasible on a local level*" based on the evaluation criteria established in the report. However, these alternatives are potentially more promising under a regional approach and partnership with other agencies. The following table summarizes the infeasible alternatives for the District to pursue alone.

<sup>1</sup> Available online: <https://nmwd.com/save-water/new-water-supplies/>

<sup>2</sup> An acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons or the volume of water that covers an acre of land to 1-foot of depth.



### **Infeasible Local Water Supply Alternatives for the District**

| <b>Supply Alternative</b>          | <b>Evaluation</b>                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) | ASR in the Novato Valley Basin (the local groundwater basin) is very limited based on the aquifer characteristics and other factors.                             |
| Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR)       | IPR opportunities, which has two associated storage options, groundwater recharge or surface water storage, are very limited.                                    |
| Desalination                       | Desalination is very expensive, has specific siting requirements for discharge of brine reject water, and would not be prudent for the District to pursue alone. |

Expansion of the District's recycled water system was another alternative carefully evaluated in the LWSES. This alternative is not currently recommended due to the excessive cost of new pipelines relative to the volume of potable water offset (\$13.1M capital cost, 2022 dollars, for an offset of 63 AFY). However, new developments that occur adjacent to or near the District's existing recycled water distribution system are being considered for recycled water use and staff will continue to explore other opportunities for recycled water expansion, including offsetting or reducing the overall cost.

The LWSES identified three alternatives that scored high using the established evaluation criteria, including overall cost and weighted qualitative scoring:

### **Potential Local Water Supply Alternatives for the District**

| <b>Supply Alternative</b>                                              | <b>Estimated Capital Cost</b> | <b>Annual Yield</b>         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Improve Stafford Treatment Plant Efficiency                            | \$70,000 - \$2,700,000        | 20 - 70 AF<br>(7 - 23MG)    |
| Increase Stafford Lake Storage Capacity -<br>Spillway Notch Slide Gate | \$944,000                     | 726 AF<br>(237 MG)          |
| Divert Captured Stormwater into Lake Stafford                          | \$2,460,000 - \$13,640,000    | 245-788 AF<br>(80 – 257 MG) |

AF = acre-feet; MG = million gallons

In late 2022 and early 2023, staff collaborated with a consultant team to evaluate modifications to the treatment process at Stafford Treatment Plant (STP). Although potential efficiency modifications were identified, the conclusion of the analysis was to complete more comprehensive master planning for STP improvements and upgrades due to age of the treatment system. A corrosion study was completed in late 2022 as a precursory step in the master planning effort and subsequent higher priority painting and coating projects were completed in 2023. The STP master planning work is now part of the ongoing 2025 Novato Master Plan, scheduled for completion later this year.



District staff have been evaluating the technical aspects of the Stafford Dam Spillway Notch Slide Gate, currently referred to as the Stafford Dam Adjustable Spillway Gate Project (capital project J-1.6610.25), since funding for design development was approved by the Board beginning in FY 2022-23 Budget. There is another item on this meeting's Agenda that will provide more details on this project.

The last project identified in the LWSES was first identified in the County's 2014 Novato Creek Watershed Project Study as a flood control-focused project. The project falls into a new category of water supply management with associated regulations known as Flood-MAR<sup>3</sup>, or managed aquifer recharge using flood waters. There are few examples of permitted Flood-MAR projects in the state but at least one regional project is being proposed in the upper Russian River and staff will continue to follow its progress. However, proceeding further with this alternative in Novato would require a partnership with the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and potentially the City of Novato, purchase of the land area downstream of confluence of Novato Creek and Bowman Canyon Creek, and modification of the District's water rights on Novato Creek.

### **Sonoma Water Efforts**

The Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study (Resiliency Study) led by Sonoma County Water Agency identified the key factors impacting regional water supply resiliency and identify promising opportunities for the region to improve regional resilience. The Resiliency Study included the development of a Decision Support Model (DSM) to evaluate various risks to water supply including wildfire, earthquakes, flooding, and drought. Due to the extreme drought that was present between 2021 and 2022 in the Russian River watershed, the development of the drought resiliency portion of the Resiliency Study was accelerated, currently known as the 2021-2022 Drought Resiliency Analysis Technical Memorandum (Technical Memo).

Since completion of the Technical Memo, Sonoma Water has undertaken several important water supply projects at the regional level. The recently completed projects have increased Sonoma Water's water supply capacity by over 30,000 acre-feet per year and increased overall supply resiliency. Future planned projects will also provide a significant benefit to water supply portfolio, including completion of another ASR groundwater well in 2026. The Sonoma Water projects include:

- Regulatory Flexibility through Temporary Urgency Change Orders (TUCO) to reduce reservoir releases;
- Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) at Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/programs/all-programs/flood-mar>



- Increased Groundwater Production and ASR capability (at 3 well sites);
- Planning for future Eel-Russian Diversions.

The attached information sheet (Attachment 1) provides more details, including implementation timelines for these efforts.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Sonoma Water's Water Supply Roadmap





**Sonoma  
Water**

# Water Supply Roadmap

Ensuring resilient water resources now and for future generations

*Roadmap dates and project scopes are approximate and subject to change*

## Lake Mendocino FIRO Water Control Manual Update

Up to **11,650 acre-feet** per year of additional water supply

## Lake Sonoma FIRO Deviation Requests

up to **19,000 acre-feet** per year water supply above current

## Sebastopol Road Well Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

Up to **250 acre-feet** per year of water supply

## Occidental Road Well Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

Up to **250 acre-feet** per year of water supply

## CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED Cloverdale Water Supply Agreement

Up to **1,500 acre-feet** per year provided to fill gaps in the City of Cloverdale's water supply

## Lake Sonoma FIRO Water Control Manual Update

Up to **30,000 acre-feet** per year of additional water supply above current

## CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED Riverbank Filtration Facility Redundancy

Up to **25 million gallons** a day of water production redundancy

## A PARTNERSHIP

## New Eel-Russian Diversion Facility

**30,000 acre feet** per year of resiliency benefit water supply, not only to Sonoma Water

## CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED

## Lake Sonoma FIRO Secondary Outlet

Up to **40,000 acre-feet** per year of additional water supply per year above current



**2025**



**2026**



**2028**



**2035**



**2045**

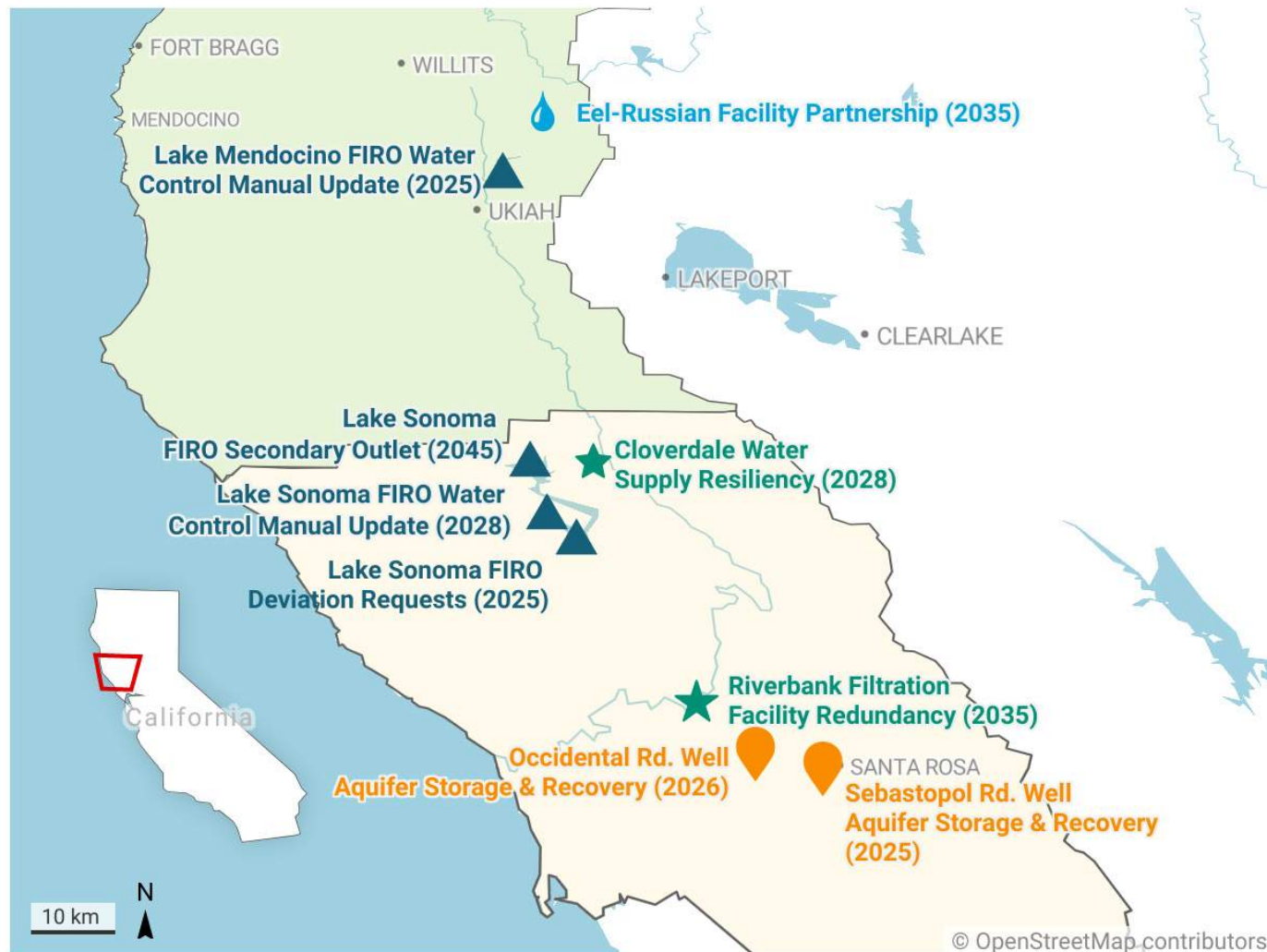


**Estimated  
potential  
additional  
average  
water supply**





# Water Supply Projects 2025-2045



## Symbols

- |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  River Diversion Project                     |  Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) |  Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project |
|  Water Supply Resiliency/Redundancy Projects |  Sonoma County                                 |  Mendocino County                     |

**sonomawater.org**

Roadmap dates and project scopes are approximate and subject to change

## Eel-Russian River Diversion Project

Sonoma Water is a partner in the Eel-Russian Project currently being studied. It will develop a reconfigured water diversion facility near the current location of Cape Horn Dam (part of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Potter Valley Project), to continue water diversions seasonally from the Eel River to the Russian River watershed once PG&E decommissions that project and ends its current diversion of Eel River water.

Depending on rainfall levels and Lake Mendocino storage capacity, diversion volumes up to 30,000 acre-feet per year are anticipated (under typical wet-season conditions, the facility can reliably divert up to 40,000 acre-feet per year).

**Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)** Atmospheric river forecasting data has updated how the U.S. Army Corps manages flood control releases from Lake Mendocino, and Lake Sonoma – holding more water when weather forecasts indicate favorable conditions ahead, avoiding tens of thousands of acre-feet of water from being released into the ocean, while still preventing the risk of flood.

**Water Control Manual:** Provides a “guide curve” that dictates a storage and release schedule based on past weather patterns.

**Deviation Requests:** Deviation requests are developed and submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for approval.

**Secondary Outlet:** Sonoma Water is currently studying a potential future project to help mitigate reduced Eel River diversions would be a new second outlet from Lake Sonoma to the Russian River above Dry Creek.

## Water Supply Resiliency/Redundancy

Projects we are studying could provide additional resilience to ensure reliable water supply: supplemental water supply to the City of Cloverdale in times of seasonal low supply/drought conditions and siting additional riverbank filtration facilities adjacent to Mirabel to provide greater redundancy to Sonoma Water's water supply production facilities.

**Aquifer Storage and Recovery**, or ASR, is an innovative water management strategy that stores water underground during wet periods and recovers it for use during dry seasons or emergencies. It is sometimes referred to as groundwater banking.

Through specially designed ASR wells, drinking water sourced from the Russian River and delivered via Sonoma Water aqueducts would be injected directly into deep aquifers for safe, seasonal or long-term storage, and extracted later when that water is needed.



**7**



**MEMORANDUM****To:** Board of Directors**Date:** August 5, 2025**From:** Eric Miller, Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer *EM***Subject:** FY2022 through FY2025 Stafford Dam Activities Report

R:\1. R Drive Re-Structure\Facilities\Stafford Dam\BOD Memos\Aug 2025\FY22-25 Stafford Dam Report BOD Memo.docx

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only.**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None**Overview**

Stafford Dam is owned and operated by the North Marin Water District (District). The dam is 71-feet high and has a crest length of 650-feet with an ogee weir-type spillway. The primary function of Stafford Dam is the impoundment of run-off water for the eventual use by District customers. Stafford Dam forms the reservoir known as Stafford Lake, which collects runoff from approximately 8.3 square miles of Novato Creek's upper tributary watershed. Surface water from Stafford Lake is piped into the Stafford Water Treatment Plant (STP), just below the dam, which has a treatment capacity of 6 million gallons per day (MGD) and provides an average of 750 million gallons to Novato's potable water supply, or approximately 20% of the District's water consumption, annually.

Initial construction of the dam was completed in 1951. In 1984, the dam's toe sub-drain was replaced. In 1985, the crest embankment was enlarged and raised 8 feet to its current elevation of approximately 213 feet (NGVD29). Concurrently with the dam raising, a new spillway was constructed downstream of the original one. The new spillway was constructed with a notched overflow with a flood control crest elevation of 196 feet, and an emergency spillway elevation of 199 feet. The purpose of the alterations was to improve the spillway hydraulics to pass a probable maximum flood (PMF) and to improve the flood control of Novato Creek downstream of the dam by reducing and delaying the peak discharge flow rate through the spillway.

The Dam is under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), as are 12 other dams in Marin County. The dam is listed as the Novato Creek Dam under the DSOD inventory as well as the National Inventory of Dams (DSOD Dam No. 88-0; National ID No. CA00321). DSOD has classified Stafford Dam as an Extremely High Hazard Dam based on its size and the potential for loss of life and property should the dam fail.



Historically, the District's emergency operating procedures for dam failure had been addressed as part of the District's Emergency Operations Plan. However, in 2015 the Board approved an agreement with Michael Baker International (MBI) to prepare an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Stafford Dam and new flood inundation mapping. Completion of the 2015 EAP and a subsequent 2020 EAP Update ultimately enhanced the District's emergency preparedness level as it relates to Stafford Dam. A fact sheet prepared by DSOD for EAPs and Inundation Maps can be found in Attachment 1.

### Inspections and Monitoring

The District conducts daily visual observations (including use of 24-hour surveillance cameras), monthly water-level gauging, semi-annual vegetation and rodent control, and yearly engineering inspections of the dam apron and spillway. In addition, DSOD performs annual maintenance inspections of the dam and four of those inspections were conducted during this reporting period on the following dates:

- April 22, 2022
- January 5, 2023
- January 30, 2024
- June 4, 2025

Copies of these reports are provided in Attachment 2. All four DSOD reports contain positive feedback about the proactive maintenance practices of District staff. Many of the recommended actions from the 2025 DSOD report have already been addressed, and all actions will be completed by the end of summer.

### Dam Instrumentation

Stafford Dam is equipped with instrumentation including sixteen piezometers that allow monitoring of water levels within the dam embankment, eight survey monuments along the crest and abutments that allow tracking of horizontal and vertical dam movement, two seepage monitors at the creek bed downstream of the dam, and a seismograph located on the dam crest that is currently non-functional.

Seepage flow rates and water levels at each of the piezometers are physically measured by staff monthly, and each year the District prepares an instrumentation report for submittal to DSOD that summarizes the status of the dam's performance. To collect data more frequently from the piezometers, a pilot project is underway to install automated sensors in four of the sixteen piezometers that will collect water-level data in 15-minute intervals. Increasing the frequency of this data collection will allow staff to monitor water levels in the dam during precipitation events.



If the pilot project proves beneficial, staff plan to install automated sensors in the other twelve piezometers sometime next year.

#### Hydrologic and Hydraulics Study

In 2025, the District, in cooperation with the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, completed a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic analysis which included determination of a new probable maximum precipitation (PMP) as well as the resulting PMF<sup>1</sup> (previously evaluated in 1985). The analysis also updated the spillway rating curves and evaluated other hydrologic conditions including sequential rainfall events and future climate scenario conditions. The analysis also concluded that the dam can attenuate the initial peak flow and control the outflow prior to the start of larger subsequent peak events while maintaining an adequate freeboard (remaining dam height above the highest water surface elevation). While an initial storm peak can increase the peak flow and flooding impact of subsequent storm peaks, Stafford Lake's attenuation ability reduces the full impact of the subsequent peak to downstream flooding in the City of Novato. The total cost of this study was \$150,000.

#### Seepage and Stability Study

In 2025, the District completed a comprehensive geotechnical dam stability evaluation using the new PMP and PMF information described above. The evaluation was conducted to assess the stability of Stafford Dam under the operational conditions related to the proposed installation of an Adjustable Spillway Gate (ASG) at the control notch of the spillway and to determine the factors of safety under static, pseudo static (seismic), and rapid drawdown scenarios. To perform the updated stability evaluation and determine factors of safety under various operational conditions, seepage and slope stability analyses<sup>2</sup> were performed using the latest computer modeling and analytical techniques. The study concluded that the factors of safety of the dam section under the proposed spillway modification meet the minimum required factors of safety for various loading conditions as required in the Dams Inspection and Reevaluation Protocols document issued by DSOD dated September 28, 2018. The total cost of this study was \$65,000.

#### Adjustable Spillway Gate (ASG) Project

In 2022, the District completed a study titled "Local Water Supply Enhancement Study" (LWSES) for the Novato Water Service Area. An important component of the LWSES was

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<sup>1</sup> ESA, *Stafford Lake and Novato Creek Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis*, June 2025

<sup>2</sup> GHD, *Updated Stability Evaluation Proposed Adjustable Slide Gate (ASG) at Stafford Dam*, July 2025



evaluating ways to increase storage capacity in Stafford Lake. Two projects were identified through the study, (1) sediment removal (dredging) within the lake for an approximate increased volume of 551 acre-feet, and (2) installation of an ASG at the control notch of the spillway for an approximate increased volume of 726 acre-feet. An illustration of the ASG concept is provided in Attachment 3.

The ASG project was determined to be more feasible and cost effective, and staff has since developed a project roadmap for implementation. Although installation of an ASG is relatively simple from a design and construction standpoint, the implications of impounding an additional 3-feet of water in Stafford Lake, even for a short period of time, require extensive analysis and environmental clearances. The two studies described above, Hydrologic and Hydraulic and Seepage and Stability, were both conducted as part of the ASG project roadmap.

Results of these studies indicate that the existing dam and spillway are adequate to impound the additional volume of water resulting from the ASG, and that the dam embankment would withstand the various scenarios associated with that additional water. The next steps on the project roadmap are to engage environmental permitting agencies such as, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to understand their potential permit requirements. Concurrently, staff will begin to evaluate the options for obtaining environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). District staff previously met with CDFW regional staff in the fall of 2024 to review the ASG project and to tour the dam and the lake.

Although a lot of progress has been made to date, there are still significant milestones left for the implementation of the ASG concept, as well as an upcoming decision for the Board as to whether the cost of implementation is worth the approximate increased volume of 726 acre-feet. This decision should be made prior to the District's investment in the preparation of a CEQA document, as that effort carries a relatively large cost.

#### DSOD Regulations

As stated above, the District prepared an EAP including dam failure inundation mapping starting in 2015. The documents were submitted to both DSOD and CalOES at the time and no comments were received. As a result of the Oroville Dam spillway failure in February 2017, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 92 in June 2017 that required all dam owners (except low hazard dams) to prepare EAPs and inundation maps. This legislation also required owners with "extremely high hazard" dams to submit EAPs by January 1, 2018. In December 2018 and January 2019, NMWD received letters from CalOES requiring new inundation mapping for a



spillway failure (deemed a “critical appurtenant structure”) in addition to the dam failure. This required the development of new inundation mapping as well as a revised EAP. This work included coordination with many local and regional stakeholders including the impacted jurisdictions, City of Novato and the County of Marin. After an initial submittal of the updated EAP in January 2021 and subsequent response to comments from CalOES reviewers, final approval of the EAP was received on October 22, 2021 from CalOES.

These regulations have a fiscal impact to the District. In addition to the approximate \$27,000 expended in 2020 and 2021 for the updated EAP and inundation maps, annual Stafford Dam DSOD Permit fees have increased steadily in recent years from \$15,648 in FY2022 to \$21,680 in FY2025. The regulations also require annual training exercises with local public safety agencies and that the EAP be updated a minimum of every 10 years.

