



NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING
 August 4, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
 Location: 999 Rush Creek Place
 Novato, California

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

- | Item | Subject |
|------|---|
| | CALL TO ORDER |
| 1. | GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT |
| 2. | OPEN TIME: (Please observe a three-minute time limit) |
| | This section of the agenda is provided so that the public may express comments on any issues not listed on the agenda that are of interest to the public and within the jurisdiction of the North Marin Water District. When comments are made about matters not on the agenda, Board members can ask questions for clarification, respond to statements or questions from members of the public, refer a matter to staff, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. The public may also express comments on agenda items at the time of Board consideration. |
| 3. | STAFF/DIRECTORS REPORTS |
| | CONSENT CALENDAR

The General Manager has reviewed the following items. To his knowledge, there is no opposition to the action. The items can be acted on in one consolidated motion as recommended or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any person. |
| 4. | Consent - Approve: Minutes from Regular Meeting July 21, 2026 |
| | INFORMATION ITEMS |
| 5. | Board Review of District Policy: Board Policy Number 14 – Board of Directors Manual |
| 6. | Board Review of District Policy: Board Policy Number 26 – On-call and Stand-by Duty |
| 7. | WAC/TAC Meeting Agenda – August 3, 2026 |
| 8. | NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS |
| | Disbursements – July 23, 2026 |
| | Disbursements – July 30, 2026 |
| | NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook: July - October 2026 |
| | FERC WAC PVP NEPA Scoping Comments Letter |
| | FERC NMWD PVP NEPA Scoping Comment Letter |
| | FERC MCL PVP NEPA Scoping Comments |
| | FERC EVMWD PVP NEPA Scoping Comment Letter |
| | FERC Notice Denying EVMWD Late Intervention |
| | <u>News Articles:</u> |
| | Marin IJ – Water boards have key races for seats around Marin |
| | Marin IJ – Plan helps prepare for water shortages |
| | Marin IJ – MMWD ordered to submit plans to fix deficient dam |
| | Marin IJ – Slew of offices at stake in Marin |
| | Pt. Reyes Light – Thank you, water crews |
| | The Press Democrat - Federal agency rejects Southern California water district's bid to intervene in PG&E's plans to remove 2 Eel River dams |
| 9. | ADJOURNMENT |

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DRAFT
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

Staff members Tim Kennedy, Director of Operations, Chris Kehoe, Director of Utilities, Vincent Verissimo, and Corey Reed were also in attendance.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tony Williams noted that there is a Potter Valley item later in the agenda and said that there is interest from a Southern California water district and they have filed a late motion to intervene. He said that the water contractors are unsure of what is happening regarding this development. Mr. Williams also mentioned an updated comment letter for Item #6, a copy of which was provided to the Board at the meeting.

Mr. Williams said that on July 1 he and Director Joly attended the Novato Fire Protection District's 100-year celebration and that it was a very nice event with a good turnout.

Mr. Williams noted that the District participated in Novato's July 4th parade in which the new crew truck was used. He said that Ryan Grisso, Brian Northen, Danny McDonald, Haylee DeMartini and her daughter, and Melissa Klapp and her daughter all participated in the parade. Along the route, Vincent Verissimo, who was there to watch the parade, was seen and brought out from the crowd into the parade to help out as well. Mr. Williams noted that each of the Directors have been given one of the new ducks the District used this year to pass out at the parade. He also said that Tim Kennedy volunteered with the parade logistics.

Mr. Williams said that on July 9 he participated in the quarterly meeting of Marin water managers and there was a good discussion about the recent Marin Civil Grand Jury report. He said they also discussed the state's Cross Connection Control program and the new state requirements.

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

Director Fraites asked regarding the Southern California water district, why they are getting involved in a Northern California situation. Mr. Williams responded that the water contractors are not sure. Director Joly asked if Lake Pillsbury is a recreational lake and not a water supply. Mr. Williams said that it is mainly a recreational lake and not for water supply directly.

1 **OPEN TIME**

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

4 **STAFF AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

5 President Eichstaedt asked if there were any staff or Director's reports.

6 Eric Miller noted to the Board that a current informational flyer produced by Marin Municipal
7 Water District on their ARC Project was given to each of the Directors. He said that we have a
8 supply at the front desk for the public and that additional copies are available if any of the Directors
9 would like a few more. Directors Joly and Petterle both said they would like some extra copies.
10 There was some discussion on the project amongst the Board.

11 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

12 On the motion of Director Joly, seconded by Director Petterle, the Board approved the
13 consent calendar by the following vote:

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

15 NOES: None

16 ABSENT: None

17 ABSTAIN: None

18 Approve June 16, 2026 Board Regular Meeting minutes

19 Approve On-Call Consulting Services Agreement – GIS Support.

20 **ACTION ITEMS**

21 **POTTER VALLEY PROJECT LICENSE SURRENDER AND DECOMMISSIONING NATIONAL**
22 **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) SCOPING COMMENTS**

23 Tony Williams gave a summary of the item. He noted that the response letter, Attachment 2,
24 had been slightly revised and a copy was provided to the Board. There were some questions from
25 the directors which Mr. Williams responded to.

26 On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the Potter
27 Valley Project License Surrender and Decommissioning National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
28 Scoping Comments by the following vote:

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

30 NOES: None

31 ABSENT: None

32 ABSTAIN: None

33 **EMPLOYER ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAM LOAN REQUEST - VINCENT VERISSIMO**

34 This item was pulled from the agenda.

35 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1 **DRAFT RESPONSES TO MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT: *BETTER SERVICE***
2 **AT A LOWER COST: OPTIMIZING ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE OF MARIN,**
3 **JUNE 11, 2026**

4 Tony Williams gave an overview of the item. There was some discussion amongst the
5 Board, including feedback on term limits and barriers to consolidation. Mr. Williams said he will
6 bring back the final response letter for approval in August.

7 **NBWA MEETING AGENDAS – JUNE 30 and July 17, 2026**

8 Director Fraites said that he attended the June 30 meeting via Zoom in which the topic was
9 settling business for the upcoming year. He was unable to attend the July 17, 2026 meeting.

10 **NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

11 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated June 18, 25,
12 July 2, 9 and 16, 2026; Monthly Progress Report – June; NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook, July
13 2026; and NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook, July 2026, Water Agencies, Tribes, and
14 Conservation Groups Defend “Two-Basin Solution” Amid Federal Meetings on Potter Valley Project,
15 Motion to Intervene Late - Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

16 The Board received the following News Articles: Marin IJ – Bridge replacement proposed
17 near Pt. Reyes Station, Marin IJ – Special district mergers sought, Marin IJ – MMWD eyes rates for
18 fiscal unknowns, Marin IJ – Plans approved for road project, Marin IJ – Novato finishes 2-year
19 upgrade of permitting system for city customers, Marin IJ - \$2.6M ok'd for drought project, Marin IJ
20 – Agencies have more room for consolidation, Pt. Reyes Light - Bridge to be replaced on Levee
21 Road, Pt. Reyes Light - Letter to PRL re Western Weekend Thanks, Press Democrat - Trump
22 administration ups ante in quest to thwart removal of PG&E's Eel River Dams.

23 The Board also received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – June, 2026.

24 **RECESS**

25 The Board recessed from Open Session at 5:00 pm for 9 minutes before entering into
26 Closed Session.

27 **CLOSED SESSION**

28 President Eichstaedt convened the Board into closed session at 5:09 p.m.

29 Closed Session Item #13 was discussed first which regarded property in Novato owned by
30 a telecommunication company; APNs 160-274-07 and 160-020-15. The discussion was in
31 accordance with California Government Code Section § 54956.8. In addition to Directors
32 Eichstaedt, Joly, Pettele, Baker, and Fraites, Tony Williams, GM, and Eric Miller AGM/Director of
33 Engineering, were present and District Legal Counsel attorneys Craig Judson and Kevin Moore of
34 Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson and Judson participated remotely.

1 At 5:40 p.m. attorney Kevin Moore left the meeting and President Eichstaedt began
2 discussions regarding Closed Session Item #12. This item was anticipated litigation under California
3 Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4), regarding Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, the PG&E Draft
4 Application for Surrender of License and Application for Non-Project Use of Project Lands and the
5 associated New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF).

6 At 5:55 p.m., Eric Miller left the meeting, and the Board and the General Manager
7 considered Item #14 regarding unrepresented District staff in accordance with California
8 Government Code § 54957.6.

9 **OPEN SESSION**

10 Upon returning to regular session at 6:12 p.m., President Eichstaedt reported that the Board
11 directed District Counsel to take appropriate action regarding Item #13. President Eichstaedt then
12 stated that there was no reportable actions taken during Closed Session for Items #12 and #14.

13 **ADJOURNMENT**

14 President Eichstaedt adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

15 Submitted by

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17
18 Eileen Mulliner
19 District Secretary
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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors August 4, 2026

From: Tony Williams, General Manager *TW*
 Eileen Mulliner, Executive Assistant/District Secretary *EM*

Subject: Board Review of District Policy: Policy Number 14 – Board of Directors Manual
T:\BOD\BOD Policies\Policy Review 2026\Policy 14 Update BOD Memo 080426.doc

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

Attached for your review is District Policy Number 14 – Board of Directors Manual. The current 2017 Manual is provided as Attachment 1 with the proposed revisions shown in highlight/strikeout format. The proposed revisions include but are not limited to recent changes in California Law that impact the District, additional language regarding the functions and duties of the Board, communication protocols with Staff, updates to the District's history, operations, organizational structure, and public meeting procedures. The revisions were reviewed by District Legal Counsel. Should the Board desire to amend this policy, staff will return the policy on a future agenda for Board consideration and approval. Once approved, hardcopies of the Manual will be provided to each Director.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

Goal 6: Maintain Effective and Transparent Governance: Action 6.1 Establish a comprehensive Board onboarding, training, and development program; and Action 6.2 Support the Board's ability to focus on strategic issues.

The proposed update to the Board Manual supports these two strategic actions by initiating the first update of the subject policy since 2017 and including more information regarding the Board's actions.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Draft 2026 Board of Directors Manual

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MANUAL



NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

September ~~2017~~2026

Board Policy No. 14

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INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This information is compiled to assist incumbent and newly elected directors with general information and specific authorities regarding their role ~~in to oversee~~ in overseeing policies and management of North Marin Water District (~~"NMWD", or "District"~~) and to provide a brief overview of NMWD. Much of the information provided herein stems from the provisions and requirements provided in California Water Code Division 12 County Water Districts.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

General

In accordance with the California Water Code, the governing body of NMWD is a Board of Directors consisting of a total of five (5) directors. A Director must be a voter within the District as well as a resident within one of five electoral divisions they represent. An electoral division map with an address lookup feature is available on the NMWD website. The term of office for a Director, unless appointed, is four (4) years. Throughout this Manual the terms "Director" and "Board Member" are used interchangeably.

Election and Term of Office

NMWD elections are typically held every two years (in even years), for staggered four-year terms. Directors are elected "at large" by "by Division." ~~The District Elections Code Section 22000 et seq. requires the Board to adjust its electoral division boundaries based on the federal census that occurs every ten years to ensure that electoral divisions are, as far as practicable, equal in population and comply with federal voting laws. The results from the 2020 Decennial Census were released in September 2021, enabling the District to begin its redistricting process to adopt new division boundaries. This redistricting process was completed on February 15, 2022, after two public hearings held on January 18, 2022, and February 15, 2022.~~ all registered voters within the NMWD service territory.

Duties of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the ~~North Marin Water District (NMWD, or "District").~~ The NMWD Board is charged with full jurisdiction over all water works necessary for the acquisition, treatment, sale, and distribution of water served to NMWD customers and is responsible for the collection and disposal of sewage in the Oceana Marin sewer system.

~~The Board is the governing body of NMWD. The NMWD Board is charged with full jurisdiction over all water works necessary for the acquisition, treatment, sale, and distribution of water served to NMWD customers and is responsible for the collection and disposal of sewage in the Oceana Marin sewer system.~~

Among other duties, the Board has authority to acquire or sell real property, to construct and operate facilities, to purchase equipment, and enter into contracts or agreements. The Board ~~may can~~ delegate some of ~~all~~ of these responsibilities to the General Manager within certain limits. The Board establishes NMWD missions and goals and adopts policies or strategies to meet these ends. The Board adopts regulations for administration of NMWD water and sewer service, approves an annual budget, fixes water and sewer rates, appoints the General Manager, Assistant General Manager/Director of Engineering, Director of Administrative Services, and the Executive Assistant/District Secretary. The NMWD Board establishes compensation for all NMWD employees. The current Board-approved ~~p~~Policies covering various matters are covered later in this Manual. Among other duties, the Board has authority to acquire or sell real property, to construct and operate facilities, to purchase equipment and enter into contracts. The Board establishes NMWD missions and goals and adopts policies and strategies to meet these ends. The Board adopts regulations for administration of NMWD water and sewer service, approves an

annual budget, fixes water and sewer rates, hires the General Manager and establishes compensation for all NMWD employees.

The Board of Directors are expected to read and understand the contents of each agenda packet once they are it is distributed and otherwise be prepared to contribute to any discussion on the items on the agenda as well as vote on action items.

Annual Reorganization of the Board

Traditionally, the Board is reorganized at the first meeting in December of each year. Newly elected members are seated (if applicable), and the President and Vice-President are elected for the ensuing year. Appointments to vacancies are effective when made. The reorganization process typically includes these actions:

1. Election of President.
2. Election of Vice President.
3. Establishing the Board Meeting Times and Place and Confirming the Meeting Schedule.
4. Establishing the Manner of Calling Special Meetings.
5. Appointment of District Officers.
6. Committee Appointments.

Duties of President and Vice-President

The President of the Board of Directors has the same rights and obligations as other members of the Board. Additionally, the President's duties are: to open the meeting session by taking the chair and calling the members to order; to announce the business in the order in which it is to be acted upon (typically pursuant to a posted agenda); to recognize members entitled to the floor; to state and to put to vote all questions which are regularly moved; sign contracts on behalf of NMWD; and perform other duties imposed by the Board.

The President may also be called upon to represent NMWD, along with key staff, at local or regional meetings or non-standing committees, legislative advocacy trips (including to Sacramento or Washington D.C.) or similar events. In addition, the President is the first line of communication with another Director regarding necessary absence or related attendance issues for scheduled meetings.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will perform the duties of the President. If the President and Vice-President of the Board are both absent, the General Manager will act as administrative chairperson of the meeting.

Historically NMWD Board members, once elected, have served multiple terms with relatively infrequent turnover. When a new Board member is elected, the Executive Assistant/District Secretary initiates an on-boarding process that includes providing a copy of this manual and orientation for the new Board member. The General Manager is available to provide additional orientation and information. Although not a specific duty of the Board President or Vice President, these Directors can provide valuable mentorship and supplemental information to a newly elected Board member as well or ask a long-standing member to do so.

Conflict of Interest

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires public officials and designated employees (as identified in NMWD's Conflict of Interest code) to disclose financial interests which could cause a conflict of interest. -Public officials may be required to disqualify themselves from making, participating in, or attempting to influence any decision which will affect their financial or economic interest. -This provision includes those items public officials are required to report on Form 700, Fair Political Practices Commission "Statement of Economic Interest." The reporting provisions of

the law are outlined in the Conflict of Interest forms. -These forms are provided to the Board for completion on a calendar-year basis. Board members and designated employees shall file their statements with the Executive Assistant/District Secretary of NMWD who will make the statements available for public inspection and reproduction.

Ethics Training

Directors are required to take ethics training every two years pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 1234 (2005). - ~~No—cost—cost~~ online training is available on the Fair Political Practices Commission website: www.fppc.ca.gov. -Note that there is a minimum 2-hour training requirement ~~before—for receiving the training and~~ taking the accompanying ~~FPPC website~~ tests. -After completing the test, Directors must print and sign the “Online Proof of Participation Certificate” and return it to the Executive Assistant/District Secretary for filing. As of January 1, 2026, in 2025, the state approved Senate Bill 827 (SB 827) which requires new stand-alone fiscal and financial training for the Directors and certain staff is required by Senate Bill 827 (SB 827). ~~-This training also has a mandatory 2-hour minimum requirement every two years.~~ This new training has an initial deadline of January 1, 2028 and requires mandatory two-hour minimum training every two years. However, if a new Director ~~wasere~~ elected after January 1, 2026, then the requirement is to complete the training within 6 months from the first day of service. There are currently no “no-cost” training options available, but District Staff will determine a training opportunity venue that is most appropriate for the Directors.

Compensation

Each director shall receive compensation in an amount not-to-exceed two hundred and ~~ninety-one~~ nineteen dollars (\$~~219~~276¹) per day for each day’s attendance at meetings of the Board or for each day’s service rendered as a director by prior approval of the Board. Said amount shall be escalated on January 1 of each year based on the change in the consumer price index. Service rendered shall include: attendance at special Board meetings or subcommittee meetings; attendance at workshops/seminars relevant to District activities; attendance at meetings with other public entities where District interests are subject to consideration. -Furthermore, compensation shall not exceed a total of six (6) days in any calendar month; and any Director shall have the option to decline compensation for attending any special meetings or other activities relevant to the District’s interest. Each director is required to arrange transportation to and from meetings, workshops, or seminars, or conferences unless special transportation is pre-arranged by the District or a host ~~a~~ Agency or entity.

When a Director is authorized by prior approval of the Board to attend a meeting out of the immediate area (beyond a 100—mile radius from the NMWD service territory), the Director may request reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses for travel, meals, lodging and meeting registration, as applicable, in lieu of the daily compensation noted above.

Actual and necessary expenses shall remain within IRS Publication 463 guidelines, except that lodging for conferences or an organized educational activity shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor. -Expenses shall be documented with receipts and attached to the reimbursement voucher submitted.

Procedure:

Compensation for meetings of the Board, including special meetings, will be paid on the first payday of the month following the month of attendance.

¹ As of 2026-

Compensation for attendance at committee meetings or other meetings attended on behalf of the Board will only be authorized after that Board member has submitted a voucher, provided by Accounting staff, with justification to the Director of Administrative Services-Auditor-Controller.

Board compensation described herein complies with Board Policy Number 13², last updated in 2013. The policy includes an annual escalation adjustment based on the San Francisco Bay Area Consumers Price Index (CPI) for the prior 12-month period but no greater than 5% per year pursuant to Water Code Section 2020~~02~~.

Liability Coverage

NMWD maintains Public Officials Errors and Omissions Liability coverage that insures the NMWD Board and Officers against claims made against them for "breach of duty" occurring through negligence, error or unintentional omission.

Individual Board Member Interaction with Staff

The Board delegates operations, short-term system maintenance, and repair decisions to the General Manager, reserving to itself review and approval of long-term replacement and improvement projects.

In general, All communication between the Board and staff ~~shall-should~~ be coordinated through the General Manager. However, circumstances may warrant direct communications with certain District staff as detailed in Board of Directors Protocol for Communications and Staff document (See Appendix).

Interactions with NMWD staff should be professional and courteous. -Board members are not employees of NMWD³ and are to refrain from direct involvement in day-to-day operations, and other areas, which are the responsibility of the General Manager and staff. These include:

- "Dropping in" at NMWD facilities to gather information from staff regarding operations.
- Conducting surveys and research on behalf of NMWD staff.
- For reasons of liability, Board members shall not operate, maintain, service or test any of NMWD's physical plant or equipment under any conditions.

Board members are not permitted to use District office facilities or office equipment unless it is required for specific NMWD business.

Individual Board Member Interaction with Other Elected Officials

From time to time, another elected official may reach out to individual Board Member requesting a meeting or a phone call. The Board Members should use caution in such conversations as not to misrepresent the positions or policies of the full Board or District in general, or to make commitments on behalf of the District. Directors should request an agenda or a list of topics for discussion before engaging with the other party. If necessary, a Board member may consult with the General Manager prior to an engagement. If warranted, the Board Member should brief the General Manager subsequent to an engagement with an elected official and should feel free to report any engagements during a Board meeting under the Agenda Item "Staff and Directors Reports" (see next Section).

² See <https://nmwd.com/about/board-policies/>

³ The Directors are treated as employees for liability insurance purposes only.

AGENDAS

Agendas and agenda packets are posted on the District website and at the District Administration Building no later than ~~on~~ the Friday before the regularly scheduled Board meeting. All Board business is conducted at the Board meeting. ~~Historically, the Board has refrained from delegating work to Board committees, preferring to analyze policy matters and make decisions sitting as a whole Board.~~

~~Any person may request a copy~~ Copies of the agenda of any meeting of the Board are available at said meetings. Currently, NMWD notifies approximately nineteen people ~~who routinely get a copy of the agenda only~~ via email with a link to the entire packet as posted on the District website. ~~The list includes special interest groups, newspapers and individuals.~~ Additionally, a binder containing the current agenda packet is available by request at the front counter for public inspection.

