



NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

REVISED

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING October 6, 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 September 15, 2026
5.	Consent - Approve: Text for Fall 2026 Novato "Waterline", Issue 57
6.	Consent - Approve: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Proposed Bylaws Amendments
	ACTION CALENDAR
7.	Approve: 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan
8.	Approve: Base Salary Schedule Revision REVISED 10/2/2026
	INFORMATION ITEMS
9.	TAC Meeting Agenda – October 5, 2026
10.	NBWA Meeting Agenda – October 2, 2026
11.	NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS Disbursements - Dated September 17, 2026 Disbursements – Dated September 24, 2026 Disbursements – Dated October 1, 2026 Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for August 2026 NOAA Seasonal Precipitation Outlook: October - December 2026 ARC Project Supplemental Notice of Preparation Potter Valley/ NERF Dept of the Interior Scoping Comments Letter

Item

Subject

Newspaper Articles

Marin IJ – Water district plans for rate hike

Marin IJ – Readers' Forum: Brian Jaffe is the right choice for Larkspur City Council

12. ***ADJOURNMENT***

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DRAFT
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 15, 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, Pablo Ramudo, Director of Water Resources, Rebecca Sylvester, Vincent Verissimo, and Tim Fuelle were also in attendance.

Laurie Williams was in the audience.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tony Williams noted that there had been questions at the August 18 meeting about the August ERPA meeting he had attended and said he provided an excerpt from that meeting in the News and Miscellaneous Section.

Mr. Williams said that as of today, Brad Sherwood is the Interim General Manager for Sonoma Water.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that Marin Water's General Manager, Ben Horenstein, will be retiring at the end of the year and Shaun Horne has been selected as the new GM. Shaun is Marin Water's Director of Watershed Resources.

Mr. Williams announced to the Board that Pablo Ramudo, former Water Quality Supervisor, has been selected as the Director of Water Resources for the newly created Department of Water Resources.

Director Baker mentioned that this particular agenda packet was much larger than usual and Mr. Williams noted the majority of pages in the packet was a required Plan under Item #9.

Director Joly thanked Mr. Williams for the NERF information that was in the News and Miscellaneous Reports section of the agenda as well as the message he sent to Grant Davis on his retirement. Director Joly also noted that Lake Mendocino seems low and asked what could be the cause. Mr. Williams said it is a possible combination of there being slightly below normal amount of rain, and flow variances of PG&E releases from the Eel River. He said that Sonoma Water is not concerned at this time and he thinks there should be good runoff this winter.

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 Tony Williams noted that Rebecca Sylvester, Engineering Administrative Assistant, will be
7 filling in for Eileen Mulliner, Executive Assistant/District Secretary, at the October 6, 2026 Board
8 meeting while she is on vacation.

9 Eileen Mulliner noted to the Board that they had all been given a copy of the current Board
10 of Directors Manual that was approved at the August 18, 2026 meeting.

11 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

12 Director Joly asked that Item #7 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion and
13 there was no opposition from the other directors.

14 On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the
15 remaining consent calendar (Items #4, 5, 6, and 8) by the following vote:

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

17 NOES: None

18 ABSENT: None

19 ABSTAIN: None

20 Approve August 18, 2026 Board Regular Meeting minutes

21 Approve Augst 27, 2026 Board Special Meeting minutes

22 Approve Water Main Relocation Agreement – 125 Landing Court Development

23 Approve Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 1 Board Nomination.

24 **ACTION CALENDAR**

25 **APPROVE: CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR NMWD TRENCH RESTORATION PAVING – W.K.**

26 **MCLELLAN COMPANY**

27 Director Joly asked to have this item moved to the Action Calendar for procedural reasons.
28 He said he had spoken to Tony Williams earlier regarding the dollar amount ceiling for consent
29 items and felt this item should be on the Action Calendar. Mr. Williams clarified that this item was
30 eligible for the Consent Calendar. He also noted that Consent items still require an approval just as
31 Action items do but that the Directors can always remove an item off consent. President Eichstaedt
32 asked Chris Kehoe to give a brief description of the item. Mr. Kehoe gave an overview of the District
33 working with McLellan for many years and how they can provide the service that the District
34 requires at reasonable costs.

1 On the motion of Director Joly, seconded by Director Fraites, the Board approved the
2 Contract Extension for NMWD Trench Restoration Paving by the following vote:

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

4 NOES: None

5 ABSENT: None

6 ABSTAIN: None

7 **APPROVE: OCEANA MARIN WASTEWATER SYSTEM – ACCEPTANCE OF 2026 SEWER**
8 **SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN**

9 Tim Kennedy explained that this was a regulatory requirement and gave an overview of the
10 item including the required contents of the SSMP. Director Joly asked about sewer spillage liability
11 and for reassurance that it will not occur. Mr. Kennedy said we are doing all that we can to prevent
12 any issues. There was some additional discussion, and then the Board thanked Mr. Kennedy.

13 On the motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Joly, the Board approved the
14 Oceana Marin Wastewater System – Acceptance of 2026 Sewer System Management Plan by the
15 following vote:

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

17 NOES: None

18 ABSENT: None

19 ABSTAIN: None

20 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

21 **PRELIMINARY FY 2025/2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

22 Julie Blue gave a summary of the Preliminary FY 2025/2026 Financial Statement. There
23 was some discussion, the Board thanked Ms. Blue.

24 **REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS 6 AND 36 RELATED TO CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL**

25 Pablo Ramudo spoke to the Board and gave an overview of the changes to Regulations
26 6 and 36. There were some questions from the Board which Mr. Ramudo addressed and some
27 discussion. The Board thanked Mr. Ramudo.

28 **FY 2025-2026 END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT – ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

29 Eric Miller provided an overview of the 2025-2026 End of Year Progress Report for the
30 Engineering Department and gave some highlights. There were some questions from the Board
31 which were answered by Mr. Miller. The Board thanked Mr. Miller.

32 **FY 2025-2026 END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT – OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

33 Tim Kennedy addressed the Board and summarized the Operations Department End of

1 Year Progress Report. There were some questions from the Board which were addressed by Mr.
2 Miller. The Board thanked Mr. Kennedy.

3 **NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

4 The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Disbursements – Dated August 27,
5 September 3, and 10, 2026; Monthly Progress Report – July, Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of
6 Investments for July 2026, NOAA Seasonal Precipitation Outlook – September – November 2026,
7 Sonoma Water Interim GM Announcement, Message to Grant Davis, Coalition Urges California
8 Court to Consider Wildfire Implications on Public Water Systems, ERPA Presentation Aug 6, 2026,
9 and SCWA Water Year Webinar.

10 The Board received the following News Articles: Marin IJ - Candidate field gets larger at
11 deadline, Marin IJ – Candidates emerge as election filing closes, Marin IJ – MMWD General
12 Manager selected, Marin IJ – \$28.5M bridge replacement project gains momentum, Marin IJ – City
13 approves \$16.8M contract for Novato Blvd work, Marin IJ – New fee could hit wireless holdouts,
14 Marin IJ – Ban on watering decorative grass nears despite no signs of drought, Pt. Reyes Light –
15 Water district plans to modernize Nicasio spillway.

16 The Board received the NMWD Web and Social Media Report – August 2026.

17 **ADJOURNMENT**

18 President Eichstaedt adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

19 Submitted by

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23 Eileen Mulliner
24 District Secretary
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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors October 6, 2026
 From: Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation and Communications Manager RG
 Subject: Approve Text for Fall 2026 Novato "*Waterline*", Issue 57
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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Fall 2026 Novato "*Waterline*" Text

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$12,000 (Included in FY 2026/2027 Budget)

Draft text and design for the Fall 2026 Novato "*Waterline*", Issue 57 is attached for your review. Should any Board member have individual comments please provide them to the General Manager at the Board meeting on October 6, 2026. It is expected the Fall 2026 Novato "*Waterline*" will be mailed in October 2026. An electronic version of this issue will also be distributed through the WaterSmart group messenger (email) to approximately 14,000 customers/recipients.

Alignment With Strategic Plan

Goal 4: Enhance Customer Understanding and Engagement. The Waterline newsletter provides customers with a wide variety of important District information in alignment with the Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Board authorize General Manager to approve final text, content and design of Fall 2026 Novato "*Waterline*", Issue 57.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Draft Fall 2026 Novato *Waterline*, Issue 57

Capital Improvement Project Spotlight

Novato Boulevard Project - Investing in Your Water System

The Novato Boulevard Improvements project represents years of design and coordination with our partner agencies, the City of Novato and Novato Sanitary District, and most importantly, it represents an investment in the critical infrastructure that delivers safe and reliable drinking water to our community.

The project's water improvements include replacement of more than a mile of pipeline originally installed in the 1960s that will increase redundancy in our backbone system through Central Novato. In addition to the mile of new pipeline, the project will upgrade fire hydrants, backflow prevention, system valving and service piping to hundreds of residential customers and more than 25 businesses.

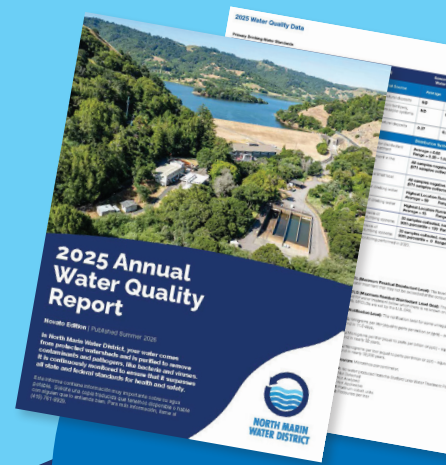
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ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Read our 2025 Water Quality Report

Visit nmwd.com/water-quality or scan the code below.



Water Smart Savings Program

North Marin Water District wants to help customers use water efficiently. That's why we've put all of our water-saving promotions under one umbrella with new and easier online forms for most programs to help encourage your participation.

Call 415-761-8944 for program details or visit nmwd.com.



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

For more info visit nmwd.com

The Waterline

Novato Service Area Newsletter | Issue 57



Message From Tony Williams, General Manager

Strategic Plan Update

I highlighted the North Marin Water District's (District) 2025-2030 Strategic Plan in the spring newsletter and want to take a minute to share a brief update on our 2026 accomplishments. As a reminder, the Strategic Plan includes six primary goals and associated actions:

- **Goal 1** – Strengthen Infrastructure Resilience
- **Goal 2** – Foster Organizational Excellence
- **Goal 3** – Ensure a Resilient Water Supply
- **Goal 4** – Enhance Customer Understanding and Engagement
- **Goal 5** – Optimize Operational Performance Readiness
- **Goal 6** – Maintain Effective and Transparent Governance

The 2026 accomplishments reflect completed strategic actions under Goals 1, 2, 4 and 6 that support the Novato Water System. Specifically, the following actions have been completed since January:

- Completed a comprehensive Asset and Natural Hazard Risk Assessment that identified vulnerabilities in the water distribution system to be addressed (Action 1.2.1).
- Completed a comprehensive organizational structure review and subsequent organization chart revision to improve effectiveness and compliance (Action 2.1).
- Developed a 2026-2030 Communication Plan, including a rapid-response strategy for misinformation (Actions 4.1 and 4.3).
- Updated the Board of Directors Manual to clearly define roles and responsibilities and improve governance (Action 6.2).



Read more about our
Strategic Plan
nmwd.com/strategic-plan



Continues overleaf ►

Water Infrastructure

Since the Novato Water System Master Plan was approved by our Board of Directors in January, the District's Capital Improvement Program has focused on "backbone" pipelines, pump stations and storage tanks that would have a higher impact on the community if they were to fail (see Strategic Action 1.2.1 on the front page).

The District's Engineering and Utilities teams will look for opportunities to collaborate with other local agencies to find efficiencies and reduce impacts on Novato residents. A good example of this is the recently awarded Novato Boulevard Improvements project, which is being led by the City of Novato in partnership with the District and Novato Sanitary District. The project includes rehabilitation of water and sewer infrastructure and roadway and pedestrian improvements from Diablo Avenue to Grant Avenue. For more on this project, see the Capital Improvement Project Spotlight in this issue.

North Marin Water District's New Demonstration Garden

We invite you to visit our new low-water-use Demonstration Garden located at our remodeled administration building (999 Rush Creek Place, Novato).

The garden showcases beautiful low-water-use plants that thrive in Novato's climate, and we hope it inspires you to choose plants that flourish with less water in your own landscape. The Demonstration Garden is drip-irrigated using recycled water and rainwater (when available), and a weather-based irrigation controller automatically adjusts the irrigation schedule based on the current weather.

Having a garden that is water-smart and beautiful is easy, and the plants in our garden are just a small sample of the possibilities for your water-wise garden.

Visit nmwd.com/demogarden for more information. Come visit the garden Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and get a free pack of native wildflower seeds.



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

Regulatory Round-up

Non-Functional Turf Ban

In 2023, the State of California passed AB 1572, which prohibits the use of potable water to irrigate non-functional turf on municipal, commercial, institutional and industrial properties, including HOA common areas. Non-functional turf is defined as "any turf planted within nonresidential landscapes, excluding recreational areas, and other areas where turf is necessary for the intended function of the planted area and no alternative materials are suitable for the anticipated site use." Put simply, non-functional turf refers to decorative lawn maintained primarily for aesthetic reasons rather than for recreational or community activities. Turf watered with recycled or well water is also excluded, as are residential properties other than HOA common areas.

Compliance dates are phased in by property type from 2027 to 2029:

January 1, 2027

For all municipal, public agency and/or government parcels

January 1, 2028

For all other institutional, commercial and industrial properties

January 1, 2029

For all homeowners association (HOA) common areas

We're here to help our nonresidential customers meet these new state requirements ahead of the deadlines. We currently offer a Cash for Grass rebate that can help cover the cost of converting your lawn areas, up to \$1.50 per square foot, with the maximum determined on a case-by-case basis.

If you are interested in learning more about non-functional turf and how the prohibition might affect your property or whether the state has identified non-functional turf on your property, please contact us at waterconserve@nmwd.com or 415-761-8987.

For more detailed information on non-functional turf, visit nonfunctionalturfca.org.

Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the District's potable water distribution system and a customer's property where there is another liquid, gas or an auxiliary water supply. Backflow is the undesired or unintended reversal of flow of these liquids or substances from a customer's property into the District's water distribution system. Preventing cross-connections and backflow is a public health priority and a key part of how the District delivers safe water to your home or business. Regulations that govern these standards of protection date back to 1924, and in July 2024, the State of California mandated new rules for prevention. In 2025, the state approved the District's Cross-Connection Control Program Manual and a plan for implementing the new state guidelines. Over the next several years, District staff will be conducting hazard assessments of all services to evaluate the potential for a cross-connection or backflow and the need to install a backflow prevention device, the proven way to remove the hazard.

For more information on these requirements, including examples of when a backflow prevention assembly is needed, visit nmwd.com/backflow-protection.

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a high-efficiency toilet



Find out more at nmwd.com/toilet
*Up to \$100 per high-efficiency toilet.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
 From: Tony Williams, General Manager *AW*
 Subject: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Bylaws Amendments

Date: October 6, 2026

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the General Manager to Vote to Approve Proposed ACWA Bylaws Amendments

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

ACWA is proposing changes to the organization's Bylaws as described in the attached letter from the Executive Director dated September 28, 2026 (Attachment 1). As a member agency, North Marin Water District (District) is entitled to one vote that will be cast electronically by an authorized representative. A summary of the proposed changes is provided as Attachment 2 and includes a total of 6 amendments to ACWA's Bylaws. These amendments are straightforward and pertain to the following areas: Special Meetings, Meetings by Electronic Communications, Number of Officers representing a given Region, Executive Committee Meetings, Council of Past Presidents, and Quorum clarifications. The changes are recommended by the ACWA Board and reviewed by the ACWA Legal Affairs Bylaws and Procedures Subcommittee. Staff has carefully reviewed the proposed amendments to the ACWA Bylaws and recommends an affirmative vote to approved the changes.