#### Other Improvements and Activities

- |                                              |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Dam Spillway Concrete Repair (2025)        | \$75,000  |
| • Dam Piezometer Automation – Phase 1 (2025) | \$80,000  |
| • Dam Piezometer Automation – Phase 2 (2026) | \$80,000  |
| • Dam Upstream Concrete Apron Repairs (2027) | \$200,000 |
| • Raw Water Intake Modifications (2028)      | \$300,000 |
| • Dam Spillway Concrete Repair (2029)        | \$100,000 |

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Inundation Map and Emergency Action Plan Fact Sheet
2. 2022 to 2025 Inspection Reports
3. Stafford Dam Control Crest Gate Concept





*Castaic Dam*

## Dam Owner Inundation Maps and Emergency Action Plans

### About Inundation Maps

An inundation map shows flooding that could result from a sudden hypothetical failure of a dam or its related structure(s). Inundation maps, when paired with dam owners' Emergency Action Plans, inform emergency planning and response by helping to estimate the extent and depth of potential flooding, and by identifying at-risk areas and resources in advance of the floodwaters arriving.

California Water Code requires owners of all dams in DSOD's jurisdiction (except for dams classified with a "Low" downstream hazard potential) to prepare inundation maps for their dam and related structures. This includes dams owned by public agencies, private organizations, and individual landowners. Inundation maps must be updated a minimum of every 10 years from the map preparation date; anytime there are significant modifications to the dam or its related structures; and when there are changes to downstream development or terrain.

Dam owners are required to submit inundation maps to DSOD for review and approval. After DSOD approves an inundation map(s), the dam owner must submit their approved map(s) with their Emergency Action Plan to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for review and approval. The review of inundation maps by DSOD and the review Emergency Action Plans by Cal OES are entirely separate processes.

A link to approved inundation maps is posted on DSOD's webpage: <https://fmds.water.ca.gov/maps/damim/>

### Public Safety is the Foundation of DSOD's Independent Dam Oversight

The California Water Code entrusts dam safety regulatory authority to the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). DSOD provides oversight of the design, construction, and maintenance of approximately 1,250 non-federally owned dams within its jurisdiction. DSOD inspects jurisdictional dams to assess if the dams and their related structures (e.g. gated spillways, saddle dams, etc.) are safe for continued use and performing as intended. After inspection and review, DSOD may direct dam owners to make necessary repairs.

DSOD conducts independent engineering analyses to validate proposed designs of dam repairs, alterations, enlargements, new dam construction, and removals that are submitted by dam owners or their consultants. DSOD reevaluates existing dams as changes in the state-of-practice occur that could impact dam safety. When necessary, DSOD may immediately direct a dam owner to implement remedial means necessary to protect life and property; or DSOD may impose a reservoir restriction that limits the reservoir's water surface level until repairs or remediation work is completed.



## About Emergency Action Plans

State law requires dam owners to develop an Emergency Action Plan for each of their dams based on DSOD-approved inundation maps.

The California Water Code and Government Code entrusts the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to review and approve dam owner Emergency Action Plans. Dam owners must submit their Emergency Action Plans to Cal OES for approval by deadlines that are based on the dam's downstream hazard classification. In the absence of an approved map by the deadline, dam owners are encouraged to develop and submit a draft Emergency Action Plan to Cal OES. Emergency Action Plans must be updated a minimum of every 10 years; when there are significant modifications to the dam or its related structures; and when there are significant changes to downstream development that involves people and property.

An Emergency Action Plan is a dam owner's formal plan that identifies potential emergency conditions at a dam and specifies actions to be followed to minimize loss of life and property damage. It includes information that dam owners use to notify local emergency management officials and state and federal dam safety regulators.

The dam owners' Emergency Action Plan must be developed in consultation with the local public safety agencies that may be affected by a dam incident. The resulting plan and the dam owner's approved inundation map informs local jurisdictions as they plan for all types of dam incidents, including failure of a dam; and helps local, state, and federal agencies ensure effective dam incident emergency response.

Real-life dam incidents do not necessarily imitate the assumptions in the hypothetical failure scenario that are used to develop inundation map(s). When an incident occurs, emergency management agencies conduct local emergency operations based on the scenario at hand.

Dam owners' Emergency Action Plans are not publicly posted because they contain critical infrastructure information and other sensitive information.

***Emergency action plans that are produced by dam owners do not direct local emergency response. Only local emergency management agencies have the authority to plan and execute local emergency operations.***

For more information please visit:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/All-Programs/Division-of-Safety-of-Dams>

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/dam-safety-planning-division>

Castaic Dam





STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS

## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88 County Marin  
 Type of Dam Earth Type of Spillway Ogee weir and concrete lined chute  
 Water is ~3.5 feet below spillway crest and ~21.5 feet below dam crest.  
 Weather Conditions Sunny and dry  
 Contacts Made Brad Stompe and Tony Williams (North Marin Water District)  
 Reason for Inspection Maintenance inspection

### Important Observations, Recommendations or Actions Taken

The two upstream slide gates and both downstream control valves were successfully cycled during this inspection.

As previously requested, minor vegetation growth between joints of the concrete lined upstream slope needs to be routinely scraped away to prevent damage to the liner (Photos 1 & 2).

As previously requested, vegetation growth between joints and in cracks of the spillway needs to be routinely scraped away to prevent further damage to the concrete (Photo 3). Keep all vegetation taller than ankle height several feet away from the spillway chute walls.

Include the most recent and historic survey results in the annual instrument report submittal to DSOD to ensure that all pertinent instrumentation data is presented for interpretation.

The annual instrumentation report must include at least 10-years, or longer, of seepage data when records are available. Include a plot of the chimney and toe drain weir flow rates in gallons per minute for at least the last 10-years in future submittals. The long-term dry conditions at the right groin blanket drain outfall should also be included to document the lack of positive drainage for the area because this condition may correlate to the behavior of piezometers #13 and #14.

### Conclusions

From the known information and visual inspection, the dam, reservoir, and the appurtenances are judged safe for continued use.

### Observations and Comments

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Dam</u>      | <p>The dam crest was in acceptable condition, and the alignment appeared normal. The slopes and groins appeared stable with no visible indication of distress or instability. The concrete lined upstream slope appeared free of large cracks or spalls and locations where patches or sealant has been applied appeared in good condition. As previously requested, minor vegetation growth between joints needs to be routinely scraped away to prevent damage to the liner (Photos 1 &amp; 2). On the downstream slope, vegetation control is generally acceptable and low ground cover provides erosion protection to the dam.</p> <p>I observed some minor rodent burrow evidence on the dam; continue the current rodent abatement practice.</p> |
| <u>Spillway</u> | <p>The spillway approach, control section and chute were unobstructed (Photo 2). The visible portions of the concrete appeared in good condition. As previously requested, vegetation growth between joints and in cracks of the spillway needs to be routinely scraped away to</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Photos taken? Yes X No         
 cc for Owner/Book

Inspected by H. Babbin  
 Date of Inspection 04/22/2022  
 Date of Report 06/28/2022

**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88Date of Inspection 04/22/2022**Observations and Comments**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | prevent further damage to the concrete (Photo 3). Keep all vegetation taller than ankle height several feet away from the spillway chute walls.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <u>Outlet</u>  | The two 18-inch upstream slide gates at the intake tower were fully cycled via the SCADA system; the 30-inch downstream scour gate valve was then opened, and the 30-inch downstream butterfly valve was successfully cycled during this inspection. The California Water Code section 6102.5(c) requires that the upstream and downstream outlet controls be fully cycled by the owner annually, and in the presence of DSOD every three years. The outlet controls need to be cycled in DSOD's presence during the 2024/2025 fiscal year inspection cycle.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <u>Seepage</u> | <p>No signs of seepage were observed on the groins, the downstream slope or at the toe of the dam.</p> <p>The perforated collection pipe installed adjacent to the blanket drain in the right groin was dry, and this is reported to be typical. The drainpipe outfall is near the toe, at the right groin just south of the parking lot (Photo 4). In the creek bed downstream of the dam, the 6-inch chimney drain was flowing clear at approximately 1 to 3 gpm; the 12-inch toe drain was also flowing clear at less than 4 gpm into the weir box (Photo 5). Ensure that algae and other vegetation is routinely removed from inside of the seepage weir collection box (Photo 5). The flow rates were considered normal by the staff in attendance and are consistent with past DSOD inspection report estimates. Historic drain flow rates were not available for review.</p> <p>I recommended that a weir box be installed to collect the flow from the chimney drain outfall, like at the toe drain, for more accurate and consistent data. On 5/16/2022 the owner installed a volumetric weir (Image 1). Mr. Tony Williams provided the details to me in a memorandum via email on 05/20/2022.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <u>Instr.</u>  | <p>Instrumentation at this dam consists of 16 piezometers, 8 survey monuments, 3 seepage monitoring locations, and one accelerograph, located in a vault on the downstream side of the crest near the middle of the dam, to monitor ground motion during a seismic event.</p> <p>The latest instrumentation data submittal is dated 11/22/2021, and it includes historic piezometer data and seepage data for most of the 2020 calendar year. Survey and long term seepage data were not included. The submittal letter indicates that the most recent survey was performed in 2020 and the results were included in the 11/30/2020 submittal. Include the most recent, and historic, survey results in the annual instrument report submittal to DSOD to ensure that all pertinent instrumentation data is presented for interpretation.</p> <p><u>Piezometers:</u> Piezometer data is plotted from January 1990 to late 2020. The 16 piezometers are installed in four groups forming the sections designated A through D, capturing the piezometric water levels throughout the embankment. In general, the piezometers installed in the crest and mid-slope trend most with the reservoir. The piezometer levels are typically lower or dry with distance from the reservoir. The most unique behavior is observed near the right groin at piezometers designated #13 and #14. The two piezometers have been trending up for more than a decade. Water levels in piezometer #13 (in the crest and nearest the reservoir) is now reading approximately 5 to 10 feet higher than prior to the year 2000. Similarly, water levels in piezometer # 14 (at mid-slope, just above the blanket drain in the right groin) have steadily risen by approximately 25 feet since 2008. It is recommended to investigate the function of the blanket drain and the adjacent perforated pipe intended to</p> |



**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88Date of Inspection 04/22/2022**Observations and Comments**

provide positive drainage for the area. It is possible that the pipe was undersized and has plugged since installation contributing to the rising piezometric heads near that area.

Seepage: Long-term seepage data was not included. The annual instrumentation report must include at least 10-years or longer of seepage data when records are available. Include a plot of the chimney and toe drain weir flow rates in gallons per minute for at least the last 10-years in future submittals. The long-term dry conditions at the right groin blanket drain outfall should also be included to document the lack of positive drainage for the area because this condition may correlate to the behavior of piezometers #13 and #14.

The dam appears to be performing satisfactorily, and no additional instrumentation is judged necessary at present.



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 04/22/2022



Photo 1: The condition of the crest and upstream slope liner viewed toward the right. The minor grass growth need to be removed periodically.



Photo 2: The spillway entrance at the left end of the dam was unobstructed.



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato CreekDam No. 88Date of Inspection 04/22/2022

Photo 3: The ogee weir spillway control. As previously requested, vegetation growth between joints and in cracks of the spillway weir need to be routinely scraped away to prevent further damage to the concrete.



Photo 4: Partial view of the downstream slope and right groin. The arrow points to the location of the perforated collection pipe installed adjacent to the blanket drain. The outfall is near the toe, just south of the parking lot (circled).



**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato CreekDam No. 88Date of Inspection 04/22/2022

Photo 5: In the creek bed downstream of the dam, the 6-inch chimney drain (labeled at left, arrow) was flowing clear at approximately 1 to 3 gpm; the 12-inch toe drain was also flowing clear at less than 4 gpm into the weir box (labeled, blue box at right). Ensure that algae and other vegetation is routinely removed from inside of the seepage weir collection box.



Image 1: As recommended, on 5/16/2022 the owner installed a volumetric weir at the chimney drain outfall. Mr. Tony Williams provided the details to me in a memorandum via email on 05/20/2022, this image is taken from that document.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS

## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88 County Marin  
Type of Dam Earth Type of Spillway Ogee weir and concrete line chute  
Water is 4.1 feet below spillway crest and 22.1 feet below dam crest.  
\*Reservoir water surface elevation is 190.9 feet

Weather Conditions Rain, 55° F

Contacts Made Brad Stompe, Dan Garrett, Eric Miller, Roy Foster, and Tony Williams with North Marin Water

Reason for Inspection District (NMWD)

Reason for Inspection Maintenance inspection

### Important Observations, Recommendations or Actions Taken

NMWD has tentative plans to repair the upstream concrete liner in 2025. This repair is still in the planning stage, but NMWD should keep DSOD informed of the project so that DSOD has adequate time to review the design if it becomes application work.

The dam and its appurtenant structure continue to be well maintained by NMWD. The following items were discussed during the inspection and are already included in NMWD's planned maintenance activities:

- Annually, remove the vegetation growing from the joints, cracks and drain holes in the concrete upstream liner.
- Annually, remove the vegetation growing from the joints and cracks in the spillway chute. Vegetation adjacent to the spillway walls should be maintained at least 3 feet back from the wall.
- Remove and repair the older patches in the spillway chute that have begun to fail.

The following items should be considered during the next preparation of the annual instrumentation data report:

- Include the latest 5-year survey results as an appendix to the annual report.
- Include long term seepage data plotted on charts for the chimney, toe, and blanket drains.

### Conclusions

From the known information and visual inspection, the dam, reservoir, and the appurtenances are judged safe for continued use.

### Observations and Comments

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Dam</u> | <p>The visible portions of the upstream and downstream faces, crest, and groins of the dam appear stable.</p> <p>The visible portions of the upstream concrete liner appeared unchanged from past inspections (Photo 1). NMWD reported that portions of the liner below the water line are more deteriorated than what is currently visible. NMWD has a project tentatively scheduled to begin in 2025 to repair the deteriorated portions of the concrete liner. I requested that NMWD keep DSOD informed as the project develops so that DSOD has adequate time to review the design if it becomes application work.</p> <p>Vegetation control on the dam is generally satisfactory. NMWD mechanically removes the vegetation on the upstream concrete liner annually.</p> <p>Minor rodent activity is present on the downstream face of the dam. NMWD recently began using a pest contractor to abate the rodents on the dam.</p> |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Photos taken? Yes x No       
cc for Owner/Book

TB 1/11/2023

RCB 1/11/2023

and for MH

Inspected by T.W. Banks  
Date of Inspection 1/5/2022  
Date of Report 1/11/2023

**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88Date of Inspection 1/5/2022**Observations and Comments**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Spillway</u> | <p>The spillway approach, control section and chute are unobstructed (Photo 2). Older patch repairs in the spillway chute invert have begun to crumble. NMWD has already scheduled the repair of these older patches following the rainy season. The more recent patches are performing well.</p> <p>Minor vegetation is present in the chute growing from the cracks and joints. This vegetation is mechanically removed annually by NMWD. Sporadic woody vegetation is growing adjacent to the spillway walls and needs to be removed (Photos 3 and 4). Vegetation should be maintained at least 3 feet back from the spillway walls.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <u>Outlet</u>   | <p>The control house on the crest at the left side of the dam was inspected (Photo 5). The controls for the two 18-inch upstream slide gates and the 30-inch downstream scour gate valve appeared to be in good working condition. The gates can also be controlled remotely from the water treatment plant below the dam.</p> <p>The two 18-inch upstream slide gates, 30-inch downstream scour gate valve, and 30-inch downstream butterfly valve were last fully exercised in the presence of DSOD on 4/22/2022. The California Water Code section 6102.5(c) requires that the upstream and downstream outlet controls be fully cycled by the owner annually, and in the presence of DSOD every three years. The outlet controls will need to be cycled again in the presence of DSOD during the 2024-2025 inspection cycle.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <u>Seepage</u>  | <p>Heavy precipitation before and during the inspection saturated the dam and surrounding areas. Runoff and ponding were present at the downstream toe of the dam (Photo 6). No live seepage was observed on the dam embankment.</p> <p>The outfalls for the 6-inch chimney drain and 12-inch toe drain were observed in the creek bed downstream of the dam (Photo 7). Following the last maintenance inspection, NMWD installed a volumetric weir on the outfall for the 6-inch chimney drain. The 6-inch chimney drain read approximately 3032 GPD, which is considered normal. The 12-inch toe drain were not read. Both drains were flowing clear. The outfall for the perforated collection pipe installed adjacent to the blanket drain in the right groin was not observed during this inspection.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <u>Instr.</u>   | <p>Instrumentation at the dam consists of 16 piezometers, 8 survey monuments, 3 seepage monitoring locations, and one accelerograph. The accelerograph is located in a vault on the downstream side of the crest near the middle of the dam.</p> <p>The latest instrumentation data submittal is dated July 15, 2022, and it includes historic piezometer and seepage data through the 2021 calendar year. Survey and long-term seepage data are not included. The submittal letter indicates that the most recent survey occurred in 2020 and the results were included in NMWD's "2019 Phreatic Level Monitoring Report", dated November 30, 2020. The next scheduled survey is to occur in 2025.</p> <p><u>Piezometers:</u> Piezometer data is plotted from January 1990 to January 2022. The 16 piezometers are installed in four groups forming the sections designated A through D, capturing the piezometric water levels throughout the embankment. In general, the piezometers installed in the crest and mid-slope trend most with the reservoir. The piezometer levels are typically lower or dry with distance away from the reservoir. During the 2021 calendar year two piezometers registered readings above their expected level: Piezometer No. 1 and Piezometer No. 14. Both piezometers had elevated</p> |



**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88Date of Inspection 1/5/2022**Observations and Comments**

readings in January and November. In all cases the piezometers returned to expected levels the following month, despite relatively consistent reservoir levels. NMWD considers these anomalies to be instrument related and not indicative of a developing dam safety issue.

Piezometer No. 11 has shown elevated readings during rain events in the past. No elevated readings have been recorded since 2018, but NMWD continues to investigate the occurrences to confirm that the readings are related to nearby road surface drainage. Piezometers No. 13, 14 and 16 are located between the right abutment and the blanket drain. In the past they have shown elevated readings and NMWD continues to monitor this area closely.

Seepage: Long-term seepage data was not included. The annual instrumentation report must include at least 10 years or longer of seepage data when records are available. Include a plot of the chimney and toe drain flow rates in gallons per minute for at least 10 years in future submittals. The long-term dry conditions at the right groin blanket drain outfall should also be included to document the lack of positive drainage for the area, as this condition may contribute to the behavior of the piezometers in the area.

The dam appears to be performing satisfactorily, and no additional instrumentation is judged necessary at present.



Photo 1: View of the upstream concrete liner from the crest on the left side of the dam.

INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 1/5/2022



Photo 2: View of the ogee overpour and concrete spillway chute.



Photo 3: View of the concrete spillway chute looking downstream. The vegetation growing above the spillway wall (red arrow) needs to be removed.



**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato CreekDam No. 88Date of Inspection 1/5/2022

Photo 4: View of the right-side spillway chute wall. The large woody vegetation (red arrows) needs to be removed. Vegetation should be maintained at least 3 feet back from the wall.



Photo 5: View of the inside of the control house on the crest at the right side of the dam.



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 1/5/2022



Photo 6: View of the runoff at the downstream toe of the dam.



Photo 7: View of the outfalls for the 6-inch chimney drain (left) and the 12-inch toe drain (right).



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS

## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Navato Creek Dam No. 88 County Marin  
Type of Dam Earth Type of Spillway Ogee weir concrete lined chute  
Water is 5.2 feet below the spillway crest and 23.2 feet below the dam crest.  
Weather Conditions Clear, cool  
Contacts Made Brad Stompe, Tony Williams, and Eric Miller with North Marin Water District (NMWD)  
Reason for Inspection Maintenance Inspection

### Important Observations, Recommendations or Actions Taken

1. Clean weep holes within the spillway chute and the upstream face of the dam.
2. Remove debris from the upstream abutments.
3. Rodent control needs to be increased along the right downstream groin. Remove the stone and vegetation stockpiles from the downstream toe as these can be dens for rodents.
4. The two 18-inch upstream slide gates will need to be cycled in the presence of DSOD during the next inspection.
5. The vegetation issues along the spillway noted from the previous inspection have been addressed.
6. As requested in the previous inspection report, long-term seepage data was added to the annual instrumentation report, and the survey data was included as an appendix. For future reports, include precipitation data on the seepage plot to see what influence, if any, precipitation has on dam seepage.
7. Future instrumentation reports need to be submitted earlier in the year so that there is less lag between data collection and data review. In general, DSOD requires owners to submit instrumentation reports for the prior calendar year by April of the following year.

### Conclusions

From the known information and visual inspection, the dam, reservoir, and the appurtenances are judged safe for continued use.