The agenda shall generally be in the following format (posting requirements are addressed in the "Board Meeting" section of this document):

- Date, time and location of meeting and information on how the public may review agenda materials and request any special accommodations needed.
- Meeting type (i.e., Regular or Special meeting)
- Call to Order
- ~~• Approval of minutes from previous meeting~~
- General Manager's Report
- Open Time - There is a three-minute time limit per issue brought up on this portion of the agenda. This section 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 NMWD. ~~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~~ for further action outside of the meeting, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. ~~Under the Brown Act, the Board may not take action on issues raised during Open Time, absent an "Emergency Situation" as defined below. The public may also express comments on agenda items at the time of Board consideration.~~
- Staff/~~Directors~~ Reports – Time for Staff or Directors to briefly report on an item not on agenda, typically related to attendance at a committee meeting, a community meeting, another agency's meeting, or similar event. This agenda item should not be interpreted as an opportunity to ask questions of staff about an item or topic that is not on the Agenda or is not part of a verbal report (either from staff or another Director).
- Consent Calendar – Contains items the General Manager has reviewed, and to his knowledge, there is no opposition to the action. ~~The items on the Consent Calendar can be acted on in one consolidated motion as recommended or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any Board Member or Officer.~~ A typical consent item is approval of minutes from previous meeting(s). Further details and practices on Consent Items is provided below.
- Action Calendar – Items which require Board ~~action~~ action.
- Information Items – Items provided for Board information only; no action ~~required~~ required.

- News and Miscellaneous Information Reports – Contains Disbursements, Monthly Progress reports (second meeting only) recurring administrative or finance reports, minor items of interest and news ~~articles~~articles.
- Adjournment

Non-Agenda Items

The Brown Act generally prohibits any action or discussion of items not on the posted agenda, especially in common situations as discussed above. However, there are three specific situations in which the Board can act on an item not on the agenda:

1. When a majority decides there is an “~~E~~mergency ~~S~~situation” (as defined for emergency meetings).
2. When two-thirds of the members present (or all members if less than two-thirds are present) determine there is a need for immediate action and the need to take action “came to the attention of the local agency (NMWD) subsequent to the agenda being posted.”
3. When an item appears on the agenda of, and was continued from, a meeting held not more than five days earlier.

Consent Agenda Items

The concept of a consent calendar comes from Section 41 Order of Business, Orders of the Day, Agenda, or Program in Robert's Rules of Order. As such, it can be a significant time saver for Board meetings. An item placed on a consent calendar is fundamentally the same as an item on an “action calendar” and typically consists of a memorandum prepared by staff, the recommended action by the Board, financial impact, background and details, and supporting attachments as appropriate. A consistent example of a consent item is the approval of the minutes from previous meetings. The General Manager reviews the memoranda for all Agenda items regardless of where they appear in the Agenda.

In 2024, the District Officers ~~have~~ reviewed and discussed the following general protocol for determining items that should generally **not be placed on** the Consent Calendar for a Board meeting Agenda. The Board of Directors approved the list below at the March 5, 2024, regular meeting:

- Board Policy: Any major or substantive changes to existing Board policy or proposed new Board policy;
- District Regulations: Any changes/revisions to existing regulations or new regulations;
- District Ordinances: Any revisions or rescission of an existing ordinance, or a new ordinance;
- Any public hearing action, including approval to schedule/set a public hearing date;
- Adoption of a formal report or plan required by statute, order, code or regulation;
- Any agreements with other agencies, institutions or organizations, including memorandum of understanding (MOU) or memorandum of agreement (MOA), including major amendments to those agreements;
- New consulting services agreements equal to or greater than \$100,000, amendments to existing agreements that are equal to or exceed \$100,000, or consulting agreements for services that are not routine in nature;
- Approval of annual District budgets, Financial Plans, or Audit reports including major updates;
- Any Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project equal to or over \$100,000 that was not identified in the approved fiscal year (FY) budget, including placeholder items;

- The approval for advertising or awarding of a CIP project that exceeds the line item amount in the approved FY budget;
- Adoption of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) action/determination, including notices, public hearings and final studies or reports;
- Any new actions or non-routine actions associated with agreements between the District and the Employee Association (referred to as the MOU);
- District responses to Civil Grand Jury Reports;
- Any requested action that may be of particular interest or potentially perceived as contentious to the District's customers and/or members of the Board.

The above list will be periodically reviewed and updated after presenting any changes or additions to the Board.

BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Meetings

Regular Board meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Long-standing exceptions include only one meeting in the months of January, July, and September, which are held on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at NMWD headquarters, 999 Rush Creek Place, ~~Novato~~, ~~except for one meeting each year in Point Reyes Station.~~ In addition, the Board has typically scheduled two to three special meetings per year for various matters, including the General Manager's annual evaluation. Regular meetings may be continued to a later date by adjournment to a ~~date certain~~certain date.

Agendas for regular meetings must be posted at least 72 hours before a regular meeting in a location freely accessible to members of the public and must state the meeting time and place and must contain a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. The Executive Assistant/District Secretary posted the Agendas on the NMWD website as well as the public display cabinet at the main entrance of the Administration building.

Special Meetings

The President or a majority of the Board may call a special meeting. Written notice must be sent and received by each member of the Board and to each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or television station that has requested such notice in writing. The notice must state the time and place of the meeting and all business to be transacted or discussed. It must be posted at least 24 hours prior to the special meeting in a site freely accessible to the public. Media notice must be delivered by personal delivery, email, fax or by any other means that ensures receipt at least 24 hours before time of the meeting. The Board cannot consider business not identified in the notice.

Emergency Meetings

In the case of an emergency situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the Board may hold an emergency meeting without complying with either the 24-hour notice requirement or the 24-hour posting requirement. However, each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or television station which has requested notice of special meetings shall be notified by the presiding officer of the emergency meeting, or designee thereof, at least one hour prior to the emergency meeting by telephone.

Closed Sessions

At times during Board meetings, the Board may adjourn into closed session to discuss personnel matters, matters related to attorney-client privilege, real property negotiations, existing litigation or anticipated litigation or other matters as set out in the Brown Act. If anyone other than the General Manager, District Staff, District Legal Counsel and the Board members will be present at the closed session, the Board President shall orally announce the name(s) of person(s) who will attend prior to the closed session and said announcement shall be recorded in the minutes.

Appropriate notice for closed session (listed on agenda with description) is still required, even if no action is contemplated during the closed session.

Closed sessions have typically been scheduled for later in the Agenda (after all open session items), but the order or sequence can vary depending on the needs of the District and closed session could be listed first on the given agenda after call to order. A closed session must be held in a protected location (with a closed door), and typically they are held in the Olompali conference room.

After adjournment of the closed session, the Board must reconvene back in open session, announce any action that was taken in closed session, and subsequently fully adjourn the closed session.meeting.

Robert's Rules of Order

NMWD utilizes the parliamentary procedure from Robert's *Rules of Order* for Board meeting protocol—<https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/Roberts%20Rules%20Reference%20Guide%20for%20SFEC%20-%20February%202023.pdf>

<http://www.rulesonline.com/>

Rosenberg's Rules of Order

NMWD may also utilize elements of *Rosenberg's Rules of Order*, which is a simplified set of parliamentary rules widely used in California: https://www.calcities.org/docs/default-source/get-involved/rosenberg's-rules-of-order-simple-parliamentary-procedures-for-the-21st-century.pdf?sfvrsn=d3f73e91_3

<https://www.calcities.org/>

Brown Act

In compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950-54962), all meetings of the NMWD Board of Directors are to be held in open session in California and the general public is permitted to attend. In order to ensure that all collective consensus are reached only in public meetings, Board members will refrain from participating in phone calls or e-mails that are: (1) directed to a majority of the Board members, (2) take a position or make commitments on matters yet to be decided by the Board, and/or (3) communicate his/her position on a matter pending before the Board to all other members of the Board.

Regular and Special meetings of the NMWD Board of Directors shall be held within the boundaries of the NMWD jurisdictional territory with certain exceptions.

For exceptions to open session and other meeting requirements, refer to the Brown Act. [http://www.calcities.org/Resources/Open-Government_\(See](http://www.calcities.org/Resources/Open-Government_(See)
<https://www.calcities.org/resource/open-public-v-a-guide-to-the-ralph-m.-brown-act>

Quorum and General Voting

A majority of the Board (three Directors) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. ~~(3 Directors make a quorum).~~

No resolution, motion or ordinance shall be passed or become effective without the affirmative votes of at least a majority of the members of the Board.

The Board shall act only by resolution, motion, or ordinance.

Except where action is taken by the unanimous vote of all directors present and voting, the ayes and noes shall be recorded upon the passage of all ordinances, resolutions, or motions and entered into the minutes of the Board.

The general procedural steps for voting on an item are as follows:

1. The Board President announces the item by subject and the recommended action and invites staff, if applicable, to present any supporting material;
2. The President asks the Board if there is a motion related to the action and a second by members of the Board (the President can restate such motions for purposes of clarity and for the record);
3. ~~If Assuming~~ a motion and a second is received, the President then asks if there is any discussion by members of the Board followed by asking members of the public if there are any comments related to the item;
4. Once all discussion and public comments are received, the President asks the ~~Executive Assistant~~/District Secretary for a roll call for a vote.

Special note regarding voting to approve the meeting minutes: A Director can vote to approve minutes of a meeting even if they were absent in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. When you vote to approve the minutes, you are expressing your confidence in the veracity of the ~~Executive Assistant~~/District Secretary, the actions of other Directors, and the correctness of the minute's preparation process. You are not making a personal eyewitness statement that "you were there." The District needs an official record of its actions, and all Directors may approve that record. This means that you should not abstain from voting to approve minutes of a meeting if you were absent from that meeting⁴.

Disbursement Authorization

Each week a disbursement listing is prepared and reviewed by both the Director of Administrative Services ~~Auditor-Controller~~ and the General Manager. Once signed by the ~~Auditor-Controller~~ Director of Administrative Services and the General Manager, the disbursement listing is emailed to the Directors on Tuesday asking that any comments be forwarded to the ~~Auditor-Controller~~ Director of Administrative Services by the following Wednesday. If no comments are received, payments are disbursed on Thursday. The most recent disbursement listings are included in each Regular Board Meeting Agenda packet.

Master Meeting Schedule

A detailed master Board of Directors Meeting schedule has been developed over the years to outline recurring or periodic agenda items and to ensure compliance with external reporting timelines or requirements. A copy of the current master schedule is provided in the Appendix.

⁴ ~~Also s~~See Robert's Rules of Order Revised 12th edition 41:11: ~~that says~~ "It should be noted that a member's absence from the meeting for which minutes are being approved does not prevent the member from participating in their correction or approval."

PUBLIC RECORDS

Under the California Public Records Act ("CPRA"), "public records" must be available for public inspection. Requests for "public records" are subject to protocols and policy for avoiding undue burdens placed on NMWD staff and to recover the actual costs to NMWD of producing/copying public records for persons making such request. The policy is contained in the NMWD Policy Statement on Public Records. (Board Policy No. 28)

In upholding individuals' rights to privacy, personnel files, medical files, or similarly related documents regarding public agency employees do not have to be disclosed, except as required by law.

All customer records are considered confidential and will not be released to the public. Requests made by a customer of NMWD for their own individual water consumption data or any other data compiled in connection with said customer's account will be released upon recitation by a customer of their account number or upon presentation of a driver's license or some other suitable form of identification.

Exceptions for customer account information being released are:

- Customer records in aggregate for statistical analysis by NMWD staff.
- Requests made by any court or grand jury acting in a legal investigatory capacity.
- Requests made by the Novato Sanitary District for the purpose of computing sewer usage charges.

Communications made by public agency employees on a personal account, such as a personal email account, are subject to public disclosure under CPRA. This includes personal emails of the Board Members. The District provides NMWD email accounts (firstiniital+lastname@nmwd.com) to the Board Members. Board Members are encouraged to use these email accounts for all email communications regarding District matters, which -This practice will also allow for easier retrieval of relevant information requested under the CPRA.

OFFICERS OF THE ~~BOARD~~DISTRICT

The Water Code prescribes the appointment of specific District officers, namely the "general manager", "auditor" (or "treasurer"), and "secretary" as part of the initial actions after formation. The Water Code also prescribes the appointment of an "engineer of work" for purposes of improvements and assessment of lands. However, the Water Code also provides the Board with broader authority to appoint other officers and prescribe the associated duties. The following are the current NMWD Officers appointed by the Board.

General Manager

The General Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board and shall:

- Have full charge and control of the maintenance, operation and construction of the water and wastewater systems of the ~~District~~District;
- Have full power and authority to employ and discharge all employees at pleasure (excluding the Executive Assistant/District Secretary, Director of Administrative Services (who serves as Auditor-Controller and Assistant GM / Director of Engineering who serves as Chief Engineer);

- Serve as the District's Director of Emergency Services for purposes of disaster management;
- Have full power to determine the duties of employees;
- Set the compensation of employees subject to Board policy;
- Represent the District at various public entities/private groups and perform other duties imposed by the Board; ~~and~~
- Report to the Board in accordance with Board policy.

Executive Assistant/-District Secretary

An employee of NMWD shall be appointed to and hold the office of Executive Assistant/District Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for recording actions of the Board of Directors in regular or special meetings, preparing the agenda, attesting the signature of the President on documents, certifying resolutions, receiving and maintaining statements with the Fair Political Practices Commission, and performing other duties as directed by the Board of Directors. In 2022, the position was officially renamed "Executive Assistant--District Secretary to acknowledge the duties associated with supporting the Office of the General Manager as well as general support to other departments.

Auditor-Controller/Director of Administrative Services

The ~~Auditor-Controller~~District Director of Administrative Services shall install and maintain a system of auditing and accounting that shall completely, and at all times, show the financial condition of NMWD. Under administrative and Board direction, the ~~Auditor-Controller~~District Director of Administrative Services is responsible for the supervision and direction of the general office, fiscal functions, accounting and personnel programs; advises and consults with the General Manager on financial matters; prepares the annual budget. This position performs the duties of the District's Auditor-Controller in accordance with the Water Code as well as District practices and policies.

Assistant General Manager / Chief-Director of Engineering

The Assistant General Manager / Chief-Director of Engineering serves as an officer of NMWD and, under general administrative direction of the General Manager, is responsible for the direction of the engineering function of NMWD and performs engineering planning and design work, training, supervision and project management. This position performs the duties of the Chief Engineer for the District as detailed in the Water Code.

Other Department Heads

In the last several years, attendance at the Board meetings has included the other department heads. However, attendance is not mandatory or necessarily required for these positions. More details about the District's departments is provided in future sections of the Manual.

DISTRICT COUNSEL

NMWD employs outside legal counsel whose general duties are to advise the Board and General Manager regarding legal matters of concern. Currently this legal advice is provided by the firm of Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson and Judson (BPMNJ), serving as District General Counsel. General Counsel may from time to time employ special counsel for unique or specialized

legal services⁵ in coordination with the General Manager and the Board. NMWD utilizes a separate special counsel in the area of labor law. Currently this is the firm of Boucher Law, PC.

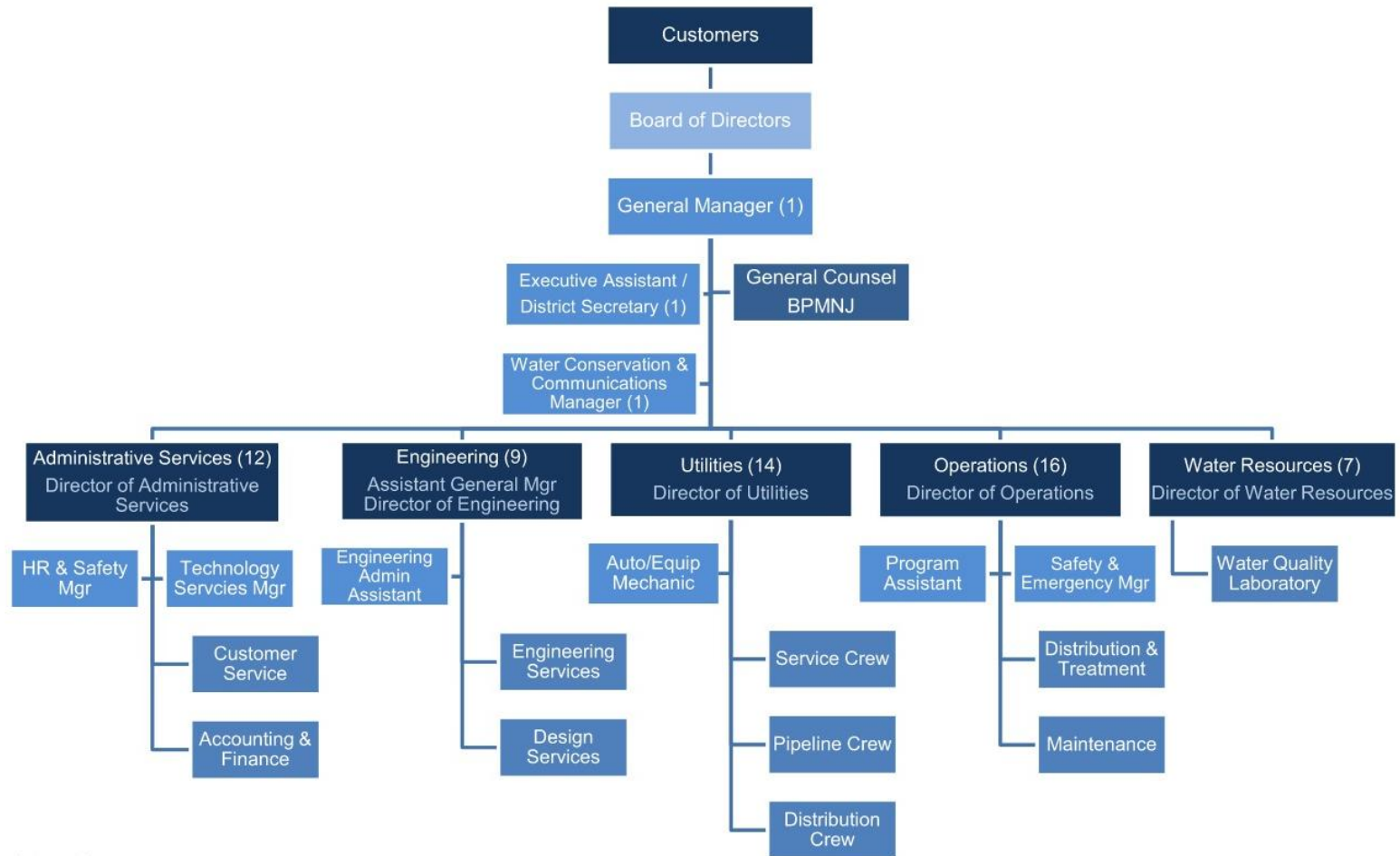
DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

In order to execute the mission and the various services offered, the District organizational structure consists of the Office of the General Manager and four departments as depicted in the Organizational Chart below.

⁵ As of 2025, Minasian Law, LLP is special counsel through BPMNJ for matters related to PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (PVP)

North Marin Water District Organization Chart

~~2017~~2026



2026 org chart_current.docx

~~*Also serves as District officer~~

Office of the General Manager

The General Manager is appointed by the Board of Directors to carry out the day-to-day activities of NMWD pursuant to the NMWD Regulations and Board Policies and has full responsibility for the maintenance, operation and construction of the NMWD water and wastewater systems and authority to determine employee duties to carry out these responsibilities. The Executive Assistant/District Secretary and the Water Conservation and Communications Manager assist the General Manager in carrying out key executive functions of NMWD. and—fFour competent department managers of the Administrative, Construction/Maintenance, Engineering, and Operations/Maintenance Departments assist the General Manager in carrying out the NMWD duties and activities.

NMWD's water conservation public outreach program includes a school education program (in cooperation with SCWA), direct mail newsletters and a variety of other customer outreach campaigns, including social media outlets.

The District maintains an Urban Water Management Plan which is updated every 5 years. It is on the District website.

Communications and Water Conservation

NMWD has historically provided a comprehensive and innovative Water Conservation Program aimed at improving water use efficiency for residential and non-residential customers (commercial and large landscape). Each water conservation program element is analyzed to assure that it will efficiently produce long-lasting water savings mutually worthwhile to the customer and North Marin. The District's water conservation programs save approximately 1,400 acre- feet of water per year.

NMWD's water conservation public outreach program includes a school education program (in cooperation with SCWA), direct mail newsletters and a variety of other customer outreach campaigns, including social media outlets. The Water Conservation and Communications Manager reports to the General Manager and is responsible for District wide public communications and management of the District's Water Conservation Program.

Current Water Conservation Program Highlights:

NMWD's Water Conservation Program includes an extensive list of available rebates and assistance programs for its customers ranging from toilet rebates to pool covers. A complete list and description of the various programs is available on the NMWD website: <https://nmwd.com/save-water/indoors/>

The following is a brief outline of the responsibilities of each of the four NMWD departments:

AdministrationAdministrative Services Department

The ~~Administration~~ Administrative Services Department is managed by the Director of Administrative Services~~Auditor Controller~~ and is comprised of a ~~Customer~~Consumer Services section and an Accounting/Finance section. The department also includes the Human Resources / Safety Manager.