Historically, the General Manager has been the authorized representative to vote on ACWA matters on behalf of the District such as Region 1 Board elections. A completed authorization form is provided as Attachment 3 and will be submitted to ACWA ahead of the formal voting for the Bylaws changes.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to Vote to Approve the Proposed ACWA Bylaws Amendments.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ACWA Executive Director Memorandum dated September 28, 2026.
2. ACWA Proposed Bylaws Summary Table
3. ACWA Bylaws Amendments Authorized Voting Representative Form



MEMORANDUM

Via U.S. Electronic Mail

TO: ACWA Member Agency Board Presidents and General Managers
CC: ACWA Board of Directors
FROM: Karla Nemeth, ACWA Executive Director
DATE: September 28, 2026
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to ACWA's Bylaws by Written Ballot

ACWA will conduct a vote of the membership by electronic ballot on proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws, as recommended by the Board of Directors on September 25, 2026.

The voting will be conducted by electronic ballot consistent with the voting process used by members to elect Board Officers and region boards. Conducting the vote electronically provides all members an opportunity to participate, rather than limiting voting to members attending an ACWA conference, thereby promoting broader member participation and engagement.

Each member agency is entitled to one vote that will be cast by its authorized voting representative. Member agencies must designate their voting representative by submitting the attached Voting Representative Form by **Friday, October 30**.

Important Next Steps

1. **Designate voting representative:** Fill out the attached Voting Representative Form by Friday, October 30. Note: ACWA will also use this designee as the voting representative in next year's election for ACWA's Board Officers and region boards for the 2028-'29 term. You will have the opportunity to change the designation prior to the deadline for nominating candidates if desired.
2. **Review proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws:** These are available online at <https://www.acwa.com/2026-bylaws/> as well as attached.
3. **Have designated voter prepare for the electronic voting:** Your designated voter will receive an email directly from Simply Voting on November 9. Have them add (vote@simplyvoting.com) to their safe-senders list to ensure delivery of the ballot. **Ballots must be submitted by December 18.**

More information on the proposed Amended & Restated Bylaws, voting process, and next steps is available at <https://www.acwa.com/2026-bylaws/>. For additional questions regarding the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws or the voting process, please contact ACWA's General Counsel Joshua Nelson at 916-951-2859 or joshua.nelson@bbklaw.com or Senior Clerk of the Board Donna Pangborn at 916-669-2425 or donnap@acwa.com.



Attachments (Also see website [link](#) for these materials.):

1. Authorized Voting Representative Form
2. Proposed Amendments to ACWA's Bylaws Summary Table
3. Proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws (redline version)
4. Proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws (clean version)



Proposed Amendments to the ACWA's Bylaws

Amendment 1: ARTICLE 4, Section 4.05, Special Meeting

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw	Rationale
Section 4.05. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president upon the president's own volition or shall be called by the president when requested in writing by five directors. Prior to conducting such a special meeting, the president shall consult with the Executive Committee to ensure that adequate information is available to the Board of Directors for any necessary decisions; and where such meeting is called upon the president's own volition, the president shall also consult with the Executive Committee as to the necessity of the special meeting. Notice for special meetings shall be provided in the following manner: (1) upon 10 days' written notice sent by mail to each director and addressed to each at the address as shown upon the records of the Association; or (2) upon 48 hours' notice with notice provided by electronic means. When the meeting is called upon the president's own volition, the president shall choose the form of notice; when the meeting is called by a request of five directors, the five directors shall choose the form of notice and the president shall promptly call the meeting. No business except those items described in the notice shall be transacted at any special meeting, except by consent of three-fourths of the members of the Board of Directors present.	Section 4.05. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president upon the president's own volition or shall be called by the president when requested in writing by five directors. Prior to conducting such a special meeting, the president shall consult with the Executive Committee to ensure that adequate information is available to the Board of Directors for any necessary decisions; and where such meeting is called upon the president's own volition, the president shall also consult with the Executive Committee as to the necessity of the special meeting. <u>However, the president's determination of necessity shall control.</u> Notice for special meetings shall be provided in the following manner: (1) upon 10 days' written notice sent by mail to each director and addressed to each at the address as shown upon the records of the Association; or (2) upon 48 hours' notice with notice provided by electronic means. When the meeting is called upon the president's own volition, the president shall choose the form of notice; when the meeting is called by a request of five directors, the five directors shall choose the form of notice and the president shall promptly call the meeting. No business except those items described in the notice shall be transacted at any special meeting, except by consent of three-fourths of the members of the Board of Directors present.	Amendment to add the president's ultimate authority to schedule a special meeting if deemed necessary.

Note: Green text throughout this document reflects edits recommended by the Legal Affairs Bylaws and Procedures Subcommittee in response to its review and analysis of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws, consistent with Section 9.09 of ACWA's Bylaws. The ACWA Board included the LAC Workgroup's recommended edits as part of its recommendation to the members.

Proposed Amendments to the ACWA's Bylaws

Amendment 2: ARTICLE 4, Section 4.06 Meetings by Electronic Communication

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw	Rationale
Section 4.06. Meetings by Electronic Communication. Any meeting of the Board of Directors, region boards, or any committee may be conducted, in whole or in part, by telephone, electronic transmission, or by electronic video screen communication. A member of the Board of Directors, a region board, or any committee shall be deemed present in person at the meeting if the following apply: (a) Each director, region board, or committee member participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with all other directors, region board, or committee members. (b) Each director, region board or, committee member is provided the means of participating in all matters before the board, region board, or committee, including the capacity to propose, or to interpose an objection to, a specific action to be taken by the Association.	~~Section 4.06. Meetings by Electronic Communication.~~ <u>Alternatives to Traditional Meetings.</u> (a) Any meeting of the Board of Directors, region boards, or any committee may be conducted, in whole or in part, by telephone, electronic transmission, or by electronic video screen communication. A member of the Board of Directors, a region board, or any committee shall be deemed present in person at the meeting if the following apply: 1) Each director, region board, or committee member participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with all other directors, region board, or committee members. 2) Each director, region board or, committee member is provided the means of participating in all matters before the board, region board, or committee, including the capacity to propose, or to interpose an objection to, a specific action to be taken by the Association. (b) <u>To the extent permitted by applicable law and subject to all applicable requirements, any action that may be taken at a regular or special Board of Directors, a region board, or any committee may be approved by unanimous written consent of the members of that body.</u>	Amendment to allow the flexibility to take action by written consent. LAC recommended this language be added to Article 4 instead of Article 9.

Proposed Amendments to the ACWA's Bylaws

Amendment 3: ARTICLE 5, Regions

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw	Rationale
Section 5.02. Officers (a) The officers of each region shall be a chair and vice chair and three to five region board members who shall be elected by the region in each odd-numbered year. A region may maintain a board of fewer than five but not less than three members as provided in the region's rules and regulations. The officers of the region board shall take office on January 1 of the calendar year following election and shall hold office for two years, or until their successors take office. Regions shall hold elections by electronic ballot. Association staff shall verify the legitimacy of the ballots.	Section 5.02. Officers (a) The officers of each region shall be a chair and vice chair and three to five region board members who shall be elected by the region in each odd-numbered year. A region may maintain a board of fewer than five but not less than three members as provided in the region's rules and regulations. The officers of the region board shall take office on January 1 of the calendar year following election and shall hold office for two years, or until their successors take office. Regions shall hold elections by electronic ballot. <u>Five or more members of the Association from the region shall constituting a quorum for the purposes of regional board elections.</u> Association staff shall verify the legitimacy of the ballots.	Amendment to clarify the quorum for region board elections is five members.

Proposed Amendments to the ACWA's Bylaws

Amendment 4: ARTICLE 6, Section 6.04, Meetings

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw	Rationale
Section 6.04. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall hold regularly scheduled meetings as set by the president. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president upon notice to the members of that committee or upon written request of three Executive Committee members. Notice for special Executive Committee meetings shall be provided to the entire Board: (1) upon five days' written notice sent by mail, or (2) upon 24 hours' notice with notice provided by electronic means; and all such meetings shall be open to the Board of Directors. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held in person or by telephone conference, web video conference, or other electronic video screen communication or electronic transmission, as set forth in Section 4.06. All members of the Board of Directors may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be closed to others at the discretion of the president or committee. Only members of the Executive Committee are allowed to vote on matters at a meeting of the committee.	Section 6.04. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall hold regularly scheduled meetings as set by the president. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president upon notice to the members of that committee or upon written request of three Executive Committee members. Notice for special Executive Committee meetings shall be provided to the entire Board: (1) upon five days' written notice sent by mail, or (2) upon 24 hours' notice with notice provided by electronic means; and all such meetings shall be open to the Board of Directors. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held in person or by telephone conference, web video conference, or other electronic video screen communication or electronic transmission, as set forth in Section 4.06. <u>With the exception of closed sessions as designated by the Executive Committee,</u> all members of the Board of Directors <u>and Council of Past Presidents</u> may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee. <u>However, Meetings of the Executive Committee may be closed its meetings to select or all non-members of the Committee to others at the discretion of the president or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Any decision to close an Executive Committee meeting to others shall be final and not reversible except with the consent of party that decided to close the meeting.</u> Only members of the Executive Committee are allowed to vote on <u>Executive Committee</u> matters. ~~at a meeting of the committee.~~	Amendment to limit attendance during closed session discussions involving personnel matters to preserve the confidentiality of sensitive employment information, protect the privacy rights of employees and applicants, and promote candid discussion by those with responsibility for making personnel decisions. Importantly, the Board of Directors could conduct its own closed session prior to any final action. This amendment ensures flexibility for the Executive Committee's internal deliberation and consideration while preserving ultimate Board decision-making authority.

Proposed Amendments to the ACWA's Bylaws

Amendment 5, ARTICLE 8, Section 8.01, Council of Past Presidents

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw	Rationale
Section 8.01. Council of Past Presidents. There shall be a Council of Past Presidents composed of all past presidents of the Association who serve on the council until each is no longer able to or wishes to serve. The council shall provide a mechanism for past presidents to continue to make valuable contributions to the Association. With approval of the Board of Directors, the president and/or executive director/secretary may assign specific responsibilities to the council from time to time. Members of the Council of Past Presidents are invited to attend and participate in the Association's Board and Executive Committee meetings, including attending closed sessions. With the exception of the immediate past president, members of the Council of Past Presidents are non-voting.	Section 8.01. Council of Past Presidents. There shall be a Council of Past Presidents composed of all past presidents of the Association who serve on the council until each is no longer able to or wishes to serve. The council shall provide a mechanism for past presidents to continue to make valuable contributions to the Association. With approval of the Board of Directors, the president and/or executive director/secretary may assign specific responsibilities to the council from time to time. Members of the Council of Past Presidents are invited to attend and participate in the Association's Board and Executive Committee meetings, including attending closed sessions <u>of the Board. Members of the Council of Past Presidents may also attend closed session meetings the Executive Committee except as designated by the Executive Committee as further described in Section 6.04.</u> With the exception of the immediate past president, members of the Council of Past Presidents are non-voting.	Amendment to clarify that the Council of Past Presidents may attend Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings, with the exception of Executive Committee closed sessions as designated by the Executive Committee.

Proposed Amendments to the ACWA's Bylaws

Amendment 6, Article 9, Section 9.08, Quorum

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw	Rationale
Section 9.08. Quorum. The presence of the authorized representatives of at least 50 members of the Association at any meeting of the members shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. Actions taken by written ballot shall require the timely receipt of the written ballot from the authorized representatives of at least 50 members to constitute a quorum.	Section 9.08. Quorum. The presence of the authorized representatives of at least 50 members of the Association at any meeting of the members shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. Actions <u>of the members of the Association</u> taken by written ballot shall require the timely receipt of the written ballot from the authorized representatives of at least 50 members to constitute a quorum.	Amendment to clarify that the quorum for the region board elections is five, consistent with the quorum needed to conduct business at a region meeting, as established in Section 5.04, and with newly amended quorum language to elect region boards in Section 5.02.



2026 PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS AUTHORIZED VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FORM

ACWA members will vote by electronic ballot on proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws.

Key Details:

- **Electronic Voting:** Voting will be conducted electronically by each member agency's designated voter.
- **Designated Voter:** Each agency must **designate one voting representative by October 30**. To designate your agency's voter, please submit this **Authorized Voting Representative Form** by the deadline.
Note: ACWA will also use the person designated below as the voting representative in next year's election for ACWA's Board Officers and region boards for the 2028-'29 term. You will have an opportunity to change the designation prior to the deadline for nominating candidates, if desired.
- **Default Voter:** If no representative is designated by the deadline, your agency's **General Manager** will be the authorized voter by default.
- **Ballot Distribution:** Authorized voters will receive an electronic ballot on November 9.

For more information about ACWA's elections, visit: www.acwa.com/elections.

The person designated below will cast our agency's vote for the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws process in 2026 and the election of ACWA's President, Vice President and Region Board for the 2028-'29 term.

Member Agency's Name		Agency's Phone No.
North Marin Water District		(415) 897-4133
Authorized Voting Representative's Name	Authorized Voting Representative's Email	Authorized Voting Representative's Phone No.
Tony Williams	twilliams@nmwd.com	(415) 761-8945

Anthony Williams

Print Name of Member Agency's Authorized Signatory

X

Authorized Signatory Signature

Date

SUBMIT YOUR FORM

To: Donna Pangborn, Senior Clerk of the Board
Email: donnap@acwa.com
Mail: 980 9th Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

OCT. 30, 2026

7



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

October 6, 2026

From: Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation Coordinator

RG

Subject: 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the District's 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None at this time (Included in Budget)

In 2019, North Marin Water District (District) partnered with Kiosk to develop a comprehensive Communications Strategy and Plan. That original plan was informed by a thorough research and engagement process, including a communications audit, peer organization review, stakeholder interviews, customer focus groups, staff and Board input, and strategic planning workshops. The resulting plan established a strong foundation for District communications: key audiences, core communications objectives, guiding principles, priority initiatives, and recommended outreach activities. Since then, the District has essentially completed implementation of the plan, including modernizing communications channels, strengthening the District's reputation and presence, improving the website, expanding digital outreach, and increasing the consistency and accessibility of customer communications.

To support the communications-related goals identified in the District's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, including public education, community engagement, rapid response to misinformation, financial and rate-related communications, and expanded multilingual and multi-channel outreach, a new communications strategy and plan was developed.

The 2026–2030 Communications Strategy and Plan (Attachment 1) builds on the foundation work completed in 2019 and was not intended to repeat the full research process or replace the strategic direction established in 2019. Instead, it reflects the District's communications progress to date, the changing needs and expectations of customers, and the continued evolution of communications technology, platforms, and best practices all aimed at further enhancing the District communication efforts and aligning with Strategic Plan Goal 4.

Many of the core elements of the 2019 plan remain relevant today, including the District's primary audiences, overall communications objectives, and commitment to clear, timely, accurate, accessible, and trustworthy communications. However, the tactics, priorities, and areas of focus for the next four years have evolved. This refreshed plan is designed to be shorter, more

actionable, and easier to use as a practical roadmap for communications planning, implementation, and measurement from 2026 through 2030.

Kiosk will be presenting the 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan at the Board meeting (Attachment 2).

Alignment With Strategic Plan

Goal 4: Enhance Customer Understanding and Engagement including; Action 4.1 Develop and Launch a Public Communications Campaign; Action 4.2 Develop a multi-year community engagement plan; Action 4.3 Build a rapid response strategy for misinformation (Initial Strategy and Procedure for Rapid Response to Misinformation included as Attachment 3); Action 4.4 Provide regular financial planning and rate forecast updates; and Action 4.5 Expand multi-lingual and multi-channel communications are all addressed in the 2026-2030 Communications and Plan through workstream action items. As described in the Plan, an Activity Calendar will be developed annually which will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board approve the 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan
2. 2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan Presentation Slides
3. Initial Strategy and Procedure for Rapid Response to Misinformation



Communications Strategy & Plan
2026-2030

V 1.0 Updated: September 25, 2026

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1. Introduction

In 2019, North Marin Water District partnered with Kiosk to develop a comprehensive Communications Strategy and Plan. That original plan was informed by a thorough research and engagement process, including a communications audit, peer organization review, stakeholder interviews, customer focus groups, staff and Board input, and strategic planning workshops.