### Observations and Comments

#### Dam

The dam crest appeared level, well-aligned, and in satisfactory condition. The downstream face, abutments, and toe appeared to be stable and in satisfactory condition; no signs of distress or instability were observed. The visible portions of the upstream liner appeared unchanged from previous inspections. The weep holes on the upstream face were full of debris and/or vegetation. Remove all debris and vegetation from the weeps holes as part of routine maintenance. During the previous inspection, NMWD reported that the concrete liner below the water line was more deteriorated than the visible portions and has a project tentatively scheduled for 2025 to repair the deteriorated portions of the liner. Prior to work, NMWD needs to submit the plans to DSOD for review to determine if an application is required.

Rodent control was observed along the downstream crest and face of the dam. Minor rodent activity was observed along the right downstream groin; additional rodent control measures should be implemented in areas of notable rodent activity. Additionally, stockpiles of rock and vegetation were observed near the downstream toe. Remove any stockpiles which could encourage rodent activity and nesting.

Photos taken? Yes X No         
cc for Owner/Book

Inspected by Travis Chatters *TMC* 2/8/2024  
Date of Inspection 1/30/2024  
Date of Report 2/6/2024 *P.B.* 2/8/2024  
and for MH

**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 1/30/2024

**Observations and Comments**Spillway

The spillway approach, control section, and chute were clear and unobstructed. Vegetation maintenance along the spillway appeared satisfactory.

Vegetation noted adjacent to the spillway in the previous inspection had been cleared. Small amounts of grass were observed within the cracks of the spillway and near the beginning of the chute; remove this vegetation as needed. Select weep holes were clogged with debris. Keep all weep holes within the spillway clear and free of debris. Patching of previously identified repairs appeared satisfactory.

Outlet

The control house on the crest at the left side of the dam was inspected and appeared to be in good condition. The controls to the 18-inch upstream slide gates and the 30-inch downstream scour gate appeared to be in good working condition. The gates can also be controlled remotely from the water treatment plant below the dam.

The 30-inch downstream scour gate and 30-inch downstream butterfly gate were cycled in the presence of DSOD during this inspection without any issues. The two 18-inch upstream slide gates were last cycled in the presence of DSOD on 4/22/2022. The California Water Code section 6102.5(c) requires that the upstream and downstream outlet controls be fully cycled by the owner annually and, in the presence of DSOD every 3 years. The 18-inch upstream slides gates will need to be cycled in the presence of DSOD during the next inspection.

Seepage

No seepage was observed on the downstream face of the dam, or along the abutments. The outfalls for the 6-inch chimney drain and 12-inch toe drain were observed in the creek bed downstream of the dam. At the time of the inspection the 6-inch chimney drain read approximately 1,916 GPD (1.3 gpm), which is considered typical for this dam. The 12-inch toe drain has no measuring weir and was not read. Both drains were flowing clear. The outfall for the perforated collection pipe installed adjacent to the blanket drain in the right groin was not observed during this inspection.

Instr.

The instrumentation at the dam consists of 16 piezometers, 8 survey monuments, 3 seepage monitoring locations, and an accelerograph. The accelerograph is located in a vault on the downstream side of the crest near the middle of the dam. The latest instrumentation report was received on November 2, 2023, and includes historic piezometer and seepage data through the 2022 calendar year. Survey and long-term seepage data were not included. The submittal letter indicates that the most recent survey occurred in 2020; the results were included in the letter. The next scheduled survey is to occur in 2025.

Future instrumentation reports need to be submitted earlier in the year so that there is less lag between data collection and data review. In general, DSOD requires owners to submit instrumentation reports for the prior calendar year by April of the following year.

Piezometers: There are 16 piezometers installed at this site into four groups forming sections designated A through D. In general, the piezometers located at the crest trend mostly with the reservoir level and experience some influence from precipitation events. The piezometer levels downstream are typically lower or dry in some cases. As was seen in the previous year, Piezometers 1 and 14 had elevated readings during the winter months. In all cases the piezometers returned to expected levels the following month. Piezometer 4 reported readings in January and February that were beyond typical readings but returned to normal by March. NMWD noted that



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88  
Date of Inspection 1/30/2024

Observations and Comments

due to the anomalies at Piezometers 1 and 14 a pilot project to install automated monitoring systems within Piezometers 13, 14, 15, and 16 is planned. The automated system will record groundwater levels daily. The pilot project is planned for the summer of 2024, and if successful, NMWD will install automated systems at all 16 piezometer locations. The project will also include the cleaning of Piezometers 13 and 14.

Seepage: Long-term seepage data indicates that the toe drain, and chimney drain respond to reservoir elevation levels. For future reports, please include precipitation data on the seepage plot to see what influence, if any, precipitation has on dam seepage. No adverse trends were observed.

Based on the submitted instrumentation data and visual inspection, the dam appears to be performing satisfactorily. No additional instrumentation is recommended at this time.

INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 1/30/2024



Photo 1: Dam crest looking from the left abutment towards the right.



Photo 2: Debris and vegetation in weep holes needs to be removed.



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 1/30/2024



Photo 3: Spillway chute was clear and in satisfactory condition. Vegetation above the spillway had been removed since the last inspection.



Photo 4: The ogee overpour and spillway chute was free of debris and in satisfactory condition.



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 1/30/2024

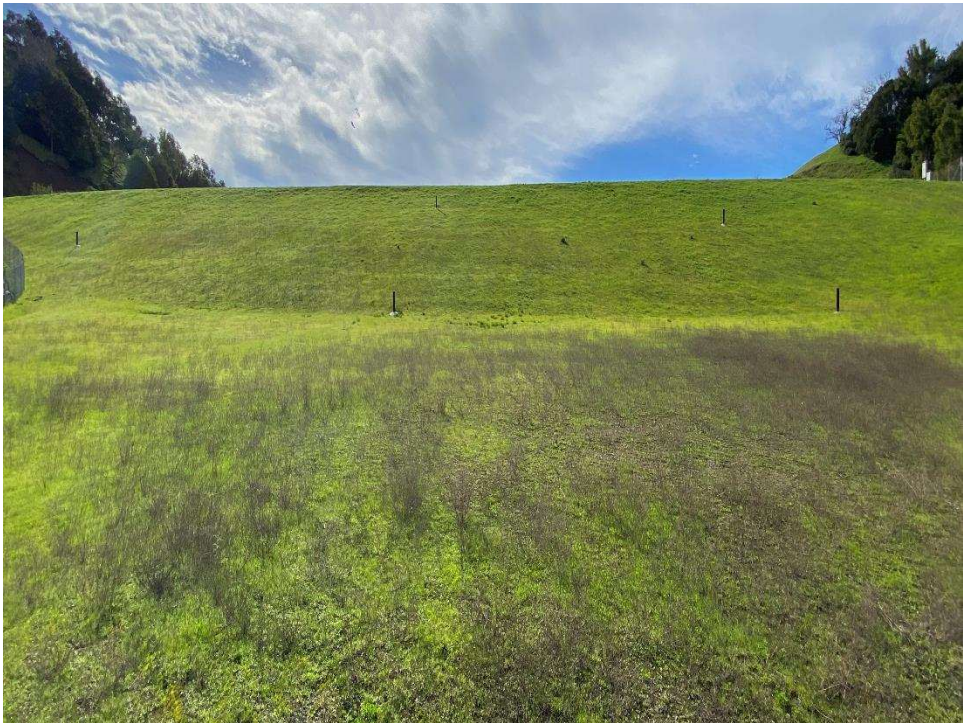


Photo 5: Downstream face and toe of the dam.



Photo 6: Outfalls for the 6-inch chimney drain (left) and the 12-inch toe drain (right).



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS

INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88 County Marin  
Type of Dam Earth Type of Spillway Ogee weir with concrete-lined chute  
Water is 1.7 feet below spillway crest and 19.7 feet below dam crest.  
Water Surface Elevation 193.3 feet  
Weather Conditions Sunny, 61° F.  
Contacts Made Jeff Corda and Eric Miller with North Marin Water District (NMWD)  
Reason for Inspection Maintenance Inspection

Important Observations, Recommendations or Actions Taken

| Select if needed:                   |                                                                                       | Descriptions, actions, and recommendations:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Maintenance items required.                                                           | <p><b><u>Maintenance</u></b></p> <p>The owner has satisfactorily cleared the vegetation in the weep holes within the spillway chute and removed most of the stone and vegetation stockpiles from the downstream toe. The following maintenance items were identified during this inspection and need to be addressed prior to the next inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear vegetation in the weep holes along the upstream face (Photo 7).</li><li>• Repair the minor surficial spalling at the spillway channel invert (Photo 8).</li><li>• Remove the overhanging vegetation along the spillway channel wall (Photo 9).</li><li>• Remove the remaining stones from the downstream toe (Photo 10).</li><li>• Remove debris from the right upstream abutment (Photo 11).</li><li>• Breakup, backfill, and compact existing rodent burrows on the right downstream groin (Photo 12).</li></ul> <p><b><u>Instrumentation</u></b></p> <p>The latest instrumentation report for the 2024 calendar year was submitted electronically on June 19, 2025. Future instrumentation reports for the prior calendar year (Jan – Dec) need to be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Outlet/spillway valves/gates need to be fully cycled during the next DSOD inspection. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Instrumentation submittal overdue.                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Open construction, alteration, enlargement, repair, or removal application.           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | No Action Items/ Recommendations.                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other.                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Conclusions

Hazard Classification: ☒ Extremely High ☐ High ☐ Significant ☐ Low  
Condition Assessment: ☒ Satisfactory ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Unsatisfactory  
Reservoir Restriction: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Photos taken? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Inspected by S. Ngo SN 7/1/2025  
Date of Inspection 6/4/2025 MRJ 7/1/2025  
Date of Report 6/20/2025 RCB 7/2/2025

# INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025

From the known information and visual inspection, the dam, reservoir, and the appurtenances are judged safe for continued use.

| Observations and Comments |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Dam</u>                | <p><i>Dam Description:</i> The dam is an earthen embankment dam with a concrete-armored upstream slope.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                           | <p><i>Dam crest in satisfactory condition:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Maintenance needed:</i> None.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                           | <p><i>Upstream/downstream slopes/faces, abutments, and toe areas uniform, stable, and in satisfactory condition:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Maintenance needed:</i> None.</p>                                                                                                                     |
|                           | <p><i>Vegetation control satisfactory:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Maintenance needed:</i> Clear vegetation in the weep holes along the upstream face (Photo 7), remove the remaining stone from the downstream toe (Photo 10), and remove debris from the right upstream abutment (Photo 11).</p> |
|                           | <p><i>Rodent control satisfactory:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Maintenance needed:</i> Breakup, backfill, and compact the existing rodent burrows on the right downstream groin (Photo 12).</p>                                                                                                    |
|                           | <p><i>Dam comments:</i> In the previous report, NMWD reportedly had a project tentatively scheduled for 2025 to repair the deteriorated portions of the liner. NMWD has postponed the project to a later date due to higher priority items needing to be completed. Prior to work, NMWD needs to submit the plans to DSOD for review to determine if an application is required.</p>        |
| <u>Spillway</u>           | <p><i>Spillway Description:</i> The spillway consists of an ogee weir and concrete-lined chute.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                           | <p><i>Log boom in place and intact:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A   <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Comments:</i> None.</p>                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                           | <p><i>Spillway approach area, control section, and downstream exit clear:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Maintenance needed:</i> Remove overhanging vegetation along the spillway channel wall (Photo 9).</p>                                                                                         |
|                           | <p><i>Spillway condition satisfactory:</i> <span style="float:right"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p><i>Maintenance needed:</i> Repair minor surficial spalling at the spillway channel invert (Photo 8).</p>                                                                                                                           |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Observations and Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Spillway comments: NMWD plans to repair the minor surficial spalling at the spillway channel invert this summer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                    |
| Outlet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Outlet Type/Description: The outlet consists of a control house on the right side of the dam that houses the controls for the two 18-inch upstream slide gates, 30-inch downstream scour gate, and 30-inch downstream butterfly valve. The outlets can also be controlled remotely from the water treatment plant at the toe of the dam. |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Outlet Control: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Last Cycled (DSOD Presence): <u>See table</u> (Independently by Owner): <u>See table</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Low-Level Outlet Control                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Last Cycle Date in DSOD's Presence |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30-inch D/S Scour Gate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1/30/2024                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30-inch D/S Butterfly Gate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 1/30/2024                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Two 18-inch U/S Slide Gates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 6/4/2025                           |
| Comments: The two 18-inch upstream slide gates were fully cycled during this inspection with no issues observed.                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
| Overall outlet condition satisfactory: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
| Outlet visually unobstructed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
| Maintenance needed: None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
| Outlet comments: The downstream controls are due to be cycled in DSOD's presence during the 2026-2027 inspection cycle. When feasible, cycle the upstream controls on the same date so that all outlet controls follow the same schedule for cycling in DSOD's presence. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Instrumented seepage monitoring at the dam: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |

INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025

Observations and Comments

Seepage

*Description and measurements:* The dam is equipped with a 6-inch chimney drain, 12-inch toe drain, and a perforated collection pipe. The 6-inch chimney drain and 12-inch toe drain outfalls are located in the creek bed downstream of the dam. The perforated collection pipe is located adjacent to the blanket drain in the right groin which outfalls near the toe at the south end of the water treatment parking lot. The following flow estimates were made during the inspection:

| Drain                      | Flow rate (gpm)       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6-inch chimney drain       | 3                     |
| 12-inch toe drain          | No reading collected* |
| Perforated collection pipe | Not observed          |

\*No reading made due to no measuring weir

*Seepage observations and comments:* The downstream slope, groins, and toe were free from any indication of seepage.

*Seepage conditions are consistent with past inspection observations:* ☒ Yes ☐ No

*Maintenance needed:* None.

Instr.

*Dam instrumented:* ☒ Yes ☐ No *Submittal required:* ☒ Yes ☐ No

*Submittal frequency:* Annually *Overdue:* ☐ Yes ☒ No

*Latest instrumentation submittal:* 6/19/2025 *Reporting period:* 2024

*Dam instrumentation:* Instrumentation at the dam consists of piezometers, survey monuments, seepage monitoring locations, and accelerograph.

**Piezometers:** Sixteen piezometers are installed at the dam into four groups forming sections designated A through D, capturing the piezometric water levels throughout the embankment.

**Survey Monuments:** Eight survey monuments are located along the crest axis, with six distributed along the crest and the remaining two located on the right and left abutments. Monument surveys are conducted every five years.

**Seepage:** Two seepage monitoring drains are located at the creek bed downstream of the dam.

**Accelerograph:** The accelerograph is located in a vault on the downstream side of the crest near the middle of the dam.

*Instrumentation at the dam is judged adequate at this time:* ☒ Yes ☐ No



**INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS**Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88Date of Inspection 6/4/2025**Observations and Comments***Instrumentation review:*

**Piezometers:** The piezometers located at the crest and mid-slope trend mostly with the reservoir level. The piezometer levels further downstream are typically lower or dry in some cases. During the 2024 calendar year, four piezometers registered above their expected level: Piezometer Nos. 1, 6, 11, and 14. The four piezometers had elevated readings in the winter months. In January and February, Piezometer Nos. 1 and 14 exceeded typical readings but returned to expected levels in March. Piezometer Nos. 6, 11, and 14 exceeded typical readings in December; however, long-term piezometer data shows that the four piezometers should return to expected levels following the winter months. Additionally, the reservoir levels during December have typically been lower prior to this 2024 calendar year. Due to ongoing anomalies at Piezometer Nos. 1 and 14, NMWD is implementing a pilot project to install automated monitoring systems within existing Piezometer Nos. 13 through 16. The automated system will record groundwater levels daily with readings beginning in Summer 2025 and continue through the winter. Depending on the success of the pilot project and funding, NMWD will pursue installation of automated systems across the remaining 12 piezometers.

**Survey Monuments:** The baseline survey for the dam was completed in 1986, and the most recent survey was completed on September 25, 2020. The data was reviewed in a previous inspection report dated April 9, 2021. The report concluded that the dam appears to be performing satisfactorily. The next survey is to be completed in Summer 2025.

**Seepage:** The seepage data indicates that the toe drain and chimney drain respond to reservoir lake elevations and precipitation events.

**Other:** Future instrumentation reports for the prior calendar year need to be submitted prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

*Instrumentation data indicate the dam is performing satisfactorily:*

☒ Yes ☐ No

*In accordance with Division 3, Part 1, Chapter 2, section 6029 of the California Water Code, the owner or operator of a dam or reservoir is responsible for the safe operation, performance, and maintenance of their dam or reservoir, and obtaining all necessary permits and approvals from other permitting agencies, as required.*

INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 1: View of the downstream slope and crest observed from the left end of the dam.



Photo 2: View of the upstream face observed from the left end of the dam.



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek

Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 3: View of the ogee overpour and concrete spillway chute looking upstream.



Photo 4: View of the outfalls for the 6-inch chimney drain (left) and the 12-inch toe drain (right).



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 5: View of the low-level outlet controls from the control house.

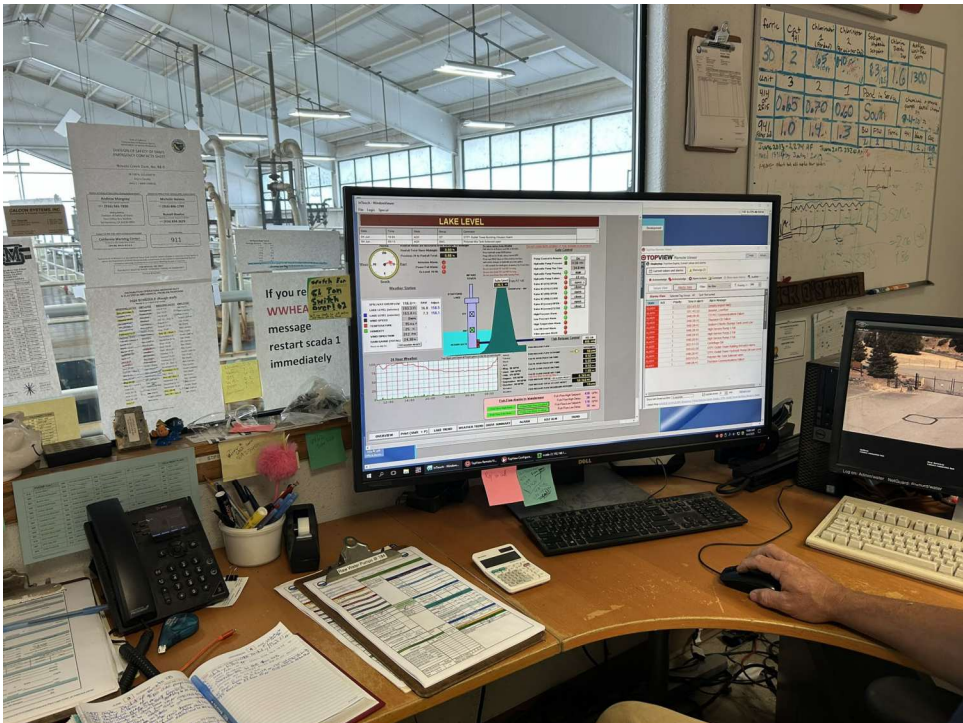


Photo 6: View of the low-level outlet controls from the water treatment plant.



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 7: Clear vegetation in the weep holes along the upstream face (in yellow circles).

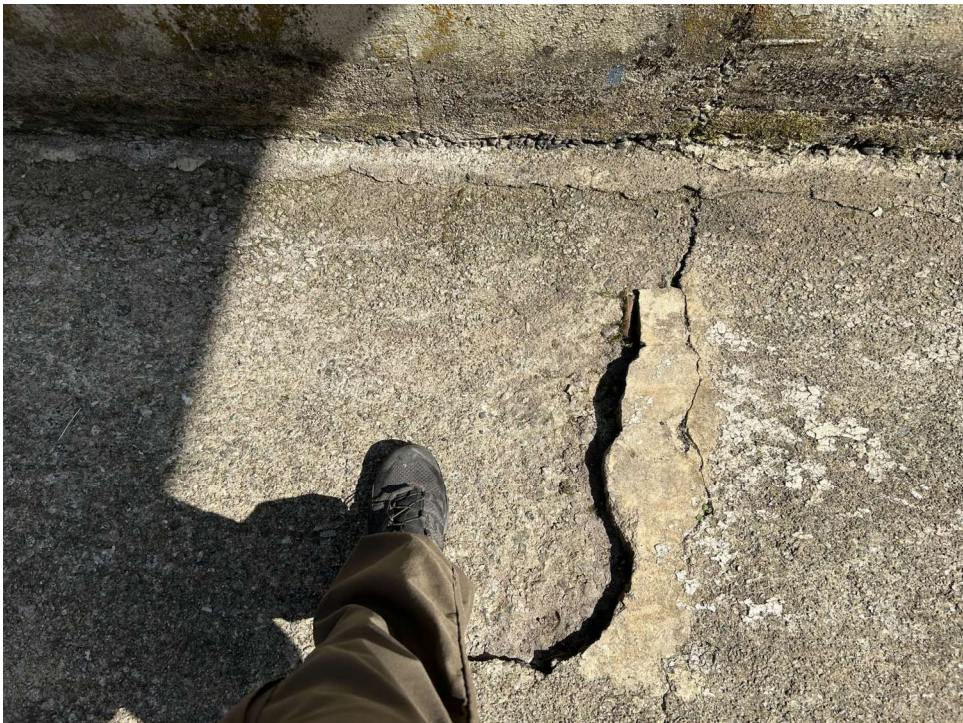


Photo 8: View of minor surficial spalling at the spillway channel invert.



INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 9: Remove the overhanging vegetation along the spillway channel walls (in yellow circle).



Photo 10: Remove the remaining stones from the downstream toe (in yellow circle).



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek

Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 11: Remove debris from the right upstream abutment (in yellow circle).



Photo 12: Breakup, backfill, and compact existing rodent burrows (in yellow circle).



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek

Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 13: Photo provided by the owner on 6/25/25 of the recently removed overhanging vegetation along the spillway channel walls.



Photo 14: Photo provided by the owner on 6/25/25 of the recently broken up, backfilled, and compacted rodent burrows on the right downstream groin.



## INSPECTION OF DAM AND RESERVOIR IN CERTIFIED STATUS

Name of Dam Novato Creek Dam No. 88

Date of Inspection 6/4/2025



Photo 15: Photo provided by the owner on 6/25/25 of the recently removed debris from the right upstream abutment.







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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors  
From: Tony Williams, General Manager   
Subj: JM Manufacturing Company PVC Pipe Legal Settlement  
T:\GMBOD Memos 2025\8-5-25 Meeting\8-5-25 BOD memo JM Eagle Pipe.docx

Date: August 5, 2025

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None at this time

Background – JM Manufacturing

In 2006, a legal action was brought against JM Manufacturing Company (J-M), makers of PVC water pipe (known as JM Eagle pipe). The suit alleged that the plastic used to make the pipe didn't meet industry standards. The plaintiffs included 140 federal, state, and local governmental entities, including several water providers in California, notably the City of Santa Rosa, and the North Marin Water District (District). PVC pipe is currently the District's standard pipe material for distribution pipelines and was first installed in 1992 after transitioning from Asbestos-Cement pipe as the standard previously. There is approximately 400,000 linear feet of PVC pipe within the District's distribution systems. Based on District records, approximately 11,941 feet of PVC pipe manufactured by J-M was used for various developer projects between 1999 and 2008 (Attachment 1).

In 2008, the Court ordered the case be split into two proceedings, and a sub-group of the plaintiffs were selected which didn't include the District (known as the Exemplar Plaintiffs). In 2013, the exemplar plaintiffs settled with the raw plastic supplier to J-M, Formosa Plastics Corporation, and the Court later found J-M liable for false claims. In 2018, a second phase of the trial proceeded regarding the issue of damages to the exemplar plaintiffs which resulted in a mistrial. A third phase trial was set for 2026 to address false claims of the pipe on behalf of the remaining plaintiffs. As reported in the minutes from the April 1 Board Meeting, the Board elected not to participate in this phase of the trial as plaintiff. In late April, the remaining parties agreed to a settlement.

Summary of Settlement

In exchange for dismissing their claims, the Plaintiffs will be covered by the JM Eagle 50-year warranty for the pipe. The settlement also stipulates that J-M will be eligible to be an approved manufacturer or supplier for the Plaintiffs. The pipe warranty provides that if a pipe should fail and is determined to be defective within the lifetime of the warranty because it did not



meet certified standards, J-M will provide a replacement or “issue credits, offsets, or a combination thereof for the wholesale purchase price of the defective product.”

It is possible that future capital improvement or developer projects may use JM Eagle pipe for water distribution as long as it complies with certain standards as detailed in the District Standard Specifications. Specifically, any PVC pipe must meet the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Standard C900 and current certification from the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) for potable water pipe only<sup>1</sup>. As a condition of the settlement, Staff has updated the District’s “Approved Materials List”<sup>2</sup> by adding JM Eagle to the manufacturers listed under PVC pipe. A copy of a recent press release from JM Eagle is provided as Attachment 2.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Summary of JM Eagle pipe installed between 1999 and 2008.
2. June 11, 2025 JM Eagle Press Release

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<sup>1</sup> The District (and AWWA) has different standards for PVC gravity sewer pipe used at Oceana Marin

<sup>2</sup> Available on the District website: [https://nmwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Approved-Materials-List\\_Water-Final-07-2025.pdf](https://nmwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Approved-Materials-List_Water-Final-07-2025.pdf)



## MEMORANDUM

To: David Bentley

Date: April 22, 2010

From: Eileen Blue

Subject: JM Pipe Submittals

Z:\Folders by Job No\4000 jobs\4032\JM pipe litigation info memo.doc

As requested, following is a summary of the information gathered on JM pipe that submittals have been submitted for specific jobs, the lengths and sizes for each job.

| <b><i>Job Number &amp; Name</i></b>              | <b><i>Contractor</i></b> | <b><i>Date Submitted</i></b> | <b><i>Length of Pipe</i></b>     | <b><i>Size of Pipe</i></b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2488 Hamilton Field Phs II, Stage II             | North Bay Construction   | 3/15/99                      | 1,110'                           | 8"                         |
| 2568 MacAndy's Recreational Storage Vehicle Yard | W.R. Forde               | 1/23/02                      | 20'<br>200'<br>400'<br>540'      | 8"<br>8"<br>12"<br>12"     |
| 2612 Anderson Rowe Ranch                         | MJB Pipeline             | 11/4/03                      | 355'<br>286'<br>1,900'<br>1,120' | 6"<br>8"<br>8"<br>16"      |
| 2576 Cherry Hill Pipeline                        | MJB Pipeline             | 7/29/04                      | 318'<br>363'<br>1,340'           | 12"<br>12"<br>12"          |
| 2645 Safeway Expansion                           | Bauman Landscape         | 6/21/04                      | 97'<br>304'                      | 6"<br>8"                   |
| 2699 Hamilton Market Place                       | Midstate Construction    | 9/27/07                      | 150'<br>740'<br>60'<br>660'      | 8"<br>8"<br>12"<br>12"     |
| 2625 Olive Ridge                                 | North Bay Construction   | 7/15/05                      | 640'<br>140'<br>840'             | 8"<br>12"<br>12"           |
| 2716 College of Marin IVC Campus                 | Bay Pacific Pipeline     | 10/6/08                      | 358'                             | 16"                        |
| <b>Total Length</b>                              |                          |                              | <b>11,941 feet (2.26 miles)</b>  |                            |





June 11th, 2025

**RE: JM Eagle Products in California**

Dear Valued California Customers,

Numerous legal entities within the state of California have signed a settlement agreement which provides that JM Eagle will be treated like all other suppliers of materials and included as an “approved manufacturer of PVC pipe,” on any list of “approved manufacturers” maintained by such legal entity, subject to JM Eagle’s initial and continued compliance with that entity’s established requirements for PVC.

All appealable rights under the Qui Tam and related litigation have been exhausted. No party to the Qui Tam litigation received any payment from JM Eagle to settle or drop their claims in the Qui Tam or any related litigation. During the 15+ years of the Qui Tam litigation, no party could prove that they suffered any damages related to the purchase of pipe from JM Eagle.

All JM Eagle products are manufactured in the United States and comply with BABAA requirements.

I am pleased to talk to anyone who might have any questions regarding the above. I am also happy to provide an introduction to our legal department to provide further background.

The entire JM Eagle team is excited to work with you on all your infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

Neal Gordon  
Executive Vice President, Waterworks Sales  
JM EAGLE  
5200 W. Century Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
310.693.8200 x 7401  
[nealgordon@jmeagle.com](mailto:nealgordon@jmeagle.com)





9



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



**WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AND  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY: AUGUST 4, 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. Recap from the May 5, 2025 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
4. Recap from the July 7, 2025 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes **(TAC)**
5. Water Supply Coordination Council – July 28, 2025
6. Sonoma Water and Marin Water Contract Renewal
  - a. Consider Recommendation – Sonoma Water and Marin Water Contract Renewal
7. WAC Leadership Election Process for 2026-27 Term
8. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
9. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership **(TAC)**
  - a. 2025 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
  - b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging
10. Biological Opinion Status Update
  - a. Overview of 2025 Biological Opinion
11. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update
12. Business Services and External Affairs Division Update
13. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update
14. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is November 3, 2025)
15. Check Out



10



**DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 17, 2025**

Date Prepared 7/14/25

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         |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 90896-<br>90897* | CalPERS                    | Annual Unfunded Liability FY 25/26 (Classic \$1,633,973 & Pepra \$12,225)                               | \$1,646,198.00 |
| 1                | Accu-Tech                  | Pipette Calibration Services (Lab)                                                                      | 245.00         |
| 2                | All Star Rents             | Propane (STP)                                                                                           | 80.45          |
| 3                | Alpha Analytical Labs      | Lab Testing (Novato & West Marin)                                                                       | 1,670.00       |
| 4                |                            | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                     | 1,572.71       |
| 5                | Atco Pest Control          | Pest Control Services (Admin Bldg)                                                                      | 650.00         |
| 6                | Bay Alarm Company          | STP Fire Alarm System Upgrade (\$5,880) & Quarterly Fire Alarm Monitoring Fee (6/24/25-9/30/25) (\$194) | 6,073.53       |
| 7                | Baywork                    | Annual Membership FY25-26 (Clyde)                                                                       | 1,575.00       |
| 8                | Bobcat of Santa Rosa       | Service Parts ('24 Bobcat Excavator)                                                                    | 672.61         |
| 9                | Boucher Law, PC            | May Labor & Law Matters                                                                                 | 256.00         |
| 10               |                            | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                     | 595.05         |
| 11               | Camaraota, Richard         | Novato Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Rebate Program                                                  | 200.00         |
| 12               |                            | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                     | 626.75         |
| 13               |                            | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                     | 626.75         |
| 14               | C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs | June Progress Billing Financial Statement Audit FY24-25 (Balance Remaining on Contract \$29,095)        | 7,125.00       |
| 15               | Comcast                    | July Internet (1250 Lynwood Dr)                                                                         | 224.11         |
| 16               | Cortes, Itzel              | Novato Washer Rebate Program                                                                            | 75.00          |



| Seq | Payable To                                    | For                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Amount     |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 17  | CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering                 | Prog Pymt#4: Hamilton Homeward Bound Project RW Extension (Balance Remaining on as needed Contract \$40,154)                                                                                           | 72.00      |
| 18  | Enterprise FM Trust                           | Monthly Leases for Nissan Rogue (2), Nissan Frontier, F-150's (6), F-250's (4), Ford Rangers (6), Chevy Bolts (2), Nissan Leaf & Purchase of F-250's (2) (\$104,392)                                   | 117,433.46 |
| 19  | Environmental Science Assoc                   | Prog Pymt#4: Construction Compliance Support San Mateo Tank Project (Balance Remaining on Contract \$95,524)                                                                                           | 3,771.95   |
| 20  | Fiserv/Bastogne Inc.                          | Refund-Not Our Account                                                                                                                                                                                 | 219.50     |
| 21  | Fisher Scientific                             | Sodium Standard (Lab)                                                                                                                                                                                  | 82.63      |
| 22  | Freyer & Laureta, Inc.                        | Prog Pymt#33: Engineering & Design for Lynwood Pump Station (\$1,169) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$60,908) & Prog Pymt#19: Master Plan Update (\$33,169) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$169,766) | 34,337.75  |
| 23  | Friedman's Home Improvement                   | Reciprocating Saw (\$219) & Battery                                                                                                                                                                    | 361.63     |
| 24  | InfoSend, Inc.                                | June Processing Fee for Water Bills (\$1,447), Postage (\$4,387) & Monthly Support Fee (\$967)                                                                                                         | 6,801.70   |
| 25  | International Dioxide Inc                     | Flow Sensors (3) (STP)                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3,308.61   |
| 26  |                                               | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                                                                                                                    | 626.75     |
| 27  | Department of Labor and Industries Washington | Quarterly WA WC Premium for Employee Working Remotely                                                                                                                                                  | 26.24      |
| 28  |                                               | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                                                                                                                    | 626.75     |
| 29  |                                               | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                                                                                                                    | 1,572.71   |
| 30  | Mallory Safety and Supply LLC                 | Oxygen Sensor (\$320) & Gas Monitor for Chlorine Dioxide (\$1,035) (STP)                                                                                                                               | 1,355.41   |
| 31  | Marin Independent Journal                     | Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Increase to Oceana Marin Sewer Service (6/3/25 & 6/10/25)                                                                                                  | 145.00     |
| 32  | Marin County Ford                             | Service Parts ('15 F150-\$275, '22 Ford Ranger, '20 F150, '21 F150, '17 F350)                                                                                                                          | 753.51     |

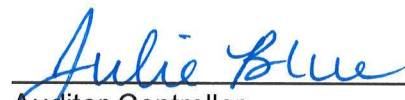


| Seq | Payable To                     | For                                                                                                       | Amount    |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 33  | Marino, Vincent                | Refund Security Deposit on Hydrant Meter Less Final Bill                                                  | 473.13    |
| 34  | MXCOM LLC                      | Refund Security Deposit on Hydrant Meter Less Final Bill                                                  | 766.66    |
| 35  | North Bay Gas                  | Nitrogen (STP)                                                                                            | 30.00     |
| 36  | Novato, City of                | Encroachment Permit (4 Nova Lane)                                                                         | 896.06    |
| 37  | Novato Sanitary                | March (\$1,693) & April (\$6,113) 2025 RW Operating Expense                                               | 7,806.18  |
| 38  | Novato Chamber of Commerce     | Leadership Class (Corda)                                                                                  | 1,200.00  |
| 39  | Oceana Marin Association       | Oceana Marin Road Rehabilitation Contribution                                                             | 10,000.00 |
| 40  | Outlander Construction, Inc.   | Prog Pymt#8:(\$36,000) & Prog Pymt#9: Construction Locker Room Remodel Project (\$15,730) (Final Payment) | 51,730.00 |
| 41  | Pace Supply                    | Gaskets (26), Flange (\$1,162) (San Mateo Tank Project)                                                   | 1,279.96  |
| 42  | Peterson Trucks                | Fuel Strainer ('15 Int'l 5Yd Dump Truck)                                                                  | 46.62     |
| 43  | NMWD Petty Cash                | Safety Snacks, Lab Supplies & Supplies for Employee Event                                                 | 124.50    |
| 44  | Pacific Gas & Electric Co      | Power: Bldg/Yard (\$2,645), Other (\$301), Pumping (\$85,882), Rect/Cont (\$941) & TP (\$2,583)           | 92,352.23 |
| 45  | Redwood Health Services, Inc.  | May 2025 RHS Dental Claims (\$6,311) & July 2025 Fees Expense (\$333)                                     | 6,644.74  |
| 46  | RoadSafe Traffic Systems, Inc. | Marking Paint (24)                                                                                        | 279.46    |
| 47  |                                | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                       | 626.75    |
| 48  | Sanders, Donna M.              | Novato Pool Cover Rebate Program                                                                          | 75.00     |
| 49  | Soiland Co., Inc.              | Rock (17 yds) (\$532) & Asphalt Recycling (12 yds) (\$427)                                                | 959.05    |
| 50  | Sonoma-Marin Arborists Inc     | Mowing Services (Oceana Marin Ponds & Irrigation Field)                                                   | 4,975.00  |



| Seq                        | Payable To                    | For                                                                                                 | Amount                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 51                         | State Water Resources Control | SRF Loan Payment Recycled Water South Phase 2 (Pymt #12 of 20)                                      | 100,232.68                   |
| 52                         | Stitham, Scott                | Refund Over Payment on Closed Account                                                               | 130.43                       |
| 53                         |                               | Retiree Exp Reimb (July Health Ins)                                                                 | 1,572.71                     |
| 54                         | Unicorn Group                 | West Marin Water Quality Report Postcards (\$849) & Novato Water Quality Report Postcards (\$4,613) | 5,461.41                     |
| 55                         | United Parcel Service         | Delivery Services: Lab Pipettes Sent for Calibration & STP Valve Sent for Repair                    | 82.69                        |
| 56                         | Verizon Wireless              | SCADA & AMI Collectors (\$650)                                                                      | 1,176.07                     |
| 57                         | Waste Management              | Waste Disposal                                                                                      | 102.80                       |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> |                               |                                                                                                     | <b><u>\$2,128,985.69</u></b> |

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$2,128,985.69 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

  
 Auditor-Controller

07/15/25  
 Date

  
 General Manager

7/15/2025  
 Date



## DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 24, 2025

Date Prepared 7/21/25

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 7/15/25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$213,891.61 |
| 90900* | Internal Revenue Service         | Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 7/15/25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 99,591.08    |
| 90901* | State of California              | State Taxes & SDI PPE 7/15/25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 23,647.07    |
| 90902* | CalPERS                          | Pension Contribution PPE 7/15/25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 61,002.33    |
| 90904* | Nationwide                       | Deferred Compensation-457 PPE 7/15/25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 16,912.82    |
| 90903* | Nationwide                       | Deferred Compensation 7/15/25-401A Match                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3,033.11     |
| EFT*   | US Bank                          | June Bank Analysis Charge (Lockbox \$920 & Other \$422 Less Interest \$159)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 1,182.75     |
| 90898* | US Bank Card                     | Microsoft Monthly Subscription & Upgrade to 365 (\$2,866), Internet PRTP & Gallagher Well #2, Zoom Subscription, Starlink Monthly, Neptune Conference Registration (\$250), Airfare & Shuttle (\$381), Finance Webinars (\$435), Project Mgmt & Water/Waste Water Utilities Online Training (5 Participants) (\$5,075), STP Generator & Cartridge (\$2,975), Application fee for July 4th Parade, & AWWA Reference Manual (\$97) | 12,941.54    |
| 90899* | Amazon                           | Computer Supplies, Kitchen Supplies (\$586), Office Supplies (\$386), Service Awards (2), Monitors for Customer Facing Mounts (4-Eng & Cons Svcs) (\$1,244), Concrete Mixing Tools (\$450), Cellular Antennas (2) (\$109) & Tape Measures (2)                                                                                                                                                                                    | 3,357.58     |
| 1      | Alpha Analytical Labs            | Lab Testing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 96.00        |
| 2      | Associated Right of Way Services | Prog Pymt#13: Valuation Services for Lynwood Pump Station (Balance Remaining on Contract \$21,233)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 977.50       |
| 3      | AT&T                             | Leased Lines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 63.08        |
| 4      | Ayyar, Anand                     | Refund Excess Advance Over Actual Job Cost                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 6,011.66     |



| Seq | Payable To                   | For                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Amount    |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5   | Bank of Marin                | Bank of Marin Loan Principal & Interest (Pymt #165 of 240) Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project                                                                                                                                | 46,066.67 |
| 6   | Mulliner, Eileen             | Exp Reimb: Miscellaneous Supplies                                                                                                                                                                                            | 106.60    |
| 7   | Bold & Polisner              | June Legal Fees-General (\$7,206) & NMWD Portion Potter Valley Project (\$553)                                                                                                                                               | 7,758.00  |
| 8   | California Water Service     | July Water Services                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 35.37     |
| 9   | Canyon Rock Co., Inc.        | Sand (17 yds)                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1,188.53  |
| 10  | Castellucci, Peter           | Exp Reimb: D3 Certification Renewal                                                                                                                                                                                          | 120.00    |
| 11  | CDW-Government, Inc.         | Wireless Router (Maint Dept)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 475.31    |
| 12  | Cinquini & Passarino Inc.    | Prog Pymt#4: Land Surveying Services (Balance Remaining on as needed Contract \$32,910)                                                                                                                                      | 285.00    |
| 13  | Clyde, Karen                 | Exp Reimb: Refreshments for Writing Class on 7/16/25 (25 Participants)                                                                                                                                                       | 171.95    |
| 14  | Comcast                      | July Internet (Buck Institute)                                                                                                                                                                                               | 367.16    |
| 15  | Cummings Trucking            | Sand (34 yds) & Rock Deliveries (51 yds)                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1,537.00  |
| 16  | Dell Computers               | Computer for Front Counter for Customer Access                                                                                                                                                                               | 1,203.04  |
| 17  | Diesel Direct West           | Diesel (210 gal) & Gasoline (700 gal)                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3,975.71  |
| 18  | Environmental Resource Assoc | Water Microbe (Lab)                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 353.36    |
| 19  | Express Evaluations          | Employee Evaluation Software (7/1/25-6/30/26)                                                                                                                                                                                | 3,000.00  |
| 20  | Ferguson Waterworks          | 4" AMI Meter                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 4,294.84  |
| 21  | GHD Inc.                     | Prog Pymt#9: Stafford Dam Stability Analysis Project (\$6,143) (Balance Remaining on as needed Contract \$153,483) & Prog Pymt#25: GIS Conversion to ESRI & Mapping Support (\$593) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$13,567) | 6,735.75  |
| 22  | Grainger                     | Reagent (\$334) (STP), Bottle Filler (\$2,590) (Const/Maint Office), Batteries (\$252), Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies                                                                                                       | 3,764.72  |