~~Customer~~Consumer Services Section

The ~~Customer~~Consumer Services Section is responsible for obtaining water meter data, responding to customer calls for service and assistance with their water service, creation and

mailing of water bills, posting payments and maintaining customer accounts, and answering customer questions regarding their bill or water use.

Accounting/Finance Section

The Accounting/Finance Section is responsible for general accounting and budgeting, payroll, purchasing, financial investments, risk management, human resources and information systems.

Human Resources

The Human Resources & Safety Manager plans, organizes, administers, and oversees a wide range of human resources and safety services in compliance with District policy, state and federal regulations.

Construction/MaintenanceUtilities Department

The ~~Construction/Maintenance—Superintendent~~Director of Utilities oversees the ~~Construction/Maintenance~~Utilities Department which performs a variety of duties, principally related to the installation, repair and replacement of water pipelines and their appurtenances (valves, hydrants, service pipelines and meters, etc.). The ~~Construction/Maintenance~~Utilities Department also assists other divisions, especially Operations/~~Maintenance~~, in the upkeep of structures, grounds, storage tanks and pumping facilities.

The ~~Construction/Maintenance~~Utilities Department is on-call at all times and may be the first to respond to emergency conditions such as service leaks, main breaks or damaged hydrants. The ~~Construction/Maintenance~~Utilities staff works hand-in-hand with the public and developers to install high-quality and reliable facilities to serve NMWD customers with good quality water. Unlike many other California public agencies, there is no limit or restriction on the quantity, type, size or cost of construction (as known as a “public work”) that the NMWD Utilities Department can perform with District forces.

Utility Crews

There are two dedicated utility crews for service leaks, main breaks or damaged hydrants as well as for the installation of new services, development and capital projects. The Service Crew is focused on services leaks and new installation; and the Pipeline Crew is focused on mainlines, larger development and capital projects. However, the crews are cross-trained and coordinated so that they can perform any type of work to meets the needs of the District.

The ~~Transmission and Distribution section~~Crew is responsible for maintenance of water distribution equipment and facilities including valves, hydrants, cross-connection prevention devices, fire detector check assemblies, and some meter maintenance. This ~~section~~crew also responds to customer service leaks and repairs, fire-flow testing, system flushing and minor construction and repair works.

Fleet/Equipment

The Fleet/Equipment group is responsible for maintaining automobiles, light and medium duty trucks, and construction equipment in a safe reliable condition. This includes Department of Transportation (DOT) inspection, quarterly and, annual maintenance services, and emergency repairs in the shop and in the field. The “group” has historically consisted of a single staff member, the Auto/Equipment Mechanic.

Engineering Department

The ~~Assistant GM/Chief Engineer~~Director of Engineering manages the Engineering Department. ~~The Department consists of a professional and technical staff that oversees the planning, permitting, design, construction and project management of water supply, treatment, transmission and distribution facilities necessary to serve NMWD's customers.~~ Engineering functions for wastewater-related facilities are also provided by the Engineering Department to support the NMWD wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system in Oceana Marin (Dillon Beach area).

Property owners or developers desiring new water or wastewater service or an upgrade to their existing service area are served by the Engineering Department to meet their needs pursuant to NMWD regulations.

~~The Engineering Department maintains NMWD's comprehensive and innovative Water Conservation Program aimed at improving water use efficiency for residential and non-residential customers (commercial and large landscape). Each water conservation program element is analyzed to assure that it will efficiently produce long-lasting water savings mutually worthwhile to the customer and North Marin. The District's water conservation programs save approximately 1,400 acre feet of water per year.~~

~~NMWD's water conservation public outreach program includes a school education program (in cooperation with SCWA), direct mail newsletters and a variety of other customer outreach campaigns, including social media outlets.~~

The District maintains ~~several key engineering studies~~ including ~~water master plans and water supply studies,~~ and reports, ~~a Urban Water Management Plan It.~~ These plans documents are posted is on the District website.

Current Water Conservation Program Highlights:

- ~~● Residential High Efficiency Toilet Rebate: Up to \$100 per qualified High Efficiency Toilet (HET)~~
- ~~● Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) High Efficiency Toilet Rebate: Up to \$100 per qualified High Efficient Toilet (HET)~~
- ~~● Residential Clothes Washing Machine Rebate Program: \$50 per washer~~
- ~~● Cash for Grass: Up to \$400 per single family dwelling~~
- ~~● Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program: \$100 or \$30 per active station up to \$1,200 per controller whichever is greater~~
- ~~● Water Smart Landscape Rebate: 50% of cost of District approved water efficient landscape equipment, maximum \$100~~
- ~~● Flapper credit: up to a \$5 credit on water bill for each flapper purchased~~
- ~~● Free showerheads and sink aerators~~
- ~~● Free Water Smart Home Surveys (residential water audit)~~
- ~~● Retrofit on Resale (toilets, showerheads and sink aerators)~~
- ~~● Water budgets for all large landscape dedicated irrigation accounts~~
- ~~● Free water audits for large landscape customers~~
- ~~● Free water audits for commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) customers~~

- ~~Direct mail newsletter (twice a year)~~
- ~~Pool cover rebate: 25% of the cost up to \$50~~
- ~~Hot water recirculation system rebate: \$75 rebate for qualifying systems.~~
- ~~Rainwater Harvesting Rebate: \$0.25 per gallon of storage up to \$150.~~
- ~~Greywater Rebate: \$75 rebate for each qualifying fixture connected to an approved greywater system.~~

Operations Department/Maintenance including Water Quality

The Operations/Maintenance Department is managed by the Operations/Maintenance Superintendent Manager and is comprised of the Operations Section, Maintenance Section and the Water Quality Section.

Operations Section

The Operations Section is supervised by the Distribution and Treatment Plant Supervisor and provides oversight to ensure reliable water is supplied to all customers. -The Operations staff manages the water supply and distribution system for Novato and the West Marin communities. In Novato, this section balances the tasks of treating and distributing the water from local Stafford Lake supply as well as distributing imported (Russian River) water from the Sonoma County Water Agency while maintaining appropriate water storage levels to reliably meet all water system demands and fire protection requirements. -In Novato, the division manages 37 million gallons of finished water in 31 tanks through 4 hydraulic pressure zones and 25 pump stations.

West Marin responsibilities are similar: the Operations Section operates the Lagunitas Creek and Gallagher wells and the Point Reyes treatment plant which supplies water to Point Reyes Station and the adjacent West Marin communities. -In West Marin, 1 million gallons of finished water storage in 13 tanks, 7 pump stations in 5 different hydraulic pressure zones are managed.

The Operations Section also operates a wastewater collection and treatment system for the community of Oceana Marin adjacent to Dillon Beach.

Maintenance Section

The Maintenance Section is supervised by the Maintenance Supervisor and provides coordination for all the facilities maintenance activities. The Maintenance Section is divided into three-two groups to achieve optimum efficiency:

Electrical/Mechanical (E/M)

Staff in this group is responsible for operation and maintenance of all E/M systems, including motors, pumps, instrumentation and controls, telemetry, electrical power distribution, emergency generators, indoor/outdoor lighting, cathodic protection, regulating stations and hydro-pneumatic tanks. This section also supports the distribution system operations and provides maintenance services for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA), and facilitates repair and installation of radios, telephones and other communication equipment and systems.

Building and Grounds

~~The Building and Grounds group is responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of District buildings, tank sites, pump stations and other facilities. This section keeps District facilities~~

~~looking professional and free from environmental hazards. Responsibilities include outdoor activities for weed control, tree over-growth removal, graffiti removal, weatherproofing, painting, security audits and indoor activities for lighting management, smoke alarm tests, fire extinguisher inspections and management of custodial services.~~

Fleet/Equipment

~~The Fleet/Equipment group is responsible for maintaining automobiles, light and medium duty trucks, and construction equipment in a safe reliable condition. This includes Department of Transportation (DOT) inspection, quarterly and, annual maintenance services and emergency repairs in the shop and in the field.~~

Water Resources Department

The Water Resources Department was formed in 2026 as part of the approved fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. The Department is managed by the Director of Water Resources. The Operations and Water Resources departments share the responsibilities of safeguarding the watershed around Stafford Lake as well as the two well fields within the Lagunitas Creek watershed in Point Reyes (Gallagher and Coast Guard). This is achieved by monitoring the activities on the watershed and working cooperatively with landowners, and other agencies. The Director of Water Resources is the primary representative for matters related to the Indian Valley Golf Course, Marin County Parks, Marin County Open Space District, and National Park Service lands that adjoin NMWD lands or NMWD water supply facilities that are located in those lands.

The Director of Water Resources serves as the Technical Manager for the District's Water Quality Laboratory and provides guidance and direction for various programs and activities including cross-connection control and backflow procedures, flushing, and emergency conditions affecting water quality.

Water Quality Laboratory

The Water Quality ~~Section~~Laboratory is supervised by the ~~Water Quality Laboratory Supervisor~~ and provides oversight to all aspects of NMWD operations to ensure that water quality is protected.

The Water Quality ~~Section~~Laboratory staff work with all other NMWD departments providing them with the laboratory services, information, and tools to ensure the drinking water in the Novato and Point Reyes communities is of the highest possible quality.

Annually, a Water Quality Report (also known as a Consumer Confidence Report, CCR) is sent to all NMWD customers in Novato and West Marin. In addition, the Water Quality Section staff responds to customer calls with specific information on water quality. Starting in 2027, a new federal rule requires two reports per year for the Novato water system due to the number of customers (>10,000).

~~The Operations and Water Quality sections share the responsibilities of safeguarding the watershed around Stafford Lake by monitoring the activities on the watershed and working cooperatively with landowners, Indian Valley Golf Course, Marin County Parks and Marin County Open Space District in maintaining water quality in Stafford Lake.~~

REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Regulations

There are four parts to NMWD's regulations: Part A (Water Service), Part B (Extension and Construction Water Distribution Facilities), Part C (Customer Accounting Regulations) and Part D (Sewer Service). —The regulations are on the NMWD website at <https://nmwd.com/about/regulations/>.

Board-Approved Policies

The following is a list of Board-approved policies. —The ~~Executive Assistant~~/District Secretary will provide you copies of all policies. —Note that Board-approved policies underwent comprehensive Board review in 2013 and selected review and subsequent updates beginning in 2018. All ~~the~~ Board Policies are also currently available on the NMWD website: <https://nmwd.com/about/board-policies/>

1. Accounting - AC Statement of Investment Policy
2. Accounting - Bill Adjustment Policy
3. Accounting - Bill Adjustment Policy re Natural Disasters
4. *Accounting - Collateral Requirements on Investments* (combined with Policy No. 1)
5. Accounting - Interdistrict Loan Policy
6. Accounting - Late Charge and Shut-Off Policy
7. Accounting - Maintenance Accrual Fund and Liability Contingency Fund Reserve Fund Requirements
8. Separate Financial Statements Maintenance for each Improvement District
9. Purchasing Policy
10. Fee or Charge Dispute Hearing
11. West Marin Liability Contingency Fund Application for Water Improvement Districts
12. Attorney's Attendance at West Marin Meetings
13. Board of Directors Compensation and Procedure
14. Board of Directors Policy Manual (Separate Document)
15. *Boot Policy (Waterproof/Rain) for Meter Readers/Field Service Rep-*(combined w/ Safety Boot Policy – Employee Handbook)
16. Condemnation Policy Statement
17. Employer – Employee Relations Policy
18. Energy Policy
19. Fluoridation
20. Purchase of Winter Jackets
21. Judicial Review Limitations
22. Mission / Vision Statement
23. NMWD MMWD re Extension of Service Outside Boundaries
24. North Marin Aqueduct Service
25. Novato-Petaluma Corridor Cooperative Planning for New Water Service Connections in the Corridor (Resolution 1230)

26. On-Call and Stand-By Duty
27. Public Access to Stafford Lake Shoreline Adjacent To Indian Valley Golf Course Lease
28. Public Records Policy
29. Recognition at Retirement
30. Public Record Retention Policy (separate document)
31. Recreation Policy (sunset 9/25/71)
32. Vehicle Take Home
33. Warm Springs Dam Policy Statement (Resolution 83-10)
34. Wastewater Sewer Service in West Marin (Resolution 00-20)
35. Water Conservation Plan
36. Accounting – Leak Adjustment Policy (see Bill Adjustment Policy No. 2)
37. Outside Employment
38. Use of NMWD Meeting Room Policy
39. Grand Jury Response
40. Computer Use and Cybersecurity Policy
41. Vehicle Replacement
42. Employer Assisted Housing Program for Employees of NMWD
43. Wireless Communication Facilities Lease
44. Integrated/Multi-Benefit Water Resource Projects
45. Reserve Policy
46. Board Computer Use
47. Debt Management
48. AMI Opt-Out Policy
49. Low Income Rate Assistance Program
- 50 Staff Succession Recruitment Policy
51. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Policy

Employee Handbook

This handbook has been revised and approved by the Board in April 2014 and is posted on the District website. Minor revisions were made in 2023 subsequent to Employee Association negotiations and changes in key staff.

Memorandum of Understanding with North Marin Water District Employees Association

The ~~is~~ most current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Amendment between the NMWD and the Employee Association (EA) is posted on the District website. Typically, the various benefit programs and staff policies covered in the MOU is reviewed and negotiated every five years.

Other Information

The following information is available on the District website at www.nmwd.com

[Novato Water System Master Plan Update — 20122025](#)

[NMWD Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#)

[2023 Marin County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

[2022 Local Water Supply Enhancement Study](#)

[West Marin Master Plan](#)

[Oceana Marin Master Plan](#)~~West Main Long Range Plan~~

[Urban Water Management Plan, current version-2015](#)

[NMWD Rate Studies](#)

[NMWD Approved Budgets](#)

[Audit Reports \(Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, CAFR\)](#)

[Retiree Health Insurance Liability \(GASB No. 75\)](#)

[Standard Specifications and Standard Drawings](#)

[Standard Water Agreement](#)

EMERGENCY PLANNING

~~Each Director receives a copy of the District's Emergency Operations Plan which is updated from time to time.~~ The [District's Emergency Operations Plan](#) will be replaced with an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) as required by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) Section 2013, which amended Section 1433 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Act requires community water systems serving populations greater than 3,300 to develop or update an ERP that incorporates findings of the Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA). However, the District's ERP incorporates all enterprises, including West Marin and Oceana Marin even though an ERP is technically not required. The ERP has been prepared and promulgated to provide a plan of action in response to various emergencies that may involve NMWD or its facilities. -The plan primarily addresses the possible emergencies of earthquake, electrical power failure, fire, flood, hazardous or toxic spills, potential water contamination, salinity intrusion (Pt. Reyes wells) vandalism and sabotage, vehicle or personnel accidents.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Mission Statement

"We provide an adequate supply of safe, reliable and high quality water and deliver reliable and continuous sewer service to our customers at reasonable cost consistent with good conservation practices and minimum environmental impact."

Vision Statement

"We carry out our mission with a highly motivated and competent staff empowered to conduct the District's business by placing customer needs and welfare first. -We seek continual dialogue from our staff, peers, and all those we serve so that we may continually improve service to our customers."

Boundary Map



Enabling Act

The District was formed by voter approval in April 1948 pursuant to the provisions of the County Water District Law (refer Water Code – Division 12). It is a “voter-run” local agency commonly known as a special district.

Service Area

The District serves a territory of approximately 100 square miles. –Originally, Three improvement districts have been were formed within this territory and to provide either water or sewer service. –Currently, the District is comprised of 4 separate “enterprises”: Novato Water Service, Novato Recycled Water Service, West Marin Water Service and Oceana Marin Sewer Service. Each improvement district enterprise has its own set of records, and its finances are independent. Within each improvement district enterprise, expansion of utility facilities is typically based on a “pay as you go” policy whereby the benefited developer or landowner pays for extension of all off-site and on-site service facilities necessary to provide service. Connection fees are set such that new growth pays the incremental cost to expand the basic utility plant allocable to such new growth as allowed by state law. Existing customers do not subsidize new growth. In fact, it is not be possible for the District to waive or lower connection fees and capacity charges.⁶ The costs of providing service and responding to demands for service are a “zero-sum game” and if the District does not recover the true cost of providing such service to a new development, it must recover those costs in some other fashion. –There are strict statutory and constitutional constraints on District’s ability to raise revenues necessary to meet costs. Proposition 218 generally prohibits water districts from charging more than “the proportional cost of the service” attributable to the ratepayer’s parcel.

Service Functions

The District provides water service to the Greater Novato Area, West Marin (Point Reyes Station/Inverness Park/Olema, and Paradise Ranch Estates) and sewer service to Oceana Marin, a subdivision adjacent to Dillon Beach (the District provides no services in the Marshall area of West Marin). In addition, by formal agreement, the District transfers Russian River water to Marin Municipal Water District and, in case of emergency, can serve water to Inverness Public Utility District. –The District’s Stafford Dam provides some incidental flood control benefits to the downstream Novato Creek drainage area although no operational facilities are included in the dam except for a slotted spillway that has the effect of reducing peak flood flows in Novato Creek created by rainfall on Stafford Lake watershed.

The District participates in the generation of hydroelectric energy at the Warm Springs Dam through its Master Water Supply Agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency and seven other contracting cities and districts in Sonoma County.

Service Limitations

Unlike the City of Novato and the County of Marin, the District does not have “general welfare powers” and therefore is not in a position to take action in connection with do something about social issues like homelessness and low-income housing. The District’s underlying mission is to provide water and sewer services service and must comply with the state laws for that service. BecauseSince the District does not serve sn’t have the same public purpose as a City or County, it must rely on limited non-rate revenue- to provide such services without passing those

⁶ Except to the extent required by subdivisions (e)(1)(a)(i) and (f)(4) of Government Code section 65852.2, subdivisions (e)(1)(A) (i) and (f)(4) regarding certain types of development

costs onto other rate payers which is a violation of the state constitution. An example of such limited service is the Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program which offers eligible customer a discount on their water bill of up to \$30 per bi-monthly bill. A typical source of non-rate revenue used to fund this program is property taxes. The District receives an incremental amount of the overall post-Prop 13 ad-valorem property tax collected by the County (approximately \$150,000, 2025).

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT

Prior to 1948, Novato water service was provided by the Novato Water Company, a privately owned public utility that for many years was operated by the Cain family and later sold to Al Tresch. -By 1947, Novato was beginning to grow from the small agricultural community it had been, and with about 500 customers, the Novato Water Company was beginning to have serious water supply problems since its existing wells were not producing sufficient high-quality water to meet customer needs. -The town fathers hosted a meeting in the fall of 1947 to ask Marin Municipal Water District to extend its transmission line that served Hamilton Field, to tie in and serve the community of Novato. -MMWD declined to extend its transmission line as its Board saw no future growth potential in the Novato area.

A committee was then formed to move forward the idea of starting a water district for the Novato area. -The matter was submitted to the voters and following voter approval in April 1948, the District was formed under the County Water District Law with voter authorization to purchase the Novato Water Company.

Some highlights of the ensuing years (through 2025) include:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 1950's | 1951 - Stafford Lake/Dam
1952 - Stafford Treatment Plant
1955 - Original office building on Vallejo Avenue built |
| 1960's | 1961 - North Marin Aqueduct connecting with Russian River system completed
1963 - Lynwood Pump Station
1963 - Multiple Storage Tanks (storage increased from 2 MG to 16 MG)
1965 - New (current site) office building on Rush Creek Place |
| 1970's | <u>West Marin:</u> -North Marin provides water service in West Marin to about 700 customers in Point Reyes Station, Inverness Park, Olema and Paradise Ranch Estates. -Sewerage service is provided to the community of Oceana Marin. NMWD's presence in West Marin resulted from emergency needs or other overwhelming requests of West Marincitizens <u>Marin citizens</u> and persuasive direction by others, including the County of Marin.

West Marin Annexations include Oceana Marin (1969), Point Reyes Station (1970), Inverness Park (1970), Olema (1973), Tomales (1975) (De-annexed 1999), and Paradise Ranch Estates (1979).

1971 - Stafford Lake Park created

1974 - Master Agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency and Construction of Russian River – Cotati Intertie Project

1977 - Drought |

1980's	Innovative Water Conservation Programs initiated. 1983 - Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma -constructed 1984-85 - Stafford Dam Reconfiguration and Toe Drain Replacement
1990's	1991 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA) 1998 - Buck Tank (storage increased to 27.5 MG)
2000's	2002 – Amaroli Tank (4.5 MG). -System storage increased to 32.5 MG. 2003 - Stafford Water Treatment Plant Reconstruction commences to meet current and future water quality regulatory requirements and improve operating efficiency. 2006 - Recycled Water Project – (With the Novato Sanitary District) to deliver recycled water to irrigate the Stone Tree Golf Course. 2008 – Completion of the 500,000 gallon Center Road Tank, constructed to mitigate fire storage deficiencies in the west Novato area. 2009 – The Palmer Drive Tank is completed adding 3MG of first zone storage in southern Novato.
<u>2000's-2010's</u>	2011 – Expansion of the recycled water distribution system commences. Working in conjunction with Novato & Las Gallinas Sanitary Districts, the project provides approximately 130MG of recycled water annually to large landscape customers in north and south Novato. <u>2013 - Expansion of the recycled water distribution system to north and south Novato is completed. Utilizing federal grant and loan funds and recycled water from both Novato & Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary Districts.</u> 2015 – Completion of the \$23M Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project in sync with <u>Caltrans's the Caltrans</u> Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN) freeway widening project. The AEEP increased the diameter of portions of the North Marin aqueduct to eliminate the use of the existing Kastania Pump Station. The Project was implemented at the time that Caltrans paid for the District to relocate ~ 3.8 miles of the existing aqueduct that was in conflict with portions of the Caltrans MSN Project. 2016_- Expansion of the Recycled Water Distribution System into the Central Service Area begins. Working in conjunction with Novato Sanitary District, the project will add an additional 65-100MG of recycled water annually to large landscape customers. <u>2017 - The District implemented an Advance Meter Information System (AMI) pilot project. The AMI project replaces the mechanical water meter register with an electronic register that transmits water use data securely to NMWD headquarters.</u> <u>2018 - Expansion of the recycled distribution system to Central Novato is completed.</u>

2020's

2022 - The Gallagher Well No. 2 in West Marin is completed. In coordination with Sonoma Water's Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study, the District completes a Local Water Supply Enhancement Study (LWSES).