The resulting plan established a strong foundation for District communications: key audiences, core communications objectives, guiding principles, priority initiatives, and recommended outreach activities. Since then, NMWD has essentially completed implementation of the plan, including modernizing communications channels, strengthening the District's reputation and presence, improving the website, expanding digital outreach, and increasing the consistency and accessibility of customer communications.

The 2026–2030 Communications Plan builds on that foundation. It is not intended to repeat the full research process or replace the strategic direction established in 2019. Instead, it reflects the District's communications progress to date, the changing needs and expectations of customers, and the continued evolution of communications technology, platforms, and best practices.

It also supports the communications-related goals identified in the District's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, including public education, community engagement, rapid response to misinformation, financial and rate-related communications, and expanded multilingual and multi-channel outreach.

Many of the core elements of the 2019 plan remain relevant today, including the District's primary audiences, overall communications objectives, and commitment to clear, timely, accurate, accessible, and trustworthy communications. However, the tactics, priorities, and areas of focus for the next four years have evolved. This refreshed plan is designed to be shorter, more actionable, and easier to use as a practical roadmap for communications planning, implementation, and measurement from 2026 through 2030.

2. Recap of 2019 Communications Research Insights

The 2019 Communications Strategy and Plan was shaped by extensive research and input from customers, District staff, Board members, and communications consultants. While the research generated more than 80 actionable ideas, six key themes emerged consistently across the feedback:

- 1. Customers want more and better information.** Customers expressed interest in clear, practical information that would help them understand their water use, conserve effectively, and make informed decisions.
- 2. Refreshing the NMWD website was a clear priority.** Research identified significant usability issues and customer frustrations with the previous website, reinforcing the need for a more accessible, modern, and useful digital experience.

3. **Communications needed to reinforce quality, reliability, and positivity.** Customers and stakeholders saw an opportunity for NMWD communications to build trust by telling a stronger story about the District's work, service quality, infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and value.
4. **Expanded social media support was important for increasing reach and engagement.** Social media was identified as an important channel for sharing website content, amplifying District messages, and engaging customers more consistently.
5. **The NMWD brand needed to be updated and used consistently.** Feedback suggested that the District's visual identity and communications materials should better reflect NMWD's professionalism, quality, innovation, and role as an essential public service provider.
6. **NMWD staff were well regarded, and the human side of the organization was an asset.** Research showed that District staff were viewed positively, and that highlighting the people behind the work could help strengthen customer connection, understanding, and trust.

Together, these insights provided the foundation for the 2019 plan and continue to inform the District's communications priorities today. The 2026 –2030 plan carries these themes forward while focusing on the next stage of communications maturity: sustaining progress, improving consistency, deepening engagement, and aligning outreach with the District's current goals, services, and community needs.

3. North Marin Water District - Overarching Communications Strategy

Communications Objectives

The overarching Communications Objectives for North Marin Water District remain consistent with the strategic direction established in the 2019 Communications Strategy and Plan. However, their focus has been refined to reflect the progress made since 2019 and to better support the communications -related goals identified through the District's recent Strategic Planning process. These five objectives continue to provide a useful framework for communications planning, prioritization, implementation, and evaluation:

1. **RECOGNITION** - Strengthen recognition of NMWD's brand, services, and community value through consistent, professional, and accessible communications.
2. **REACH** - Reach more NMWD customers and voters, including through multi -channel, multilingual, and accessible communications.
3. **EDUCATE** - Build water literacy by providing clear, helpful, timely information about water supply, conservation, infrastructure, financial planning, rates, projects, and District services.
4. **ENGAGE** - Deepen community engagement by creating regular opportunities for customers, voters, schools, partners, and community groups to connect with NMWD, provide input, and learn about District initiatives.

5. **BUILD TRUST** - Continue to grow and reinforce trust through transparent, fact -based, timely communications, including proactive updates and rapid response to misinformation or emerging community concerns.

Communications Principles

All communications from North Marin Water District should aim to adhere to the following principles:

1. **Accessible**
Communications should be easy for all members of the community to access, understand, and use, across languages, formats, channels, and technologies.
2. **Accurate**
Communications should state facts clearly and provide contact details, next steps, and actions where appropriate.
3. **Actionable**
Communications should help move audiences toward clear, useful actions.
4. **Credible & Transparent**
Communications should build trust by being clear, honest, coordinated with partners where needed, and consistent in speaking with one voice.
5. **Recognizable**
Communications should make the North Marin Water District brand and voice consistent and easy to recognize.
6. **Relevant**
Communications should be tailored for different audiences and aligned with the District's mission and strategic goals.
7. **Timely**
Communications should be frequent, regular, well -prepared, and scheduled where possible, while allowing the District to respond quickly to situations and emergencies.
8. **Understandable**
Communications should use plain language, avoid unnecessary acronyms, tell stories where helpful, and make information visual wherever possible.

Audiences for Communications and Engagement

North Marin Water District communicates with a range of audiences with different needs, interests, and preferred ways of receiving information. The core audiences identified in the 2019 Communications Strategy and Plan remain relevant, but the 2026–2030 plan places greater emphasis on reaching people through inclusive, multilingual, multi -channel communications. Within each audience group, consideration will be given to people who may need information in a different language, format, channel, or level of detail:

Core Audiences Residential Customers Business Customers Community Members HOAs and Property Managers Employees (internal)	Secondary Audiences Landscape companies and contractors Local, Regional, and State agency partners Media outlets (newspapers, online news sites, magazines, TV and radio shows etc.) Schools and community groups
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Key Communication Channels

At the time of writing, North Marin Water District's current key communications tools and channels include:

Online	Link
Website	https://www.nmwd.com/
Water Smart Portal	https://www.onlinebiller.com/nmwd/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/NorthMarinWaterDistrict/
Nextdoor	https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ca/novato/north-marin-water-district/
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-marin-water-district/
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/user/NMWD1948/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/northmarinwaterdistrict/

Offline	Description
Waterline Newsletter and eNewsletter	Water District Newsletter that is distributed to all households and businesses within the district, and digitally via email to subscribers.
Conservation Flyers	Informational flyers e.g. "Why Mulch?"
Sonoma Marin Water Saving Partnership Campaign	Annual multi-media public outreach campaign focusing on water use efficiency. Campaign includes print and radio ads in English and Spanish language.
Highway 101 Banner	Banner mounted on the heavy equipment shed in the NMWD yard.
Public Outreach Events	NMWD participates in several public events each year, usually by having an information table or booth.

4. North Marin Water District 2026 -2030 Communications Plan

The North Marin Water District 2026–2030 Communications Plan builds on the strategic foundation

established in 2019 and translates the Communications Objectives outlined in Section 3 into priority communications workstreams and actions for the next four years. It also supports the communications-related goals identified in Section 4 of the District's Strategic Plan, including public education, community engagement, rapid response to misinformation, financial and rate-related communications, and expanded multilingual and multi-channel outreach. This Plan reflects the District's progress to date, current Strategic Plan priorities, and the evolving needs of customers, voters, and community stakeholders.

Because many communications activities support more than one objective, the Plan is organized by workstream rather than by Communications Objective. This structure is intended to reduce duplication and provide a concise, practical roadmap for implementation. Specific activities, campaigns, topics, and timing may be refined through the District's annual communications planning and Activity Calendar.

4.1 Website & Digital Information

Goal: Maintain an accurate, accessible and easy-to-use website that serves as a primary source of information about District services, projects, programs and activities.

Supports Communications Objectives:
Reach · Educate · Build Trust

Priority Actions:

- Review and modernize two to three priority website pages each year to improve usability, navigation, content clarity and ease of maintenance.
- Conduct quarterly website accessibility reviews and make updates as needed to support ADA compliance.
- Continue to improve website organization, searchability and content structure so customers can easily find key information, documents, services and updates.
- Develop and update webpages, FAQs and other digital resources to support priority District initiatives and public education campaigns.

Timing: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and ongoing.

4.2 Social Media & Digital Outreach

Goal: Use social media and digital outreach to expand the District's reach, provide timely information, support public education and increase community awareness and engagement.

Supports Communications Objectives:
Reach · Engage · Educate

Priority Actions:

- Maintain an active social media presence supported by a coordinated content calendar.
- Publish a regular mix of service information, project updates, water-saving information, educational content, meeting and event information, and stories highlighting District staff,

accomplishments and community value.

- Use short-form video, photography, infographics and other visual content to make information engaging and easy to understand.
- Direct customers to relevant website content, documents, public notices, meetings, events and services.
- Boost or promote priority content where appropriate to reach customers, voters and other key audiences.

Timing: Ongoing.

4.3 Public Education Campaigns & Content

Goal: Develop coordinated public education campaigns and reusable content that increase understanding of the District's services, water supply, infrastructure, water quality, conservation, financial planning, rates and other priority topics.

As outlined in Strategic Plan Goals 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, this workstream will include developing campaign plans that define messages, audiences, and channels; building water literacy; explaining supply challenges, infrastructure needs, and conservation; deploying campaigns across digital, print, media, social, meetings, outreach, and storytelling; and building a reusable library of materials such as brochures, videos, infographics, and FAQs.

Supports Communications Objectives:
Educate · Reach · Build Trust

Priority Actions:

- Develop multi-channel education campaigns that identify audiences, key messages, communications channels, timing and desired outcomes.
- Create and maintain a library of reusable public education campaign materials, including fact sheets, FAQs, infographics, brochures, presentations, website content, social media assets and short-form videos.
- Use plain language and visual storytelling to make technical and complex information easier to understand.
- Provide clear, accessible information about topics including water supply, infrastructure investment, major projects, conservation, water quality, financial planning, rates, emergency preparedness and District services.
- Adapt campaign materials for use across digital, print, social media, public meetings, community outreach and partner channels.

Timing: Begin in Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and continue periodically throughout the Plan term.

4.4 Community Outreach & Events

Goal: Increase District visibility and create regular opportunities for customers and community partners to connect with North Marin Water District in person.

This workstream will serve as the multi-year community engagement plan stemming from Strategic Plan Goal 4.2. It will identify priority events, partner opportunities, schools, open houses, facility-based outreach, and community forums where the District can build awareness, support public education, and strengthen relationships with customers and community stakeholders.

Supports Communications Objectives:

Engage · Recognition · Reach

Priority Actions:

- Develop and maintain a yearly community outreach and engagement plan.
- Identify and prioritize opportunities for District participation in community events, partner events, schools, open houses and community forums (each annual Activity Calendar will include the specifics).
- Expand the District's ability to participate in events through branded, reusable outreach equipment and materials, including a District branded mobile water filling station.
- Pursue shared outreach opportunities with agency and community partners where they can increase reach or reduce participation costs.
- Hold a District open house in 2028 to mark the District's 80th anniversary, featuring educational activities and opportunities for customers to interact directly with District staff.

Timing: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and ongoing.

4.5 Customer Communications & Collateral

Goal: Maintain clear, current, accessible and consistently branded customer communications across print and digital formats.

Supports Communications Objectives:

Educate · Reach · Build Trust

Priority Actions:

- Review and update routine customer -facing communications, including brochures, flyers, fact sheets, FAQs and other materials, as needed to ensure information remains current and easy to understand.
- Continue to update existing public information brochures and brochure cards, and develop new materials as relevant, for display in the front lobby, at outreach events, and through partner/community distribution channels.
- Continue to use the Waterline newsletter and other direct customer communications to share important District information and educational content.
- Review and refresh the Waterline newsletter design and format during the Plan term, if it continues to be used as a regular customer communications tool.
- Provide accessible summaries of significant District plans, budgets, rate information, projects and infrastructure investments.

- Support the Director of Administrative Services, beginning in 2028 and annually thereafter, in providing regular financial planning and rate forecast updates by helping develop accessible, jargon-free summaries of financial plans, budgets, upcoming projects, necessary rate changes, and infrastructure investments.
- Conduct a customer communications survey during the Plan term to assess information needs, communications preferences and opportunities for improvement.

Timing: Ongoing, with annual financial planning and rate forecast communications support beginning in 2028, and customer research conducted during the Plan term.

4.6 Brand & Visual Communications

Goal: Maintain a consistent, professional and accessible North Marin Water District brand across all communications and strengthen the District's visual storytelling resources.

Supports Communications Objectives:
Recognition · Build Trust

Priority Actions:

- Review brand assets for accessibility and usability and update the District's Brand Guidelines as needed.
- Maintain easy staff and authorized partner access to current approved brand assets and templates, including streamlined fonts.
- Commission new professional photography periodically to document District staff, facilities, projects and services and support public -facing communications.
- Ensure new communications materials consistently reflect the District's approved brand, voice and visual standards.

Timing: Review beginning in Fall 2026, with ongoing implementation through 2030.

4.7 Spanish -Language & Multilingual Communications

Goal: Expand access to important District information for Spanish -speaking customers and make it easier for community members to request information in other languages.

This workstream stems from Strategic Plan Goal 4.5 and supports the District's commitment to expanded multilingual and multi -channel communications. It will focus on translating priority website pages and key District communications into Spanish, while also establishing a clear process for community members to request information in other languages.

Supports Communications Objectives:
Reach · Educate · Build Trust

Priority Actions:

- Translate priority website pages and key customer communications into Spanish.
- Expand Spanish-language versions of selected newsletters, e -news communications, flyers,

public education materials and other high-priority content.

- Include a clear notice on key materials explaining how customers may request information in other languages.
- Establish a consistent internal process for determining which communications should be translated and for handling language requests.
- Review translated materials periodically to ensure they remain accurate and current.

Timing: Begin in Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and continue through 2030.

4.8 Rapid Response & Issues Communications

Goal: Ensure North Marin Water District can respond quickly and consistently to misinformation, emerging concerns and other issues requiring timely, fact-based public communications.

This workstream stems from Strategic Plan Goal 4.3 and supports the District's need for a rapid response strategy for misinformation. It will focus on creating clear processes to monitor emerging concerns, coordinate accurate messaging, approve responses, and communicate quickly on topics such as finances, rates, projects, regulations, water quality, water supply, and service issues.

This workstream was prioritized at the start of the 2026 –2030 plan term. An initial rapid response framework, titled 'Strategy and Procedure for Rapid Response to Misinformation', has already been developed and will be reviewed, refined, and maintained throughout the plan period.

Supports Communications Objectives:
Build Trust · Educate · Reach

Priority Actions:

- Develop a rapid response process covering issue monitoring, internal coordination, message development and approval, communications channels and follow-up.
- Prepare fact-based content in easy-to-use formats, including FAQs, fact sheets, infographics, short videos and social media content.
- Use the District website and appropriate communications channels to provide timely, authoritative information and direct customers to accurate source material.
- Coordinate messaging with partner agencies where appropriate.
- Update or expand issue-specific communications as new questions or concerns emerge.

Timing: Initial framework developed in 2026; review, refine, and maintain through 2030.

5. Implementation & Measurement

Progress implementing the Communications Plan will be reviewed annually. The District will use appropriate measures - including website and social media performance, campaign reach, completion of planned communications activities, community participation, customer feedback and survey findings - to

assess progress and inform future annual communications planning.

Since many of the goals and actions described above align directly with the Strategic Plan, implementation status for those elements will also be included in the Strategic Plan’s annual updates and reports to the District’s Board of Directors.

6. Recommended Budget for Plan Implementation

In addition to District staff time at various levels, implementation of this Communications Plan will require external support. External support costs are expected to be approximately \$90,000 in fiscal year 2026/2027, with annual increases of at least 3% in subsequent years.

This budget supports continued communications and marketing support from Kiosk, as well as professional services and production costs such as photography, short -form video production, graphic design, brochure and collateral updates, Spanish -language translation, website accessibility support, paid social media promotion, and other communications materials needed to implement the Plan.

7. Activity Calendar

A detailed 12-month Activity Calendar will be developed annually to coincide with the start of each new calendar year. The calendar will map out planned communications activities, initiatives, campaigns, and events for the year ahead, and will also include a 24 -month look -ahead for events to support longer -term planning for months 13–24. The recurring annual communications activities below will serve as the baseline for this planning process. Specific topics, campaigns, timing, and deliverables may be refined each year through the District’s annual communications planning process.