| Seq | Payable To                       | For                                                                                                                                                                                       | Amount     |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 23  | Homeward Bound of Marin          | Partial Refund of Advance-Homeward Bound                                                                                                                                                  | 76,678.36  |
| 24  | Idexx Laboratories               | Colilert Media (\$3,911), Vessels (\$517) & Quanti Tray (\$1,223)                                                                                                                         | 5,652.29   |
| 25  | Intellaprint Systems             | Annual Maintenance Service Contract on Canon Color Print System (Eng)                                                                                                                     | 975.00     |
| 26  | Kiosk Creative LLC               | June Marketing Communication & Outreach Services (\$8,932) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$88,413) & 5-Year Strategic Plan Consulting (\$2,740) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$12,180) | 11,672.31  |
| 27  | Lincoln Life Employer Serv       | Deferred Compensation PPE 7/15/25                                                                                                                                                         | 7,623.36   |
| 28  | Marin General Services Authority | Marin Map Annual Membership FY25/26                                                                                                                                                       | 10,000.00  |
| 29  | McMaster-Carr Supply Co          | High Flow Mufflers (4)                                                                                                                                                                    | 200.40     |
| 30  | Nerland, Margot                  | Novato Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Program                                                                                                                                           | 98.00      |
| 31  | Novato, City of                  | Encroachment Permit (270 Fairway Drive)                                                                                                                                                   | 896.06     |
| 32  | ODP Business Solutions, LLC      | Miscellaneous Office Supplies                                                                                                                                                             | 215.97     |
| 33  | Pace Supply                      | Ball Valves (55) (\$484) & Nipples (8) (\$364)                                                                                                                                            | 848.49     |
| 34  | POA of Novato Heights            | Property Owners Association (1/25-12/25)                                                                                                                                                  | 400.00     |
| 35  | Point Reyes Prop Mgmt Assn       | July HOA Fees (25 Giacomini Rd)                                                                                                                                                           | 75.05      |
| 36  | Andy Poncia Fertilizer           | Sludge Hauling (22 Loads)                                                                                                                                                                 | 5,500.00   |
| 37  | Preferred Alliance, Inc.         | Pre-Employment Tests (3 Employees)                                                                                                                                                        | 180.00     |
| 38  | Pump Repair Service              | Emergency Repair, Service & Parts for STP GAC Motor/Pump                                                                                                                                  | 10,098.14  |
| 39  | Solenis, LLC                     | Praestol (2,000 lbs) (STP)                                                                                                                                                                | 5,240.00   |
| 40  | Sonoma County Water Agency       | June Contract Water (\$705,736) & Final Allocation North Bay Water Reuse Authority Phase 1 Projects (\$14,216)                                                                            | 719,951.84 |
| 41  | SPG Solar Facility XII, LLC      | June Energy Delivered Under Solar Services Agreement                                                                                                                                      | 16,886.11  |



| Seq                        | Payable To                    | For                                                                                                                                                                   | Amount                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 42                         | State Water Resources Control | D2 Certification Renewal (Northen)                                                                                                                                    | 80.00                        |
| 43                         | Team Ghilotti Inc.            | Prog Pymt#1: Cherry Hill Pump Station Retaining Wall (Balance Remaining on Contract \$165,229)                                                                        | 134,586.97                   |
| 44                         | Thomas Scientific             | Detergent (Lab)                                                                                                                                                       | 78.00                        |
| 45                         | VWR International LLC         | Bottles (50)                                                                                                                                                          | 214.04                       |
| 46                         | Water Works Engineers LLC     | Prog Pymt#1: (\$6,393) & Prog Pymt#2: Review, Assessment & Update of Risk & Resilience & Emergency Plan Protocols (\$17,331) (Balance Remaining on Contract \$67,352) | 23,723.25                    |
| 47                         | White & Prescott              | Prog Pymt#55: Ignacio & Bel Marin Water Line Easement (Balance Remaining on as needed Contract \$14,195)                                                              | 2,025.00                     |
| 48                         | ZORO                          | Shop Vac Filters (2) & Painter's Tape (4)                                                                                                                             | 111.76                       |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> |                               |                                                                                                                                                                       | <b><u>\$1,558,157.54</u></b> |

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$1,558,157.54 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

|                                                                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 07/22/25  |
| Auditor-Controller                                                                  | Date      |
|  | 7/22/2025 |
| General Manager                                                                     | Date      |



## **DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 31, 2025**

Date Prepared 7/28/25

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   | All Star Rents                         | Propane (12 gal)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$56.42   |
| 2   | Alpha Analytical Labs                  | Lab Testing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 424.00    |
| 3   | American Family Life Ins               | July 2025 Employee Paid Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 4,385.60  |
| 4   | Bobcat of Santa Rosa                   | Hydraulic Fluid (\$221) & Anti-Freeze (4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 379.13    |
| 5   | Consolidated CM                        | Prog Pymt#51: Construction Management for Admin & Lab Upgrade Project (Balance Remaining on Contract \$21,340)                                                                                                                                                     | 10,556.00 |
| 6   | Corda, Jeff                            | Exp Reimb: Parts for STP Centrisys                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 264.56    |
| 7   | Core Utilities, Inc                    | Consulting Services: June IT Support (\$6,000), SCADA Server Upgrade & Testing (\$1,150)                                                                                                                                                                           | 7,150.00  |
| 8   | CT Promotions                          | Promotional Rubber Ducks (2,500)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5,584.36  |
| 9   | Ditch Witch West                       | Hydro-excavation Nozzle ('19 Ditch Witch)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 369.67    |
| 10  | Department of Motor Vehicles           | Permanent Trailer Identification Registration ('90 Utility Trailer)                                                                                                                                                                                                | 10.00     |
| 11  | Fisher Scientific                      | Phosphorus Buffers (72) (Lab)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 143.81    |
| 12  | Flo-Line Technology, Inc.              | Replacement Pump (STP Export)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 9,756.33  |
| 13  | Forevergreen Landscape and Maintenance | Hamilton Airbase/Bunker Hill Weed Abatement & Mowing Services                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2,975.00  |
| 14  | Grainger                               | Utility Pump (\$444) (STP), Surge Protectors (2) (\$369), Gear (6) & Hydraulic Oils (2) (\$243), Tail/Clearance Lights (\$332), Grease Cartridges (10) (\$230), Plumbing Supplies (\$375) (STP), 30" Industrial Fan (\$453) (STP) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies | 3,473.80  |
| 15  | Gunn, Mary                             | Refund Overpayment on Closed Account                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 85.51     |
| 16  | HERC Rentals Inc.                      | Skidguards (2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 360.53    |

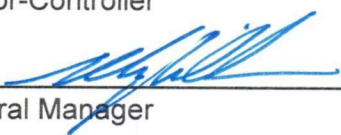


| Seq | Payable To                    | For                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Amount    |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 17  | High-Value Writing            | Business Writing Workshop on 7/16/25 (25 Employees)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2,587.28  |
| 18  | Max Hinton                    | Exp Reimb: Safety Boots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 302.49    |
| 19  | HMS Software                  | TimeControl Software Support (20 hrs)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 3,750.00  |
| 20  | Home Depot                    | Media Box Kits (4) (\$139), Chain Link Fence Supplies, Electrical Supplies & Rapid Set Concrete (50 - 60lb bags) (\$871)                                                                                                                                                 | 1,062.33  |
| 21  | Kaiser Foundation Health Plan | Pre-Employment Physicals (3)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 195.00    |
| 22  | Kehoe, Chris                  | Exp Reimb: D3 Certification Renewal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 120.00    |
| 23  | County of Marin               | Encroachment Permit (17 Cypress Ave, Pt. Reyes Station-\$640 & 25 Del Oro Lagoon-Novato-\$1,472)                                                                                                                                                                         | 2,112.71  |
| 24  | Axelrod Mitchell, Lynne       | Allocation Towards Low-Pressure Cut Off Switch                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 500.00    |
| 25  | Mutual of Omaha               | August 2025-Mutual of Omaha Group Life/ADD Insurance Premium & Vision                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2,380.40  |
| 26  | Pace Supply                   | Couplings (21) (\$6,450), 4" Double Check Detector Assembly (\$4,192), Meter Boxes (4) (\$248), Pipe (2,420') (\$28,008), Valves (3) (\$2,377), Hydrant Bury (\$589), Service Saddles (5) (\$964), Angle Meter Stops (40) (\$2,698) & Portable Utility Pumps (2) (\$407) | 45,933.04 |
| 27  | Pape Machinery Inc.           | Service Parts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 456.21    |
| 28  | Pencco                        | Ferric Chloride (18 dry tons) (STP)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 31,517.52 |
| 29  | Scott Technology Group        | July Monthly Maintenance on Engineering, Admin Copiers & Contract Overage Charge                                                                                                                                                                                         | 532.93    |
| 30  | Soiland Co., Inc.             | Rock (17 yds) (\$528) & Asphalt Recycling (9 yds) (\$314)                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 842.25    |
| 31  | SWK Technologies, Inc.        | Tech Support on Accounting Software                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 157.50    |
| 32  | Tamagno Green Products        | Sludge Removal from STP (120 yds)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 5,400.00  |
| 33  | Thomas Scientific             | Bio Indicator Strips (25) (Lab)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 170.60    |



| Seq                        | Payable To                | For                                                                                                                                                                    | Amount                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 34                         | Underground Service Alert | Regulatory Cost for 2024 California Underground Service Alert Tags (3,152) (\$7,314) & California State Fee for Regulatory Costs (7/1/25-6/30/26) (\$2,203)            | 9,517.39                   |
| 35                         | Univar                    | Sodium Hypochlorite (300 gal) (STP)                                                                                                                                    | 975.00                     |
| 36                         | VBS CAL LLC               | Inkjet Bond Paper (3' x 150') (Engineering)                                                                                                                            | 211.70                     |
| 37                         | VWR International LLC     | Phosphorus Buffer, Gas Vent Filters (20) (\$123), Vacuum Filter & Test Tube Racks (3) (\$421) (Lab)                                                                    | 741.04                     |
| 38                         | Waste Management          | Waste Disposal                                                                                                                                                         | 453.45                     |
| 39                         | Wilson Bohannon Company   | Lock (Crest Pump Station)                                                                                                                                              | 65.32                      |
| 40                         | Winzer Corporation        | Washers (12)                                                                                                                                                           | 26.62                      |
| 41                         | ZORO                      | Disposable Cups (400), Safety Gloves (2), Cleaning Towels (522) (\$133), Drawbar Locks (5) (\$120), Kneeling Mats (5) (\$238), Concrete Gloves (12) & Aerator Kits (2) | 636.28                     |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> |                           |                                                                                                                                                                        | <b><u>\$156,621.78</u></b> |

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$156,621.78 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

|                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| Auditor-Controller                                                                 | General Manager                                                                     |
| 07/29/25                                                                           | 7/29/25                                                                             |
| Date                                                                               | Date                                                                                |





CALIFORNIA STATE

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

**CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION**

Is hereby granted to

**North Marin Water District - RCP Lab**

999 Rush Creek Place

Novato, CA 94945

Scope of the certificate is limited to the  
"Fields of Accreditation"  
which accompany this Certificate.

Continued accredited status depends on compliance with applicable laws and regulations,  
proficiency testing studies, and payment of applicable fees.

This Certificate is granted in accordance with provisions of  
Section 100825, et seq. of the Health and Safety Code.

Certificate No.: **3125**

Effective Date: **8/1/2025**

Expiration Date: **7/31/2027**

Sacramento, California  
subject to forfeiture or revocation

Christine Sotelo, Program Manager  
Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program



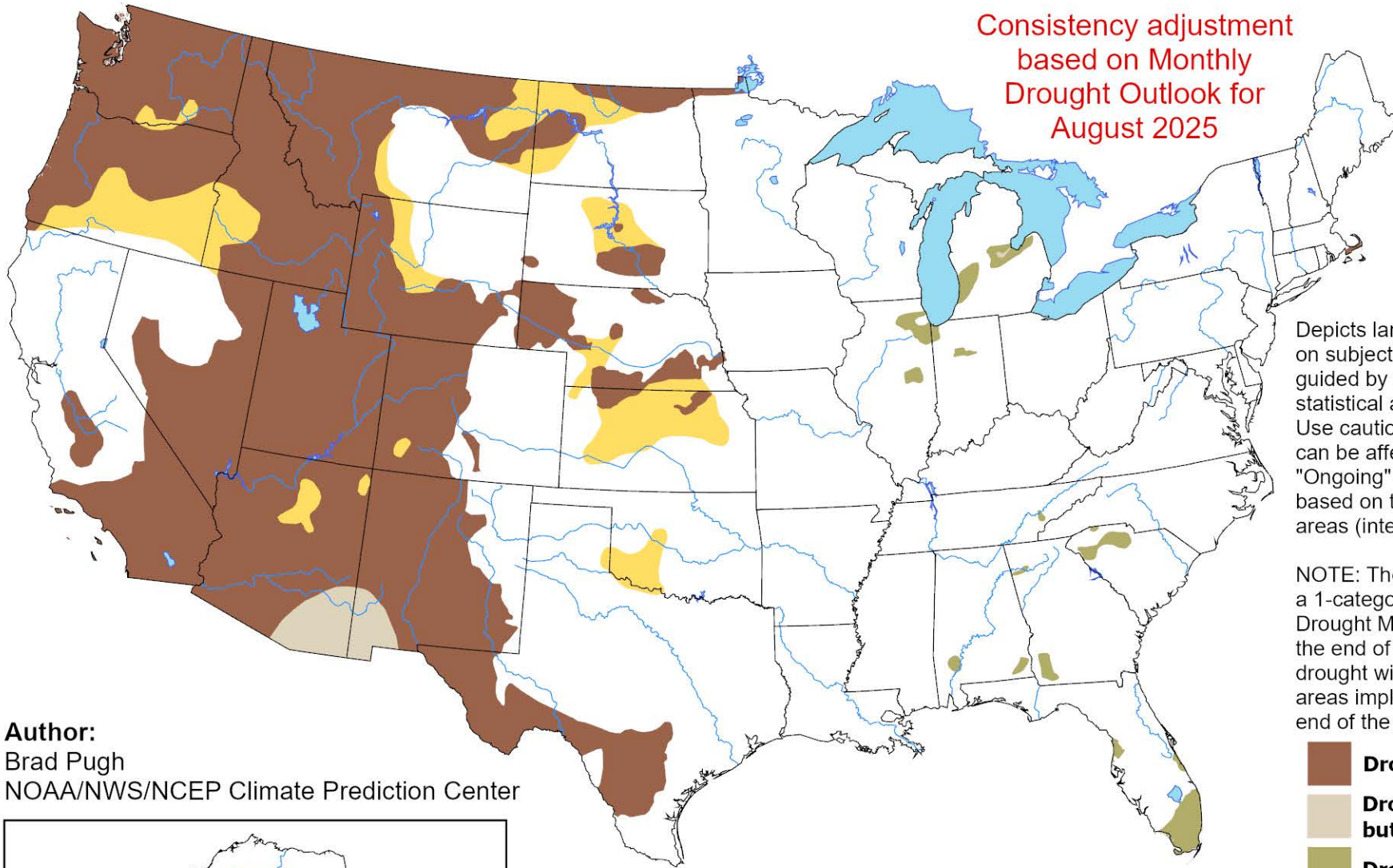
# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for August 1 - October 31, 2025

Released July 31, 2025

Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
August 2025

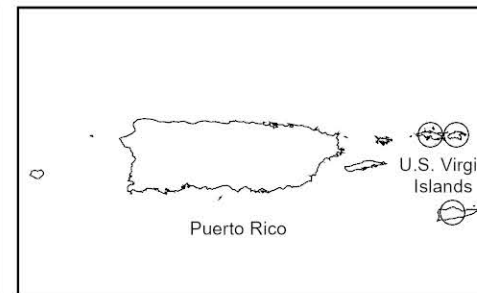
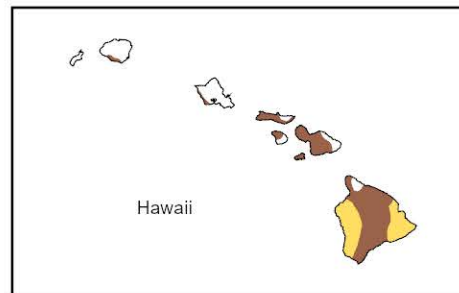
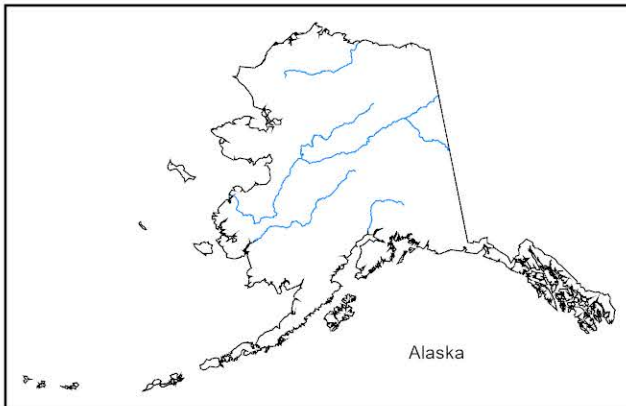


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

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

**Author:**  
Brad Pugh  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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



# Potter Valley Project Update & Approval of Water Diversion Agreement for New Eel-Russian Facility

July 22, 2025

Grant Davis (General Manager)

David Manning (Division Manager, Environmental Resources)

Cory O'Donnell (Chief Deputy County Counsel)

Richard Roos-Collins (Outside Counsel)



**Sonoma  
Water**





# Today's Meeting

- Updates
  - PVP Background
  - Eel-Russian Project Authority
  - New Eel-Russian Facility
  - Water Diversion Agreement
  - Preliminary Cost Estimates
  - Next Steps and Potential Schedule
- Recommended Board Actions
  - Approve and authorize Chair of Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Chair of Sonoma Water Board of Directors to execute Water Diversion Agreement
  - Authorize Sonoma Water General Manager to enter into agreements with Eel-Russian Project Authority





# Introduction to the Potter Valley Project

- Currently owned by PG&E, has diverted water from the Eel River to the Russian River since 1908.
- Historic diversions have been year-round for hydropower.
- The Project has adversely affected anadromous fisheries, environmental quality, and related beneficial uses of water in the Eel River Basin.
- Water diverted from the Eel to Russian River has supported agriculture, communities, and the environment for more than 100 years.
- In 2019, PG&E announced intent to stop operating the project as no longer economically feasible.
- By July 29, 2025 PG&E will file License Surrender Application.
- Russian River & Eel River interests implementing a plan of action.