2022 - The Board approved the Administration and Laboratory Building Upgrade Project and authorized the award for construction.

2023 - The District celebrates 75 Years of continued excellent service.

2025 - The Administration & Laboratory Upgrade project is completed and open to customers, including a demonstration garden.

WATER SUPPLY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Novato

Stafford Lake

Stafford Lake lies four miles west of downtown Novato and collects runoff from 8.3 square miles of watershed property located upstream at the upper tributary reaches to Novato Creek. Water from Stafford Lake is drawn-down by the intake tower and fed by gravity or by pumping (depending on the lake level) into the treatment plant located just below the dam. Chlorine dioxide is added to the raw lake water as it enters the contact chamber where most bacteria are killed. As the water enters the Actifloc filters, ferric chloride and polymers are added to improve coagulation. -Multi-media filter beds consisting of anthracite, granular garnet sand and gravel filter and discharge the water into a clearwell where chlorine is added for additional disinfection contact time. -The clearwell water is then passed through Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter beds for taste and odor removal. -The finished water is then given a final dose of chlorine and sent to the finished water clear well. -As water enters the transmission system, sodium hydroxide is added to protect against corrosion by adjusting the pH (degree of acidity) of the water. -At this point, the treatment process is complete and the water is on its way to the consumer.

Russian River System (Map attached)

Russian River water originates in Mendocino County and derives supply from both the Eel River and the Russian River watersheds. -Eel River flows via Pacific Gas and Electric's diversion at Cape Horn dam feeding water through a 1.6-mile tunnel to the Potter Valley Powerhouse on the east fork of the Russian River. This inter-basin transfer is referred to as the Potter Valley Project (PVP). Just downstream of the powerhouse, the Eel River diversion and winter runoff from the local watershed are impounded by Coyote Dam creating Lake Mendocino owned and operated the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)⁷. Releases from Lake Mendocino are made during summer months and the channel of the Russian River carries the water downstream. Water is also released from Lake Sonoma and flows via Dry Creek to its confluence with the Russian River just downstream of Healdsburg. -At a point about 10 miles upstream of Guerneville, water is collected by six Ranney water collectors. -These deep wells collect river water which has been infiltrated through 50 to 60 feet of naturally deposited sand and gravel to perforated pipes radiating from the bottom of each well. -The thick layer of sand and gravel through which the water must pass before reaching the perforated collector pipes provides a highly efficient natural

⁷ Although the dam is operated by the USACE, SCWA has operational control regarding the "water conservation pool" or the stored volume for water supply.

filtration process which, with the addition of chlorine, produces a clear, potable, bacteria-free water. -This water is then pumped directly into the aqueduct system. -pH adjustment facilities (similar to those at Stafford Treatment Plant) reduce the corrosivity of Russian River water as it enters the transmission system. -River diversion capacity is augmented by standby wells sited near the Sonoma County Water Agency's (SCWA) collectors.

Both Stafford Lake and Russian River supplies are essentially free of iron and manganese and characteristically exhibit moderate hardness levels (approximately 6 grains of hardness per gallon); and, therefore, use of home water softeners in the region is unnecessary.

To meet downstream water needs, Warm Springs Dam, which creates Lake Sonoma, was constructed in the late 1970's. -It is located on Dry Creek, a major tributary of the Russian River joining the river at Healdsburg. -Formally proposed for the first time in 1948 as a multipurpose project providing flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife and water supply benefits, the dam construction faced many setbacks. -The U.S. Corps of Engineers finished major construction work on the dam in 1983 - too late to avoid water shortages experienced when the State was hit by the extreme dry years of 1976 and 1977. -Although managing well in the first year, the second year of drought plunged the Russian River Water Contractors into 30% rationing.

This multipurpose project includes a salmon hatchery for fish propagation and a water supply pool capable of storing 245,000 acre-feet. -Yield from Lake Mendocino (70,000 acre-feet water supply pool) and Lake Sonoma is expected to meet the current and future water supply needs in the Russian River region. -North Marin Water District fought hard for and consistently supported the Warm Springs project; and, on April 6, 1982, the Master Water Supply Agreement was amended to include repayment of the District's share of the Dam.

Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are known as "multi-purpose" reservoirs in that they provide flood protection and water supply benefits. The operations for both reservoirs utilize Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO). Lake Mendocino is the first reservoir in the nation to officially recognize FIRO as part of the official USACE operations procedures (known as the Water Control Manual). FIRO is a flexible water management approach that uses data from watershed monitoring and improved weather forecasting, especially concerning atmospheric rivers, to help water managers selectively retain or release water from reservoirs for increased resilience to droughts and floods. FIRO applies emerging science and technology to optimize water resources and adapt to climate change. FIRO operations at Lake Mendocino can result in a 19% increase in water storage without the need for physical capital improvements or modifications to the dam.

West Marin Services

Water

Commencing in 1967, the District, responding to petitions from local citizens and requests from the County of Marin, began providing water service to West Marin villages and communities. Improvement districts serving Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park were approved by 70% of the voters in those areas in November 1970 and two private water systems owned by James Downey were purchased and improved.

In June 1973, voters in Olema, by a 92% vote, approved addition of Olema to the system. Service to the headquarters of the Point Reyes National Seashore was included. -In November 1979, 80% of the voters in Paradise Ranch Estates created yet another improvement district that was added to the Point Reyes area system.

Sewer

At the request of the County, the District agreed in 1969 to take on ownership and operation of the sewer system serving Oceana Marin, a 251-lot subdivision in Dillon Beach.

Under duress of ongoing “boil-water” orders, in June 1975, 89% of Tomales voters approved creating a sewer improvement district to build a system for the village of Tomales. In December 1997, the District initiated contract operations of the Tomales wastewater facilities at the request of the community. The Tomales customers then formed their own Community Services District and took over self-governance and operational control of the system, eliminating North Marin's involvement on November 1, 1999.

As of March 2026, there are 241 active sewer connections that NMWD manages in the Oceana Marin system.

APPENDIX



BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF

Original Date: March 2026
Last Revised:

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the communication, both written and oral, between the Board of Directors and District staff, specifically when communications occur outside of regular Board meeting proceedings.

To improve and maintain overall effective and efficient communication between District staff and the members of the Board of Directors.

To promote the timely exchange of important information or responses to requests for information, including during after-hours.

These guidelines are not intended to supersede or conflict with procedural or legal procedures, protocols and requirements related to public meetings (e.g. the Ralph M. Brown Act). Additionally, as customers of the District, a Director can have direct communications with District Customer Services staff regarding their respective accounts at any time during working hours or use the after hours or emergency phone numbers as appropriate.

II. COMMUNICATION GUIDANCE:

The following guidance is provided by different categories of information exchange. If questions are raised by an individual Director and the General Manager determines that the topic warrants discussion with the full Board, an item will be placed on a future Board Meeting Agenda. Item 4 below deals specifically with published Board Agenda items.

1. **Director Matters:** Communication regarding cost reimbursement, compensation, meeting attendance or availability, computer issues (IT) and related matters should be directed to the Executive Assistant / District Secretary.
2. **Director Training:** Communication regarding mandated, required or voluntary training activities and related matters should be directed to the Executive Assistant / District Secretary.
3. **Board Meeting Coordination:** The Directors should rely on the Executive Assistant / District Secretary or the General Manager for issues related to prior, upcoming, or future Board meetings. The Board President and the General Manager will regularly coordinate one-on-one communications related to upcoming meetings, typically the week prior to the scheduled meeting.
4. **Board Meeting Agenda Content:** The Directors should feel free to contact Staff regarding an Agenda item that they authored ahead of the scheduled meeting. The purpose of this direct communication is to ask questions regarding the content or subject matter, which could be asked during the actual meeting. This allows the staff member to be better prepared with an answer during the meeting; or to answer a question that may not necessarily be asked during the meeting. The Directors may also contact the General Manager directly regarding content in an Agenda item.

5. District Policies, Regulations or Rates: Questions related to District policies, regulations, water/sewer rates, especially those received by a Director from a customer should be directed to the General Manager or to the Auditor-Controller for questions related to rates or charges.
6. District Facilities and Operations: The Directors may contact the Operations / Maintenance Manager or the Assistant GM/Chief Engineer directly with questions related to District Facilities. The General Manager is also available to answer questions about District facilities.
7. District Projects – Construction Activities: The Directors may contact the Construction Superintendent or the Assistant GM/Chief Engineer directly with questions related to upcoming, ongoing or recently completed construction projects or Capital Improvement Projects.
8. Water Quality – Environmental Issues: The Directors may contact the Water Quality Supervisor directly (as do many customers) with questions about the quality of water provided by the District or water supply sources (Stafford Lake, West Marin groundwater).
9. News or Social Media: For general questions related to District-provided media content or published stories by others, the Directors may contact the General Manager or the Water Conservation & Communications Manager. The District has developed a separate strategy and procedure for misinformation.
10. State or Federal Regulations: The Directors may contact the General Manager, the Water Quality Supervisor or the Water Conservation & Communications Manager regarding state or federal regulations, as appropriate.
11. Communications with Other Agency Officials: The Directors may communicate with other elected officials freely regarding non-District matters. However, if communications consist of District matters, Directors should notify the General Manager at the earliest convenience and provide a brief of those communications. If communications relate to an apparent water leak or related issue, see Section III.
12. General: The Directors are always welcome to address any and all questions directly to the General Manager or Assistant GM/Chief Engineer. However, other District staff, identified above, may have more readily available information and the ability to answer questions more expeditiously and therefore Directors should feel free to contact them directly. Regardless, District staff identified above will report any communications with Directors to the General Manager.

III. REPORTS OF WATER LEAKS OR RELATED INCIDENTS

A Director may be an eye witness to a water leak or related incident or a Director may receive a call from another elected official or a neighbor regarding a water leak, unexplained water flowing or a related issue. Whether this happens during working hours or after hours, on a weekend or a holiday, the most efficient way to communicate this to District staff is by calling the main office line at (415) 897-4133. During working hours, the reception staff can forward the report to the most appropriate staff member for a timely response. If the incident occurs after hours, on a weekend or a holiday, the main office number is also the best way to relay the incident (press option 7). The District assigns on-call and standby personnel everyday for just this purpose and employs an after-hours phone service that acts as a dispatch to the on-call personnel. If upon arrival at the reported incident additional resources are required, the on-call personnel are trained to contact the next level of management for further response effort.

IV. AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Ad Hoc committees are temporary, task-focused groups typically consisting of two Directors which are formed to investigate specific, sometimes urgent issues, provide recommendations, and then disband (unlike standing committees with ongoing mandates). They offer focused expertise and efficiency for matters like situational management or response, policy research, or special projects or programs, and operating with less formal rules (e.g. avoiding the Brown Act if fewer than a quorum). As allowed by general public agency practices and state law, the District Board from time to time designates Ad Hoc Committees consisting of no more than two Directors. Communications related to Ad Hoc Committees include:

1. The Directors serving on a given Ad Hoc committee, may communicate directly with any staff member that is involved with the topic that the committee was designated to address.
2. The Directors serving on an Ad Hoc Committee should limit communication with another elected official or staff from another Agency before discussing it with the General Manager.

V. LOCAL OR REGIONAL EMERGENCIES

The General Manager serves as the District's Director of Emergency Services for all emergencies. During an emergency event, the Directors should limit communications to the General Manager or the Water Conservation & Communications Manager if serving as the District's Information Officer. If the District initiates its Emergency Operations Center (Miwok room at 999 Rush Creek Place), communications will be limited to the Board President and Vice President outside of official meetings (Special or Regular board meetings). This will allow more efficient emergency operations and control the spread of misinformation.



Detailed Master BOD Schedule

NOTES: 1. *Italics* indicates infrequent items included as needed
2. **Blue font** items indicates flexible scheduling

Staff Acronyms (in red font):

DOAS = Director of Administrative Services

AGM/DOE = Assist GM / Director of Engineering

DD = Designated Director

DTS = Distribution and Treatment Supervisor

EA/DS = Executive Assistant / District Secretary

DOO = Director of Operations

WCCM = Water Conservation and Communications Manager

WQS = Water Quality Supervisor

JANUARY (No 1st Meeting*)

*Note: the first meeting is only used if needed for Special Meetings or workshops

JANUARY (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

20XX West Marin Dry Year Water Conditions Report (GM) (AS NEEDED)

Information

Ethics Training for Board of Directors and District Officers (EA/DS) (Every 2 years)

District Backflow History (DOO)

Annual Report on Board Compensation (DOAS)

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (GM)

NBWRA Board Meeting (GM)

NBWA Meeting (DD)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

FEBRUARY (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Quarterly Financial Statement (DOAS)

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

Fiscal Year Mid-Year Progress Report – Operations (DOO)

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (GM)

Preparing for Dry Year Conditions (GM) (AS NEEDED)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Water Conservation (WCCM)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Water Quality (WQS)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Engineering Department (AGM/DOE)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Operations (DOO)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

FEBRUARY (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Proposed FY XX/XX Budget Review and Rate Hearing Schedule (DOAS)

Set Public Hearing to Consider a Water Conservation Ordinance in the Novato Service Area (WCCM) (AS NEEDED)

Set Public Hearing to Consider Amending Ordinance 39 in West Marin Service Area (WCCM)

Stafford Lake Backfeeding (GM)

Information

NBWA Meeting (DD)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Water Conservation (WCCM)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Water Quality (WQS)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Engineering Department (AGM/DOE)

FY XX/ Mid-Year Progress Report – Operations/Maintenance (DOO)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

MARCH (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

Initial Review SCWA FY XX Water Transmission System Budget (DOAS)

Presentation by SCWA

Point Reyes System Salinity Intrusion Alternate Water Supply Contingency Plan (WQS)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

MARCH (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Authorize Affirmative Vote for SCWA FY XX Water Transmission System Budget (DOAS)

Accept 20XX Novato and Recycled Water Rate Study Draft Report and Direct Staff to Prepare a Proposition 218 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Revenue Increases and Rate Structure Changes (DOAS) (AS NEEDED)

Accept 20XX West Marin Water Rate Study Draft Report and Direct Staff to Prepare a Proposition 218 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Revenue Increases and Rate Structure Changes (DOAS)

Oceana Marin Sewer System Financial Plan Update (DOAS)

Information

Preparing for Dry Year Conditions (GM) (AS NEEDED)

NBWA Meeting (DD)

Enhanced Water Conservation Program Incentive Options (WCCM)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

APRIL (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Action – Rate Increase Letter to Novato Customers (DOAS)

Accept 20XX Novato Potable Water and Recycled Water Financial Plan Update and Direct Staff
to Prepare a Proposition 218 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Increase. (DOAS)

Information

WAC/TAC Meeting (GM)

NBWA Meeting – April

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Update - Polybutylene Pipe Population (AGM/CE)

AB 992 – Summary of Public Officials Social Media Use Restrictions

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

APRIL (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Oceana Marin Sewer System Financial Plan Update (DOAS)

West Marin Water System Financial Plan Update (DOAS)

Rate Increase Letter to Novato Water & Recycled Water Customers (DOAS)

Rate Increase Letter to West Marin Water and Oceana Marin Sewer Customers (DOAS)

Information

Information – STP Solar Power Facility – Status Report (OMM)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

Rate Increase Notice on Water Bill – Novato Service Area (DOAS)

Notice of Public Hearing – Proposed Water Rate Increase (DOAS)

MAY (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Quarterly Financial Statement (DOAS)

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Text for Spring West Marin “Waterline” (WCCM)

Action Calendar

Rate Increase Letter to West Marin Water and Oceana Marin Sewer Customer (DOAS)

Information

Initial Review – FY XX Capital Project & Equipment Budget (DOAS)

Wildfire Safety Program (OMM)

NBWA Meeting (DD)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Hydrant Damage History (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller’s Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

Flushing Program Update (OMM)

Annual Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Report for Stafford Lake (DTS)

Rate Increase Notice on Water Bill – Novato Service Area (DOAS)

Rate Increase Notice on Water Bill – West Marin Service Area (DOAS)

Direct Mailer - Notice of Proposed Water Rate Increases – Novato Service Area (DOAS)

Direct Mailer - Notice of Proposed Water Revenue Increases and Rate Structure Changes –
West Marin Service Area (DOAS)

Direct Mailer - Notice of Proposed Water Rate Increases – Oceana Marin Sewer Service (DOAS)

MAY (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

Information – Budget Review – Proposed FY XX Budgets Novato and West Marin Services Areas
(DOAS)

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (GM)

WAC/TAC Committee Meeting – April (GM)

NBWA Meeting – May (DD)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

JUNE (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Resolution re Consolidation of District Election and Filing Information District Election,
November (EA/DS)

Text for Spring West Marin “Waterline” (WCCM) KEEP

Annual Water Quality Report – Novato (WQS)

Annual Water Quality Report – Point Reyes Area (WQS)

Action Calendar

Contract for NMWD Trench Restoration Paving (DOU)

Oceana Marin Wastewater System – Acceptance of 20XX Management Plan Update (DOO)

Information Items

Budget Review – FY XX Budgets Novato and West Marin Service Areas (DOAS)

NBWRA April Minutes (GM)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller’s Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

JUNE (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

PUBLIC HEARING:

Consider Proposed Increase in Water Rates for Novato Service Area and Resulting Revisions to District Regulation 54, Water Rates Resolution (DOAS)

PUBLIC HEARING/APPROVE:

Consider Proposed West Marin Water Rate Increase and Revisions to Reg 54 Resolution (DOAS)

PUBLIC HEARING/APPROVE:

Consider Proposed Ocean Marin Sewer Rate Increase and Revisions to Reg 109 Resolution/Ordinance (DOAS)

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing to Consider Approval of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan for Novato Service Area Resolution (GM)

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

~~Text for Spring Novato "Waterline" (WCCM)~~

Action Calendar

Novato and Recycled Water FY XX Budgets (DOAS)

Oceana Marin Sewer Service Fee Increase Ordinance - First Reading (DOAS)

Novato, Recycled Water, West Marin & Oceana Marin FY XX Budgets (DOAS)

Refinancing of Employer Assisted Housing Loan (DOAS)

Agreement with Kiosk for Communications and Public Outreach (WCCM)

Information

NBWA Meeting – June (DD)

WAC/TAC Meeting – May (GM)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

JULY (2nd Meeting) – Only 1 meeting in July (2nd Tues)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

CALPERS Pension Update (DOAS)

TAC Meeting – June (GM)

NBWA Meeting – July (DD)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

Marin County Elections Department Notice of Election, Offices on Ballot and Candidate Filing
Deadlines ?(EA/DS)

Approved FY 20XX-XX Budget (DOAS)

AUGUST (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

CalPERS Preliminary Investment Returns FY XX (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

AUGUST (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

PRELIMINARY FY 20XX/20XX FINANCIAL STATEMENT (DOAS)

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

WAC/TAC Meeting Update – August (GM)

TAC Meeting Update – July (GM)

FY XX/XXXX End of Year Progress Report – Water Quality (WQS)

FY XXXX/XX End of Year Progress Report – Water Conservation (WCCM)

FY XX/XXXX End of Year Progress Report – Engineering Department (AGM/DOE)

FY XX/XXXX End of Year Progress Report – Operations (DOO)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

NMWD Candidates Who Have Filed Papers for Office – November (EA/DS)

SEPTEMBER (1st Meeting) – No first meeting

SEPTEMBER (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Text for Fall Novato “Waterline” (WCCM)

Base Salary Schedule Revision (DOAS)

Action Calendar

Water Use and Leak Detection Device Pilot Program for the West Marin Service Area (DOAS)

Proposal for West Marin Water Rate Study (DOAS)

Text for Summer West Marin “Waterline” (WCCM)

Stafford Lake 20XX Watershed Sanitary Survey (WQS) EVERY FIVE YEARS

Information

NBWA Meeting – September (DD)

FY XXXX-XX End of Year Progress Report - Water Quality (WQS)

FY XXXX-XX End of Year Progress Report - Water Conservation (WCCM)

FY XXXX-XX End of Year Progress Report - Engineering Department (AGM/DOE)

FY XXXX-XX End of Year Progress Report - Operations (DOO)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

OCTOBER (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Director of Administrative Services' Statement of Investment Policy (DOAS)

Base Salary Schedule Revision (DOAS)

Records Retention Program – Destruction of Records Resolution (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Information

NBWA Meeting – October

Overview of Redistricting Based on the 2020 Census (GM)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

OCTOBER (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Renewal of Horizon CATV License Agreement (OMM)

Action Calendar

Information

Strategic Plan Progress Report – Year X Review (GM)

Accounts Receivable Analysis (DOAS)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

Vendor Letter (EA/DS)

NOVEMBER (1st Meeting)

Reoccurring

Quarterly Financial Statement (DOAS)

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Text for Fall Novato “Water Line” (WCCM) Move to Sept?