Recurring Annual Communications Activities

The following activities should be planned for each fiscal year:

Activity	Timing / Frequency
Annual communications planning and Activity Calendar update	Annually in January
Website accessibility review and updates	Quarterly
Review and update 2–3 priority website pages	Annually
Social media planning calendar	Monthly / quarterly
Short-form video planning and production	Ongoing
Public education campaign planning and content development	Ongoing
Waterline newsletter planning, production, and/or refresh	Per publication schedule
Spanish-language and multilingual communications review	Annually
Community outreach and event planning	Annually, with seasonal updates
Rapid response / issues communications process review	Annually

Budget review and recommendations for next fiscal year	Q3 / January–March
Annual communications performance recap	Annually in November

Reorganizes the Plan around practical communications workstreams

North Marin Water District

2026-2030 Communications Strategy and Plan

October 6, 2026



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

2026–2030 Communications Strategy & Plan

Overview

- Replaces the prior Communications Strategy & Plan
 - Builds on the communications foundation established in the 2019 Strategy & Plan
 - Reflects progress made, current communications needs, and updated priorities
 - Supports Strategic Plan Goal 4: Enhance Customer Understanding and Engagement
- 

Evolution, not revolution

- Keeps core audiences, objectives, and communications principles
 - Continues the District's commitment to clear, accurate, accessible communications
 - Updates the tactics and channels for 2026–2030 through practical workstreams
 - Uses annual Activity Calendars to guide implementation and measurement
 - Adds stronger focus on education, digital access, multilingual outreach, and rapid response
- 

Strategic Plan alignment

The Plan directly supports Strategic Plan Goal 4: Enhance Customer Understanding and Engagement.



Public Education

Develop campaigns that build water literacy and explain supply, infrastructure, and conservation.



Community Engagement

Create a multi-year plan for events, schools, open houses, and community outreach.



Rapid Response to Misinformation

Build processes to monitor and respond quickly to misinformation and emerging concerns.



Financial & Rate Updates

Provide accessible summaries of financial plans, budgets, rate forecasts, and projects.



Multilingual Outreach

Expand Spanish-language materials and use diverse channels to reach more customers.

How the new Plan is organized

To reduce duplication, the Plan is organized by workstream rather than by Communications Objective.

Website & Digital Information

Accurate, accessible, easy-to-use information

Social Media & Digital Outreach

Timely updates, education, and engagement

Public Education Campaigns/ Content

Water literacy and reusable materials

Community Outreach & Events

In-person engagement and visibility

Customer Communications

Brochures, newsletters, summaries, and updates

Brand & Visual Communications

Consistent identity and visual storytelling

Spanish-Language & Multilingual Comms

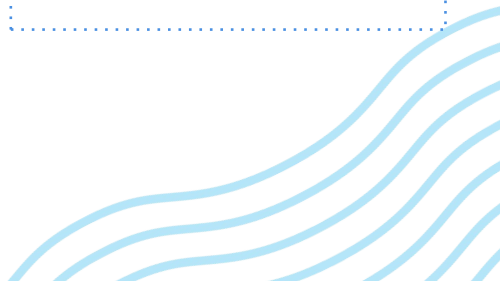
Expanded access across languages and channels

Rapid Response & Issues Comms

Timely, fact-based response to concerns

Each workstream supports multiple Communications Objectives:

Recognition · Reach · Educate · Engage · Build Trust



Budget impact

- No additional financial action requested at this time
- Implementation support is included in the FY 2026/27 budget
- In addition to District staff time, external support is expected to be approximately \$90,000 in FY 2026/27



FY 2026/27 Progress Highlights

Progress already underway: Public Education



Public education videos:

Educational outreach videos created and used on social media.

This supports Strategic Plan Goal 4.1: *Develop and launch a public education campaign.*

FY 2026/27 Progress Highlights

Progress already underway: Rapid Response.



STRATEGY AND PROCEDURE FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO MISINFORMATION

Original Date: 2026
Last Revised: xxx

I. PURPOSE

To develop a clear process for monitoring misinformation and potentially respond quickly with fact-based communications to maintain public trust. This procedure involves a multi-departmental team of District staff developed to address misinformation on topics including, but not limited to: finances, rates, projects, regulations, the dam, the lake, water quality, development, water supply, etc. The same multi-departmental District team could also be deployed to respond to inquiries from the press.

Sources where misinformation has recently, commonly or historically occurred include common media platforms and outlets such as the local newspapers and various social media platforms. Misinformation can also originate from specialized, hyperlocal social media platforms, various online forums as well as local, regional or national special interest groups.

This Strategy and Procedure for Rapid Response to Misinformation is one component to the District's overall communication, engagement and public education program.

II. MULTI-DEPARTMENTAL STAFF TEAM

The multi-departmental staff team will be comprised of the following staff with topics (including but not limited to) assigned as noted:

General Manager (GM): All topics.

Assistant General Manager/ Director of Engineering (AGM): Topics related to projects, dam safety, development, water supply.

Director of Administrative Services (AC): Topics related to finances, rates, meter reading and billing.

Director of Operations (OMM): Topics related to the dam operations, the lake, the treatment plants, tanks, pump stations or other operation facilities.

Director of Utilities (CS): Topics related to construction projects, pipeline leaks.

Water Quality Supervisor (WQS): Topics related to water quality, the lake, the laboratory and/or

Rapid Response Framework:
The **Strategy and Procedure for Rapid Response to Misinformation** has been drafted. This supports Strategic Plan Goal 4.3: *Build a rapid response strategy for misinformation.*

Annual planning & measurement

- Consider forming an Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Communications
 - Annual Activity Calendar will guide implementation each year and be reviewed for Strategic Plan alignment:
 - Includes 12-month plan + 24-month event look-ahead
 - Developed in Dec/Jan and presented to BoD in February
 - Communications Strategy & Plan progress reviewed annually
 - Measures may include website/social performance, campaign reach, activity completion, and feedback/research findings
 - Relevant items included in Strategic Plan will be reported to the Board annually
- 

Next steps

- Engage the Board on future Strategic Communication and Engagement Activities
 - Develop annual Activity Calendar in December/January
 - Present Activity Calendar to the Board in February 2027
 - Review progress annually through Communications Plan and Strategic Plan reporting
- 

Thank You



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**



STRATEGY AND PROCEDURE FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO MISINFORMATION

Original Date: 2026

Last Revised: xxx

I. PURPOSE

To develop a clear process for monitoring misinformation and potentially respond quickly with fact-based communications to maintain public trust. This procedure involves a multi-departmental team of District staff developed to address misinformation on topics including, but not limited to; finances, rates, projects, regulations, the dam, the lake, water quality, development, water supply, etc. The same multi-departmental District team could also be deployed to respond to inquiries from the press.

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II. MULTI-DEPARTMENTAL STAFF TEAM

The multi-departmental staff team will be comprised of the following staff with topics (including but not limited to) assigned as noted:

General Manager (GM): All topics.

Assistant General Manager/ Director of Engineering (AGM): Topics related to projects, dam safety, development, water supply.

Director of Administrative Services (AC): Topics related to finances, rates, meter reading and billing.

Director of Operations (OMM): Topics related to the dam operations, the lake, the treatment plants, tanks, pump stations or other operation facilities.

Director of Utilities (CS): Topics related to construction projects, pipeline leaks.

Water Quality Supervisor (WQS): Topics related to water quality, the lake, the laboratory and/or testing results, Fluoride, various environmental or public health interest groups.

Water Conservation and Communications Manager (WCCM): All topics.

Executive Assistant/District Secretary (EADS): may serve as a conduit to the team on all topics.

III. RESPONSE PROCEDURE

1. Local or Regional Press and Printed Media: The EADS will review the Marin IJ and the Point Reyes Light for articles, letters to the editor, or opinion pieces that directly or indirectly involve the District or topics identified above. The EADS notifies the GM if such printed material is found. The EADS will also forward all press inquiries to the GM (see below) or the AGM if the GM is unavailable.
2. Misinformation Identified or Suspected: When potential misinformation is identified, an email should be sent to the GM and WCCM with as much detail as possible including the topic, where the information is being broadcasted, and when it was broadcasted or made

public.

3. Internal Review of Potential Misinformation: Once potential misinformation has been identified or brought to the attention of anyone above, that information shall be relayed to the GM and/or WCCCM. The GM and/or WCCCM will review the information, consult the appropriate member of the multi-departmental staff team, and determine if a response is warranted and how that response shall be implemented. The level or type of misinformation that would require a response is up to the discretion of the GM.
4. Response Assignment: If it is determined a response is warranted, the GM shall assign someone from the multi-departmental staff team to respond accordingly and/or work with the WCCCM to formulate and distribute a response. If warranted, the GM will notify the Board President of proposed District action.
5. Misinformation Monitoring: If it is decided that no response is warranted at the initial identification of misinformation, the GM shall instruct the WCCCM and/or designated multi-departmental staff team member, to continue to monitor the misinformation source and report back for further discussion, if the misinformation escalates or continues.
6. Response Assignment for Inquiries from the Press: In the event an inquiry from the press is communicated to the District, the GM may assign the appropriate member of the multi-departmental staff team to respond to the inquiry.

IV. MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

This section covers procedures for monitoring and any additional follow up including “closeout” of District actions related to a misinformation event. It also covers longer term monitoring of misinformation in which the District has not taken formal action.

1. Monitoring of Misinformation Event (District Action Taken): Designated staff team member assigned shall monitor the misinformation on a reasonable frequency basis to determine if further misinformation is occurring.
2. Closeout of District Action: Once the designated staff team member assigned has determined that no further response or monitoring is needed, they shall email the GM to advise of such. GM shall forward to the EADS or other appropriate staff member for documentation of the misinformation and actions taken.
3. Long Term Monitoring of Misinformation (no initial District Action): Designated staff team member assigned shall monitor the misinformation on a to be determined frequency to determine if action is now needed. The frequency shall be determined by the GM and/or designated staff team member.
4. In unique misinformation circumstances, the GM may provide a summary of the District’s actions in the GM Report section of the Agenda or prepare a staff report and include an informational item in a Board Meeting Agenda.

8



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

Date: October 6, 2026

From: Julie Blue, Director of Administrative Services *JB*
 Karen Clyde, HR/Safety Manager *KRC*

Subject: Base Salary Schedule Revision

T:\AC\Board Reports\Board Memos\2026\Salary Schedule Revisions Effective 10.06.26\Board Memo Salary schedule update Effective 100626.docx

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the updated District Salary Schedule Effective October 6, 2026

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$16,750 Salary & Benefit Cost (included in FY 26/27 Budget)

Summary

This memorandum requests approval of an updated District Salary Schedule to reflect organizational changes previously reviewed by the Board and maintain compliance with CalPERS pay schedule requirements.

On April 21, 2026, the Board reviewed proposed organizational changes developed as part of the implementation of the District's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. The proposed changes included replacing the Water Quality Supervisor (exempt) position with a Laboratory Supervisor (non-exempt) position, who will also serve as the District's Laboratory Quality Manager, to support laboratory operations and regulatory compliance requirements.

The proposed salary range for the Laboratory Supervisor salary range is included in the District Salary Schedule and is intended to be competitive with the current labor market. This position will be filled by the end of the calendar year. Funding for the position was included in the adopted FY 26/27 budget, and the estimated annual labor cost increase is \$16,750. This estimate reflects the net impact of the approved organizational changes, including the creation of the Water Resources Department, addition of the Director of Water Resources position, and replacement of the Water Quality Supervisor position (a salary savings of \$197,172) with a Laboratory Supervisor position, and does not increase the District's overall authorized full-time employee (FTE) count.

Salary Schedule Update

As required by Title 2, Section 570.5 of the California Code of Regulations, the District's pay schedule must be adopted by the governing body at a public meeting. The revised Salary Schedule is included as Attachment 1 for Board review and approval. Once approved, it will be posted on the District's website as a publicly available document.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

Goal 2: Foster Organizational Excellence; Action 2.1: Undertake a comprehensive organizational structure review to improve District effectiveness.

Replacing the Water Quality Supervisor position with the Laboratory Supervisor position supports Action 2.1 by aligning the Water Quality Division's structure with the District's operational and regulatory needs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the updated District Salary Schedule effective October 6, 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Revised Base Salary Schedule Effective October 6, 2026

North Marin Water District
Employee Salary Ranges and Job Classifications - Effective TBD

ATTACHMENT 1

Pending Approval by the Board of Directors on October 6, 2026.

	Step 1 Monthly / Annual	Step 2 Monthly / Annual	Step 3 Monthly / Annual	Step 4 Monthly / Annual	Step 5 Monthly / Annual
<u>Administration Department</u>					
Receptionist/Customer Service Asst.	6,066 72,792	6,369 76,428	6,687 80,244	7,021 84,252	7,372 88,464
Field Service Rep I	6,748 80,976	7,085 85,020	7,439 89,268	7,811 93,732	8,202 98,424
Field Service Rep II	7,220 86,640	7,581 90,972	7,960 95,521	8,358 100,297	8,776 105,311
Field Service Representative Lead	8,146 97,752	8,553 102,636	8,981 107,772	9,430 113,160	9,902 118,824
Customer Service Supervisor	10,059 120,708	10,562 126,744	11,090 133,080	11,645 139,740	12,227 146,724
Executive Assistant/District Secretary	10,493 125,916	11,018 132,216	11,569 138,828	12,147 145,764	12,754 153,048
HR/Risk Manager	11,682 140,184	12,266 147,192	12,879 154,548	13,523 162,276	14,199 170,388
Accounting Clerk II	6,698 80,376	7,033 84,396	7,385 88,620	7,754 93,048	8,142 97,704
Staff Accountant	8,630 103,560	9,062 108,744	9,515 114,180	9,991 119,892	10,491 125,892
Senior Accountant	9,884 118,608	10,378 124,536	10,897 130,764	11,442 137,304	12,014 144,168
Accounting Supervisor	11,085 133,020	11,639 139,668	12,221 146,652	12,832 153,984	13,474 161,688
Technology Services Manager	11,655 139,860	12,243 146,916	12,860 154,320	13,508 162,096	14,189 170,268
Director of Administrative Services	16,842 202,104	17,684 212,208	18,568 222,816	19,496 233,952	20,471 245,652
Water Conservation Tech	4,965 59,580	5,213 62,556	5,474 65,688	5,748 68,976	6,035 72,420
Water Conservation & Communications Mgr	12,496 149,952	13,121 157,452	13,777 165,324	14,466 173,592	15,189 182,268
General Manager			25,136.50 301,638		
	Step 1 Monthly / Annual	Step 2 Monthly / Annual	Step 3 Monthly / Annual	Step 4 Monthly / Annual	Step 5 Monthly / Annual
<u>Engineering Department</u>					
Engineering Administrative Assistant	7,463 89,556	7,836 94,032	8,228 98,736	8,639 103,668	9,071 108,852
Engineering Services Rep	8,167 98,004	8,575 102,900	9,004 108,048	9,454 113,448	9,927 119,124
Engineering Technician IV	9,083 108,996	9,537 114,444	10,014 120,168	10,515 126,180	11,041 132,492
Senior Engineering Technician	10,012 120,144	10,513 126,156	11,039 132,468	11,591 139,092	12,171 146,052
Junior Engineer	10,012 120,144	10,513 126,156	11,039 132,468	11,591 139,092	12,171 146,052
Assistant Engineer	10,945 131,340	11,492 137,904	12,067 144,804	12,670 152,040	13,304 159,648
Associate Engineer	12,868 154,416	13,511 162,132	14,187 170,244	14,896 178,752	15,641 187,692
Senior Engineer	14,283 171,396	14,997 179,964	15,747 188,964	16,534 198,408	17,361 208,332
Assistant General Manager/Director of Engineering	18,238 218,856	19,150 229,799	20,107 241,289	21,113 253,353	22,168 266,021

North Marin Water District

Employee Salary Ranges and Job Classifications - Effective TBD

Pending Approval by the Board of Directors on October 6, 2026.