## Scott Dam & Lake Pillsbury



## Cape Horn Dam & Van Arsdale Reservoir

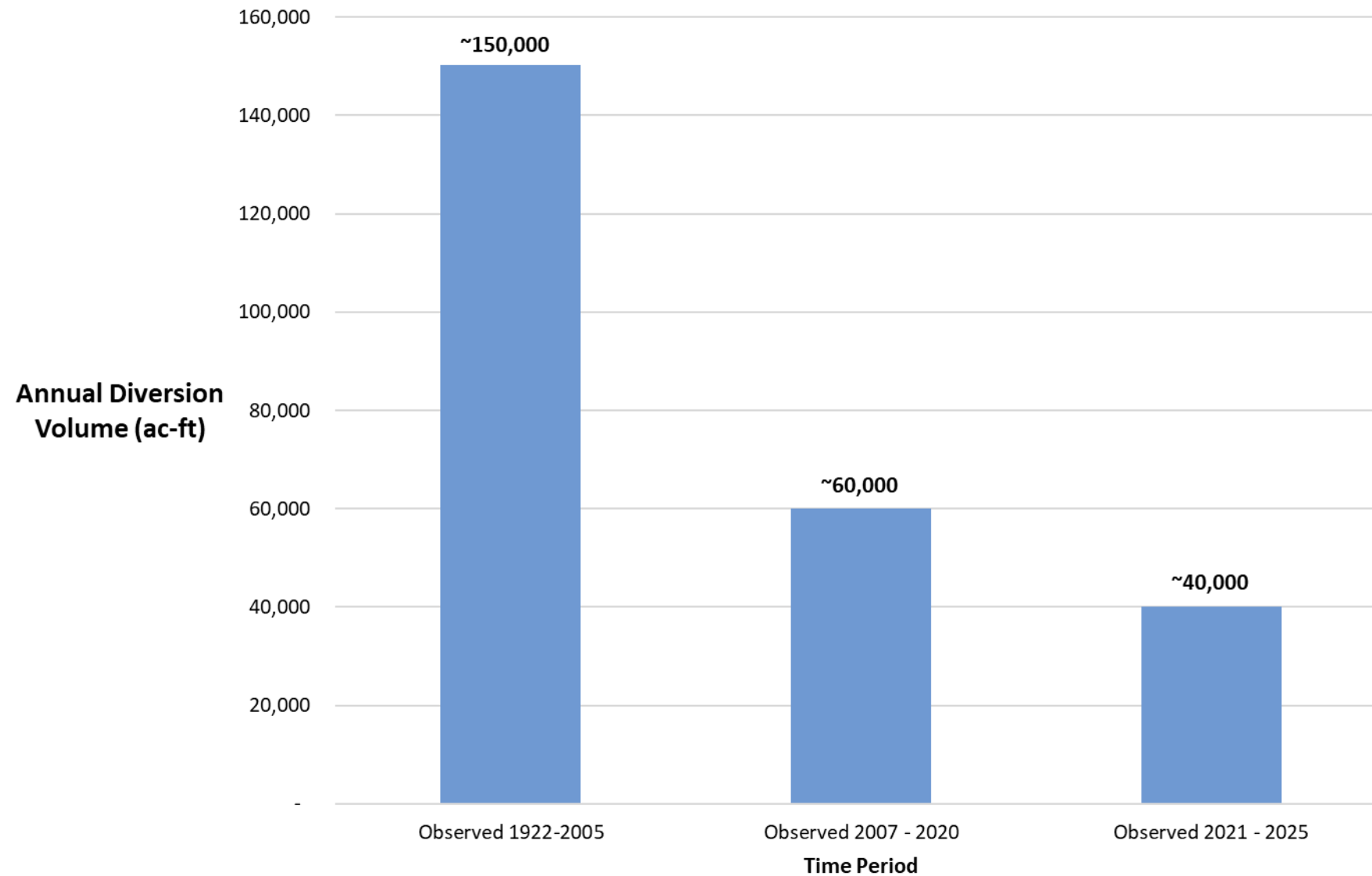


## Coyote Valley Dam & Lake Mendocino





## Average Annual Volumes of Eel River Water Diverted through the Potter Valley Project (acre-feet per year)





# Two-Basin Partnership

- ♦ Improve fish migration and habitat on the Eel River with the objective of achieving naturally reproducing, self-sustaining, and harvestable native anadromous fish populations; and
- ♦ Maintain continued water diversion from the Eel River through the existing tunnel to the Russian River to support water supply reliability, fisheries, and water quality in the Russian River Basin.





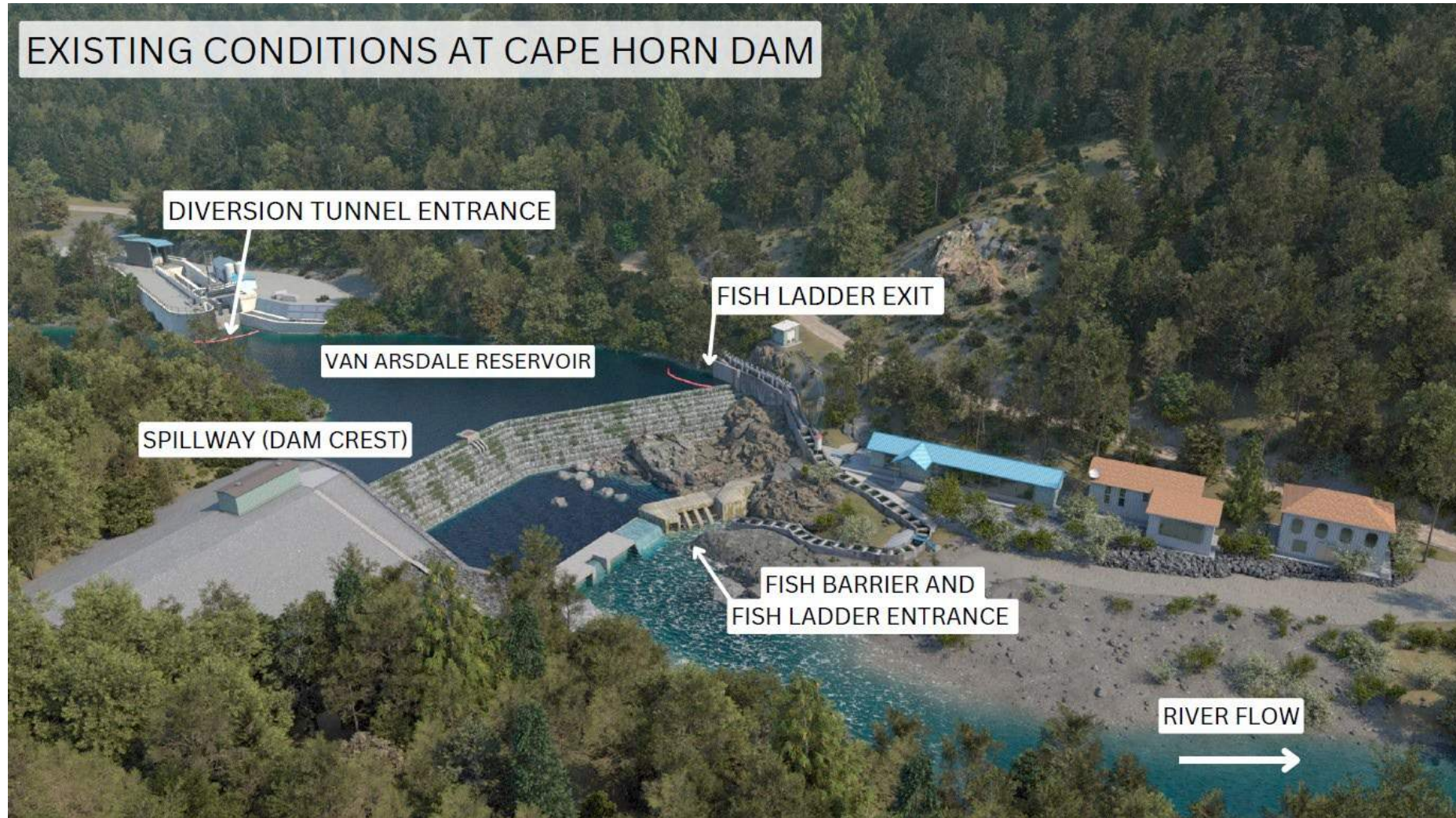
# Eel-Russian Project Authority

- ◆ In December 2023, Sonoma Water, Sonoma County, and Mendocino County IWPC formed ERPA as a joint powers authority. RVIT has a seat on ERPA's Board of Directors.
- ◆ ERPA proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a New Eel-Russian Facility to divert water from the Eel River, at the site of and following the decommissioning and removal of Cape Horn Dam, on terms consistent with restoration of the anadromous fisheries of the Eel.



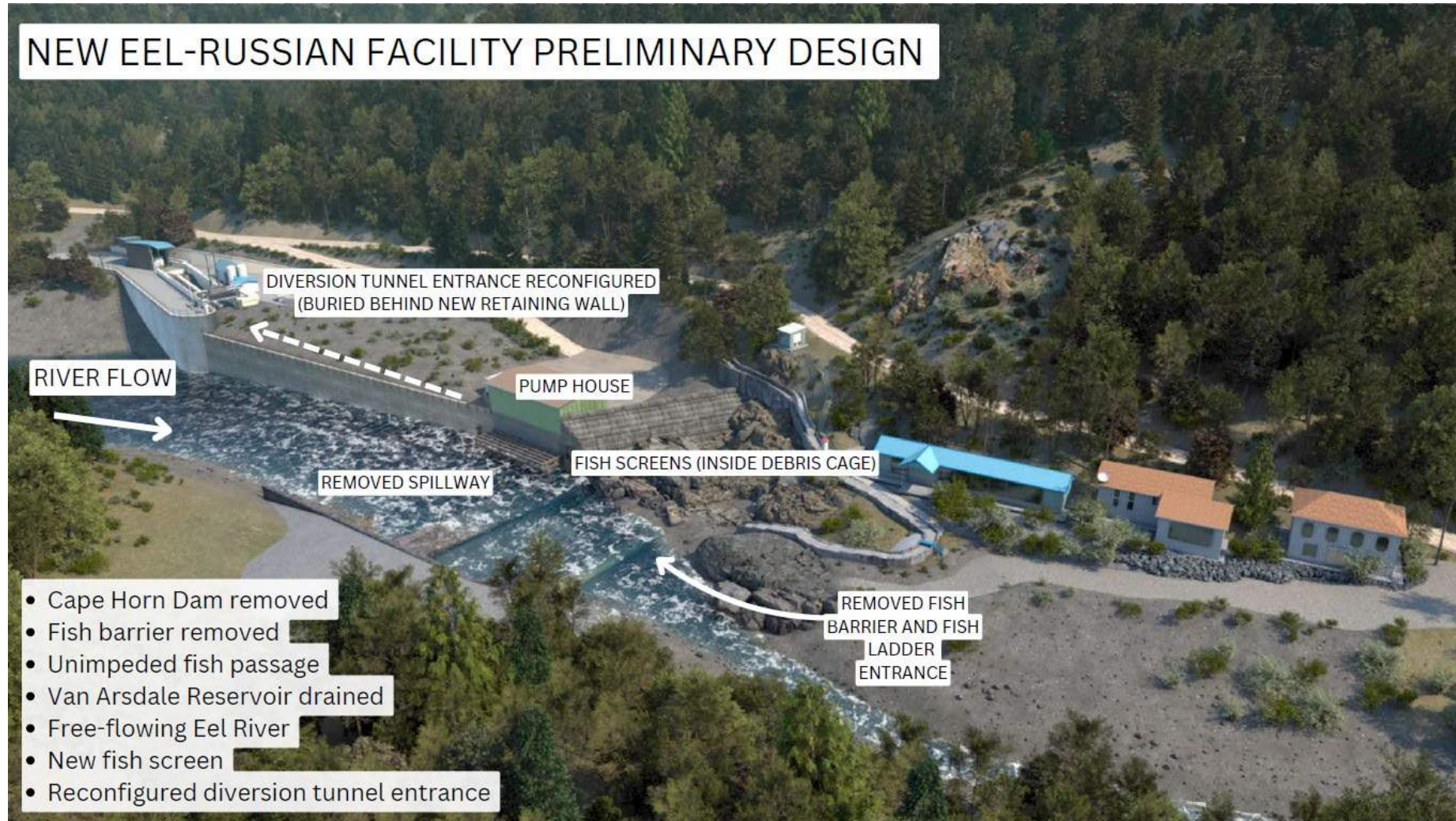


# Cape Horn Dam



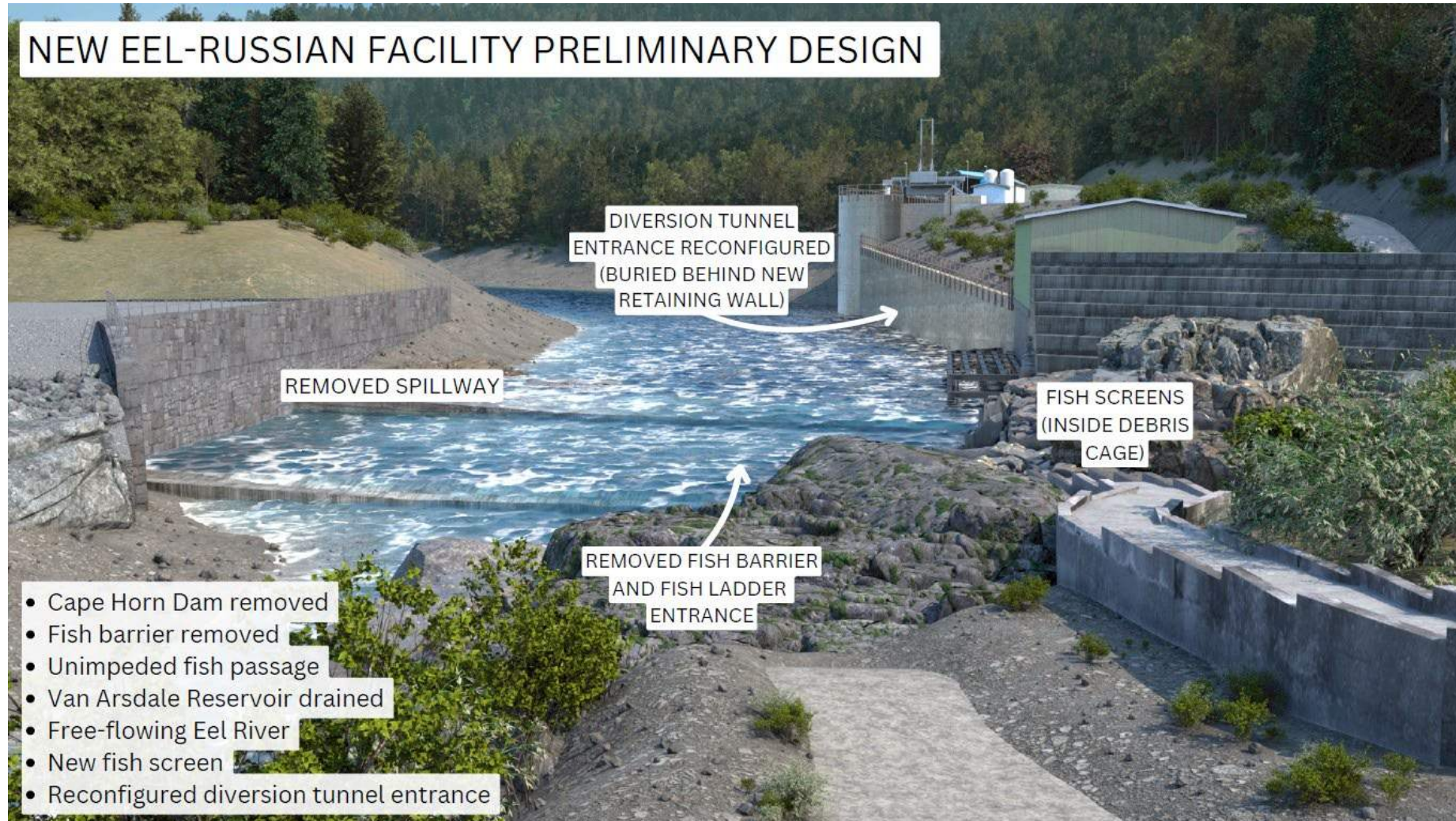


# New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF)



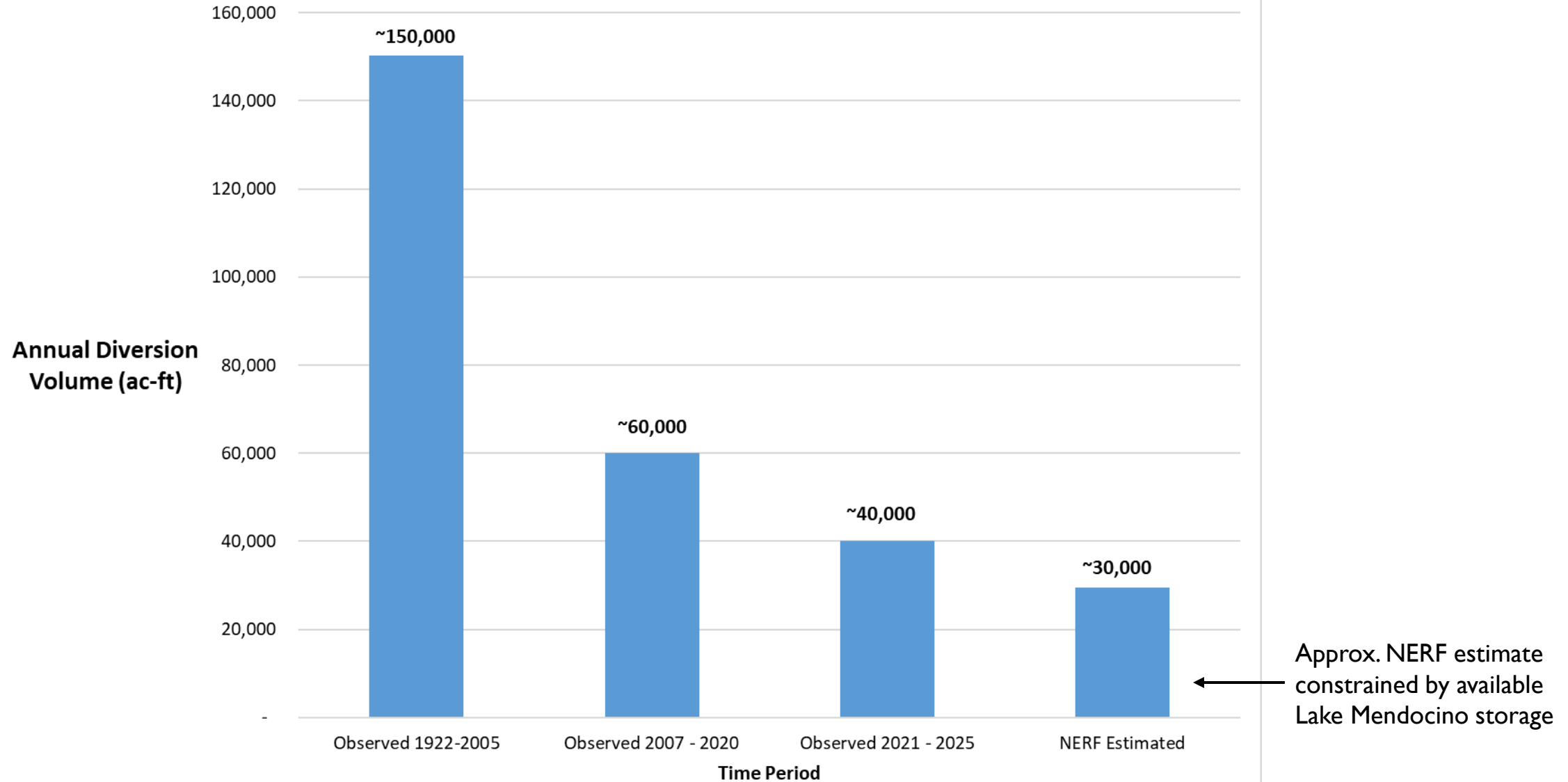


# New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF)



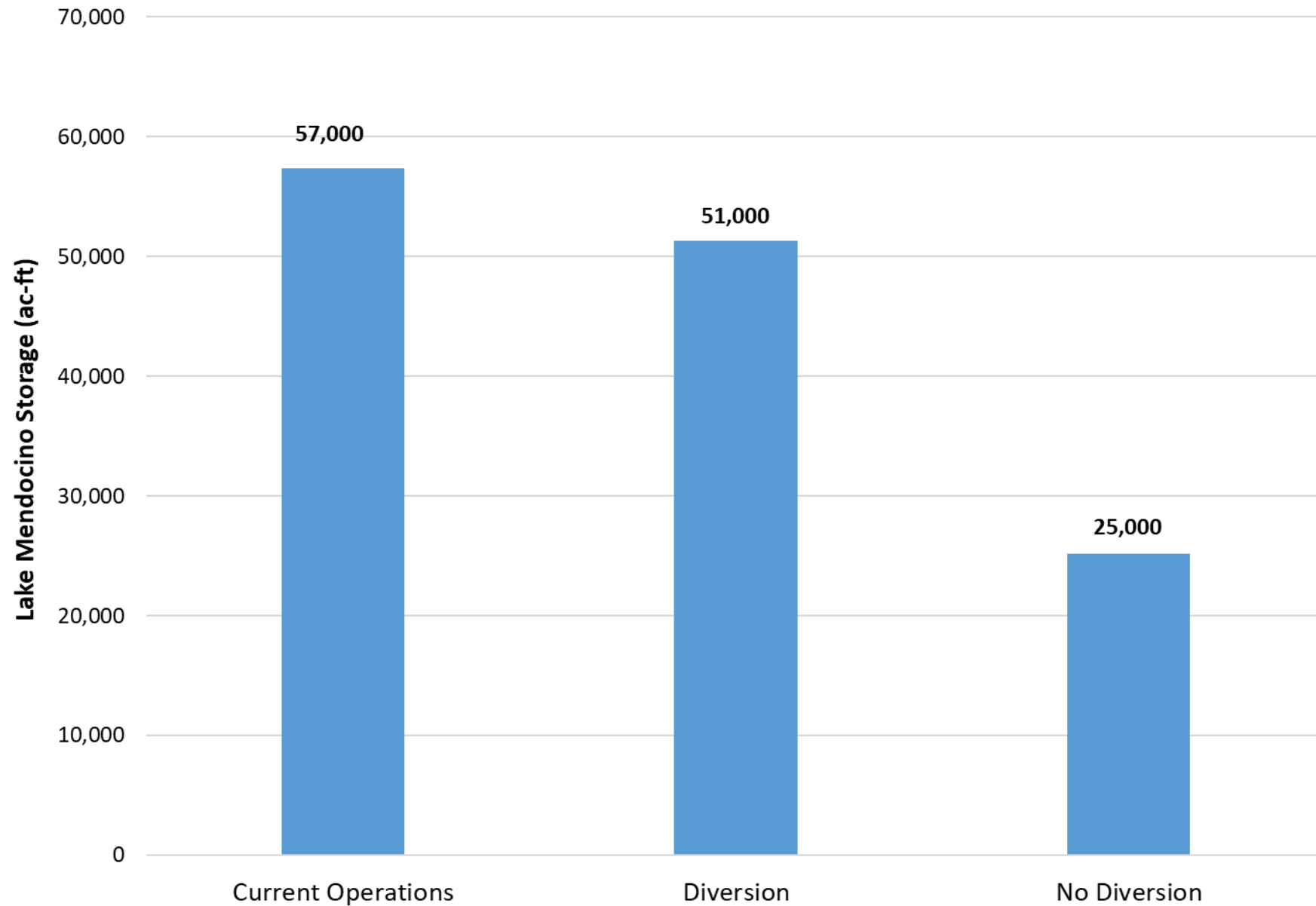


## Average Annual Volumes of Eel River Water Diverted through the Potter Valley Project (acre-feet per year)





Average Modeled Lake Mendocino Storage on September 30th





# MOU to Advance Water Diversion Agreement

CDFW, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Sonoma Water, Mendocino IWPC, Cal-Trout, Humboldt County, Trout Unlimited

- Signed February 13, 2025
- State pledged \$18 million (\$9 million for NERF; \$9 million Eel River Restoration Fund).