Action Calendar

Renewal of Grazing Leases – Grossi, Bell & Leveroni IV (DOO) (Every 5 yrs - 2027 next)

Accept Outside Auditor’s FY XX/XX Financial Report and Management Report (DOAS)

Information

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller’s Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx

NOVEMBER (2nd Meeting - tentative)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Stafford Lake Backfeeding – 20XX Water Year, initial request (GM) (AS NEEDED)

Information

North Bay Water Reuse Authority Board Meeting – October (GM)

FY 20XX-20XX Stafford Dam Activities Report (AGM/DOE)

NBWA Meeting – November (DD)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

DECEMBER (1st Meeting)

Oath of Office: Elected Directors (EA/DS)

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD: (EA/DS)

1. Election of President
2. Election of Vice President
3. Establishment of Meeting Times and Place
4. Establishes the Manner of Calling Special Meetings
5. Appointment of District Officers
6. Confirm Board Meeting Schedule for 20XX
7. Committee Appointments

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Draft Annual Report Fiscal Year 20XX-XX (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Accept - Outside Auditor's FY XX Report and Management Report (DOAS)

Information

Draft Annual Report (EA/DS)

WAC/TAC Meeting – November (GM)

Initial Review – Salary, Terms and Conditions of Employment – General Manager
(BOARD PRESIDENT)

2020 Census Redistricting Process (GM)

News and Miscellaneous Reports

Disbursements (DOAS)

Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for _____, 20xx
Stafford Lake Water Year 2021 Spill/Rainfall History (DOO) ?

DECEMBER (2nd Meeting)

Reoccurring

Consent Calendar

Minutes (EA/DS)

Final Annual Report Fiscal Year (EA/DS)

Action Calendar

Approval of Salary, Terms and Conditions of Employment – General Manager
(Board Resolution 21-XX amending Prior Board Resolution 20-26) (Board President)

Board Committee/Association Assignments for 20XX (EA/DS)

Information

NBWA Meeting – December (DD)

Miscellaneous

Disbursements (DOAS)

Monthly Progress Report (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Precipitation Outlook (EA/DS)

NOAA Monthly Drought Outlook (EA/DS)

NMWD Web and Social Media Report (WCCM)

Annual TAC and WAC/TAC Meeting Schedule (GM)

NMWD WP-309 Certificate of Excellence (DOAS)

6

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors

August 4, 2026

From: Tony Williams, General Manager 

Subject: Board Review of District Policy Number 26 – On-call and Stand-by Duty

T:\BOD\BOD Policies\Policy Review 2026\BOD Memo Draft Pol 26 080426.doc

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information Only

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

Attached for your review is the following District Policy:

Board Policy Number 27 – On-call and Stand-by Duty

The current version inadvertently left out the Utilities Department (formerly Construction/Maintenance) staff in the section outlining compensation. The October 2024 edition has been updated based on a review by the Director of Utilities and HR / Safety Manager and the changes also include the updated titles for District departments and staff. The proposed changes to this policy are shown in highlight/strikeout format.

Should the Board desire to amend this policy, staff will return the policy on a future agenda for Board consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Draft Policy Number 26 – On-call and Stand-by Duty



BOARD POLICY: ON-CALL AND STAND-BY DUTY
BOARD POLICY NUMBER: 26

Original Date: 2006
Last Reviewed: October 2024
Last Revised: July 2026

Purpose

The purpose of the on-call and stand-by duty program is to provide immediate attention to water and sewer system problems that occur at times other than during normal working hours.

Duties

On-call

The duties of the on-call District employees are to respond to all after-hours calls and to resolve all problems as simply and quickly as possible. On-call personnel are expected to resolve problems over the telephone, via computer, in the field and/or to call other District personnel when assistance is needed as appropriate. On-call personnel must possess Distribution Operator certification.

Stand-By

The duties of the stand-by District employees are to respond to the on-call personnel request for assistance on holiday weekends as defined below. Stand-by duty begins at 3:30PM the day before the holiday weekend and ends at 7:00AM on the first working day after the holiday weekend. Stand-by personnel are to resolve problems or make facilities safe and secure for completion during the next regular business day. Stand-by Construction-Utilities crews may include up to 3 employees from the positions of Pipeline Foreman, Heavy Equipment Operator, Pipe Worker/Utility Worker III, ~~Pipeworker Assistant~~Utility Worker II, ~~Laborer~~Utility Worker I, Field Service Representative, ~~and Operations/Maintenance~~Maintenance personnel, or other full-time regular Distribution Operator certified, trained employees, at the determination of the ~~Construction/Maintenance~~Director of Utilities~~Superintendent~~.

Stand-by will be assigned on the following holiday weekends:

1. New Year's holiday, December 31 (half day), and January 1, or when New Year's Day falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (3rd weekend in January)
3. President's Day (3rd weekend in February)
4. Memorial Day weekend (last Monday in May)

5. Independence Day weekend when July 4th falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday.
6. Labor Day weekend (1st Monday of September)
7. Veterans Day (November 11th) or when Veterans Day falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday
8. Thanksgiving weekend (4th Thursday & Friday in November)
9. Christmas holiday, December 24 (half day), and full day on December 25, or when Christmas Day falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

The on-call and stand-by employees must be available at all times while serving this duty. This means the employee must:

1. Remain within 30 miles of the District office
2. Remain within range of the cell phone signal
3. On-call employee responds to calls from the answering service or automated alarm system within 15 minutes of receiving the call
4. Stand-by ~~employee respond~~employees respond to calls from on-call employee within 15 minutes of receiving call.

~~Construction-Utilities~~ and ~~Maintenance~~ on-call and stand-by duty is required of all ~~Construction/Maintenance~~Utilities personnel except the ~~Superintendent~~Director of Utilities. Any other regular, full-time employee of the District that resides within 30 miles of the District, and is Distribution/Treatment Operator certified, trained, and capable of performing the required duties, is eligible to voluntarily serve on-call and stand-by duty, subject to the approval of his/her Department Head and the ~~Construction/Maintenance Superintendent~~Director of Utilities. The weekly on-call assignment (3:30PM Tuesday to 7:00AM the following Tuesday) is rotated among the approved on-call duty employees in accordance with a schedule approved by the ~~Construction/Maintenance Superintendent~~Director of Utilities. Substitutions for the ~~Construction Utilities and Maintenance~~ on-call duty may be made between on-call personnel with other employees on the schedule with the prior consent of the ~~Construction/Maintenance Superintendent~~Director of Utilities or a ~~Construction-Utilities~~ Department Foreman. The employee on the schedule shall be responsible ~~to notify~~for notifying the front reception desk and the answering service of the substitution. Substitutions should be made only when absolutely necessary.

Operations/Electrical Mechanical (Ops/EM) on-call and stand-by duty is required of the Distribution Collection System Operator, the Water Distribution & Treatment Plant Operators, and the Electrical Mechanical section personnel and will be rotated in accordance with a

schedule approved by the ~~Operations/Maintenance—Superintendent~~Director of Utilities Operations. Substitutions for the Ops/EM on-call duty may be made between on-call personnel with other employees on the schedule with the prior consent of the Distribution/Treatment Plant Supervisor. The employee on the schedule shall be responsible ~~to~~ notify for notifying the front reception desk, Lab, Distribution/Treatment Plant on-call personnel and the ~~Construction-Utilities~~ and Maintenance on-call personnel. The personnel in this program may utilize a District supplied laptop computer to remotely access the Operations SCADA.

Lab on-call and stand-by duty is required of the Lab personnel and will be rotated in accordance with a schedule approved by the ~~Water Quality Laboratory~~ Supervisor. Substitutions for the Lab on-call and stand-by duty may be made between Lab personnel with other employees on the schedule with the prior consent of the ~~Water Quality Laboratory~~ Supervisor. The employee on the schedule shall be responsible for notifying the front reception desk, Distribution/Treatment Plant, Ops/EM, ~~Construction Utilities~~, and Maintenance on-call personnel.

~~Consumer—Customer~~ Services on-call duty is required of the Field Service Representatives (FSR) on those nights (typically Wednesday) when water service has been discontinued for non-payment. The on-call duty will be rotated in accordance with a schedule approved by the ~~Consumer—Customer~~ Services Supervisor. Substitutions for the on-call duty may be made between the FSRs with the prior consent of the ~~Consumer—Customer~~ Services Supervisor.

Compensation

On-call and stand-by employees are paid on a daily or weekly basis for serving on-call or stand-by duty. The compensation rates are on file with the Director of Administrative Services (Auditor-Controller) and adjustments to these rates will be consistent with any adjustments to the District Salary Schedule.

With the prior approval of the Director of Utilities or Operations/Maintenance SuperintendentDirector of Operations, the Utilities and Ops/EM employees may take 3 hours of compensating time off in lieu of each day of weekend or holiday on-call duty served.

The on-call or stand-by duty compensation is payment for all on-call or stand-by duty service except for time when the employee must respond in the field. If the assigned on-call or stand-by duty service employee must respond in the field or is called to work, overtime shall be paid in accordance with the District's overtime policy.

Lab and ~~Consumer—Customer~~ Services on-call duty is scheduled overtime which regularly occurs. Lab and ~~Consumer—Customer~~ Services on-call duty may be cancelled at any time (when no scheduled work is required) by the respective supervisor—(~~Water~~

Quality Laboratory or Consumer Customer Services) resulting in no on-call compensation for the cancelled on-call duty.

Revised: 05/13, 09/15, 10/24, 08/26

7

FOR ACCESSIBLE
MEETING INFORMATION
CALL: (707) 543-3901
ADD: (707) 543-3031



**WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MONDAY: AUGUST 3, 2026

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. WAC Proclamation – Grant Davis
4. Recap from the May 4, 2026 WAC/TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes
5. Recap from the July 6, 2026 TAC Meeting and Approval of Minutes **(TAC)**
6. Water Supply Coordination Council – July 21, 2026
7. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
8. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership **(TAC)**
 - a. 2026 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
 - b. Water Use Efficiency Outreach Messaging
9. Biological Opinion Status Update
10. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update
11. Business Services and External Affairs Division Update
12. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan(s) Update
13. Items for Next Agenda (next combined WAC/TAC meeting is November 2, 2026)
14. Check Out

8

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 23, 2026

Date Prepared 7/20/26

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:

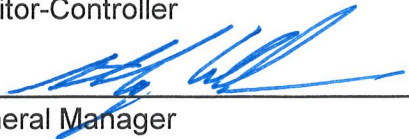
Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
91069*	US Bank Card	Microsoft 365 Subscriptions (\$656), Fastrak Replenish, Wine Country Waterworks Conf Reg (6 Employees) (\$705), Fire Nozzle, Internet PRTP & Gallagher Well #2 (\$325), Zoom Subscription, Starlink Internet (\$385), STP VOIP Alarm System Fee, AWWA Reference Books (\$214), Encroachment Permits (\$479), Adobe License, Food for Employee Events (\$558) & Assoc of Dam Safety Memb (\$60)	3,831.89
91070*	Amazon	Kitchen & Office Supplies (\$617), Computer Supplies (\$277), Service Awards (2) (\$154), Trailer Hitch (\$381), Water Transfer Pump, Boat Propeller, Connector Kit (\$231) & Coaxial Cable	1,948.76
EFT*	US Bank	June Bank Analysis Charge (Lockbox \$1,719, Other \$511 Less Interest \$110)	\$2,120.03
1	Alameda Electrical Distributors	Elbows (24) (Dam Piezometer Automation)	\$89.53
2	All Star Rents	Skidsteer Trencher Rental (6/25/26-7/1/26) (Dam Piezometer Automation) (\$1,301) & Propane (19 gal)	1,394.68
3	Bank of Marin	Bank of Marin (Pymt#177 of 240) Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project	46,066.67
4	Big Brand Tire and Service	Tires (4) ('22 Ford Ranger)	872.63
5	Blackpoint Management	Refund Overpayment on Closed Account	37.86
6	Reynold Brown	Novato Toilet Rebate Program	100.00
7	Calgon Carbon Corporation	Granular Activated Carbon (156,000 lbs) (STP)	315,642.85
8	California Water Service	July Water Service (O.M.)	40.93
9	Canyon Rock Co., Inc.	Sand (51 yds)	3,622.24
10	Teresa Capasso	Novato Water Smart Landscaping Efficiency Program Residential	132.00

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
11	CD & Power	Generator & Cable Rental (STP) (6/10/26-7/7/26)	8,224.07
12	Linda Christiansen	Novato Pool Cover Rebate Program	75.00
13	Cla-Val	Valve Repair Kits for Pressure Regulator Station (2)	498.18
14	Corda, Jeff	Exp Reimb: D5 Certification Renewal Fee	107.89
15	Edilsar Cordero	Refund for Paving Costs (2242 Vineyard Road)	1,429.33
16	Cummings Trucking	Rock (68 yds) & Sand (51 yds) Deliveries	2,170.00
17	Diesel Direct West	Diesel (210 gal) & Gasoline (970 gal)	6,471.15
18	Mary Ann Dowden	Novato Toilet Rebate Program	200.00
19	Environova LLC	Refund for Paving Costs (5 Lambert Way)	805.71
20	Fisher Scientific	Electrode Storage Solution & Safety Gloves (200) (\$156) (Lab)	266.39
21	Grainger	Quick Connect Filter (\$131) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	371.05
22	Hoffman Construction, Inc.	Refund for Paving (2052 Hatch Road)	820.21
23	Holland, Sophia	Refund for Paving Costs (657 Trumbull)	530.78
24	Kiosk Creative LLC	June Marketing Communication & Outreach Services (Balance Remaining on Contract \$98,319)	15,814.65
25	Diana Luhmann	Novato Water Smart Landscaping Efficiency Rebate	198.00
26	Marin Independent Journal	Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Urban Water Management Plan & Water Shortage Contingency Plan (6/2/26 & 6/9/26)	166.60
27	McLellan Co, WK	Miscellaneous Paving	11,170.76
28	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Rope Clamps (18) (\$144) & Shackles (6)	250.11
29	Motion & Flow	Modifications to Hydraulic Cylinder (STP Tower Hose Replacement)	2,173.13
30	Novato Sanitary District	April 2026 RW Operating Expenses	10,001.79

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
31	Novato Chamber of Commerce	Leadership Class (Kennedy)	1,200.00
32	Pace Supply	Gaskets (39) (\$101), Leak Clamps (2), Nipples (41) (\$1,163), Couplings (7) (\$768), Unions (3), Valves (12) (\$8,595) & Hydrant Extension (\$170)	10,935.89
33	Paso Robles Tank, Inc.	Roof Vent Repair (Dickson Tank)	22,688.00
34	PG&E	Power: Bldgs/Yard (\$9,807), Other (\$478), Pumping (\$76,798), Rect/Cont (\$902) & TP (\$339)	88,324.43
35	Pini Hardware	Plumbing (\$325) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	561.56
36	Pollard Water	Electronic Fuel Pump (O.M.)	151.61
37	Red Wing Business Advantage	Safety Boots (Kurfirfirst)	277.18
38	Lindsey & Ronald Rosser	Refund Over Payment on Closed Account	42.99
39	Service Station Systems	Air Quality Testing & Repair on 2 Fuel Tanks	4,069.01
40	Soiland Co., Inc.	Rock (34 yds) (\$1,141) & Asphalt Recycling (4 yds) (\$123)	1,264.38
41	Sonoma County Water Agency	June Contract Water	1,176,693.03
42	Sound Vision	Projector Diagnosis & Repair Service Call	299.75
43	Spex CertiPrep LLC	Standards (4) (Lab)	297.16
44	Thomas Scientific	Magnesium Chloride (Lab)	39.97
45	Total Industries	Repair Parts ('99 Forklift)	1,154.45
46	Underground Republic Water Works, Inc.	Valve Setters (7) (\$9,368), Spools (11) (\$6,591), Pipe Stand (\$202), Polyguard Tape (24) (\$1,521), Elbows (64) (\$597), Flanges (4) (\$511), Gaskets (80) (\$262), Nipples (40) (\$481) & Couplings (30) (\$970)	20,502.95
47	USA BlueBook	Turbidity Standard (STP)	392.72
48	Vanguard Cleaning Systems	Janitorial Supplies	656.16

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
49	VertexOne Software LLC	June Service Fee	101.00
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$1,767,297.11</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$1,767,297.11 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

	07/21/26
Auditor-Controller	Date
	07/21/2026
General Manager	Date

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED JULY 30, 2026

Date Prepared 7/27/26

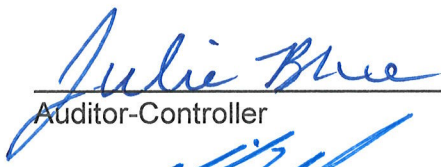
The following demands made against the District are listed for approval and authorization for payment in accordance with Section 31302 of the California Water Code, being a part of the California Water District Law:

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
P/R*	Employees	Net Payroll PPE 7/15/26	\$220,206.22
91073*	Internal Revenue Service	Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 7/15/26	102,576.89
91074*	State of California	State Taxes & SDI PPE 7/15/26	24,982.81
91075*	CalPERS	Pension Contribution PPE 7/15/26	63,748.33
91071*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation-457 PPE 7/15/26	18,895.24
91072*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation 7/15/26-401A Match	3,251.05
91076	State Water Resources Control Board	State Revolving Fund Loan Payment Recycled Water - South Phase 2 (Pymt#13 of 20)	100,232.68
91077*	CalPERS	Annual Unfunded Liability FY 26/27	1,812,994.00
1	ADTS, Inc.	Random Testing (1 Employees)	69.50
2	Joy Ambra	Refund Over Payment On Closed Account	70.57
3	American Family Life Ins	AFLAC July Employee Paid Benefit	4,374.35
4	Brayton Purcell, LLP	Workers Compensation Claim Settlement	883.43
5	Calcon Systems	Service & Parts on PLC's (2) @ STP (Final Payment)	93,005.50
6	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Lab Testing (O.M.)	125.30
7	CD & Power	Pick Up & Disconnection Fees for Generator Rental @ STP	2,077.80
8	Core Utilities, Inc	June IT Support (\$6,000), Billing Support (\$750) & SCADA & PLC Support (\$1,600)	8,350.00
9	East Bay Blue Print	Annual Maintenance on Engineering Plotter (7/1/26-6/30/27)	1,033.50
10	Nancy Foster	Refund Over Payment On Closed Account	666.78

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
11	GHD Inc.	Prog Pymt#34:GIS Conversion to ESRI & Mapping Support (Balance Remaining on Contract \$1,280)	1,302.51
12	Grainger	Forklift Hitch Attachment (\$473), Gauge Guards (2) (\$430), Batteries (300) (\$223), Level Sensor (\$1,249) (Gallagher Well #2), Pipe Straights (4) (\$313) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	4,162.26
13	Blake Hall	Exp Reimb: Professional Engineering Civil Exam & Study Course	1,350.00
14	Idexx Distribution, Inc.	Colilert Media (400) (\$2,811), Quanti-Tray (200) (\$917) & Vessels (400) (\$433) (Lab)	4,161.20
15	InfoSend, Inc.	6/30-7/9 Processing Fees and Postage for Water Bills & Postage	1,846.17
16	Michael Jung	Novato Washer Rebate Program	75.00
17	Lincoln Life Employer Serv	Deferred Compensation PPE 7/15/26	6,735.30
18	Miller Pacific Engineering	Prog Pymt#29: Geotechnical Services Cherry Hill Retaining Wall Replacement (Balance Remaining on As Needed Contract \$20,511)	3,400.09
19	Mutual of Omaha	August 2026-Group Life/ADD & Vision Insurance Premiums	2,472.75
20	Nommsen, Jessica	Exp Reimb: AWWA Lab Analyst II Renewal	110.00
21	North Bay Children's Center	Release of Maintenance Guarantee	26,859.00
22	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	224.14
23	Pace Supply	Adaptors (2) (\$1,488), Ring Gaskets (10) (\$312), Meter Boxes (24) (\$1,361), Bushings (6), Caps (10), Couplings (63) (\$1,562), Nipples (8) (\$233), Pipe (300') (\$3,164), Angle Meter Stops (4) (\$433), Valves (3), Spools (4) (\$2,056), Elbows (8), Reducers (2) (\$396) & Unions (10) (\$428) (Less Credit of \$422 Received for Returned Adaptor)	11,223.98
24	Prismic Photography	Drone Photography Services @ STP	450.00
25	Sage Software Inc	Fixed Assets Module Annual Subscription (7/26-7/27)	1,611.00