	Step 1 Monthly / Annual	Step 2 Monthly / Annual	Step 3 Monthly / Annual	Step 4 Monthly / Annual	Step 5 Monthly / Annual
<u>Utilities Department</u>					
Utility Worker I	6,258 75,096	6,571 78,852	6,900 82,800	7,245 86,940	7,607 91,284
Utility Worker II	6,713 80,556	7,049 84,588	7,401 88,812	7,771 93,252	8,160 97,920
Utility Worker III	7,776 93,312	8,165 97,980	8,573 102,876	9,002 108,024	9,452 113,424
Storekeeper	7,668 92,016	8,051 96,612	8,454 101,448	8,877 106,524	9,321 111,852
Auto/Equipment Mechanic	8,034 96,408	8,436 101,232	8,858 106,296	9,301 111,612	9,766 117,192
Heavy Equipment Operator	8,050 96,600	8,453 101,436	8,876 106,512	9,320 111,840	9,787 117,444
Distribution/Maintenance Foreman	9,658 115,896	10,141 121,692	10,648 127,776	11,180 134,160	11,739 140,868
Pipeline Foreman	9,658 115,896	10,141 121,692	10,648 127,776	11,180 134,160	11,739 140,868
Director of Utilities	13,352 160,224	14,020 168,240	14,721 176,652	15,457 185,484	16,230 194,760
	Step 1 Monthly / Annual	Step 2 Monthly / Annual	Step 3 Monthly / Annual	Step 4 Monthly / Annual	Step 5 Monthly / Annual
<u>Water Resources Department</u>					
Laboratory Technician	7,160 85,920	7,518 90,216	7,894 94,728	8,289 99,468	8,703 104,436
Lab Analyst I	8,537 102,444	8,964 107,568	9,412 112,944	9,883 118,596	10,377 124,524
Lab Analyst II	10,122 121,464	10,628 127,536	11,159 133,908	11,717 140,604	12,303 147,636
Senior Lab Analyst	11,076 132,912	11,630 139,560	12,212 146,544	12,823 153,876	13,464 161,568
Lab Supervisor	12,019 144,228	12,620 151,440	13,251 159,012	13,914 166,968	14,610 175,320
Director of Water Resources	14,171 170,052	14,886 178,632	15,637 187,644	16,425 197,100	17,253 207,037
	Step 1 Monthly / Annual	Step 2 Monthly / Annual	Step 3 Monthly / Annual	Step 4 Monthly / Annual	Step 5 Monthly / Annual
<u>Operations Department</u>					
Program Assistant I	6,122 73,464	6,428 77,136	6,749 80,988	7,086 85,032	7,440 89,280
Program Assistant II	7,441 89,292	7,813 93,756	8,204 98,448	8,614 103,368	9,045 108,540
Program Assistant III	8,184 98,208	8,593 103,116	9,023 108,276	9,474 113,688	9,948 119,376
Cross Connection Tech I	7,091 85,092	7,446 89,352	7,818 93,816	8,209 98,508	8,619 103,428
Cross Connection Tech II	8,620 103,440	9,051 108,612	9,504 114,048	9,979 119,748	10,478 125,736
Apprentice Elec/Mech Tech	7,833 93,996	8,225 98,700	8,636 103,632	9,068 108,816	9,521 114,252
Electrical/Mechanical Tech	9,193 110,316	9,653 115,836	10,136 121,632	10,643 127,716	11,175 134,100
Senior Elec/Mech Tech	9,960 119,520	10,458 125,496	10,981 131,772	11,530 138,360	12,107 145,284
Safety & Emergency Manager	10,751 129,012	11,293 135,516	11,862 142,344	12,460 149,520	13,088 157,056
Maintenance Supervisor	12,019 144,228	12,620 151,440	13,251 159,012	13,914 166,968	14,610 175,320

North Marin Water District
Employee Salary Ranges and Job Classifications - Effective TBD

Pending Approval by the Board of Directors on October 6, 2026.

	Step 1 Monthly / Annual	Step 2 Monthly / Annual	Step 3 Monthly / Annual	Step 4 Monthly / Annual	Step 5 Monthly / Annual
<u>Operations Department (cont.)</u>					
Asst Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 1 *	7,740 92,880	8,122 97,464	8,523 102,276	8,944 107,328	9,386 112,632
Asst Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 2 *	7,840 94,080	8,222 98,664	8,623 103,476	9,044 108,528	9,486 113,832
Asst Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 3 *	7,940 95,280	8,322 99,864	8,723 104,676	9,144 109,728	9,586 115,032
Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 2 *	9,712 116,544	10,188 122,256	10,687 128,244	11,211 134,532	11,762 141,144
Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 3 *	9,812 117,744	10,288 123,456	10,787 129,444	11,311 135,732	11,862 142,344
Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 4 *	9,912 118,944	10,388 124,656	10,887 130,644	11,411 136,932	11,962 143,544
Sr. Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 3 *	10,886 130,632	11,415 136,980	11,971 143,652	12,555 150,660	13,168 158,016
Sr. Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 4 *	10,986 131,832	11,515 138,180	12,071 144,852	12,655 151,860	13,268 159,216
Sr. Water Distrib & TP Op - Tier 5 *	11,086 133,032	11,615 139,380	12,171 146,052	12,755 153,060	13,368 160,416
Treatment & Distribution Supervisor - Tier 3 *	14,147 169,764	14,839 178,068	15,566 186,792	16,329 195,948	17,130 205,560
Treatment & Distribution Supervisor - Tier 4 *	14,247 170,964	14,939 179,268	15,666 187,992	16,429 197,148	17,230 206,760
Treatment & Distribution Supervisor - Tier 5 *	14,347 172,164	15,039 180,468	15,766 189,192	16,529 198,348	17,330 207,960
Director of Operations	15,559 186,708	16,337 196,044	17,154 205,848	18,012 216,144	18,913 226,956

* Treatment Operators Tiers 1-5 schedules are based on certifications held by Stafford Treatment Plant Operators issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The certification tiers are outlined below:
Tier 1 = Distribution (D)1/ Transmission (T)1 -\$100 per month, Tier 2 = D2/T2 -\$200 per month,
Tier 3 = D3 /T3-\$300per month, Tier 4 = D4/T4-\$400per month & Tier 5 = D5/T5 -\$500 per month
The employee will be paid at the lower of the two certifications held.

North Marin Water District
Temporary/Seasonal Employee Hourly Ranges & Job Classifications - 07/01/26

Approved by the Board of Directors on July 16, 2026

	Step 1 Hourly	Step 2 Hourly	Step 3 Hourly	Step 4 Hourly	Step 5 Hourly
Temporary/Seasonal Worker	\$ 28.60	\$ 30.00	\$ 31.50	\$ 33.10	\$ 34.80

9

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



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY: OCTOBER 5, 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

1. Check In
2. Public Comment
3. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
4. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership
 - a. 2026 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
 - b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging
5. Biological Opinion Status Update
6. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update
7. El Nino Preparedness and Coordination
8. Items for Next Agenda – November 2, 2026
9. Check Out

10

North Bay Watershed Association

Board Meeting - Agenda

October 2, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE North Marin Water District

999 Rush Creek Place, Novato, CA

For those wishing to attend virtually

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630673971?pwd=dm94TXJCRWMYWFBLc3U5V2pTSmNRZz09>

Webinar ID: 816 3067 3971 Password: 216460

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

AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Proposed Action
9:30	Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions <i>Amber Manfree, Chair</i>	<i>N/A</i>
9:35	General Public Comments This time is reserved for the public to address the meeting about matters NOT on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the association.	<i>N/A</i>
9:40	Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes Review <i>Amber Manfree, Chair</i> Treasurer's Report <i>Amber Manfree, Chair</i>	<i>Approve/ Accept</i>
9:50	California Water Plan Update <i>Brad Sherwood, Interim General Manager, Sonoma Water</i> A brief update on the California Water Plan, highlighting recent progress, key developments, and upcoming activities.	<i>N/A</i>
10:05	Guest Presentation —Paying for Preparedness: Sustained Investment in Resilience <i>Nuin-Tara Key, Chief Operating Officer, California Forward</i> Climate impacts put new strain on public budgets, insurance markets, and the water systems communities depend on but the way we pay for resilience and adaptation investments has not kept up. No single source can fully cover the costs, whether public grants or ratepayer funding. Current financial and accounting systems also struggle to capture the public value of avoided losses. Nuin-Tara will discuss how funding models can change and what a more durable approach could look like, one that pairs critical state dollars with sustained local revenue and private investment.	<i>Presentation slides</i>

10:35	NBWA Small Grants Awardee Update – Solano Resource Conservation District’s Watershed Explorers Program <i>Lee Ascencio, Solano RCD</i> Learn how Solano Resource Conservation District provides impactful water and stewardship education with its Watershed Explorers Program. Through classroom lessons and field trips to local parks and open spaces, third graders learn about their water resources, discover the impacts of runoff pollution, and participate in various hands-on science stations. With support from NBWA, the program brings Vallejo students to Glen Cove Waterfront Park and Benicia State Recreation Area to connect with the San Pablo Bay Watershed and build a lasting relationship with their local environment.	<i>Presentation slides</i>
10:45	Small Grant and Scholarship Program Update <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i> Andy will provide an overview of program launch, outreach, and next steps.	<i>Presentation slides Board questions and input</i>
10:55	Consider Resolution Honoring Rick Thomasser <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i> Consider adoption of a Resolution recognizing Rick Thomasser upon his retirement and honoring his more than 20 years of dedicated service to Napa County and his extensive career in environmental project management, flood control, watershed management, and water resources.	<i>Approve Policy and Resolution No. 26-04</i>
11:05	Executive Director Report <i>Andy Rodgers, Executive Director</i> Andy will provide updates on activities since the July 17 Board meeting, including recent meetings, regional programs and initiatives, communications, and committees.	<i>ED updates, Board questions, and input</i>
11:15	Board Information Exchange and Updates! <i>Members</i> Members will highlight issues and share items of interest. [Please bring upcoming event information and any agency milestones.]	<i>N/A</i>
11:30	Announcements/Adjourn Next Board Meeting: November 6 — Napa Sanitation District	

11

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Date Prepared 9/14/26

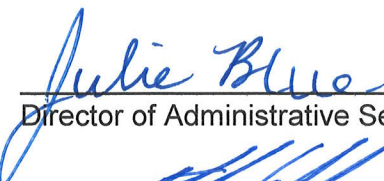
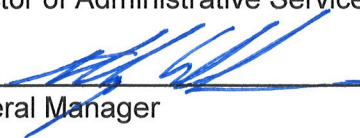
The following demands made against the District are listed for approval and authorization for payment in accordance with Section 31302 of the California Water Code, being a part of the California Water District Law:

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
1	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	\$7,510.00
2		Retiree Exp Reimb (Sept Health Ins)	1,667.84
3	Automation Direct	Antennas (2), Pressure Transmitters (3) (\$475) & Analog Input Module	761.48
4	Benjamin Franklin Plumbing	Membership Fee	179.00
5	Danielle Boland	Novato Washer Rebate Program	75.00
6	Building Supply Center	Insect Repellent	10.81
7		Retiree Exp Reimb (Sept Health Ins)	650.36
8	California Water Service	September Water Service (O.M.)	47.46
9	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Lab Testing (O.M.)	129.10
10	CDW-Government, Inc.	Antennas (4) (Telemetry Equipment)	82.04
11		Retiree Exp Reimb (Sept Health Ins)	674.31
12	Diesel Direct West	Diesel (155 gal) & Gasoline (611 gal)	4,822.38
13	Enterprise FM Trust	Monthly Leases for Nissan Rogue (2), Nissan Frontier, F-150's (6), F-250's (6), Ford Rangers (6), & Chevy Bolts (2)	10,985.43
14	Environmental Resource Assoc	Metals (Lab)	239.34
15	Environmental Express	Raw Borosilicate Glass Fibers (2) (Lab)	127.24
16	Exele Information Systems, Inc.	Service on Alarm Systems (SCADA) 06/2026-05/2027	1,725.00
17	Mark Fairbanks	Refund Overpayment on Open Account	188.00
18	Fisher Scientific	Phosphate Standard, Burettes (3) (Lab) & Ammonium Hydroxide (STP)	178.69
19	Friedman's Home Improvement	Wood Shims, Door Knob & Pry Bar	56.64

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
20	Frontier Communications	September Internet (STP)	654.25
21	Grainger	Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,053.79
22	Chan-Halleck Family Trust	Refund Credit on Closed Account	303.71
23	Harrington Industrial Plastics	Chemical Pump Motor (STP)	2,083.35
24	Idexx Distribution, Inc.	Coli Comparator (Lab)	35.69
25	InfoSend, Inc.	August Processing Fee for Water Bills (\$1,431), Postage (\$4,914) & Monthly Support Fee (\$1,030)	7,374.97
26		Retiree Exp Reimb (Sept Health Ins)	1,667.84
27	Marin Landscape Materials	Qwik Mix (42 sacks)	433.61
28	Marin County Ford	Service Parts ('18 Cargo Van, '25 F150-\$132 & '20 F250)	274.33
29	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Pipe (2), Hose Fittings (2), Couplings (2) & Swing Check Valves (4) (\$124)	234.49
30	MSI Litho	Printing Services (#10 Envelopes-2,500)	502.81
31	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Toner Cartridges (3)	302.66
32	Orkin Commercial Services	August Pest Control Services (999 Rush Creek Place-\$144 & San Antonio Pump Station-\$750)	894.00
33	Powerplan	Service Part ('24 JD Backhoe-\$1,107, '09 JD Backhoe-\$589, '15 JD Backhoe-\$504 & '04 JD Backhoe-\$744)	2,943.87
34	PG&E	Power: Bldgs/Yard (\$10,805), Other (\$475), Pumping (\$81,979), Rect/Cont (\$882), TP Solar Annual True-up (\$40,578) & TP Other (\$2,417)	137,136.23
35	Redwood Health Services, Inc.	July 2026 RHS Dental Claims & Fees	5,104.88
36	Rockwell Engineering &	Motor for Trumbull Pump #3	5,410.59
37	Roy's Sewer Service	Emergency Inspection of Sewer Laterals (999 Rush Creek Place)	795.00
38		Retiree Exp Reimb (Sept Health Ins)	674.31

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
39	Soiland Co., Inc.	Rock (50 yds) (\$1,678) & Asphalt Recycling (4 yds) (\$129)	1,806.74
40	Sonoma County Water Agency	July Contract Water	762,590.00
41		Retiree Exp Reimb (Sept Health Ins)	1,667.84
42	United Parcel Service	Backflow Devices Sent for Calibration, Returned Incorrect Const. Parts & QC Reference Sample Delivered to Lab	125.03
43	Univar	Sodium Hypochlorite (300 gal) (STP)	987.00
44	Verizon Wireless	SCADA & AMI Collectors (\$650)	1,400.18
45	VWR International LLC	Door Gasket Sterilizer (\$279), Autoclave Tape, Kwik Stiks (2) (\$186) (Lab) & Dropper Bottle	503.52
46	Waste Management	Waste Disposal	590.80
47	ZORO	Water Dispenser Filters (2) (\$216), Battery Backup Systems (2) (\$211) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	892.18
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$968,553.79</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$968,553.79 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

	09/15/26
Director of Administrative Services	Date
	9/15/2026
General Manager	Date

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Date Prepared 9/21/26

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 9/15/26	\$219,320.25
91101*	Internal Revenue Service	Federal & FICA Taxes PPE 9/15/26	99,533.49
91102*	State of California	State Taxes & SDI PPE 9/15/26	24,992.04
91103*	CalPERS	Pension Contribution PPE 9/15/26	60,294.94
91104*	CalPERS	GASB68 Report & Schedule Fees-FY 25/26	350.00
91099*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation-457 PPE 9/15/26	18,811.46
91100*	Nationwide	Deferred Compensation 9/15/26-401A Match	3,226.68
EFT*	US Bank	August Bank Analysis Charge (Lockbox \$1,313, Other \$532 Less Interest \$170)	1,674.99
1	Alpha Analytical Labs	Lab Testing	1,347.00
2	American Family Life Ins	AFLAC September 2026 Employee Paid Benefit	4,374.35
3	Argonaut Constructors Inc.	Prog Pymt#4: Cherry Hill Pump Station Retaining Wall Replacement (Balance Remaining on Contract \$272,104)	72,071.20
4	Associated Right of Way Services	Prog Pymt#20: Valuation Services for Lynwood Pump Station (Balance Remaining on Contract \$18,933)	345.00
5	Automation Direct	Pressure Transmitter (Telemetry Equipment)	145.30
6	Bank of Marin	Bank of Marin Loan (Pymt#179 of 240) Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project	46,066.67
7	Bay Alarm Company	Quarterly Fire Alarm Monitoring Fee (STP) (10/1/26-12/31/26)	518.19
8	Bearing & Hydraulics	V-Belts (4)	87.89
9	Bold & Polisner	August Legal Fees-General (\$4,328) & Potter Valley Matter (\$4,114)	8,442.31