# Water Diversion Agreement

- Support PG&E's application to FERC to construct NERF concurrent with removal of Cape Horn Dam
- PG&E's water rights
  - Proposed to be owned by RVIT, dedicated to instream flow and NERF diversion
  - Leased to ERPA when operations begin, lease payment of \$1,000,000/year
  - Additional payment of \$750,000/year to Eel River Restoration Fund
- Operations
  - Not under FERC's jurisdiction
  - Diversion rules, performance metrics & adaptive management including monitoring
- Initial term of 30 years, renewal term of 20 years if:
  - \$25 million raised for Eel River Restoration Fund
  - Russian River users increase resiliency
  - Compliance with diversion rules, no negative effect to salmon and steelhead recovery
- Shared fundraising goal (not required for renewal)
  - \$100 million for NERF and Eel (before construction), \$100 million (renewal term), split between NERF and Eel
- Dispute Resolution and enforcement





# NERF Preliminary Cost Estimates (2025 dollars)

- 💧 Design and Permitting: \$5 million
- 💧 Construction: \$50 million
- 💧 Operations and Maintenance: \$7-12 million annually
  - Operations (staffing, equipment, supplies, power)
  - Administration and Insurance
  - Construction Bonds
  - Annual Contingency
  - Annual Water Rights Lease
  - Annual Restoration Payment
- 💧 Revenue: Grants, Bonds, Water User Payments



# Next Steps and Potential Schedule

- 💧 PG&E License Surrender Application filed with FERC by July 29, 2025
- 💧 All Parties Sign Water Diversion Agreement by July 29, 2025
- 💧 2025-2028
  - ERPA Business Plan
  - NERF 60%-90% design
  - ERPA CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for NERF
  - PG&E resource management and engineering plans
  - FERC prepares NEPA document for PG&E License Surrender
  - State Water Board CEQA for PG&E Clean Water Act Compliance
  - U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers NEPA for PG&E and ERPA Clean Water Act Compliance
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions for PG&E dam removal and NERF construction
- 💧 2028-2030
  - FERC Surrender Order
  - ERPA and PG&E Final Engineering, Permits, Bidding, Contracting
- 💧 2030-2035
  - PG&E Dam Removal and Restoration
  - NERF Construction





# Actions to Support ERPA

- ERPA can designate member agency employees to act on ERPA's behalf and can contract with member agencies for services.
- ERPA proposes to:
  - Designate Sonoma Water staff to act as ERPA Executive Director
  - Authorize Sonoma Water to perform various technical and other work on ERPA's behalf, including outreach and communications, NERF design work, NERF environmental compliance and permitting work, and ERPA business plan development, including engaging consultants.
- ERPA and Sonoma Water would enter into agreements for this work, including provisions on reimbursement and payment for services.



# Recommended Board Actions

- 💧 Approve and authorize the Chair (on behalf of County of Sonoma and Sonoma Water) to execute the Water Diversion Agreement for the New Eel-Russian Facility in substantially the form presented and approved by County Counsel.
- 💧 Authorize Sonoma Water's General Manager to enter into agreements with the Eel-Russian Project Authority regarding staffing and technical support and other work in a form approved by County Counsel.



# Affordable housing proposal advances

## Study of 54-home plan sets up federal funding

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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

A plan to construct 54 affordable homes on a former U.S. Coast Guard property in Point Reyes Station will result in no significant environmental impacts, according to a new analysis.

The report, which reviews development plans on 33.5 acres at 100 Commodore Webster Drive, was needed to obtain \$1.14 million in federal funding for the project. The review under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, enables the county to request the funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On Monday, Marin planners published the environmental assessment, a notice of finding no significant impact and a notice of intent to release funds. Public comment on the documents is open through Aug. 6.

“This is the final stage through NEPA for funding,” said Tammy Taylor, a county environmental planner. “If we don’t have any comments, then we can go ahead and close the NEPA review to submit our request for the funding. If there are comments, then we’ll prepare a response and then take it from there.”

The county, which purchased the property from the federal government for \$4.3 million in 2018, is selling it for \$1 to the developers, the Community Land Trust Association of West Marin and Eden Housing. The plan is to make the rental homes affordable to people earning between 30% and 60% of the area median income. That equates to a household income between \$58,740 and \$117,480 for a household of four. The project is estimated at about \$55.4 million.

Last year, a county zoning administrator approved a coastal permit and a conditional use permit after the project cleared review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

For that process, a report called an “initial study/mitigated negative declaration” concluded that environmental impacts could be offset through various mitigation activities during construction. The new analysis reached the same conclusion.

“This is an existing site that has housing on it that is no longer in use,” Taylor said. “The



project will repurpose this already developed land, so we've been able to mitigate every potential impact."

In March, the Marin County Board of Supervisors allocated \$9.49 million to help developers with their plans.

Other financial contributions include an \$850,000 federal earmark secured by Rep. Jared Huffman in 2023 and a \$1 million grant commitment from the Marin Community Foundation.

"We're thrilled to have reached this stage in the process — something that wouldn't have been possible without the steadfast support of the county of Marin and the Marin Community Foundation," said Sarah Allen, project developer at Eden Housing.

"The county's recent \$9.4 million award — bringing its total commitment to nearly \$12 million — has been pivotal in allowing us to pursue additional public funding, advance through the environmental review process, and move closer to starting construction," Allen said.

The next critical step is securing additional funding, Allen said.

Developers have applied for approximately \$11.5 million from the California Department of Housing and Community Development through the Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program. They expect to receive a response in August, Allen said.

If that application is successful, the team plans to apply for low-income housing tax credits, an essential financing source for many affordable housing developments, Allen said.

The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee is expected to release the next application round in early 2026, she said.

"We intend to apply with the hope of receiving an award in the spring," Allen said. "Given the high demand for affordable housing resources, these applications are extremely competitive, and funding is not guaranteed."

Allen said the project will provide urgently needed long-term housing stability while minimizing environmental impact. Plans include restoring and protecting natural habitat on nearly half the property, installing state-of-the-art wastewater treatment and aiming for a net-zero energy footprint through onsite solar equipment.

The project also aims to respect the history of the site and sustain the surrounding open space by keeping development within the existing building footprint, she said.

"If we are successful in securing the additional funding, we anticipate beginning construction by late 2026 or early 2027," Allen said.



More information on the project is at [clam-ptreyes.org/cgp-updated](http://clam-ptreyes.org/cgp-updated).

The environmental assessments are available at [bit.ly/4mbvkcC](http://bit.ly/4mbvkcC).



# Reducing irrigation

Marin water districts boost conservation efforts



Ryan Grisso, water conservation coordinator for the North Marin Water District, visits the agency's low-water-use demonstration garden in Novato. PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL





Yarrow blooms in North Marin Water District's low water use demonstration garden in Novato.

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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

Blue glow agave, gold fernleaf yarrow and California fuchsia are among the plants featured at a new low-water-use demonstration garden at the North Marin Water District headquarters in Novato.

Looking to help customers replace their thirsty lawns with these and other drought-tolerant plants, the district recently unveiled the garden and increased its cash-for-grass rebate incentive hoping to promote change.

Last month, the rebate increased 50 cents, to \$1.50 per square foot of lawn area replaced with qualifying plantings, up to \$1,500 per house. Projects that meet an extra set of standards can earn a bonus \$1 per square foot.

The new incentives are supported by an influx of grant funding, including \$87,750 from the Bureau of Reclamation.

"We wanted to have somewhere to give our customers an example of low-water-use plants that would thrive in our climate here, and we would help them to choose the right plants for their own landscape that flourish with less water," said Ryan Grisso, the district's water conservation and communications manager.



Since its inception in 1989, the district's turf removal program has helped convert more than 1.2 million square feet of lawn, or roughly 27.5 acres, through upwards of 1,100 projects, Grisso said.

"It was the first turf removal rebate program in existence at the time," Grisso said. "And the goal was to get customers to remove irrigated lawn area with low-water-use plant material."

The North Marin Water District serves about 60,000 residents in the greater Novato area as well as about 1,800 residents in areas of western Marin.

Tony Williams, the district's general manager, said the district does not have a water supply shortage. The district receives about 80% of its water from Russian River imports through Sonoma Water, with the remainder coming from its Stafford Lake reservoir. Stafford Lake is typically only tapped during peak summer months, when water

"During times of peak demand, outdoor water use is a big factor," Williams said. "Those peak demands could just add a challenge on day-to-day operations during droughts. Obviously, shaving that peak helps spread the limited supply during those drought times."

The demonstration garden at 999 Rush Creek Place, which features about 50 species and varieties, cost about \$96,000. The garden also features a rainwater capture device. The project was a component of the agency's \$12.7 million renovation that includes a new lab.

The North Marin Water District typically budgets around \$50,000 a year for its turf replacement program to support about 30 to 40 projects.

More information about the garden and the rebate program is at [NMWD.com](http://NMWD.com).

The Marin Municipal Water District also increased its cash-for-grass incentives earlier this year.

Rebates increased 68 cents to \$2.18 per square foot of lawn for the base-level incentive, and to \$3.68 for "best practices" sustainable landscapes. Thanks to a boost in funding, residents can also earn an extra \$1 bonus rebate per square foot for qualifying rain garden installations.

Homeowner reimbursements are capped at 1,000 square feet, and business owners at 5,000 square feet.

Since its program first launched in 2021, 625,283 square feet of lawn, or about 14.35 acres, have been converted through 715 projects, said Adriane Mertens, a spokesperson for the district.

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which ended June 30, the district approved \$145,715 in cash payments to customers who completed projects. That covered 69,713 square feet of lawn.

Mertens said the average size of lawn replaced is 874 square feet.



# Push to save will continue rain or shine

Over the past several years, we've gotten plenty of rain.

There's been enough to keep our reservoirs, here and at Lake Sonoma, safely full.

We can say "safely" because it wasn't that long ago that the Marin Municipal Water District — stuck in a prolonged drought — was within months of running out of water, even with strong conservation measures.

But without those conservation efforts, MMWD's peril would have been worse.

That was an important lesson learned.

While conservation is not the only strategy for building a resilient water supply, it is one of the easiest and cheapest.

That's why Marin's two largest water agencies, MMWD and the North Marin Water District, are wisely investing in bolstering local water conservation.

North Marin has increased its rebate program that incentivizes customers to convert their landscape to water-saving drought-tolerant plants. Many of those homeowners are replacing water-guzzling lawns. They are not only receiving local rebates to help pay for it, but also saving on their water bills and retiring their lawnmowers, not to mention getting back the time it takes to push those mowers around.

North Marin has created an example of a drought-tolerant landscape at its headquarters at 999 Rush Creek Place.

Since it launched its "Cash for Grass" initiative in 1989, North Marin estimates it has supported about 1,100 local projects that replaced more than 27 acres of lawn.

Over the years, the district has spent about \$50,000 per year in incentives for about 30 or 40 lawn-replacement projects.

MMWD has also increased its rebate for homeowners and businesses that give up their lawns.

Its program has supported 715 projects that have replaced about 14 acres of lawn.

Typically, lawns drink up about four times more water than landscape that is better suited for our climate, according to MMWD.



The public investment is a lot less than the millions of dollars it would cost to increase capacity by expanding reservoirs or building more tanks. It's a lot less than it would cost to build a desalination plant, a measure that still has strong advocates.

Around here, conserving water has long been an ethic. It's not just the cost of water that prompts people to use water more wisely.

We've endured droughts before, most recently in 2020 and 2021.

We've seen water levels of reservoirs and lakes, here and across the state, drop to historic levels.

We've faced strict conservation requirements.

Recent years' return of rainfall levels should not erode conservation, wisely saving water wherever possible.

That's what the MMWD and North Marin programs are about; helping enable and encourage local homeowners and businesses to transform their landscaping to water-saving alternatives.

They are alternatives that pay off now and as we endure future droughts.



# Sonoma County officials try to assuage water-shortage fears sparked by Potter Valley Project decommissioning plan

*The Sonoma County Farm Bureau and others have major concerns about future water flows, but Sonoma Water officials say they're implementing new storage solutions.*



## Slide 1 of 9

From left, PG&E Hydro Licensing Director Janet Walther, Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt, Sonoma Water Division Manager David Manning and SSU Economics Professor Dr. Robert Eyler take questions Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at a Potter Valley Project town hall meeting at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa. (John Burgess / The Press Democrat)



**AMIE WINDSOR**  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

July 14, 2025, 7:50AM | **UPDATED 1 HOUR AGO**  
7 minute read

When it comes to the planned decommissioning of PG&E's Potter Valley Project — the hydroelectric power plant and two related dams in Northern California — there seem to be two schools of thought in Sonoma County.

One: Save the dams, at all costs. Protest! Reach out to President Donald Trump! Try anything.

Two: Accept the inevitable, at all costs. Prepare! Plan for storage! Try anything.

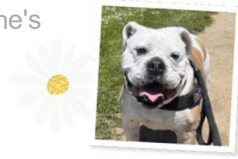
Now, as Pacific Gas & Electric Co. prepares to file its plans by July 29 to the federal government to decommission the project, the rift between those two schools is widening.

The chasm was on display during a July 1 town hall hosted by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa.

## Vote today and get a prize!



Now it's your chance to choose which dog or cat takes the top spot in Sonoma Magazine's Cutest Rescue Pet Contest.



## VOTE NOW

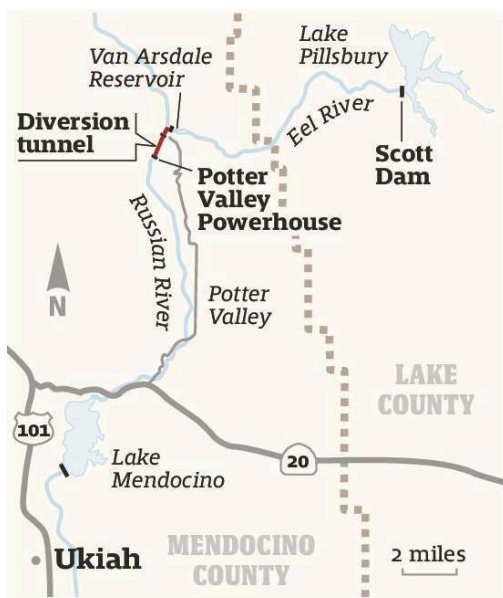
“Dams should not be removed,” said Dayna Ghirardelli, executive director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau. “There are still many unanswered questions and concerns.”

“This is a pivotal moment,” said Sonoma County Second District Supervisor David Rabbitt, reflecting the other school of thought. “We can let this happen to us or shape it.”

The questions revolve around how hundreds of thousands of customers would continue to have access to water once PG&E stops diverting water from the Eel River to the Russian River — a move that is likely still a decade away.

“The reaction of Sonoma County will be if the water loss is a permanent change,” said Robert Eyler, economics professor at Sonoma State University. “Will there be a change in demand? Will it be like a drought that may be considered more permanent?”

### What is the Potter Valley Project?



THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

*This map shows the location of Scott Dam, impounding Lake Pillsbury, and Cape Horn Dam, creating Van Arsdale Reservoir, on the Eel River, the Potter Valley power plant, and the diversion tunnel into the and Russian River. (The Press Democrat)*

The Potter Valley Project fans out across the Upper Eel River and Russian River watersheds, in Lake and Mendocino counties. The main storage reservoir for the project, Lake Pillsbury, is formed behind Scott Dam, which is on the Eel River. Water captured and stored in Lake Pillsbury is released into the Eel River and then captured again in the 65-acre Van Arsdale Reservoir behind Cape Horn Dam. A share of the water captured in Van Arsdale Reservoir is then diverted through a tunnel beneath a mountain saddle to Potter Valley Powerhouse, which is just north of a

Sonoma Water — the county-run agency that manages drinking water, flood protection services and distribution of recycled water for 600,000 customers in Sonoma and Marin counties — is attempting to assuage that fear.

Since PG&E announced its plans to forfeit the hydroelectric power plant and decommission the dams, the agency has been working with a group of other water stakeholders to ensure the region can still have access to water.

Their plan is known as the two-basin solution and hinges on a new diversion design that engineers fondly call the NERF, short for New Eel Russian Facility.



predominately agricultural area known as the Potter Valley.

For decades, that water turned turbines to generate electricity, then flowed south in a canal that drains into the East Fork of the Russian River.

But that plant hasn't produced electricity since 2021, the result of its output being relatively small in the modern era. Before being shut down, it generated about enough electricity to cover the needs of the city of Ukiah, 18 miles to the southwest, home to some 16,000 people.

In 2019, PG&E said it no longer wanted to continue operating the 117-year-old powerhouse and two nearby dams. "It was not an economic project for our customers," said Janet Walther, director of hydro licensing with PG&E.

In 2022, it applied to surrender its operating license to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, which oversees the nation's hydropower projects.

PG&E now is on track to embark on the nation's next big dam removal project, freeing up the headwaters of California's third longest river to help revive its troubled salmon and steelhead trout runs. The company must submit its final plans for tearing down the two dams, the diversion tunnel and the hydropower plant by July 29 to FERC. Those plans must be reviewed and approved by the commission — a process that is likely to take years.

Walther says that FERC cannot deny a decommissioning and believes the earliest the federal agency could issue a surrender order is 2028. But she added that PG&E "probably won't be ready by this time," as the company still has to finalize the design, construction and restoration plans.

"Those aren't done," Walther said.

The NERF would allow for the diversion of roughly 30,000 acre feet of water to flow from the Eel River to the Russian River through a new diversion tunnel that Sonoma Water expects to construct in conjunction with the removal of Scott Dam. (An acre-foot is equivalent to the amount of water needed to flood most of a football field one foot deep, and can supply the needs of three water-efficient households for a year.)

"We are trying to coordinate with PG&E," Sonoma Water Environmental Resources Manager David Manning said. "We don't want to have a gap in time where we can't divert. We are very aware that any gap in time is akin to a 'no diversion' scenario. We want to minimize that."

But, unlike year-round diversions that occur now, under the two-basin solution, diversions would only occur during high-flow periods.



## Potter Valley Project Town Hall in Santa Rosa



That restriction is a major cause for concern for many, especially the county Farm Bureau.

But county officials say the ability to store water throughout the region is key.

“We can’t keep the status quo,” Rabbitt said at the town hall. “The investments can’t stop. It’s not easy. You get to this point and get a lot of ‘Why don’t you?’ Everybody becomes a hydrologist. We know we need to make investments.”

Sonoma Water has already invested more than \$8 million into potential solutions that could bring approximately 14,000 acre feet of additional water storage to Sonoma County within the next two years, officials said. The agency believes it can add 21,000 more acre feet by 2045.

On the smaller side of storage solutions, the water agency is bringing two wells back online. Each well — one on Sebastopol Road and another on Occidental Road — and their accompanying aquifer storages could bring between 250 and 500 acre feet of additional water supply per year.

Senior Water Engineer Don Seymour says both wells were offline during the 2021-22 drought.

“They would have been a big impact had they been operational,” Seymour said.

Some of the water agency’s solutions are already viable, such as the so-called Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, which have been in place at Lake Mendocino since 2019. Also known as FIRO, this method of storing and releasing water within Lake Mendocino allows the Army Corps of Engineers to make more precise decisions about releasing water from the lake.

“Prior to FIRO, once a storm passed, they were required to as soon as possible, evacuate water right down to the conservation pool, regardless of anything,” Seymour said. “They had to get down to the empty flood control pool for the next storm event.”

FIRO gives engineers the opportunity to keep or release water based on future forecasts.