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
26	Scott Technology Group	July Maintenance on Admin (\$182), Engineering (\$299) Copiers & Overage Charge (\$310)	791.26
27	Spex CertiPrep LLC	QC Sample (Lab)	252.16
28	SPG Solar Facility XII, LLC	June Energy Delivered Under Solar Services Agreement	16,343.25
29	Univar	Sodium Hypochlorite (300 gal) (STP)	987.00
30	US Geological Survey (USGS)	FY27 Gallagher Stream Gauge Maintenance (10/1/26-9/30/27)	9,740.00
31	Waste Management	Waste Disposal	406.12
32	Sean Wehrman	Novato Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Program	200.00
33	Wood Rodgers, Inc.	Prog Pymt#3: Engineering & Hydrogeological Services-Gallagher Well #3 (Balance Remaining on Contract \$4,948)	2,740.00
34	ZORO	Clay Diggers for Crew Trucks (2) (\$4,005), Plastic Wrap, Battery Backup Systems (2) (\$211), Safety Supplies (\$366) & Tubing Cutter	4,649.49
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			<u>\$2,559,636.63</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$2,559,636.63 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

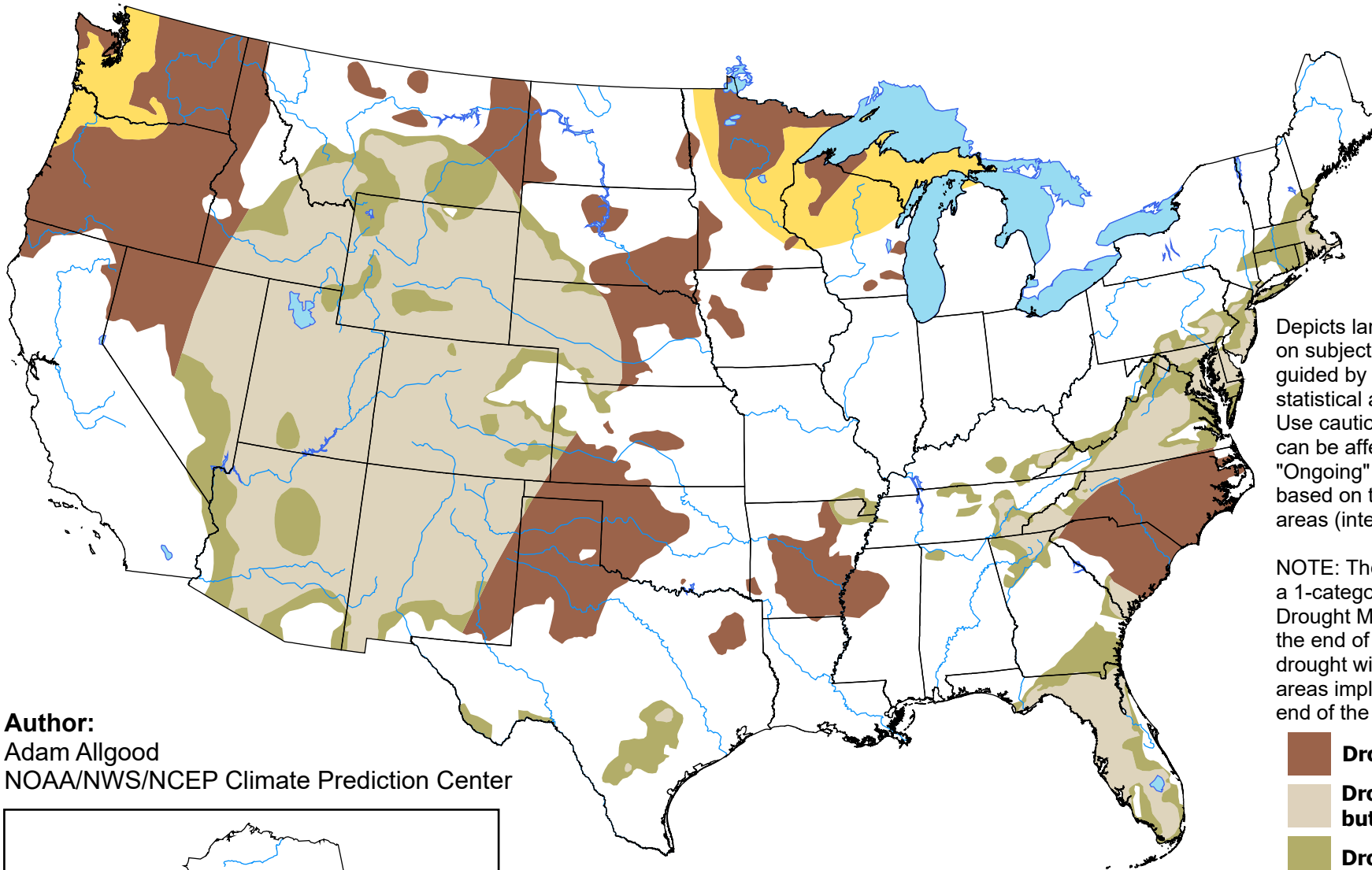
	<u>07/29/26</u>
Auditor-Controller	Date
	<u>7/29/2026</u>
General Manager	Date

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 16 - October 31, 2026

Released July 16, 2026

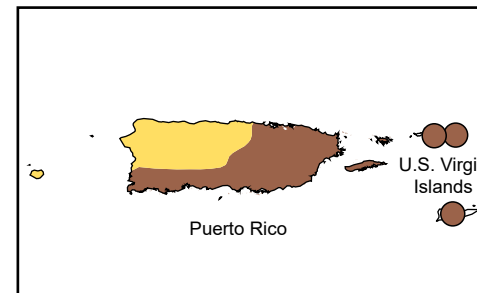
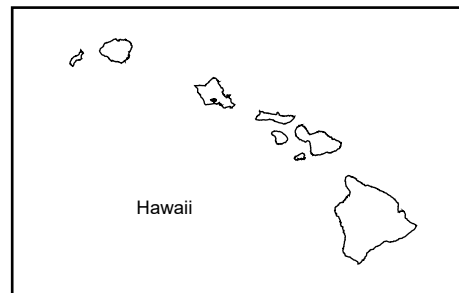
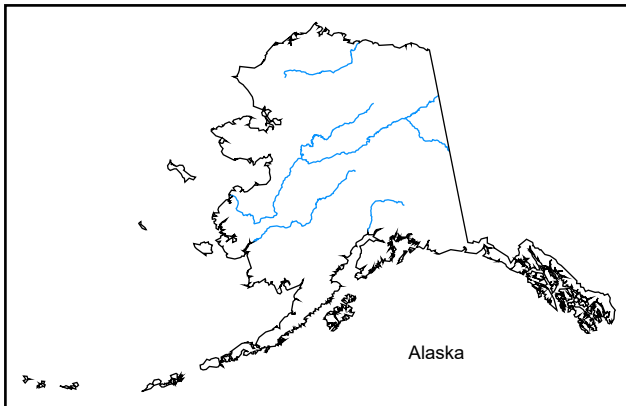


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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



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



VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

July 22, 2026

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Scoping Comments for the Potter Valley Project Surrender and
Decommissioning, FERC Project No. 77-332**

Dear Secretary Reese:

This comment letter is submitted by the Water Advisory Committee (“WAC”), comprised of a member of each of the respective legislative bodies of the eight Water Agency Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District which purchase water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) in accordance with various existing contractual agreements. The eight Water Agency Contractors include the Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Town of Windsor, and the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts; a Director of Marin Municipal Water District is an “*ex officio*” WAC member. For ease of reference, the eight Water Agency Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District are collectively referred to here as the “water contractors.”

The WAC submits these scoping comments regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed surrender and decommissioning of the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (Project No. P-77-332) (P-77-332 Scoping Notice). As the water purveyors servicing approximately 600,000 people in Sonoma and Marin counties, the water contractors are directly affected by the proposed decommissioning of Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam, and the subsequent construction and operation of the New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF). Sonoma Water’s water supply originates from the Russian River, which has relied on Eel River water imports for over a century. This water supply supports domestic, municipal, agricultural, recreational, environmental and industrial uses as well as fire suppression in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties.

The WAC acknowledges the importance of the Non-Project Use of Project Lands component of Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s application and the specific inclusion of the

proposed NERF construction as part of the decommissioning actions. The WAC supports the prior and ongoing collaboration between Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) and the Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) to ensure a successful decommissioning is coordinated with construction of the NERF, including the re-purposing of existing Project components and assets for NERF operation, after PG&E's application for license surrender was received by FERC.

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The WAC has no comments on the description of the actions proposed by PG&E (as the applicant) as part of their license surrender and decommissioning, including the non-project use of lands for the construction of the NERF. PG&E has requested surrender of their license to operate the project, and no other entity has successfully submitted to FERC a licensing interest proposal to assume the long-term operation of the existing facilities. The WAC supports PG&E's proposal to develop management plans in consultation with resource agencies, tribes, and other interested parties, and file the plans by July 2027.

The WAC has issued formal statements recognizing the continued diversion of water via the proposed NERF into the Russian River watershed supports overall water supply reliability, fisheries, and operations of Lake Mendocino, as well as, particularly during dry periods, potentially providing water volume to supplement releases from Lake Sonoma thereby preserving storage and our contracted supplies.

2. The EIS Must Evaluate the "Whole of the Action" and the Entire Affected Watershed

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is legally obligated to ensure the EIS does not adopt a narrow focus limited to the physical removal of dam structures. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal agencies must take a "hard look" at the environmental consequences of major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment (*Oregon Natural Resources Council v. Marsh* (1995) 52 F.3d 1485). For this project, the "whole of the action" encompasses both the decommissioning of Project facilities and the construction and operation of the NERF, as these are "connected actions" that must be analyzed together in a single EIS (40 C.F.R. § 1508.25).

Furthermore, the geographic scope of the EIS must extend throughout the entire Eel and Russian River watersheds. Any reduction in historical diversions—which have already dropped from a historical average of 160,000 acre-feet annually (AFA) to just 39,000 AFA in recent years—has a proportionately large adverse impact on downstream beneficial users like the water contractors. The EIS must mirror the geographic scope of related federal biological opinions, which include the entire Russian River Basin and the ocean species that rely on these resources.

3. Mandatory Resource Areas for Detailed Downstream Study

To ensure a technically sufficient decision document, the WAC identifies the following resource areas as critical for the project scope:

- A. **Water Use and Hydrology:** The EIS must quantify how the surrender and the new winter-only diversion rules for the NERF will affect municipal water reliability. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the cumulative impacts analysis must evaluate Project impacts on:
1. Aquifer Storage and Recharge: Specifically, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects and Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) projects currently planned or in use by the water contractors and Sonoma Water.
 2. Water Reuse Initiatives: This includes both recycled water projects and potable reuse projects designed to diversify the regional water portfolio.
 3. Conservation Efforts: Current and future water conservation projects intended to reduce demand in the face of dwindling imports.
 4. Reservoir Operations: The EIS should assess cumulative impacts on the operation of Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, including the use of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) to manage flood control and water supply and the feasibility of raising Coyote Valley Dam at Lake Mendocino.
 5. Re-diversion Impacts: Analysis must include potential redirected impacts on other supplies from Lake Sonoma to mitigate the loss of Eel River water formerly stored in Lake Mendocino.
- B. **Water Quality and Sediment Transport:** The decommissioning of Scott Dam will directly cause the release of approximately 12 million cubic yards of legacy sediment and the permanent alteration of flow regimes that support the water contractors' water

supply. Impacts associated with these direct effects, including downstream effects within the entire watershed must be evaluated. The impact analysis must contemplate sediment releases over the proposed operating term of the NERF, and sediment impacts on NERF facilities.

1. Downstream Water Treatment Facilities. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Commission must analyze how the massive release of sediment will affect the operational capacity of downstream water treatment plants.

C. Cost Responsibility, Economic Sustainability, and Long-Term Socioeconomic

Impacts: The review should assess the socioeconomic consequences for downstream communities whose economic way of life relies on the Russian River watershed.

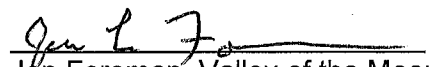
1. Cost and Cost Responsibility for NERF Construction and Implementation and Associated Impacts. The EIS must evaluate the costs of the project in a manner that is cognizable under NEPA. Economic impacts fall within the mandatory scope of review when they are "interrelated with environmental impacts" or form the "basis for comparing alternatives." (*Seattle Audubon Soc. v. Lyons* (1994) 871 F. Supp. 1291, 132.) Here, project cost and implementation and associated impacts must be evaluated in the EIS. The EIS should provide a detailed evaluation of total project costs, as cost constraints directly drive the selection of alternatives and the scope of feasible mitigation measures (*NRDC v. U.S. Forest Serv.* (2005) 421 F.3d 797.)
2. PG&E's Cost Responsibility for NERF Mitigation: Because the NERF is the primary mechanism proposed to mitigate the significant environmental impact of losing Eel River water imports, the EIS must analyze PG&E's specific cost responsibility for its implementation over the 30- to 50-year implementation horizon. NEPA requires that mitigation measures be "technically and economically feasible." Using "misleading economic assumptions" or failing to disclose the true long-term financial burden of this connected action would "skew the public's evaluation" of the project and thwart NEPA's informational goals (*Nat. Res. Def. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv.* (2005) 421 F.3d 797.)

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
July 22, 2026
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Conclusion

In closing, we would like to express our ongoing appreciation to the Commission for the opportunities that we have been offered to date to provide input in this process and request that the Commission formally include these Russian River watershed-wide impacts and required cost analyses in the project scope to fulfill its federal mandates.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon L. Foreman", is written over a horizontal line.

Jon Foreman, Valley of the Moon Water District Board Member; and
Chair of the Water Advisory Committee



◇ ANDREW J. McCLURE ◇
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July 23, 2026

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Scoping Comments for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project Surrender and
Decommissioning, Project No. P-77-332

North Marin Water District ("North Marin") submits these scoping comments regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed surrender and decommissioning of the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (Project No. P-77-332) (P-77-332 Scoping Notice). North Marin is a Special District and retail water provider directly affected by the proposed decommissioning of Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam, and the subsequent construction and operation of the New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF).

North Marin acknowledges the importance of the Non-Project Use of Project Lands component of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's application and the specific inclusion of the proposed NERF construction as part of the decommissioning actions. North Marin supports the prior and ongoing collaboration between Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) and the Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) to ensure a successful decommissioning is coordinated with construction of the NERF, including the re-purposing of existing Project components and assets for NERF operation, has been effective after PG&E's application for license surrender was received by FERC.

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives to the Proposed Action

North Marin has no comments on the description of the actions proposed by PG&E (as the applicant) as part of their license surrender and decommissioning, including the non-project use of lands for the construction of the NERF. PG&E has requested surrender of their license to operate the project, and no other entity has successfully submitted to FERC a licensing interest proposal to assume the long-term operation of the existing facilities. North Marin supports PG&E's proposal to develop management plans in consultation with resource agencies, tribes, and other interested parties, and file the plans by July 2027.

2. The EIS Must Evaluate the "Whole of the Action" and the Entire Affected Watershed

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is legally obligated to ensure the EIS does not adopt a narrow focus limited to the physical removal of dam structures. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal agencies must take a "hard look" at the environmental consequences of major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment (*Oregon Natural Resources Council v. Marsh* (1995) 52 F.3d 1485). For this project, the "whole of the action" encompasses both the decommissioning of Project facilities and the construction and operation of the NERF, as these are "connected actions" that must be analyzed together in a single EIS (40 C.F.R. § 1508.25).

Furthermore, the geographic scope of the EIS must extend throughout the entire Eel and Russian River watersheds. Any reduction in historical diversions—which have already dropped from a historical average of 160,000 acre-feet annually (AFA) to just 39,000 AFA in recent years—has a proportionately large adverse impact on downstream beneficial users like North Marin. The EIS must mirror the geographic scope of related federal biological opinions, which include the entire Russian River Basin and the ocean species that rely on these resources.

3. Mandatory Resource Areas for Detailed Downstream Study

To ensure a technically sufficient decision document, North Marin identifies the following resource areas as critical for the project scope:

A. Water Use and Hydrology: The EIS must quantify how the surrender and the new winter-only diversion rules for the NERF will affect municipal water reliability. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the cumulative impacts analysis must evaluate Project impacts on:

1. Aquifer Storage and Recharge: Specifically, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects and Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) projects currently planned or in use by the downstream water user community.
2. Water Reuse Initiatives: This includes both recycled water projects and potable reuse projects designed to diversify the regional water portfolio.
3. Conservation Efforts: Current and future water conservation projects intended to reduce demand in the face of dwindling imports.

4. Reservoir Operations: The EIS should assess cumulative impacts on the operation of Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, including the use of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) to manage flood control and water supply.

5. Rediversion Impacts: Analysis must include potential redirected impacts on other supplies from Lake Sonoma to mitigate the loss of Eel River water formerly stored in Lake Mendocino

B. Water Quality and Sediment Transport: The decommissioning of Scott Dam will proximately cause the release of approximately 12 million cubic yards of legacy sediment and the permanent alteration of flow regimes that support North Marin's water supply. Impacts associated with these direct effects, including downstream effects within the entire watershed must be evaluated. The impact analysis must contemplate sediment releases over the proposed operating term of the NERF, and sediment impacts on NERF facilities.

1. Downstream Water Treatment Facilities. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Commission must analyze how the massive release of sediment will affect the operational capacity of downstream water treatment plants.

C. Cost Responsibility, Economic Sustainability, and Long-Term Socioeconomic Impacts: The review should assess the socioeconomic consequences for downstream communities whose economic way of life relies on the Russian River watershed.

1. Cost and Cost Responsibility for NERF Construction and Implementation and Associated Impacts. The EIS must evaluate the costs of the project in a manner that is cognizable under NEPA. Economic impacts fall within the mandatory scope of review when they form the basis of choosing among alternatives, and such analysis cannot be misleading, biased, or incomplete. (*Seattle Audubon Soc. v. Lyons* (1994) 871 F. Supp. 1291, 132.) Here, project cost and implementation and associated impacts must be evaluated in the EIS. The EIS should provide a detailed evaluation of total project costs, as cost constraints directly drive the selection of alternatives and the scope of feasible mitigation measures (*NRDC v. U.S. Forest Serv.* (2005) 421 F.3d 797)

2. PG&E's Cost Responsibility for NERF Mitigation: Because the NERF is the primary mechanism proposed to mitigate the significant environmental impact of losing Eel River water imports, the EIS must analyze PG&E's specific cost responsibility for its implementation over the 30- to 50-year implementation horizon. NEPA requires that mitigation measures be "technically and economically feasible." Using "misleading economic assumptions" or failing to disclose the true long-term financial burden of this connected action would "skew the public's evaluation" of the project and thwart NEPA's informational goals. (*Nat. Res. Def. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv.* (2005) 421 F.3d 797.)

Conclusion

North Marin requests that the Commission formally include these Russian River watershed-wide impacts and required cost analyses in the project scope to fulfill its federal mandates.

Respectfully Submitted,

MINASIAN LAW

By: /s/ Andrew McClure
ANDREW J. McCLURE, On Behalf of North
Marin Water District.

AJM/jg

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Northern California Assn. of River Guides Attn: Craig Bell, Executive Director P.O. Box 111 Sutter, CA 95982	United Winegrowers of Sonoma County Attn: Bob Anderson, Executive Director 731 S Fitch Mountain Rd Healdsburg, CA 95448-4600
County of Lake Attn: Cameron L. Reeves 255 N Forbes St Lakeport, CA 95453-4759	Round Valley Tribe Attn: Norman Whipple, President 77826 Covelo Rd Covelo, CA 95428-9552
County of Mendocino Attn: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 501 Low Gap Rd Ukiah, CA 95482-3738	

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Marin Conservation League by Kate Powers, Marin Conservation League's Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee Co-chair.

Marin Conservation League (MCL) is a nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance natural assets in a changing climate. Our focus area is within Marin County; however, we track regional planning and broader issues that provide context to Marin's issues and/or that align with our purpose.

MCL has tracked the challenges and opportunities in the Eel River watershed for over a decade, particularly as they relate to fish habitat, the Potter Valley hydroelectric facility, and the aging, seismically challenged Scott and Cape Horn dams.

Both of Marin County's water agencies, Marin Water and North Marin Water District, are contractors of Sonoma Water's water supply from the Russian River watershed. Sonoma Water's supply is augmented by the water that enters the Russian River through the diversion of the Eel River at the Potter Valley facility. In addition, Marin homes and businesses receive power from PG&E and we recognize that the hydroelectric plant at Potter Valley is no longer economically viable to operate, costing PG&E and its ratepayers millions of dollars per year.