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
10	Canyon Rock Co., Inc.	Pea & Sand (17 yds)	1,214.23
11	Carpenter Group Hayward	Stop Sleeves (40)	136.53
12	Carrier Corporation	Quarterly Maintenance on HVAC Equipment (7/1/26-9/30/26)	9,187.50
13	CJ Brown & Company, CPAs	August Progress Billing Financial Statement Audit FY25/26 (Balance Remaining on Contract \$13,290)	9,655.00
14	Cummings Trucking	Rock (50 yds) & Sand (17 yds) Deliveries	1,166.00
15	Emerson LLP	Flow Meter Transmitter (Gallagher Well #1)	3,436.50
16	Evoqua Water Technologies LLC	Service on Deionization System (Lab)	338.75
17	Grainger	Building Wire (\$274), Service Parts ('19 Ditch Witch-\$407) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,301.33
18	Elise Hobbs	Novato Washer Rebate Program	75.00
19	Home Depot Credit Services	Exterior Door (\$313), 20-Volt Battery (\$331) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,066.77
20	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	DMV/DOT Physicals (2)	230.00
21	Kiosk Creative LLC	August Communication & Outreach Services (Balance Remaining on Contract \$79,708)	4,796.52
22	KP Promotions	Uniform Order	9,810.10
23	Lincoln Life Employer Serv	Deferred Compensation PPE 9/15/26	6,735.30
24	Marin County	Encroachment Permit (50 H Lane)	736.20
25	McLellan Co, WK	Miscellaneous Paving (\$48,112) & Concrete Work (\$1,212)	49,324.32
26	McMaster-Carr Supply Co	Reducing Adaptors (2) (\$263), Nipple & Pipe Fitting (\$260)	690.95
27	Mutual of Omaha	October 2026 - Mutual of Omaha Group Life/ADD Insurance & Vision Premium	2,465.70
28	Novato Sanitary District	June 2026 Recycled Water Operating Expenses	48,567.08
29	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	116.47
30	Pace Supply	Copper Pipe (300')	3,211.95

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
31	Powerplan	Air Filter ('15 JD Skip Loader)	54.60
32	Pearce, Robert	Exp Reimb: OSHA General Industry Course	169.91
33	Quincy Compressor LLC	Service on Air Compressors (2) (STP)	3,992.09
34	Sciens	Diagnostic Services on Security System (STP)	2,234.00
35	Thomas Scientific	Lab Wipes, Standards (\$298) & Phosphate Buffer (\$178) (Lab)	508.42
36	Traffic Management, LLC	Traffic Control Plan (Novato Blvd-Diablo to Grant)	963.00
37	Univar	Sodium Hydroxide (12 Dry tons) (STP)	8,151.97
38	USA BlueBook	Turbidity Standard (Lab)	158.04
39	US Postal Service	Meter Postage	1,500.00
40	Van Bebber Bros	Metal Sheets (2) & Tubes (2)	291.69
41	VertexOne Software LLC	August Service Fee	110.30
42	VWR International LLC	Bromothymol Blue & Standards (6) (\$507) (Lab)	542.72
43	White Cap L.P.	Repair Mortar (50 lbs)	238.12
44	Williams, Anthony	Exp Reimb: Food for Staff Meeting	247.46
45	ZORO	Repair Mortar (\$182), Nut Driver Set (\$264), Coil Supplies (\$219), Reciprocating Saw (\$237) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,145.20
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$736,171.48</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$736,171.48 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.

	09/22/26
Director of Administrative Services	Date
	9/22/2026
General Manager	Date

DISBURSEMENTS - DATED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Date Prepared 9/28/26

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
91105*	Amazon	Kitchen & Office Supplies (\$204), Computer Supplies, Safety Supplies (\$667), Microscope Camera (Lab) (\$196) & Magnetic Contact Switches (\$227)	\$1,353.39
91106*	US Bank	Wine Country Water Works Reg Fee (\$135), Food for Staff Event (\$421), Internet PRTP & Gallagher Well #2 (\$328), Job Target & LinkedIn Recruitment Postings (\$620), Zoom Subscription, Starlink Internet (\$385), STP VOIP Alarm System Fees (\$773), Enclosures - Novato Blvd Project (\$471), City of Novato-Encroachment Permits (3) (\$9,429), Backup Power Supply (Ops) (\$765) & Flow Control (STP) (\$156)	13,640.26
1	Louis & Cynthia Alessandria	Refund Credit on Closed Account	122.06
2	All Star Rents	Sewer Line Camera Rental (STP) (1 Day)	228.06
3	Backflow Distributors	Backflow Testing & Supplies	142.17
4	Caltest Analytical Laboratory	Lab Testing (O.M.)	129.10
5	Civic Calling Corporation	Holly Software Subscription Aug. & Sept. 2026	2,000.00
6	Core Utilities, Inc	August IT Support (\$6,000), Billing Support (\$350) & SCADA & PLC Support (\$2,650)	9,000.00
7	Dell Marketing L.P.	Micro Desktops (13) & 16" Laptop	17,756.80
8	Electrical Equipment Co	Overload Relay Motor for Air Handling Unit (Admin Building)	948.17
9	James Erze	Novato Toilet Rebate Program	400.00
10	Fisher Scientific	Desiccant Silica Gel Packets (Lab)	90.56
11	Elsa Franklin	Novato Pool Cover Rebate Program	75.00

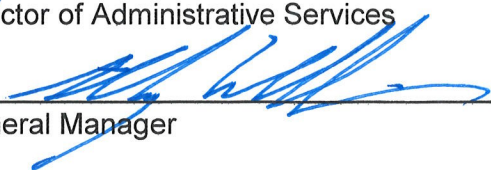
Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
12	GHD Inc.	Prog Pymt#1:GIS Conversion to ESRI & Mapping Support (Balance Remaining on Contract \$98,079)	1,921.50
13	Grainger	Fuse Reducers (5) (\$177), Straight Chain (100') (\$419), Round Slings (8) (\$329) & Miscellaneous Tools & Supplies	1,205.40
14	Kemira Water Solutions	Ferric Chloride (20 Dry Tons) (STP)	26,249.60
15	Mallory Safety and Supply LLC	Calibration Gas (STP)	475.30
16	McLellan Co, WK	Miscellaneous Paving	13,108.69
17	Miller, Eric	Exp Reimb: Lodging (\$634), Mileage, Transportation (\$400), & Food for ACWA Conference in Los Angeles (9/16-9/18/26)	1,061.67
18	ODP Business Solutions, LLC	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	154.34
19	Pace Supply	Caps (5) & Valves (18) (\$10,696)	10,734.61
20	Powerplan	Foot Replacement Kit (Plate Compactor) (\$595) & Hydraulic Oil (\$364)	958.91
21	Red Wing Business Advantage	Safety Boots (Kirkland)	247.46
22	Reischmann, Marc	Exp Reimb: Desiccators for Lab (2)	80.32
23	Scott Technology Group	September Maintenance on Admin (\$182) & Engineering Copiers (\$388)	569.53
24	Peter Szyperski	Novato Cash for Grass Rebate Program	948.00
25	Tamagno Green Products	September Sludge Removal @ STP (150 yds)	8,250.00
26	Thomas Scientific	Dual Thermometer, Mediums (2) (\$364) & Low Lint Wipes (2,800) (Lab)	458.26
27	Univar	Sodium Hypochlorite (432 gal) (STP)	1,771.20
28	USA BlueBook	Electrolytes for Chlorine Analyzers (STP)	167.73

Seq	Payable To	For	Amount
29	ZORO	Screwdriver, 16" Exhaust Fan, Safety Supplies (\$366) & Electrical Supplies	602.46
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$114,850.55</u>

The foregoing payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$114,850.55 are hereby approved and authorized for payment.


Director of Administrative Services

09/29/26
Date


General Manager

9/29/2026
Date



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

Date: October 6, 2026

From: Julie Blue, Director of Administrative Services
Nancy Williamson, Accounting Supervisor

JB
NW

Subject: Auditor-Controller's Monthly Report of Investments for August 2026
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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

At month end the District's Investment Portfolio had an amortized cost value (i.e., cash balance) of \$17,154,551 and a market value of \$17,144,872. During August the cash balance increased by \$1,693,209. The market value of securities held increased \$1,692,307 during the month. The total unrestricted cash balance at month end was \$226,678, 62% of the Target Reserves are funded and 82% of the Minimum Reserves are funded.

At August 31, 2026, 50% of the District's Portfolio was invested in California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), 32% in Time Certificates of Deposit, 6% in the Marin County Treasury, 4% in the US Bank Money Market Fund and 8% retained locally for operating purposes. The weighted average maturity of the portfolio was 97 days, compared to 119 days at the end of July. The LAIF interest rate for the month was 3.86%, compared to 3.84% the previous month. The weighted average Portfolio rate was 3.39%, compared to 3.51% for the prior month.

Investment Transactions for the month of August are listed below:

8/19/2026	US Bank	LAIF	\$800,000	Transfer to LAIF account
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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Monthly Report of Investments – August 2026

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS
August 31, 2026

Type	Description	S&P Rating	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Cost Basis ¹	8/31/2026 Market Value	Yield ²	% of Portfolio
LAIF	State of CA Treasury	AA-	Various	Open	\$8,583,729	\$8,574,050	3.86% ³	50%
Time Certificate of Deposit								
TCD	Israel Disc Bk Ny	n/a	9/13/24	9/14/26	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Ally Bank Sandy Utah	n/a	10/3/24	9/28/26	245,000	245,000	3.80%	1%
TCD	Utah First Fec CR UN Salt Lake	n/a	10/18/24	10/19/26	249,000	249,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	American Express Nat'l Bank	n/a	11/7/24	11/6/26	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Bank of Hapoalim NY	n/a	11/26/24	11/23/26	245,000	245,000	4.10%	1%
TCD	Dr Bank Darien	n/a	12/20/24	12/21/26	249,000	249,000	4.10%	1%
TCD	Goldman Sachs Bk USA	n/a	1/28/25	1/28/27	244,000	244,000	4.15%	1%
TCD	Oregon Community CU	n/a	2/24/25	2/24/27	249,000	249,000	4.30%	1%
TCD	Security First Bk	n/a	3/21/25	3/22/27	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Toyota Fncl Svgs BK NV	n/a	4/10/25	4/12/27	245,000	245,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Transportation Alliance Bk	n/a	5/12/25	5/12/27	249,000	249,000	3.95%	1%
TCD	B1 Bank Baton Rouge La	n/a	6/30/25	6/30/27	249,000	249,000	4.00%	1%
TCD	Bny Melon	n/a	8/13/25	8/13/27	245,000	245,000	3.80%	1%
TCD	Institution Svgs Newbury	n/a	10/28/25	10/28/27	249,000	249,000	3.60%	1%
TCD	Morgan Stanley Bk NA	n/a	11/12/25	11/12/27	245,000	245,000	3.65%	1%
TCD	Austin Telco	n/a	12/19/25	12/20/27	249,000	249,000	3.80%	1%
TCD	Morgan Stanley Private Bk NA	n/a	1/21/26	1/21/28	245,000	245,000	3.70%	1%
TCD	UBS Bank USA	n/a	2/25/26	2/25/28	249,000	249,000	3.80%	1%
TCD	Anderson Bros Bk	n/a	2/27/26	2/28/28	249,000	249,000	3.65%	1%
TCD	Merrick Bank	n/a	3/20/26	3/20/28	249,000	249,000	3.85%	1%
TCD	Bank of America NA	n/a	4/10/26	4/10/28	245,000	245,000	3.95%	1%
TCD	First Fncl Bk USA	n/a	6/12/26	6/12/28	249,000	249,000	4.10%	1%
					\$5,433,000	\$5,433,000	3.92%	32%
MM	US Bank Mmda Global Fund		Various	Open	\$643,852	\$643,852	3.36%	4%
Other								
Agency	Marin Co Treasury	AAA	Various	Open	\$1,044,474	\$1,044,474	0.99%	6%
Other	Various	n/a	Various	Open	1,449,495	\$1,449,495	0.29%	8%
TOTAL IN PORTFOLIO					\$17,154,551	\$17,144,872	3.39%	100%

Weighted Average Maturity = **97 Days**

LAIF: State of California Local Agency Investment Fund.

TCD: Time Certificate of Deposit.

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

Agency: STP State Revolving Fund Loan Reserve.

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

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

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

³ Earnings are calculated daily - this represents the average yield for the month ending August 31, 2026.

Interest Bearing Loans	Loan Date	Maturity Date	Original Loan Amount	Principal Outstanding	Interest Rate
Marin Country Club Loan	1/1/18	11/1/47	\$1,265,295	\$937,843	1.00%
Marin Municipal Water - AEEP	7/1/14	7/1/32	\$3,600,000	\$1,122,883	2.71%
Employee Housing Loan	Various	Various	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	Contingent
TOTAL INTEREST BEARING LOANS			\$6,015,295	\$3,210,726	

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

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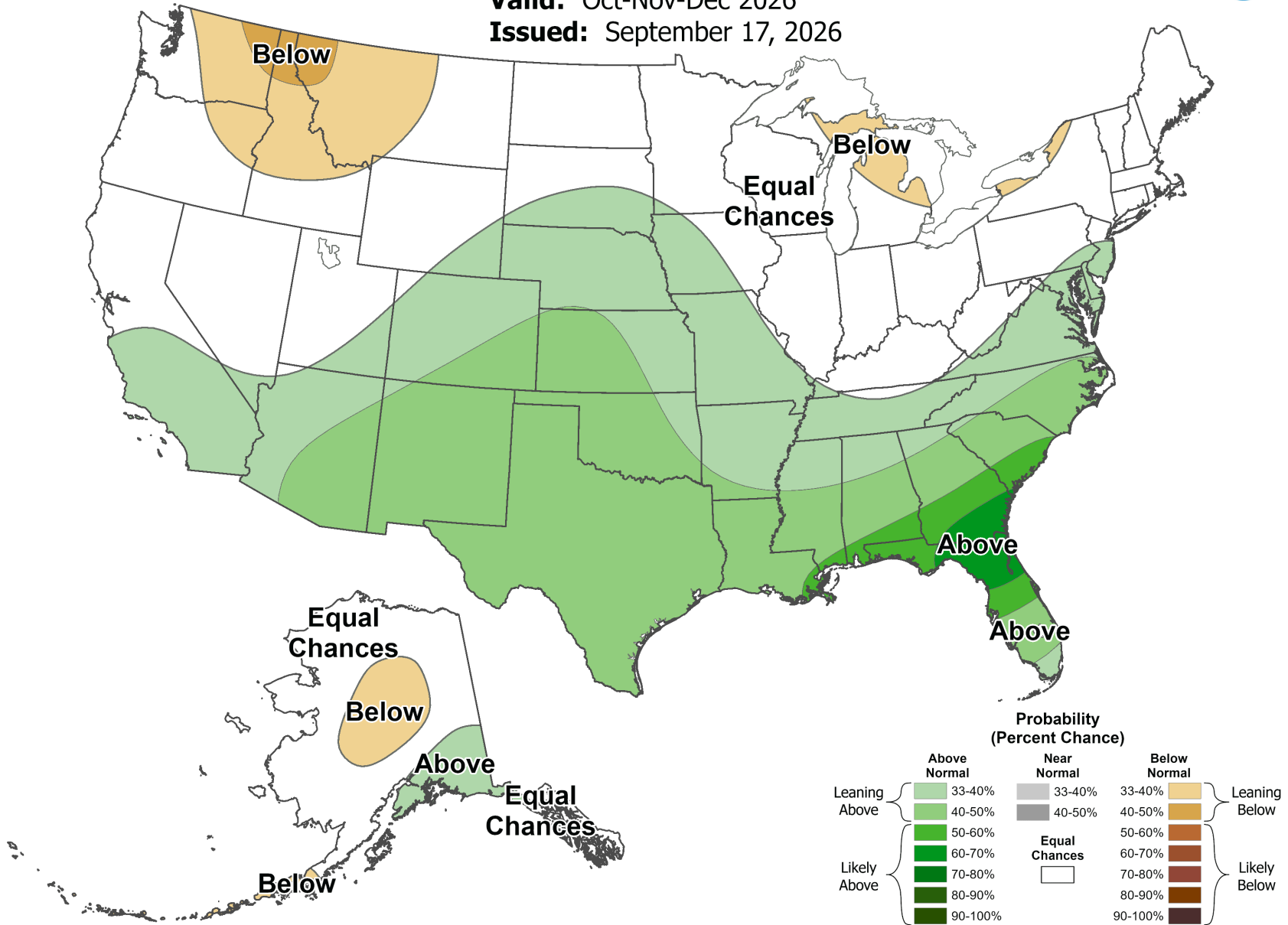


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026

Issued: September 17, 2026



SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE ATMOSPHERIC RIVER CAPTURE PROJECT

September 18, 2026

The Marin Municipal Water District (the District), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Atmospheric River Capture Project (Proposed Project), located in the City of Novato and unincorporated Marin County, California. The District previously published a Notice of Preparation (March 2026 NOP) for the EIR on March 13, 2026. Since publication of the March 2026 NOP, the District has been in the process of developing a long-term management plan to address sediment and vegetation buildup in Upper Nicasio Creek, which is being added to the Proposed Project, as described below. In response, the District is publishing this Supplemental NOP, which includes a description of the changes to the Proposed Project.