*The Warm Springs Creek Bridge over Lake Sonoma, Tuesday, March 26, 2024. (Christopher Chung / The Press Democrat)*

Already, FIRO allows the water agency to store an additional 11,650 acre feet of water in Lake Mendocino, the main water storage facility for diversions that come from the Eel River to the Russian River. And in Lake Sonoma, the water agency is able to maintain an additional 9,500 acre feet of water.

Come February, during the region's rainy season, they'll be able to increase Lake Sonoma's "FIRO pool" — or the pocket of water within the flood control pool of the lake — to 19,000 acre feet.

There's a high likelihood that pool size could nearly double. Over the next decade, the water agency will study the capacity of Lake Sonoma's FIRO pool. Seymour says the agency believes its capacity is closer to 30,000 acre feet.

And by 2045, the FIRO pool could potentially hold an additional 10,000 acre feet, but that extra storage depends on the water agency successfully creating a secondary outlet for Lake Sonoma when it becomes too full.

Currently, when water needs to be released from Lake Sonoma, it goes into Dry Creek, a tributary of the Russian River west of Healdsburg. Seymour says the new outlet could be near Geyserville, meaning northern Sonoma County would have "new water," reducing the burden on Lake Mendocino.

"You're creating new storage. Greater storage. These are direct mitigations to changes to Potter Valley," Seymour said. "Basically, we're increasing the ability to get water."

Seymour says the NERF is actually only feasible because of FIRO.

"That pocket that the Army Corps manages is what makes the NERF successful," Seymour said. "If we didn't have that ability to catch that water, the NERF would have very little benefit."

But like the NERF, he warned that this phase is still "pretty far down the road."

He also noted that the FIRO and the wells are just a handful of pieces in the regional puzzle of storage solutions needed once the power plant is decommissioned.

He and other county leaders pointed to studies already in the works, which are looking at raising the height and capacity of Lake Mendocino's Coyote Dam, adding storage ponds throughout Potter Valley, or linking the county's groundwater basins with existing water storage areas.

"We need a broader toolkit," Rabbitt said. "And we are building one."

*Amie Windsor is the Community Journalism Team Lead with The Press Democrat. She can be reached at [amie.windsor@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:amie.windsor@pressdemocrat.com) or 707-521-5218.*

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# PG&E advances water system exit plan

BY AMIE WINDSOR

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has filed its formal plans with the federal government to decommission the Potter Valley Project, which includes two dams and a century-old powerhouse that together have helped connect the Eel River and Russian River watersheds to provide water to cities and farms for generations.

The filing marks another step in the power company's multiyear effort to divorce itself from the two-dam system — Scott and Cape Horn dams — that PG&E officials say has been operating at a deficit of \$1 million a year.

"Today's filing marks the next step of a thoughtful and transparent decommissioning journey for the Potter Valley Project — but it does not change our operational responsibilities or obligations," said Dave Gabbard, a PG&E vice president.

If approved by federal officials — no such request has ever been denied — plans would kick into motion the next large dam removal project on the West Coast.

But that is still years away. Janet Walther, director of hydro licensing with PG&E, believes the earliest the federal agency could issue a surrender order is 2028. And she adds that PG&E "probably won't be ready" by that time "as the company still has to finalize the design, construction and restoration plans."

In the immediate future, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will begin to seek comments from all interested parties, including those who could be affected by the decommissioning, through a 30-day public comment period.

There will be other comment opportunities along the way, too, including for national and state environmental reviews as the decommissioning plan takes shape.

The application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also includes plans to construct the Eel-Russian Project Authority to build the New Eel-Russian Facility, or NERF. It would be built at the current site of the Cape Horn Dam while it is torn down.

The New Eel-Russian Facility is part of the so-called two-basin solution approved by a group of stakeholders in February. It would allow for the diversion of roughly 30,000 acre feet of water to flow from the Eel River to the Russian River through a new diversion tunnel that Sonoma Water expects to construct in conjunction with removal of Cape Horn Dam.

An acre-foot is equivalent to a football field one foot deep, and can supply the needs of three water-efficient households for one year.

Marin Municipal Water District and North Marin Water District, which serves Novato and a portion of western Marin, support the project. The two Marin districts purchase Russian River water through Sonoma Water. The Russian River provides about 75% of the greater Novato area's water supply and about 25% of the water supply for central and southern Marin.

Unlike year-round diversions that occur now, under the two-basin solution, diversions would only occur during seasonal, high-water-flow periods.

PG&E's move Friday was praised by environmentalists, as it looks to remove Scott Dam, located just north of Potter Valley in Lake County, and its sister Cape Horn Dam, located 15 miles west in Mendocino County. The removal of the dams would drain the dams' accompanying reservoirs, Lake Pillsbury and Van Arsdale Reservoir, respectively, and return the Eel River to its more natural state.

"PG&E's license surrender filing marks a historic step toward reconnecting the upper Eel River with the Pacific for the first time in over a century," said Curtis Knight, executive director of California Trout. "This moment is the result of years of dedicated work by tribes, local communities and conservation groups to restore salmon runs while maintaining a secure water future for the region."





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Feature Story

# Public comment period begins for Coyote Valley Dam water control manual update

By [SPN Public Affairs Office](#)

Published July 17, 2025 /

Updated: July 17, 2025



A historical marker commemorating the construction of Coyote Valley Dam and Lake Mendocino.

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District has prepared a Draft Coyote Valley Dam-Lake Mendocino Water Control Manual Update Environmental Assessment (EA) Report. On July 17, 2025, the District released a letter announcing the availability of this Draft EA for public review and comment. The comment period is scheduled to end on Aug. 16, 2025. The report and appendices can be downloaded at: <https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/>

Written comments may be emailed to: [CESPN-CVD-WCM-Update@usace.army.mil](mailto:CESPN-CVD-WCM-Update@usace.army.mil)

### **More about the report**

Current operations of Coyote Valley Dam and Lake Mendocino are governed by the existing Water Control Manual (WCM) which was revised in 1986 and last updated in 2011 without the benefit of modern weather and streamflow forecasting information. The purpose of the proposed action is to update the CVD-Lake Mendocino WCM to allow discretionary encroachment into Flood Control Space based on the 5-day deterministic streamflow forecasts provided by the National Weather Service as per Lake Mendocino Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) procedures that have been vetted and tried through a series of USACE-approved major deviations during Water Years 2019, 2020 and 2021-2026. The encroachment would provide water storage of up to 11,650 acre-feet into the flood control space, and USACE reservoir operators retain full operational control and authority.

### **Dams and Reservoirs**



# POINT REYES LIGHT

NEWS

## Grandi owner revives hotel, restaurant plan

by **Ben Stocking**

July 23, 2025



The owner of the Grandi Building has renewed his permit application with the county. (David Briggs / Point Reyes Light)

The historic Grandi Building, Point Reyes Station's most iconic structure, has seemed on the verge of a comeback several times before, only to continue standing vacant for years, its promise unfulfilled.

Now its longtime owner, Healdsburg winery owner Ken Wilson, has again applied to revive the century-old hotel, this time with a county waiver for its updated septic design.

Aside from the proposed septic system, the proposal is essentially the same as the one Mr. Wilson submitted in 2005, resubmitted in 2014, and resubmitted again in 2021. Each time, his applications expired as he attempted to negotiate a complex web of rules and regulations.

This time, he has hired Sean Kennings, an experienced Marin County planning consultant, to help shepherd the project. Mr. Kennings recently worked with the Bolinas Community Land Trust on the Bo-Linda Vista emergency R.V. park.

Mr. Wilson did not respond to a request for comment, but Mr. Kennings said his client is determined to see the Grandi project through. It includes a 34-room hotel, a 60-seat restaurant and 400 square feet of retail space. A courtyard will be built at the rear of the building, and a separate structure behind the brick building would be transformed into two units of affordable housing for employees.

The objective, Mr. Kennings said, is to restore economic vitality to downtown while maintaining the village's historic charm.

"The test in places like Point Reyes or Tomales or Inverness or Stinson Beach is to make them viable economically but also to protect the character that makes these places unique," he said. "That can be a very difficult process."

The two-story brick building stands at the corner of Second Street and Highway 1, with a parking lot separating it from the Cheda Building, which houses Gallery Route One and several shops. The expanded septic field in the new proposal would be located beneath the parking lot.



Mr. Wilson purchased the Grandi Building in 1973 and had it retrofitted in 1999. Now adorned with murals, it serves as a community bulletin board, with announcements about concerts, art shows, potlucks and protests.

The Grandi was built in 1915 to replace a previous building destroyed by the 1906 earthquake. The Point Reyes Hotel, as it was known, had a popular dance hall on the second floor, while the first floor housed a restaurant. When the Depression hit and the railroad left town, business soured. The hotel closed in the 1950s, and the Grandi housed a hardware store and the post office until the 1970s.

Mr. Wilson's plan calls for preserving the building's Mission Revival architecture, with its brick façade and arched windows and entryways. The hotel sign would maintain the style of the original. The current rutted dirt parking area would be paved over and provide 85 parking spaces. Twenty additional spaces would be located on the street.

But two additional signs, with the names of the project's retail establishments mounted between two brick columns, are likely to be challenged by the Point Reyes Station Village Association.

"I would call it a Nevada Mall marquee," Steve Antonaros, the association president, said at the group's most recent meeting. "It's a directory of all the stores, and it's about 8 feet tall and 11 feet wide. We're going to object to that, because it feels a little out of context with the historic building."

The village association's vice president, Chris Hulls, sees Mr. Wilson's application renewal as a hopeful sign.

"It's almost the same as the one from nearly 20 years ago," Mr. Hulls told the *Light*. "I am optimistic it moves ahead. Part of me likes the old ruin—it's been that way my entire life, and it is part of the charm—but it's going to go back to the earth if something doesn't happen soon. If it collapses and we get some modern monstrosity, that would be a disaster."

Mr. Hulls recently established the Point Reyes Good Luck Fund, a nonprofit

foundation aimed at preserving historic properties, recruiting businesses and promoting affordable, locally owned enterprises. The fund has purchased two buildings that look out at the Grandi, the Old Western Saloon and the former Station House Café.

When he first proposed the Grandi renovation, Mr. Wilson had difficulty recruiting investors, according to Ken Levin, a former village association president, speaking at the group's July 10 meeting.

"I'm guessing he thinks it's a better climate to get investors for Point Reyes Station and so he's got it on the treadmill again, and he's probably looking for investors," Mr. Levin said. "My guess is, he'll have a better chance finding them this time around."



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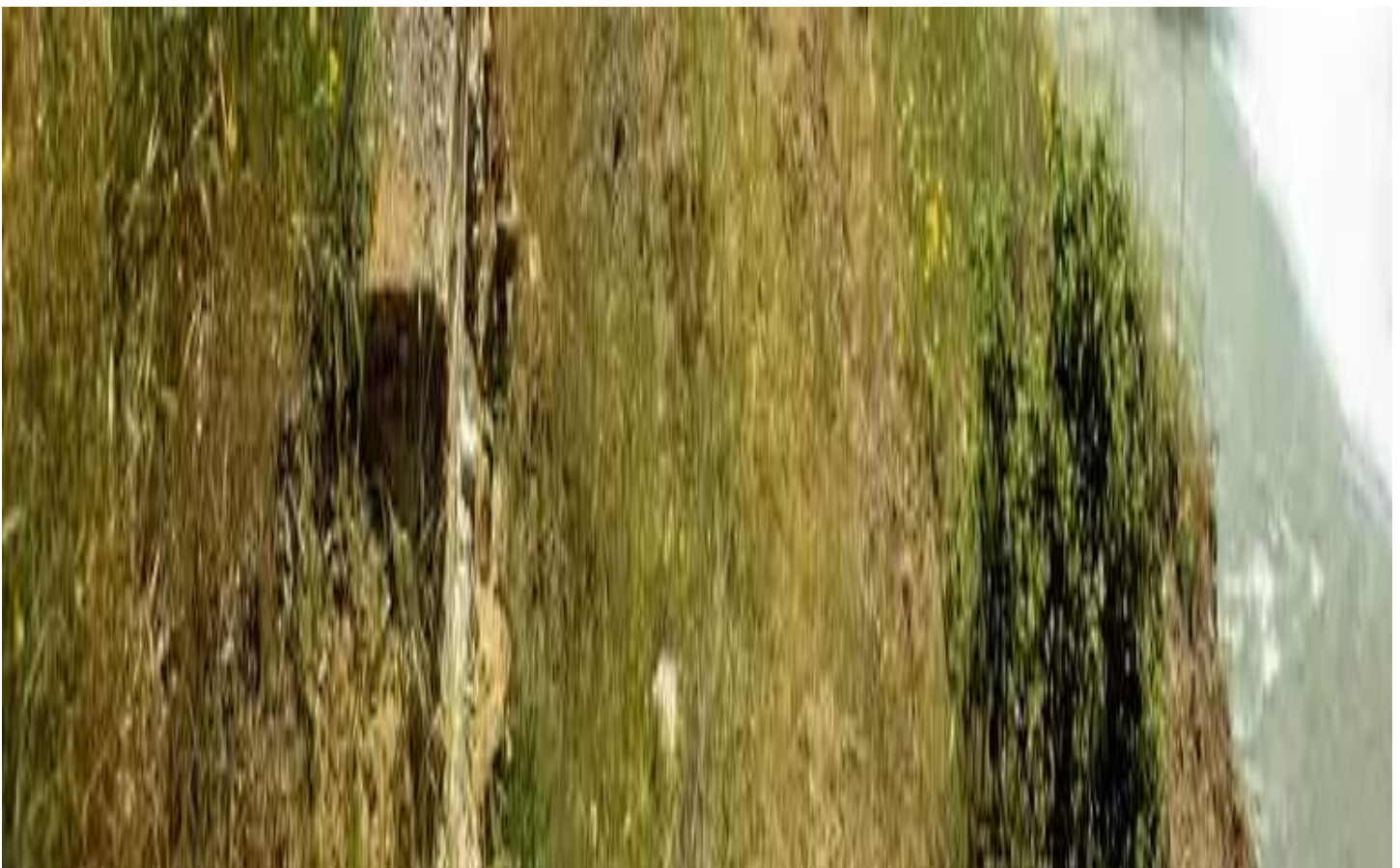
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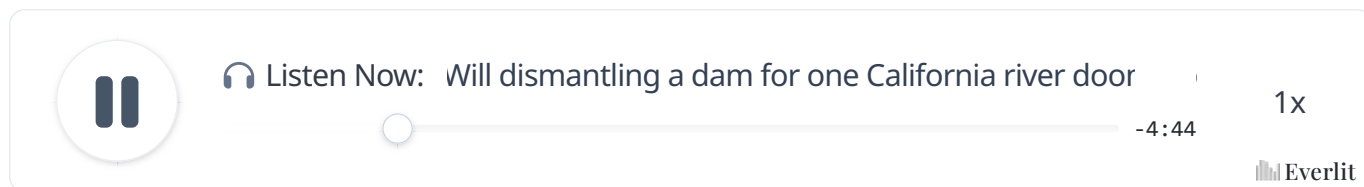
PG&E's Potter Valley plan fuels clash between Eel River restoration and Russian River crisis





Scott Dam is located on Eel River, which creates Lake Pillsbury, with a surface area of 2,000 acres and 65 miles of shoreline in Lake County, Calif. The concrete dam is 138 feet in height and was built in 1922 for electricity and its owns by PG&E, which plans to give it up. Photo taken May 9, 1967. California Department of Water Resources

By **Matt LaFever**, *North Coast Contributing Editor*  
July 29, 2025



In the past week, Northern California's century-old Potter Valley Project crossed a major threshold toward dismantling. On July 25, PG&E submitted its formal plan to federal regulators to tear down the two-dam system that has rerouted Eel River water into the Russian River for over a century. Just days earlier, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors became one of seven required signatories to a water diversion agreement, paving the way for a replacement system called the New Eel-Russian Facility, or NERF.

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Together, the two developments mark a historic shift: The original infrastructure is on its way out, and the future of interbasin water sharing is up for grabs.

For more than 100 years, the Potter Valley Project has diverted Eel River water through a milelong tunnel blasted through a Mendocino County mountain, supporting agriculture, drinking water and firefighting from Potter Valley to Marin. Scott Dam, completed in 1922, created Lake Pillsbury to store the diverted water.

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The South Fork of the Eel River, in Humboldt County, Calif.

Luka Magic / 500px/Getty Images/500px

PG&E now says the project is outdated, seismically vulnerable and economically unsustainable. Its decommissioning plan calls for removing both Scott and Cape Horn dams, eliminating the hydroelectric plant and draining Lake Pillsbury — triggering sharp debate across both river basins.

NERF, the proposed replacement, would divert water only during high winter and early spring flows, a major shift from the summer diversions that Russian River communities have long relied on. Eel River advocates say the timing is designed to protect salmon and restore ecological balance, but in the Russian River watershed, where steady summer water is critical for farming, tourism and recreating, concerns are mounting.

At the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting in Eureka, Eel River advocates voiced support for the new deal. Brian Johnson, senior policy adviser for Trout Unlimited, called the agreement “affirmatively good for the Eel River,” noting it’s packed with scientific safeguards.

“The agreement can only be renewed if it’s doing what it’s intended to do,” he said, meaning diversions could be scaled back even further if they harm conditions on the Eel River. In essence, the agreement prioritizes the health of the Eel River’s flows over guaranteed water deliveries to the Russian.





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

Courtesy of Mike Nelson/Lake Pillsbury Alliance

Charlie Schneider, California Trout's Lost Coast Project manager, framed NERF as a major ecological win. The proposed system is "supportive of volitional fish passage," he said, and would ensure salmon and steelhead have clean, connected habitat after the dams come down.

"Fish need a place to live. They need a healthy ecosystem. They need food resources," he said.

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Alicia Hamann, executive director of Friends of the Eel River, said the moment was deeply personal.

“Friends of the Eel River was founded for this very purpose,” she told the board, “so this is a really exciting time for us.”

Though her organization isn’t a signatory, she strongly supports the agreement, calling it a turning point: “This agreement is really important because it commits those former opponents of dam removal to supporting dam removal, and in exchange, Eel River stakeholders are supporting an ecologically appropriate diversion.”

Hamann warned, however, that some Russian River stakeholders have shown signs of backpedaling. “We have continued to hear some rhetoric from some of those signatories in the Russian River indicating a lack of support for dam removal,” she said, urging the board and other parties to “hold those parties to this agreement ... to support dam removal.”

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Scott Dam holds back Lake Pillsbury, a key water source in Mendocino County, now facing an uncertain future amid removal discussions.

Kyle Schwartz/CalTrout

In a follow-up interview with SFGATE, Hamann clarified her meaning. “I don’t think it’s unreasonable that people are upset, afraid even, of big changes coming,” she said, but she cautioned that open skepticism from signatories could compromise “timely dam removal.”

Meanwhile, PG&E's own documents submitted last week to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission make clear just how disruptive dam removal will be for the Russian River watershed. The utility's decommissioning plan warns of "unavoidable adverse effects" that would follow the end of water diversions. "Flows would return to natural flow conditions," PG&E writes, meaning less water for farmers, ranchers and rural communities in the Russian River Valley, especially in summer.

Wildlife would feel the impact, too, PG&E outlines: The disappearance of Lake Pillsbury would erase a key hunting ground for ospreys and bald eagles. Tule elk might become stranded in sediment. Northern spotted owls could abandon nesting sites near the construction zone.

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Lake Pillsbury, a large human-made lake in the Mendocino National Forest that allows the Russian River to flow year round.

Mike Nelson

In its decommissioning application, PG&E acknowledges that life in the Scott Dam region will never be the same. The utility says the area will shift “from a lacustrine to riverine environment” — in other words, the calm lake will vanish, replaced by a raw, re-formed river. That transformation could have “unavoidable effects on recreation value, community way of life, and population and housing in the Scott Dam area,” PG&E writes.

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Lake County Treasurer Patrick Sullivan warned that dam removal could carry serious economic consequences for the region. Sullivan estimated the resulting loss in property tax revenue alone could top \$1 million annually. “That can hardly be characterized as a negligible impact to Lake County,” he wrote in a statement to SFGATE.

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A water release from the concrete Scott Dam, built in 1922, on the Eel River within Lake County, Calif. The dam was originally constructed as a source for electricity and owned by Pacific Gas & Electric. Photo taken May 26, 1967.

Unknown/California Department of Water Resources

The divide between the two watersheds isn't just bureaucratic — it's personal for the communities who live there. During public comment, Humboldt County resident Kent Sawatzky gave voice to those tensions, warning that the "negative karma incurred by the people in the Russian River Basin is something they may regret having to deal



with.” In his view, the decadeslong manipulation of the Eel River has provoked something elemental.

“Mother Nature bats last,” he said. “When you try and push Mother Nature around, she usually has ways of responding — whether it be for fires, floods, earthquakes.”

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July 29, 2025



**Matt LaFever**

NORTH COAST CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



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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).

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