MCL supports PG&E's proposed action

We support PG&E's proposed actions to decommission and remove the two dams and associated facilities and features, except for the planned New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF) that will be operated by the Eel-Russian Project Authority (ERPA). **We support the dams' removal to advance as soon as possible to restore the health of the Eel River.**

We also support PG&E's commitment to restore the remnant inundation zones including adjacent riparian, wetland, and upland areas affected by the decommissioning.

We support the construction of the NERF by ERPA while PG&E's existing license remains in effect with the understanding that future operation and maintenance of the NERF facility by ERPA will require separate environmental review and permits to be completed by ERPA.

MCL requests analysis of one of the additional "Alternatives to Proposed Action" and also FERC's dismissal of any late inquiries into taking over the lands and facilities on the Eel.

MCL joins several other environmental organizations in urging that FERC's NEPA analysis include both PG&E's proposed Action, including the Non-Project use of Project Lands to construct the NERF as well as one "without the NERF" diversion (3.4.3 Alternative). It is critical that dam removal is not contingent on the NERF diversion facility being built. Impacts from the surrender and decommissioning with the NERF

diversion and impacts of the surrender “without NERF” diversion should be **analyzed separately and compared.**

To be clear, MCL supports the proposed NERF diversion and the Two Basin solution. The solution is a balanced approach that continues to meet water supply needs for the Russian River basin. However, NEPA should analyze an alternative in which dam removal proceeds even if the NERF encounters obstacles or delays.

But for the above comments on the NERF, we agree with the Commission’s dismissal of the alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study. **MCL urges FERC to move forward and dismiss late proposals that would substantially disrupt years of collaborative planning or delay completion of the NEPA process.** Such proposals would blindside current stakeholder cooperation and could jeopardize local control over water rights and water supply. Delay in the License Surrender process will likely create significant costs and uncertainty for regional stakeholders. FERC should consider those impacts as it works through the NEPA and License Surrender process.

Scope of Resource Issues, Minimization and Mitigation

MCL appreciates the Scoping Document’s lists of cumulative effects and resource issues that could have substantial effects. **We expect FERC’s NEPA process to fully analyze impacts to the natural environment, and to prioritize minimizing and mitigating impacts to the greatest extent possible.**

We recognize the enormity of the construction project but at the same time we are encouraged by the environmental effort and successes of other recent dam removal projects in the West, such as those on the Elwha and Klamath Rivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the FERC Scoping Document for the proposed Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project surrender and decommissioning.

Given the deteriorating condition of the aging facilities, timely completion of the NEPA process and implementation of the selected action is in the public interest. We hope that the NEPA process will proceed expeditiously.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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July 22, 2026

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington DC 20426

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SURRENDER, DECOMMISSIONING, AND NON-PROJECT USE OF PROJECT LANDS COMMENT LETTER
PROJECT: P-77-332

Dear Ms. Reese:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD), we thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments related to the subject project. We look forward that FERC will be taking these and other comments to develop a comprehensive NEPA record that fully evaluates water supply reliability, cumulative impacts, alternatives, mitigation measures, and public-interest consequences before considering surrender. Our questions and comments are provided to expand the scope of FERC's analysis and require it and PG&E to evaluate impacts that might otherwise receive limited attention.

Further, we have developed several general questions as well as questions specific to seismic issues, and others, below. We believe that a comprehensive review from all aspects, not just seismic, is important to an open and transparent process and that FERC rigorously evaluates whether the risk can be managed through less drastic dam removal alternatives that preserve the project's public health and water-supply benefits, and the type of issue that should be developed in the NEPA scoping record.

Water Supply Reliability and Public Interest

To meet the public interest requirement of Part 1 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), there must be assurances that constituents who depend on the water supply facilitated by the Potter Valley Project No. 77-332 will not be diminished by FERC decommissioning the Project.

- How will FERC evaluate the long-term impacts of surrender on water supply reliability for Russian River watershed users, including municipal water agencies, agricultural users, and downstream communities?
- What analysis will be conducted regarding the loss of storage currently provided by Lake Pillsbury and its role during drought conditions and for firefighting?

- Will FERC evaluate whether the proposed NERF facility can provide equivalent water supply reliability compared to the existing project, without a gap in the timing of that supply?
- What assumptions is PG&E using regarding future hydrologic conditions, drought frequency, and climate change, and will those assumptions be independently verified?
- How will FERC evaluate the public-interest consequences if the NERF is delayed, underperforms, or is never completed?
- Will FERC analyze alternatives that preserve water diversion capabilities while maintaining some or all existing project infrastructure?

Alternatives Analysis

- What range of alternatives will be evaluated beyond PG&E's proposed complete surrender and decommissioning?
- Will FERC evaluate alternatives involving the transfer of the project to another operator rather than surrender?
- Will FERC evaluate alternatives involving the continued operation of Scott Dam with modifications for fish passage?
- Will FERC consider phased decommissioning alternatives that preserve water storage until replacement infrastructure demonstrates successful operation?
- Will FERC evaluate alternatives that maintain Lake Pillsbury while implementing fisheries improvements?
- What criteria will FERC use to determine whether alternatives are reasonable and feasible?

Climate Change and Drought Resiliency

- How will the NEPA analysis account for increasing drought frequency and hydrologic variability in California?
- Will FERC evaluate the loss of drought resilience associated with removing one of the largest reservoirs in the watershed?
- How will future climate projections affect estimates of water availability under surrender and decommissioning scenarios?
- Will FERC analyze the cumulative effects of surrender together with other water supply constraints occurring throughout California, especially in light of the Governor's Water Plan to create 9 million acre-feet of new supply/storage?

Cumulative Impact Analysis

- What other federal, state, tribal, and local projects will be included in the cumulative impacts analysis?
- Will FERC evaluate cumulative impacts associated with population growth, agricultural demand, wildfire risk, climate change, and regional water supply planning?
- How will cumulative impacts be analyzed if multiple restoration projects are occurring simultaneously within the Eel and Russian River watersheds?

Hydrology and Water Quality

- What studies will be conducted to evaluate changes in seasonal flows into the Russian River basin?
- How will FERC evaluate changes in groundwater recharge resulting from the removal of Lake Pillsbury?
- What modeling will be performed to evaluate sediment transport following dam removal?
- How will water quality impacts be assessed during dam removal and reservoir drawdown?
- Will the NEPA analysis evaluate impacts to downstream drinking water supplies during and after decommissioning?

Sediment and Reservoir Management

- What volume of sediment is anticipated to be mobilized following Scott Dam removal?
- How will sediment transport affect downstream reservoirs, water diversions, fisheries, and municipal infrastructure?
- What contingencies exist if sediment transport exceeds projections?
- Will FERC require independent peer review of sediment transport studies?

Fisheries and Ecosystem Tradeoffs

- How will FERC evaluate the tradeoffs between fisheries restoration benefits and water supply impacts?
- Will FERC quantify both ecological benefits and socioeconomic costs associated with surrender?

- What evidence supports assumptions regarding fish population recovery following dam removal?
- Will the NEPA analysis evaluate uncertainty associated with projected fisheries benefits?
- Has there been any legal confirmation by the Department of Commerce, National Marine and Fisheries Service, that the Biological Opinion (BO), issued by that agency some years ago, is still legally sufficient for FERC to base a decision on a hydropower project decommissioning application?

Socioeconomic Impacts

- How will FERC assess impacts on local communities that rely upon Russian River water supplies?
- Will the analysis quantify economic impacts associated with reduced water reliability during drought years (and potentially multiple dry years)?
- How will agricultural, municipal, industrial, and recreational water users be affected?
- Will FERC evaluate potential increases in water rates resulting from replacement infrastructure or reduced water availability?

Project Timing and Risk

- What protections exist if Scott Dam is removed before replacement diversion facilities are fully operational?
- Will FERC require demonstration that NERF can achieve intended diversion objectives before surrender becomes effective?
- What performance standards will apply to the NERF?
- What happens if NERF experiences operational failures after project surrender?

Federal Jurisdiction and Future Oversight

- PG&E proposes removal of NERF facilities from FERC jurisdiction once constructed. What continuing federal oversight, if any, would remain?
- How will FERC ensure long-term operation and maintenance of NERF facilities after surrender?
- What enforcement mechanisms would exist if NERF fails to meet operational expectations?

Studies and Information Requests

- Will FERC require independent review of hydrologic, sediment, fisheries, and climate analyses submitted by PG&E?
- What additional studies does FERC believe may be necessary before preparation of the draft NEPA document?
- How will FERC address uncertainties in modeling assumptions where significant public water supply interests are involved?
- Will FERC prepare an Environmental Impact Statement rather than a more limited environmental document given the regional significance of the proposal?

Seismic Issues

FERC must fully evaluate the nature, magnitude, probability, and location of the alleged seismic risk, and compare that risk against reasonable alternatives short of complete surrender and removal.

EVMWD asks that FERC analyze:

- Whether the seismic risk is immediate or speculative.
- Whether the risk can be mitigated.
- Whether the risk justifies surrender versus continued operation with modifications.
- Whether dam removal creates its own environmental and public safety risks.
- Whether the seismic concern affects water supply reliability more than public safety.

A full comparison of alternatives should be undertaken versus treating dam removal as the only feasible response.

Nature of the Risk

- What specific seismic hazard has PG&E identified?
- Is the identified fault considered active under current California Geological Survey standards?
- What is the estimated annual probability of the seismic event upon which PG&E bases its risk assessment?
- Has the seismic study been independently peer reviewed?
- Will FERC make all underlying seismic data and modeling assumptions publicly available?
- What uncertainties were identified in the study?

Location of the Hazard

- Does the identified seismic feature pose a direct threat to the dam's structural integrity?
- Is the hazard located upstream of the dam, downstream of the dam, or beneath the dam foundation?
- If the seismic concern is primarily related to landslide-generated wave action within the reservoir, what is the estimated magnitude of such an event?
- What is the estimated probability of such a landslide occurring during the remaining useful life of the project?
- What preventative or engineering measures have been evaluated related to the potential landslide and minimization of this risk?

Alternatives to Dam Removal

In relation to the seismic:

- What alternatives to complete dam removal were evaluated in response to the seismic findings?
- Were structural reinforcement alternatives evaluated?
- Were reservoir operating restrictions evaluated?
- Were reservoir drawdown alternatives evaluated?
- Were buttressing or stabilization measures evaluated?
- Were partial storage alternatives evaluated?
- Were risk-reduction measures compared economically to decommissioning?
- Why was surrender selected over repair, modification, transfer, or continued operation?

Public Safety Questions

If the risk is not a traditional downstream failure scenario:

- What specific public safety consequence is dam removal seeking to avoid?
- Who would be at risk if the identified seismic event occurred?
- How many people would be affected?
- What infrastructure would be affected?
- Is the primary concern public safety, environmental damage, operational reliability, or financial exposure?

- Has PG&E quantified expected fatalities, injuries, or economic losses under its seismic scenarios?

Dam Removal Creates Risk Too

- What geologic risks are associated with dam removal itself?
- Could removal destabilize slopes around the existing reservoir?
- Will FERC evaluate the seismic vulnerability of newly exposed reservoir sediments?
- How will removal affect erosion and sediment transport during future seismic events?
- Could a major seismic event during decommissioning create greater environmental impacts than maintaining the dam?

Water Supply Reliability Questions Related to Seismic Issues

- Has PG&E evaluated the loss of drought storage resulting from the removal of Lake Pillsbury against the probability of the seismic event?
- How does PG&E compare the projected seismic risk with the regional water-supply benefits currently provided by the reservoir?
- Has any quantitative risk-benefit analysis been performed?
- Will FERC evaluate whether loss of reservoir storage increases public health and safety risks during drought emergencies or wildfires?
- How will FERC weigh seismic concerns against long-term water reliability impacts affecting millions of downstream water users?

NEPA Questions for FERC Related to Seismic Issues

- Will the NEPA document independently evaluate PG&E's seismic conclusions rather than simply accepting them?
- Will FERC retain independent dam-safety or geotechnical experts?
- Will alternative methods of managing seismic risk be evaluated?
- Will FERC compare the environmental impacts of dam removal against continued operation with seismic mitigation measures?
- Will cumulative impacts include loss of drought resilience and emergency water storage capacity?

EVMWD Closing Questions

If the seismic concern identified by PG&E is associated with a geologic feature located upstream of the dam and not a conventional downstream dam-failure risk, what alternatives

will FERC evaluate to determine whether that risk can be mitigated while preserving the significant water-supply, drought-resilience, and public-benefit functions currently provided by Lake Pillsbury?

Given the substantial role the Potter Valley Project has played in providing water supply reliability to the Russian River watershed for nearly a century, how will FERC ensure that the NEPA analysis fully evaluates whether surrender and dam removal can be accomplished without materially reducing long-term water supply reliability, drought resilience, and public welfare for downstream communities?

Will the federal government be willing to assess the benefits of the federal takeover of the dams? Given the extraordinary water supply problems in the West, should the federal government be investigating opportunities to use existing dams, rather than contemplate building new dams, as a cost-effective way to address the water supply problems in the West?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the scoping process and look forward to continued engagement as this process moves forward. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at gthomas@evmwd.net or (951) 674-3146, ext. 8251.

Sincerely,



Greg Thomas
General Manager

GT:cg

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project No. 77-332

NOTICE DENYING LATE INTERVENTION

(July 27, 2026)

On October 31, 2025, the Commission issued public notice of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's application for a surrender of license and non-project use of project lands for the Potter Valley Project No. 77-332, located on the Eel River and East Fork of the Russian River, near Lake and Mendocino counties, California. The notice established December 1, 2025, as the deadline to file motions to intervene.

On July 9, 2026, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (District) filed an untimely motion to intervene and comments. On July 17, 2026, the Round Valley Indian Tribes opposed the District's late motion to intervene.

Movants for late intervention are required to "show good cause why the time limitation should be waived."¹ Here, the District failed to demonstrate that good cause exists to grant its untimely motion to intervene because it did not provide any explanation for the untimeliness of its motion. Therefore, the District's late motion to intervene is denied.²

This notice constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing of this notice must be filed within 30 days of the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act³ and section 385.713 of the Commission's regulations.⁴

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.

¹ 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(b)(3) (2025).

² The Commission will consider the comments filed by the District on July 9, 2026.

³ 16 U.S.C. § 825l.

⁴ 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

Water boards have key races for seats around Marin

The city of Modesto's motto on an arch spanning its main street says it all, "Water, Wealth, Contentment, Health." Wherever humans dwell, clean water is the essential commodity.

In Marin, water that was once bountiful is now occasionally in short supply.

That's due to growth and climate change. More dry winters and hot summers create pressure on local governments responsible for delivering clean water for drinking, home use, business and fire flow.

Marin has three water districts. Marin Municipal Water and North Marin Water are large. Stinson Beach Water District, with about 2,000 customers, is small.

Each is governed by a five-member, nonpartisan board. At MMWD and NMWD, directors are elected by district. Filing for posts with terms expiring this year has already opened. The deadline is Aug. 7, except where an incumbent doesn't run for reelection. In those cases, the last day is Aug. 12.

MMWD, founded in 1921, now serves 194,000 residents, businesses and governments in southern and central Marin.

About 75% of its water comes from its pristine 18,000-acre Mount Tamalpais watershed. Stewarding that land requires MMWD to guard against the threat of wildland fire while maintaining one of Marin's most treasured recreational assets.

Since the 1980s, its service area has experienced on-and-off droughts. Those dry years were eyeopeners.

Even before the prospect of climate change was real, Marinites learned water rationing could be on the horizon.

After years of vacillating between the demands of environmental activists versus residents, the dithering has finally stopped. The former said that the lack of water should be addressed by decreasing demand and conservation. Residents demanded that adequate water be delivered at reasonable prices to homes and businesses.

MMWD's 2022 election was pivotal in resolving the dilemma. Three new pragmatic directors were elected. Working with General Manager Ben Horenstein, the path forward became clear. They adopted an "all of the above" plan that includes a strong conservation mandate with additional water coming from an enlarged pipeline from Sonoma's Russian River.

The recent IJ headline caught my attention: "MMWD seals agreement for pipeline project." Its Russian River atmospheric river capture program will bring winter water now flowing into the Pacific Ocean to Marin via a new pipeline.

The project's progress is dependent on an environmental review and public comment.

In contrast, North Marin Water, with about 61,000 customers in greater Novato and West Marin, is a "no drama" district. General Manager Tony Williams wisely said, "Our plan is to keep us focused on the fundamentals."

NMWD's primary water source, the Russian River, supplies 80% of its needs. The balance comes from Stafford Lake four miles west of downtown Novato. In West Marin, groundwater is a key source.

The agency is a leader in conservation including water recycling. Soon-to-retire NMWD Director Rick Fraites boasts they're saving over 100,000 gallons of water annually from the district's water-use efficiency programs.

November's election sees the terms of three MMWD directors expiring as well as two soon-to-conclude directors' terms at NMWD plus two at Stinson Beach Water.

MMWD Board President Jed Smith, Director Ranjiv Khush and Director Matt Samson are all seeing their four-year tenures ending. The latter two will run for reelection. Smith will honor a bold pledge made when he was a candidate: He'd serve only one four-year term saying, "If I can't do what I want to accomplish in four years, then I'll never be able to deliver."

At North Marin Water, the terms of Fraites and Director Ken Eichstaedt end. After 22 years of service, Fraites is retiring. Incumbent Eichstaedt will run. There'll be at least one open seat in November's balloting. Since no woman has served on NMWD's board for 25 years, this presents a splendid opportunity. At Stinson Beach Water, terms of incumbent directors Jim Zell and Larry Baskin conclude.

Once filing closes on Aug. 12, I plan to focus on candidates running for each district's board.

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

Plan helps prepare for water shortages

Document updated for ‘smart’ meter impact

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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The Marin Municipal Water District has adopted an urban water management plan that reflects an expected population growth of nearly 60,000 in its service area by 2050.

The district board adopted the plan on Tuesday. In June, it asked staff to update the document with projected water savings attributable to the planned installation of wireless meters, also known as “smart” meters.

Lucy Croy, water resources manager, clarified that the plan, which is a state requirement, is not used for the district’s rate setting, infrastructure planning or water supply planning.

“We do use it for our water shortage contingency planning, so thinking about droughts and how we would act at different emergency levels in the lake and coming up with those action responses,” Croy said.

The plan outlines seven shortage levels, each triggering a new set of restrictions. For example, the plan states that when the district is in a shortage range of 30% on April 1, it would institute “level 3” conservation measures, including a mandate that golf courses can irrigate only up to 70% of their maximum water allowance.

The plan is also used for population projections and water loss assumptions, Croy said.

The district has a master plan with recommendations for infrastructure planning. It also has a water supply roadmap, which is a planning exercise that led to the proposed “atmospheric river capture” project, a proposed pipeline that would replenish Marin reservoirs with more Sonoma County water.

The district supplies water to about 188,100 residents and manages seven reservoirs with a capacity of about 80,000 acre feet, or around three years’ worth of drinking water. An acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons of water.

The state mandates that water districts update their urban water management plan and accompanying water shortage contingency plan every five years to reflect growth and demand projections.

Drawing from projections by the Association of Bay Area Governments, the plan shows that the district's service area is expected to grow to about 230,680 residents by 2030 and to about 247,674 by 2050.

In the last update, approved in 2021, the district assumed that houses would make up 93% of new residential development and apartment or condo buildings would comprise the rest. The new plan assumes a 50-50 split based on housing trends in the county.

Earlier this year, the district approved a 10-year plan to switch all analog water meters to wireless smart meters. The advanced meters help customers conserve water and also have leak detection, enabling repairs to happen sooner and reducing waste.

The urban water management plan shows that by 2030, the new meters would net 520 acre-feet of water savings. That would increase to more than 1,300 acre feet by 2050.

In total, the demand for drinking water is expected to increase nearly 2,000 acre-feet a year to about 25,350 acre-feet a year by 2050.

The plan also includes a supply analysis that examines the district's ability to meet future demands with data from a historical normal year, a single dry year and a historical five-year drought. Analysis shows that water supply is adequate to meet the demand.

The district also performed a stress test to reflect an extreme shortage during a four-year drought. The analysis showed a deficit in the fourth year.

The North Marin Water District, which serves about 62,000 residents, adopted its urban water management plan and water shortage contingency plan last month. The population in its service area is projected to grow to about 71,452 by 2050. The demand for drinking water is expected to increase about 6.4%, to 9,023 acre-feet a year, during that period.

"Both plans do serve as one of several planning tools for analyzing water demands and future growth," said Tony Williams, general manager of NMWD. "The water shortage contingency plan is very useful and is carefully reviewed by NMWD every year to ensure we are prepared for changes in the local and regional water supplies, including dry conditions."

MMWD ordered to submit plans to fix deficient dam

State downgrades rating of Nicasio Reservoir structure



Water flows over the spillway at the Nicasio Reservoir, part of the Marin Municipal Water District storage system. Alan Dep — Marin Independent Journal



The Nicasio Reservoir at full capacity on Feb. 9, 2024.

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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The state has ordered the Marin Municipal Water District to develop a repair plan for Seeger Dam at the Nicasio Reservoir because an analysis showed declining performance.

The California Division of Safety of Dams, or DSOD, has downgraded the dam to a “fair” rating from “satisfactory” because several components of the system are no longer up to modern standards. The water district has until Dec. 1 to submit its plan.