Written comments on this Supplemental NOP may be submitted during the Supplemental NOP review period, which begins **Friday, September 18, 2026**, and ends at 12:00 pm on **Monday, October 19, 2026**. **If you submitted comments on the NOP published for the Proposed Project in March 2026 and have no additional comments related to the new project components, your comments are being considered in the EIR and you do not need to resubmit your comments.** The District held public scoping meetings for the March 2026 NOP on March 25, 2026, at the Novato Recreation Center and on March 26, 2026, at San Ramon Elementary School and will not be holding a public meeting on this Supplemental NOP.

INTRODUCTION

CEQA requires a public agency to prepare an EIR for any discretionary project that the agency proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant direct or indirect effect on the physical environment. As the Lead Agency, the District is preparing an EIR to evaluate the potential significant environmental effects of the Proposed Project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Proposed Project is located in the City of Novato and unincorporated Marin County, California. As described in the March 2026 NOP, the Proposed Project would deliver winter water consisting of naturally occurring flows from precipitation events in the Russian River that exceed minimum instream flow requirements. This water would be delivered to Nicasio Reservoir for use during dry conditions.

The Proposed Project includes the following components:

- Tie-in to the North Marin Aqueduct in the City of Novato
- Wood Hollow Pump Station near the North Marin Aqueduct tie-in in the City of Novato
- Stafford Lake Pump Station and dechlorination facility
- Point of delivery at Stafford Lake in unincorporated Marin County
- Point of delivery at Nicasio Reservoir in unincorporated Marin County
- 13.2-mile-long, up to 36-inch diameter water transmission pipeline between the North Marin Aqueduct and Nicasio Reservoir, referred to as the Nicasio Aqueduct, located within City of Novato and unincorporated Marin County road rights-of-way

Since publication of the March 2026 NOP, the Proposed Project has been revised to include the development and implementation of a long-term management plan to address sediment and vegetation buildup in Upper Nicasio Creek in the unincorporated community of Nicasio. The new components of the Proposed Project, which are the subject of this Supplemental NOP, include the following (shown in **Figure 1**):

- Vegetation and sediment removal, approximately 50,000 cubic yards, over at least two construction seasons along approximately 3,150 linear feet of Upper Nicasio Creek and 1,200 linear feet of Halleck Creek;
- Lowering the existing delta sediment deposits in Nicasio Reservoir by approximately 4 feet to create a lowered bench approximately 100 feet wide along 2,000 linear feet of the right bank of Upper Nicasio Creek;
- Maintenance activities on an as-needed basis, estimated to include removal of up to 10,000 cubic yards of sediment and vegetation thinning about once every 5-10 years;
- Staging in designated areas; and
- Off-hauling of vegetation and excavated sediment to an off-site location for disposal or reuse.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The Proposed Project may require permits or other approvals from the following agencies:

Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State

- California Office of Historic Preservation
- State Water Resources Control Board/San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Local

- Marin County
- City of Novato
- North Marin Water District
- Marin Municipal Water District

ALTERNATIVES

The EIR will evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project, including the No Project Alternative, to avoid or reduce any significant environmental effects, in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The environmental analysis will evaluate the Proposed Project's potential environmental impacts and identify feasible measures and alternatives that may be implemented to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for significant impacts.

The Draft EIR will analyze the following environmental topic areas for potentially significant impacts: Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Noise; Recreation; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Wildfire.

The Draft EIR will also address potential cumulative impacts and growth-inducing impacts.

COMMENTS

This Supplemental NOP is being circulated to solicit input on the scope and content of the EIR related to the development and implementation of the Upper Nicasio Creek long-term management plan added to the Proposed Project from agencies, Native American tribes, members of the public, and other interested parties. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify issues related to the Proposed Project's potential environmental impacts, issuance of regulatory permits and approvals, and protection of natural resources. Written comments are encouraged to help ensure that the full range of potential environmental issues associated with development and implementation of the Upper Nicasio Creek long-term management plan as part of the Proposed Project are identified. **If you submitted comments on the NOP published for the Proposed Project in March 2026 and have no additional comments related to the new project components, your comments are being considered in the EIR and you do not need to resubmit your comments.**

The Supplemental NOP review period begins on **Friday, September 18, 2026, and ends at 12:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 2026**. Written comments on the scope and content of the EIR must

be received by the District no later than **12:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 2026**. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

- **By mail:**
Marin Municipal Water District, c/o Lucy Croy
220 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925
Letter subject heading: "RE: Atmospheric River Capture Project Supplemental Public Comment"
- **By email:**
arcproject@marinwater.org
Subject line: "RE: Atmospheric River Capture Project Supplemental Public Comment"

PLEASE NOTE: The District's practice is to make all comments received part of the public record. Therefore, names, home addresses, home telephone numbers, and email addresses of commenters, if included in responses to this Supplemental NOP, will be made available for public review. Individual commenters may request that the District withhold their name and/or home address or other personal information. If a commenter wishes the District to consider withholding such information, the request must be stated prominently at the beginning of the written comments. In the absence of a written request, the information will be made part of the public record.

All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Individuals who submit written comments on this Supplemental NOP will be added to the distribution list for future notices and information related to the environmental review process for the Proposed Project. Individuals who do not wish to submit comments but would like to be added to the mailing list may provide contact information, including an email address, to the District contact listed above, along with a request to be added to the mailing list.

Additional information about the Proposed Project is available on the District's website at marinwater.org/ARCproject.

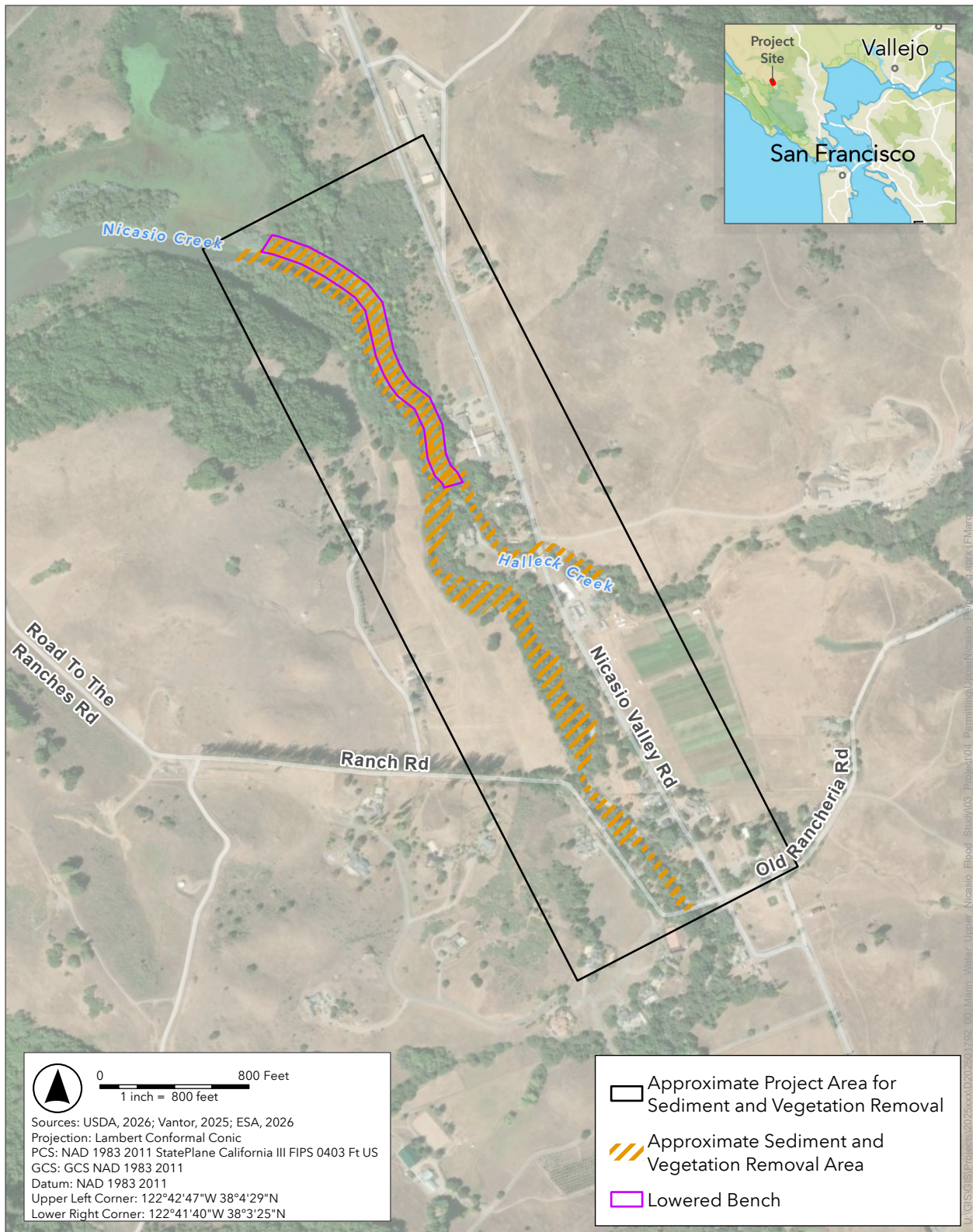


Figure 1
Atmospheric River Capture Project



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 18, 2026

4111

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ER26/0279

Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Scoping Comments of the United States Department of the Interior — Proposed
Surrender, Decommissioning, and Non-Project Use of Project Lands

Dear Secretary Reese:

The Department of the Interior submits these comments on Scoping Document 1 for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's application to surrender the license for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project and to authorize non-project use of project lands for construction of a New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF).

The Department's primary interest in this proceeding is straightforward. For more than a century, the Project has moved water from the Eel River into the Russian River basin. That water irrigates hundreds of farms in Potter Valley and the Ukiah Valley, sustains municipal supply for communities from Mendocino County through Sonoma and Marin Counties, supports fire suppression, and underpins a working rural economy. PG&E proposes to remove Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam. The applicants and their partners offer NERF as the substitute. The Department's concern — and the concern the Commission's environmental document must confront, not defer — is that the substitute is not in place, is not funded for construction, is not sized or timed to meet irrigation-season demand, and has no demonstrated place to store the winter water it would divert.

Water supply for farms and communities is not a secondary amenity of this proceeding. It is a direct effect on the human environment under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Commission should treat it as such.

The Department's Interest and the Standard of Review

The Department administers the Bureau of Reclamation, whose statutory mission is the development and reliable delivery of water in the West; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which holds responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which carries the United States' trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribes, including the Round Valley Indian Tribes, a party to the July 2025 Water Diversion Agreement.

Reclamation has a strong interest in supporting reliable delivery of water to rural communities, but that interest does not convert this proceeding into a Departmental takeover of the Project. The Department does not have, and is not here requesting, authority from Congress to own or operate the works. That said, the Department believes the Commission should take a hard look at water-supply consequences before it authorizes the dismantling of the only interbasin works that now serve those farms and communities.

The Department requests cooperating-agency status for the Fish and Wildlife Service under 40 C.F.R. § 1501.8. The Department further requests that the Commission include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District — owner and operator of Coyote Valley Dam and Lake Mendocino — as a cooperating agency. As explained below, proponents of surrender and of NERF have treated a Corps reservoir as the storage solution that makes the proposed diversion useful, without a Corps operations assessment and without an authorized or funded storage project.

Given the intensity of public controversy, the scale of the proposed demolition, the irreversible loss of Lake Pillsbury storage, and the unproven character of the proposed replacement supply, the Department requests that the Commission prepare an environmental impact statement, not an environmental assessment. These comments are consistent with the position the Secretary of Agriculture has already placed on this docket: the United States should not accept surrender of this Project unless the water-supply deficiencies the proposed action would create are identified and cured in the Commission's environmental review.

What the Existing Project Supplies — and What Is at Stake

The Project has diverted Eel River water into the East Branch Russian River since 1908. Average annual transfers were approximately 150,000 acre-feet in water years 1922 through 2006; approximately 64,000 acre-feet after the 2004 license amendment, in water years 2007 through 2020; and approximately 42,000 acre-feet in water years 2021 through 2025, after the transformer-bank failure, the seismic restriction on Lake Pillsbury storage, drought, and successive flow variances. The 2026 variance year is estimated at approximately 38,000 acre-feet. Those figures are Sonoma Water's, presented on July 9, 2026.

The water is not an abstraction. Potter Valley Irrigation District serves on the order of 390 farms and approximately 4,600 to 4,900 irrigated acres under combined licenses totaling 22,670 acre-feet. PG&E's existing contract obligation to the District — the obligation Scoping Document 1 cited when it declined to study surrender without some future diversion — is up to 19,000 acre-feet. Sonoma Water's own 2025 Potter Valley Water Supply Reliability Study estimates a late-spring and summer shortfall of approximately 9,000 acre-feet per year if the Project is reduced to run-of-river operations of the kind NERF would provide. Frost protection in March through May is among the uses that cannot wait for a winter pulse stored somewhere that does not exist. Downstream, Project water has historically accounted for more than 30 percent of summer supply in the reach above Dry Creek. Lake Mendocino, which receives the water that Potter Valley does not consume, is cited by the Corps as serving on the order of 600,000 people in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin Counties. Inland Water and Power Commission analyses have warned that, without Project imports, Lake Mendocino would fail to meet demands in eight years

out of ten and would go dry in two of those eight. Mendocino County agricultural and related business activity on the order of hundreds of millions of dollars a year depends on this supply.

Scoping Document 1 correctly lists, as issues, effects of altered hydrology on the East Branch Russian River after dam removal — “water supply and flow” — and socioeconomic effects on water reliability and cost and on agricultural production. It then proceeds as if those issues can be resolved by noting that a future diversion facility is “necessary to satisfy existing water delivery obligations.” Necessity is not the same as existence. The Commission’s analysis must test whether the proposed substitute actually satisfies those obligations, in volume, in season, and on a schedule that does not leave a multi-year gap.

NERF Will Not Be Online Before the Dams Come Out

The Department has reviewed the public design, permitting, and funding record for NERF. That record does not support a finding that replacement supply will be in operation on the day the existing works stop delivering water.