“Based on their definition, there’s no existing dam safety deficiency that is recognized under normal operating conditions,” said Alex Anaya, engineering director at the Marin Municipal Water District. That means there is no immediate threat of failure or need to worry about shutting down Seeger Dam, Anaya said.

However, the earthen dam’s underdrains, water stops, spillway reinforcement, anchorage and foundation are not working as they should, the state agency said.

“The concern is really under those rare or really extreme hydrological or seismic events,” Anaya said. And even then, Anaya said, the concern is that the dam “may result in a deficiency,”

not that it will.

A poor rating, which is below fair, recognizes a deficiency and requires corrective action. An unsatisfactory rating requires immediate or emergency repair, he said.

“We’re not there,” he said.

The district has seven dams. Six, including Seeger Dam, are earthen, constructed of soil, clay and other natural materials. The dam at Alpine Lake is the only concrete dam.

In addition to Seeger Dam, Peters Dam at Kent Lake and the dam at SoulaJule Reservoir have been under scrutiny since 2017. That year, the failure of the spillway at the Oroville Dam in Butte County triggered the DSOD to order other dams of similar construction to be evaluated, said Elysha Irish, engineering manager at the Marin Municipal Water District.

The first phase of the evaluation was conducted between 2017 and 2021. The work involved data review, boring logs, reviews of previous inspection reports and repairs, in addition to inspections of the spillway conditions of the three dams, Irish said.

That analysis resulted in the repair of spalls, surface defects, offsets and subdrain cleaning, as well as crack and joint sealing.

Phase two, approved in March 2022, involved a deeper structural evaluation of spillways, using imaging techniques like ground-penetrating radar to investigate their integrity.

The resulting report was submitted to the state agency in 2025. The DSOD informed the Marin Municipal Water District in May that Seeger Dam was downgraded and required a repair plan.

The district is seeking an engineering consultant to develop the plan, Anaya said. The project will require a design alternatives analysis, extensive planning that requires coordination with several agencies for permits and environmental reporting.

The project is expected to take eight to 10 years, Anaya said.

At a presentation on the project on July 21, district board member Matt Samson asked whether the DSOD was comfortable with that timeline.

Staff said it is a similar timeline to other projects in the state.

“That said, it is an important comment that if DSOD felt like there was an imminent concern, they would take different action up to draining your dam tomorrow,” said Ben Horenstein, general manager of the Marin Municipal Water District. “So it is important to understand, this is their mindset, which is, this is maintenance work, that you need to get a plan, and you need to get going.”

Samson said he would like staff to “take advantage of the situation and really bolster that dam.”

Board member Ranjiv Khush agreed with the request.

“If there is also an opportunity to do greater improvements to the spillway, something that would ensure its stability for far into the future, I hope we can take advantage of that,” he said.

Slew of offices at stake in Marin

Council, board spots coming to fall ballots

BY RICHARD HALSTEAD

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Dozens of seats on municipal councils, education boards and special districts are in play this fall as Marin prepares for a hefty ballot.

All 11 of the county's municipal councils have incumbents whose terms are ending. The Marin County Board of Education, the Marin Municipal Water District board and the Marin Healthcare District board also have expiring terms.

The initial nomination period for the Nov. 3 election ends on Aug. 7, the same day local measures are due. The filing period is open until Aug. 12 for any race in which one or more incumbents has not filed by the deadline.

"It's going to be a long ballot," Marin County Registrar of Voters Natalie Adona said. "We've got all the city elections and all the special districts and the school districts. We've also got 14 statewide ballot measures, and it looks like we're possibly going to exceed 20 local ballot measures."

Paul Cohen, a veteran Marin County political consultant, said the lengthy ballot is the product of Senate Bill 415.

A state law that took effect in 2017, SB 415 prohibits local governments from holding an election on any date other than a statewide election date if doing so in the past has resulted in turnout that is at least 25% below average. Statewide elections are held in November of even-numbered years.

"The intent was to increase turnout and participation in local elections," Cohen said.

Cohen said voter turnout since adoption of SB 415 has gone up, but he isn't sure that participation in local elections has increased.

"I think it increases voter fatigue and causes people to only mark part of their ballot," Cohen said. "There's a lot of people that turn out to vote for president or governor, but they run out of steam when it comes to voting on local races."

Cohen said the longer ballot also increases costs for local candidates seeking office.

“If there are more people voting, there are more voters that you have to connect with,” he said. “That increases the cost because communicating and cutting through all the noise of everybody who’s running big ballot campaigns is expensive.”

Council races

In San Rafael, the terms of District 2 Councilmember Eli Hill and District 3 Councilmember Maribeth Bushey are ending. Robert Sandoval has filed for the District 3 seat.

In Novato, the terms of District 2 Councilmember Rachel Farac, District 4 Councilmember Pat Eklund, and District 5 Councilmember Sandeep Karkal are ending. Farac and Michael Little have filed for the District 2 seat. Eklund and Daniel Christian have filed for the District 4 seat. Karkal has filed to seek re-election as well.

In Larkspur, the terms of City Council members Sarah Margulies, Stephanie Andre and Catherine Way are ending.

In San Anselmo, the terms of Councilmember Steve Burdo and Councilmember Tarrell Kullaway are expiring. San Anselmo’s town clerk, Cecily Wilson, and the treasurer, John Mahl, must also decide whether to seek re-election.

In Tiburon, council terms are expiring for Jonathan Welner, Alice Fredericks and John Ryan.

In Sausalito, council terms are expiring for Jill Hoffman and Joan Cox.

In Mill Valley, council terms are expiring for Max Perrey and Stephen Burke.

In Ross, council terms are expiring for Julie McMillan and Elizabeth Robbins. McMillan filed, as did challengers Paul Roesler and Robert Herbst.

In Corte Madera, council terms are expiring for Rosa Thomas, Pat Ravasio and Eli Beckman.

In Belvedere, council terms are expiring for Jane Cooper and Peter Mark. Both have filed for reelection.

In Fairfax, council terms are expiring for Lisel Blash and Stephanie Hellman. The term of town clerk Talia Freedman is also up.

Here are the other incumbents whose terms are ending in November and who has filed so far:

School districts

On the Marin Community College District board, terms are expiring for Suzanne Brown Crow, Wanden Treanor and Diana Conti. Crow has filed to seek re-election.

On the Marin County Board of Education, terms are expiring for Cynthia Irish, Marilyn Nemzer and Curtis Robinson. Irish has filed for re-election.

On the San Rafael Board of Education, terms are expiring for Kennedy Rodas-Dias, Wing Keung Jason Lau and Carolina Martin.

On the Tamalpais Union High School District board, terms are expiring for Kevin Saavedra, Cynthia Roenisch and Emily Uhlhorn. Brian Sutherland has filed to run.

On the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District board, terms are expiring for Arianne Dar, Nathan Siedman and Jacob Tonski. Dar has filed to run for another term.

In the Miller Creek School District, board terms are expiring for Caitlin McShane, Megan Hutchinson and Bradley Honsberger.

In the Kentfield School District, board terms are expiring for Benny Joseph, Cari Irwin and Larry Moscato.

In the Laguna Joint School District, board terms are expiring for Sharon Hess, Sam Dolcini and Penny Bayless.

On the Lagunitas School District board, board terms are expiring for Stephen Rebscher, Aaron Michelson and James Sanders. Michelson has filed to seek re-election.

In the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District, board terms are expiring for Jessica Dinday, Amir Movafaghi and Natalie Medved.

On the Mill Valley School District board, terms are expiring for Yunhee Yoo, Natalie Katz and Sharon Nakatani. Katz has filed to run for a new term.

In the Nicasio School District, board terms are expiring for Elaine Doss and Mark Burton.

In the Novato Unified School District, board terms are expiring for Abbey Picus, Trustee Area 4; Diane Gasson, Area 5; and Magali Limeta, Area 6. Picus and Gasson have filed. Limeta has been elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

On the Reed Union School District board, terms are expiring for Shelby Tsai, Afsaneh Zolfaghari and Michael Ghaffary. Tsai and Ghaffary have filed to run for re-election.

In the Ross School District, board terms are expiring for Jeff Bergholt, Chris Ericksen and Darius Mozaffarian. Gabriella Solar and Elizabeth Sutro have filed to run.

In the Ross Valley School District, board terms are expiring for Chris Landles-Cobb and Anna Marsh. Both have filed to seek re-election.

On the Sausalito Marin City School District board, terms are expiring for Bonnie Hough, Lauren Walters and Caroline Tiziani. Walters has filed to seek a new term. Tiziani resigned on June 26, and the board plans to appoint a candidate to fill the seat on a provisional basis until the Nov. 3 election.

Also on the Sausalito Marin City School District board, recent appointee Jamal Graham has filed to seek election to a two-year term.

In the Shoreline Unified School District, board terms are expiring for Heidi Koenig, Trustee Area 1, and Jane Healy, Area 2. Healy has filed to seek re-election.

CSD boards

On the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District board, terms are expiring for Steven Nash and Vincent Lattanzio. Kevin Dugan has filed to run.

In the Marin City Community Services District, board terms are ending for full-term incumbents Kevin Douglas, Angela Haynes and Terrie Harris Green, and for short-term incumbent Sarah Canson. Canson has filed for re-election.

On the Marinwood Community Services District board, terms are expiring for William Shea and Sivan Oyserman. Oyserman has filed.

In the Muir Beach Community Services District, board terms are ending for Steven Shaffer, Leighton Hills and Christine Murray.

In the Tamalpais Community Services District, board terms are ending for Jim Jacobs and Jeff Brown. Brown has filed.

On the Tomales Village Community Services District board, terms are expiring for Dru O'Neill, William Bonini and John Ward.

Water districts

In the Marin Municipal Water District, board terms are ending for Matthew Samson, Division 1; Ranjiv Khush, Division 3; and Jed Smith, Division 4. Erika Lovejoy filed to run for the Division 4 seat.

In the North Marin Water District, board terms are ending for Kenneth Eichstaedt in Division 1 and Richard Fraites in Division 5. Eichstaedt filed.

In the Stinson Beach County Water District, board terms are ending for Lawrence Baskin and Jim Zell. Both have filed to seek re-election.

Health care

On the Marin Healthcare District board, terms are expiring for Brian Su in Division 3; Jennifer Rienks in Division 4; and the open seat in Division 1. Rienks filed to seek re-election. Dr. Jonathan Goff filed to compete for the Division 3 seat.

Fire services

In the Kentfield Fire Protection District, board terms are expiring for Dennis Ryan, Ronald Naso and Barry Evergettis. Naso has filed to seek re-election.

On the Bolinas Fire Protection District board, terms are ending for Nancy Torrey and Claire Molesworth. Torrey has filed to seek re-election.

On the Novato Fire Protection District board, terms are expiring for Bruce Goines in District 4 and Bill Davis in District 5. Both have filed to seek new terms.

In the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District, board terms are expiring for full-term incumbent Richard Shortall and short-term incumbent Jennifer Gauna. Shortall has filed.

In the Southern Marin Fire Protection District, terms are expiring for Cristine Deberry, Kurt Chun, Thomas Perazzo and Peter Fleming. Chun and Fleming have filed.

On the Stinson Beach Fire Protection District board, terms are expiring for full-term incumbents Ariel Poler and Mark White, and for short-term incumbent Christophe Bertrand.

In the Tiburon Fire Protection District, board terms are expiring for Joy Ho, Cheryl Woodford and Richard Jones. Jones has filed to seek re-election.

Sanitary districts

In the Alto Sanitary District, board terms are expiring for Porter Merriman and Marc Nash.

In the Homestead Valley Sanitary District, board terms are expiring for Allan Leibof and Alan Saltzman, and for short-term incumbent Penelope Alexandris.

On the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District board, terms are ending for Crystal Yezman, Nicholas Lavrov and Megan Clark. Yezman has filed.

On the Novato Sanitary District board, terms are ending for Dennis Bentley in Division 2; Tim Fuelle in Division 3; Carole Dillon-Knutson in Division 5; and short-term incumbent Jeffrey Tarantino in Division 1.

In the Richardson Bay Sanitary District, board terms are expiring for Mark Fitzgerald, Peter McIntosh and Patrick Walravens.

In the Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District, board terms are expiring for Shirley Thornton, Dan Rheiner and Barbara Rycerski. Rheiner has filed to seek a new term. Short-term incumbent James McKibben has filed for a new term.

In Sanitary District No. 5, board terms are expiring for Catharine Benediktsson and Tod Moody. Moody filed.

Recreation boards

On the Mesa Park Recreation District board, terms are expiring for full-term incumbents Simon Dunne, Blair Tom and Benjamin Lowrance, and for short-term incumbent Daniel Suda.

On the Strawberry Recreation District board, terms are expiring for full-term incumbents Peter Teese, Sohrab Saghezchi and Sarah Waterfield, and for short-term incumbent Doug Twillman. Teese filed to seek re-election.

In the Marin Resource Conservation District, board terms are expiring for Melissa Williams and Jerry Meral.

Public utilities

On the Bolinas Community Public Utility District board, terms are expiring for Jack Siedman, Grace Godino and Andrew Alexander Green.

On the Inverness Public Utility District board, terms are expiring for Ken Emanuels and David Press.

Letters

Thank you, water crews

A large, trimmed fir piece dropped and cracked a water main in Inverness Park last Wednesday afternoon. A North Marin Water District representative was sent right out, and a crew was soon on hand with shovels and equipment to repair the damage. The job was not completed until near midnight. Kudos to the workers, who labored through dinner and beyond to keep our water flowing. Your efforts are much appreciated!

Marjie Mohror and Bob Moody
Inverness Park

Federal agency rejects Southern California water district's bid to intervene in PG&E's plans to remove 2 Eel River dams

Phil Barber

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency with ultimate authority over the fate of two Lake and Mendocino county dams that have become embroiled in escalating controversy, dealt a blow Monday to one of the newer — and more distant — players to enter the fray, denying a bid by a Southern California water agency to intervene in the process.

“Movants for late intervention are required to ‘show good cause why the time limitation should be waived,’” FERC Secretary Debbie-Anne A. Reese wrote to Riverside County-based Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. “Here, the District failed to demonstrate that good cause exists ... because it did not provide any explanation for the untimeliness of its motion.”

The Lost Coast Outpost [first reported the decision](#), the latest turn in a growing saga that has drawn in the Trump administration as chief antagonist of utility giant Pacific Gas & Electric Co.’ plans to decommission and remove its two Eel River dams, which it contends are outdated and inefficient.

Elsinore Valley had filed its motion to intervene July 9, more than seven months past FERC’s deadline for such motions.

Reese presented the commission’s notice as final. The water district has 30 days to request a rehearing of the decision.

Sylvia Ornelas, who handles press inquiries for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water, said the district learned of Reese’s decision only Tuesday, and is doing its due diligence while evaluating its next steps.



Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat

David Manning, environmental resources manager at Sonoma County Water Agency, presents slides during the Potter Valley Project town hall meeting in Cloverdale on Thursday, March 20, 2025. (Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat)

Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat

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David Manning, environmental resources manager at Sonoma County Water Agency, presents slides during the Potter Valley Project town hall meeting in Cloverdale on Thursday, March 20, 2025. (Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat)

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The FERC ruling comes amid the slowly advancing push by PG&E to decommission Scott Dam, which created Lake Pillsbury in 1922, and Cape Horn Dam, which created Van Arsdale Reservoir in Mendocino County. Together they form the base of the Potter Valley Project, which sends Eel River water from Pillsbury to Van Arsdale, then through a tunnel to the upper end of rural Potter Valley, and finally into the upper Russian River, where it helps supplement flows for rural residents, farm irrigators and cities stretching from Ukiah to Healdsburg in Sonoma County.

The project produced hydroelectric power and distributed water to ranchers and farmers for roughly a century. But PG&E wants to be rid of the 118-year-old Potter Valley Powerhouse, offline since 2021. The utility says it has been operating the dams at a deficit of \$1 million per year.

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The Northern California utility company was part of a groundbreaking February 2025 agreement that would remove both dams, transfer Eel River water rights to the Round Valley Indian Tribes

and allow for continued diversion to users in the Russian River watershed under periods of strong Eel River flows.

That framework is generally referred to as the Two-Basin Solution. PG&E filed a formal plan to proceed in July 2025.

With the dams gone, the Eel — California's third-longest river — would be free once again, and its headwaters accessible as spawning habitat for diminished runs of the river's once-bountiful salmon and steelhead trout.

The agreement immediately set battle lines, with environmentalists, anglers, Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman and an array of local tribes and officials representing Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt counties backing the plan. Agricultural interests and Lake County have been staunchly opposed.

One of the Two Basin Solution's lead voices has been the Round Valley Indian Tribes, who would stand to reclaim long-denied water rights if the dam removal moves forward.

Round Valley Indian Tribes President Joseph Parker on Tuesday said his tribal group is pleased with and thankful for FERC's decision to exclude the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District from the process, while acknowledging it is only one milestone along the way.

"It is unfortunate that interests from far outside the Eel and Russian River basins continue to attempt to solve their water issues at the expense of our tribal members and our Two-Basin Solution partners," Parker said in a statement to The Press Democrat. "Quite simply, they are seeking to upend a local solution that is fair for the communities that live here and we want them to understand that our Tribal Nation will take all steps that are necessary to protect our people, our resources, and our way of life."



Kent Porter / The Press Democrat

Scott Dam at Lake Pillsbury, Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in Lake County. (Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)

Scott Dam at Lake Pillsbury, Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in Lake County. (Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)

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Opponents, meanwhile, found a powerful ally last December when U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins filed to intervene in the decommissioning process. She also submitted comments urging FERC to reject PG&E's application to surrender its license for the two dams.

The Trump administration said stopping the Two-Basin Solution would fit with a presidential memorandum titled "Putting People over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California."

It was Rollins who introduced Elsinore Valley Water as a potential partner, posting on social media in April that she had spoken to water district representatives and calling Elsinore Valley "a legitimate buyer who expressed strong interest in purchasing the project from PG&E."

Water district leadership traveled to Washington D.C. in June to meet with Rollins, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Bureau of Reclamation officials, PG&E and National Energy Dominance Council staff.

The interest shown by Elsinore, a water district 600 miles away and with a modest 163,000 customers, quickly led to speculation that the district might ultimately take over operation of the dams, but only to sell the water back to local stakeholders, perhaps at an opportunistic rate.

Huffman, who played a central role in brokering the Two-Basin Solution and sits on the House Natural Resources Committee, opened an investigation into the Trump administration's involvement, saying the move smacked of a "Southern California water grab."

The debate is unlikely to die down anytime soon. This week alone, FERC has posted at least 34 comments it received in regard to the dam decommissioning, part of a public scoping process with a deadline that closed July 24.

Among those asking the federal agency to slow its roll on approval were Lake County, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and Republican Rep. James Gallagher, who won a 1st District special election in June and will face Democratic candidate Mike McGuire for a two-year term in the seat this November.

Most of those Two-Basin Solution opponents focused on the water needs of a thirsty agricultural industry, historical enjoyment of Lake Pillsbury's recreational opportunities and the use of that body of water as a staging ground for aerial firefighting during nearby wildfires.

Lake County Counsel Lloyd Guintivano told Reese that taking down the dams would decrease available water supply by 53,000 acre-feet.

"Based on PG&E's own assumptions, which neglect multiple potential cost drivers," he wrote, "Scott Dam Decommissioning, alone, could reach \$358 million, while throwing into doubt water supply relied on by 600,000 Californians; population numbers similar to the States of Wyoming and Vermont."

Sonoma County Farm Bureau's president and executive director informed FERC it had paid for an

independent economic impact analysis by the company Economic Forensics and Analytics. The study estimated that even a 10% reduction in Potter Valley Project water capacity would result in \$67.5 million in direct economic losses within the first year, and would likely compound over time.

People and entities also wrote to FERC in recent days with favorable views of PG&E's plan. Among them were Russian Riverkeeper, Friends of the Eel River, Save California Salmon and the Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International.

Riverkeeper executives noted that the Potter Valley Project simply isn't as productive as it once was. Annual water diversions have fallen from approximately 150,000 acre-feet a year before 2006 to about 30,000-40,000 acre-feet since 2021, "reflecting regulatory changes, aging and failing infrastructure, seismic-related storage restrictions, drought, and reduced water availability during the dry season."



Kent Porter / The Press Democrat

Guinness McFadden checks on the flow of diverted Eel River water at his private powerhouse in Potter Valley, Wednesday, May 14, 2025. (Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)

Kent Porter / The Press Democrat

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Guinness McFadden checks on the flow of diverted Eel River water at his private powerhouse in Potter Valley, Wednesday, May 14, 2025. (Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)

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An acre-foot is roughly the amount of water it takes to cover a football field up to one-foot deep.

Jon Foreman, chair of the Water Advisory Committee, told Reese in a July 22 letter that his group — a consortium of eight jurisdictions, including Santa Rosa and five other Sonoma County cities, that purchase water from the Sonoma County Water Agency — generally supports PG&E's proposal, while advocating for the ongoing environmental review process to be thorough and inclusive.