Design and permitting are described as fully funded. Construction is not. The capital cost was estimated at approximately \$50 million as of March 2025; Russian River users would also bear annual operations and maintenance costs on the order of \$7 million to \$12 million, plus \$1 million per year to the Round Valley Indian Tribes and \$750,000 to \$1 million per year into an Eel River restoration fund. Those are real costs shifted onto the same farms and communities whose supply is being put at risk.

The design schedule in ERPA and Inland Water and Power Commission materials runs to 60 percent design in February 2027, 90 percent in March 2028, and final design in December 2028. California Environmental Quality Act review for NERF is described as a roughly 24-month process from initiation in 2026. Federal permits still required include a Clean Water Act section 404 permit from the Corps, a section 401 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board, and Endangered Species Act consultation. ERPA itself has described an operations window of “perhaps 2030 to 2035.” Sonoma Water’s planning assumption, stated publicly, is that the Project will continue under annual licenses with modified flow conditions until 2035, and that NERF will operate only after that date. PG&E has separately described a decommissioning finish near 2030, with NERF “potentially taking another five years.”

Proponents say construction will occur “simultaneously” with removal of Cape Horn Dam. That is not a continuity plan. NERF is designed to occupy the Cape Horn / Van Arsdale footprint after the gravity diversion is taken apart. It is not designed to operate in parallel with the existing works for a multi-year overlap. Any slip in design, CEQA, section 404, biological consultation, construction funding, or contractor performance produces a gap. The Water Diversion Agreement contains no delay protocol. It does not say what water, if any, Potter Valley or Lake Mendocino receives if the dams are gone and the pumps are not running.

PG&E’s non-project-use request would keep NERF lands inside the project boundary until Cape Horn work needed for NERF is finished and NERF has been constructed. That paper condition

does not keep Scott Dam in place, does not keep Lake Pillsbury storage available, and does not keep the existing diversion running. It is not a water-supply guarantee.

The Commission should analyze, as a distinct alternative and as a proposed condition of any surrender, a prohibition on removal or disablement of Scott Dam, Cape Horn Dam, and the existing diversion works until NERF is constructed, fully permitted, financed, and in actual operation. “Simultaneous” is a hope, and the Commission’s should take that into consideration.

The Water NERF Would Produce Is Not Adequate in Volume or in Season

Based on the proponents’ own modeling, Sonoma Water’s July 9, 2026, presentation is the best available public statement of how NERF would have performed under the Water Diversion Agreement in recent years.

Over the last 13 water years, modeled annual NERF diversions ranged from approximately 18,000 acre-feet in the 2021 drought to approximately 86,000 acre-feet in 2017. Drought-year yield at 18,000 acre-feet is less than half of recent impaired Project deliveries and a small fraction of the pre-2007 average. The claim that “there is water for diversion in all year types” is not the same as the claim that there is enough water, at the right time, to replace what farms and cities now receive.

The seasonal mismatch is sharper. The Water Diversion Agreement sets the following operating rules:

Fall (October 1–December 31): floor 300 cubic feet per second, diversion rate 20 percent of flow above the floor, and one freshet exceeding 500 cubic feet per second before fall diversions begin. Winter (January 1–February 29): floor 250 cfs, rate 30 percent. Spring (March 1–May 31): floor 125 cfs, rate 20 percent. Summer (June 1–September 30): floor 35 cfs, rate 20 percent. Diversion stops if flow is below the floor or the allowable diversion is less than 5 cfs. Tunnel capacity is approximately 300 cfs.

Those rules concentrate diversion in winter and spring and collapse it in summer. Sonoma Water’s monthly comparison for the last 20 months shows observed transfers remaining substantial through June, July, and August of 2025 — 7,135, 7,603, and 3,017 acre-feet diverted. Modeled NERF transfers for those three months were 1,070, 243, and zero. NERF is modeled to drop to zero by August. Observed operations did not. Irrigation demand, frost protection in March through May, and municipal peak use occur when the proposed facility is designed to run least.

Two further points follow from the same table. First, the Water Diversion Agreement does not carry forward PG&E’s contract obligation of up to 19,000 acre-feet to Potter Valley Irrigation District as a NERF duty. The Commission cannot treat NERF as the reason it need not study a no-diversion world unless the environmental document shows that NERF actually replaces that summer-weighted delivery. The model and the Agreement both show that it does not. Second, the Agreement is a 30-year instrument, with a possible 20-year renewal expressly conditioned on Russian River users reducing their reliance on the diversion and on

additional restoration funding. The proposed substitute is designed to shrink. That long-term contraction is itself a water-supply impact Scoping Document 1 does not list. The environmental document must analyze it.

There Is Not Adequate Storage to Make NERF Water Useful

Sonoma Water’s July 9 modeling distinguishes water that could be diverted from water that could be stored in Lake Mendocino or passed through for downstream beneficial use without being dumped for flood control. That distinction is the heart of the supply problem.

In non-drought years of the 13-year series, an average of approximately 40,000 acre-feet per year of additional NERF water cannot be captured with current storage. The model includes a placeholder 3,000 acre-foot future Potter Valley storage project. That project does not exist. For October 2024 through May 2026, NERF is modeled to divert 123,695 acre-feet — nearly double the 63,016 acre-feet actually diverted — but to store only 57,522 acre-feet, compared with 52,674 acre-feet actually stored. The extra water the Agreement would authorize is, on this record, water with nowhere to go. Sonoma Water’s own takeaway is that “we need more Russian River storage to maximize those transfers because of change in seasonality of the transfers,” and that the analysis “shows the significant benefits to be achieved by constructing additional storage.” Those sentences concede that the storage does not now exist.

Proponents point to a raise of Coyote Valley Dam as the opportunity that closes the gap. Based on the Department’s most recent contact with the proponents of removal and of NERF, they have not consulted the Army Corps of Engineers personnel who operate that dam on whether Lake Mendocino can, under the current Water Control Manual, accept and hold the winter and spring volumes the Water Diversion Agreement would deliver. Citing a Corps dam as a storage solution without the Corps at the table is not a plan.

The facts that are public are enough to retire the citation as mitigation. Coyote Valley Dam is a Corps project, completed in 1958. The Corps — not ERPA, not Sonoma Water, and not the Commission — operates Lake Mendocino under a Water Control Manual whose primary authorized purpose is flood risk management. The 2025 Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations update to that manual allows discretionary encroachment of 11,650 acre-feet into flood space between November 1 and February 15. That is operational flexibility the Corps may withhold when flood risk requires it. It is not new conservation storage. It also does not cover the Water Diversion Agreement’s spring season. Spring diversions run March 1 through May 31 — after the Forecast-Informed window closes — and compete with a rising conservation guide curve and remaining flood-control space. Even a full exercise of Corps discretion in midwinter would not hold the spring pulse.

A physical raise is further from reality. The original authorized project contemplated a dam 36 feet higher and on the order of 77,000 additional acre-feet of storage. A General Investigation to evaluate modernization, including a possible raise, was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. A feasibility cost-sharing agreement was signed on April 11, 2025, with Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Lytton Rancheria as non-federal sponsors. The Corps paused the study on October 20, 2025, for lack of appropriations.

Fiscal year 2025 funding was zero. The fiscal year 2026 budget is zero. As of the sponsors' September 2026 status reports — filed this month — the study remains paused. Even if restarted, it is a multi-year feasibility study, not an authorized construction project. Construction would then require a Chief's Report, new congressional authorization, and appropriations. A 2015 estimate put a 36-foot raise on the order of \$320 million. That is a decade-class undertaking. It cannot offset removal of Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam on the schedule contemplated here.

Scoping Document 1 does not mention Lake Mendocino, Coyote Valley Dam, the Army Corps of Engineers, the 2025 Water Control Manual, Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations, or the paused General Investigation. That is a scoping failure. The Commission cannot analyze post-removal water supply on the East Branch Russian River, or the effect of reduced irrigation water on agricultural production, without analyzing where winter NERF water would be stored, who has legal authority to store it, and what happens in the years — and they will be years — before any new storage could exist.

Cost, Timeline, and the Burden on Water Users and Landowners

The proposed action shifts cost and risk onto the people who can least absorb a supply interruption. Construction of NERF is unfunded. Operations, maintenance, tribal payments, and restoration assessments will be billed to Russian River users. Potter Valley growers are being told, in Sonoma Water's 2025 reliability study, that closing a 9,000 acre-foot summer gap would require new in-valley ponds, new groundwater development, and demand reductions of 20 to 30 percent. Those projects are not built and not permitted. Farmers would pay for them while also paying for NERF. Landowners around Lake Pillsbury face the separate loss of a reservoir, recreation economy, and groundwater support. None of that is a free byproduct of "decommissioning an uneconomic power project." It is a transfer of stranded-asset costs from a utility that has chosen to walk away onto farms, cities, and rural landowners.

The Commission's schedule compounds the problem. PG&E's management and mitigation plans are not due until July 25, 2027. Implementation details that will determine whether water continues to move during drawdown and demolition have not been written. Scoping Document 1 already treats continued Project operation as an unreasonable no-action alternative because PG&E has decided the Project is uneconomic. A licensee's preference is not a NEPA finding that replacement supply exists.

Alternatives and Connected Actions the Commission Should Not Dismiss

Scoping Document 1 proposes to eliminate from detailed study the retention of Scott Dam, project surrender without NERF, federal takeover, and a non-power license. The Department does not ask the Commission to assume that the Department will own or operate the Project. Reclamation has been clear that it does not presently possess, and is not here requesting, statutory authority to take the works. The Department does ask the Commission to take a hard look at alternatives that protect water supply, because that is what NEPA requires when the proposed action would extinguish a century-old agricultural and municipal supply.

At minimum, the environmental document should analyze in detail the following:

- A delayed-removal alternative under which Scott Dam, Cape Horn Dam, and the existing diversion remain in operation under annual license until NERF is constructed, permitted, financed, and operating, and until storage sufficient to convert Water Diversion Agreement-season water into irrigation-season supply has been identified and shown to be available.
- A no-gap condition alternative that keeps the gravity diversion in service during NERF construction rather than dismantling it “simultaneously” in the same footprint.
- Surrender and decommissioning without a demonstrated, funded, and operational replacement — not as a preferred course, but as the true baseline against which NERF-as-mitigation must be tested. If NERF slips, that is the world farms and cities will inhabit. The Commission should not hide it behind a facility that exists only on paper.
- Retention of Scott Dam, or continued operation of the diversion works under a non-power authorization, if a capable operator is identified. The Department notes that the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture met on June 15, 2026, with PG&E and with parties exploring continued beneficial use of the dams. Similarly, the Department is aware of interested parties in the acquisition of the projects. The Commission should not treat operator interest as closed for purposes of alternatives screening while those discussions are ongoing.
- NERF operations and Russian River storage — including current Lake Mendocino constraints, Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations limitations, and any proposed Coyote Valley Dam modification — as connected actions or reasonably foreseeable future actions. Dam removal that disables the only interbasin diversion cannot be environmentally reviewed as if the replacement pumps and the missing storage were someone else’s later permit.
- A cost allocation analysis: capital, operations, tribal and restoration payments, replacement-storage costs, and lost agricultural production, identified by payer.

Analyses the Environmental Document Must Contain

The Department requests that the Commission include the following studies and disclosures. Each maps to issues already listed in Scoping Document 1 at sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.12, which are presently under-scoped.

A month-by-month, water-year-type comparison of historical Project deliveries, recent impaired deliveries, and modeled NERF diversions and stored volumes, using the Water Diversion Agreement rules and extending at least through the 13-year series Sonoma Water has already modeled. The comparison must separate water diverted from water stored and put to beneficial use.

An irrigation-season and frost-protection analysis for Potter Valley and the Ukiah Valley, including the 9,000 acre-foot late-spring and summer shortfall identified in the 2025 reliability study and the absence of a 19,000 acre-foot Potter Valley Irrigation District delivery obligation in the Water Diversion Agreement.

A Lake Mendocino operations assessment, prepared with the Corps, of whether the current Water Control Manual and the 2025 Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations rules would accept and hold modeled NERF winter and spring volumes without flood-control release. The assessment must not assume a dam raise.

A storage-gap analysis that identifies, for each water-year type, the acre-feet of NERF water that cannot be stored with existing facilities; that excludes placeholder projects and paused studies from the “available storage” column; and that states the residual supply available to farms and cities after that subtraction.

A sequencing and gap-year analysis covering the period from a surrender order through NERF commercial operation, including the consequences of a two-year, five-year, and ten-year delay in NERF construction or permitting.

Cumulative effects of dam removal, NERF seasonality, Lake Mendocino operating constraints, drought, and the Water Diversion Agreement’s built-in requirement that Russian River users reduce reliance on the diversion over time.

Conditions the Department Expects Any Surrender Order to Address

Should the Commission ultimately consider a surrender and a non-project-use authorization, the Department expects the order to address, at minimum, the following. These are scoping comments, not a prejudgment of the merits. They are the conditions without which the proposed action would leave a documented hole in regional water supply.

Scott Dam, Cape Horn Dam, and the existing diversion works shall not be removed or rendered inoperable until NERF is constructed, fully permitted, financed, and in operation.

The Commission shall have found, based on a written Corps operations assessment and a completed storage analysis, that existing or authorized Russian River storage is adequate to put Water Diversion Agreement diversions to beneficial use in the season of need. A paused feasibility study is not storage. A 3,000 acre-foot placeholder is not storage.

An enforceable interim-supply plan shall be in place for Potter Valley Irrigation District and for Lake Mendocino contractors covering every month between disablement of the gravity diversion and reliable NERF operation.

Management plans due in 2027 shall be filed and reviewed before any demolition schedule is authorized, and shall include water-supply continuity measures, not only sediment, fisheries, and site-restoration measures.

Tribal Trust

As the prior comments of the Potter Valley, Wiyot, and Round Valley Indian Tribes reflect, the Project Area and Eel River and fishery are historically, culturally, and spiritually significant to a number of Tribes and the Project’s flood-control and water supply functions are also important to

Tribes and tribal communities. The proposed New Eel-Russian Facility if implemented would also provide an economic development opportunity for the Round Valley Indian Tribes. BIA recommends that each alternatives analysis fully accounts for, and integrates, tribal perspectives on resource impacts.

Conclusion

The Department does not contest that the Eel River's fisheries matter, or that a licensee may propose to surrender a project it no longer wishes to run. The Department does contest any environmental review that treats the dismantling of working water infrastructure as the main event and the replacement of that water as a later, local problem. Sonoma Water's July 2026 modeling is clear on the three points that matter for scoping. NERF would divert water every year. It would divert that water at the wrong time of year for the farms and cities that use it. And without storage that does not now exist and is not on a funded path to exist, a large share of even that mistimed water cannot be used.

The Commission should prepare an environmental impact statement. It should invite the Corps as a cooperating agency. It should restore for detailed study the alternatives that keep water moving until a real substitute is operating. And it should not issue a surrender order that allows Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam to come down on a promise.

The Department reserves all authorities and rights to comment further as the record develops.

Sincerely,

**LAURA
FLEMING**

Digitally signed by
LAURA FLEMING
Date: 2026.09.18
18:09:23 -04'00'

Laura Fleming
Deputy Director, Exercising the Delegated
Authority of the Director, Office of
Environmental Policy and Compliance

cc: Viktoriya Sirova, OEPC Regional Environmental Officer
Carter Brown, Associate Solicitor – Water Resources
Lance Wenger, Regional Solicitor – Pacific Southwest

Water district plans for rate hike

Sales decline because of consumption drop

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

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Marin Municipal Water District rate revenues need to increase 4% to 6% annually over the next four years to maintain a balanced budget, officials said this week.

The report, presented at a board meeting Tuesday, came on the heels of another report that said district water sales were about \$8 million lower than projected last year and will continue to decrease because of less consumption. At the same time, the district's costs are estimated to climb about 4.5% annually.

The solution could involve an overhaul of the district's tiered rate structure. The district is looking at raising both fixed and variable rates that it charges its customers, said Bret Uppendahl, the finance director.

The 4% to 6% revenue increase is "the bottom line what the overall rates need to bring in," Uppendahl said.

"We're looking right now with the consultants as to where that will show itself," he said. Uppendahl said rate revenue makes up about 91% of the total revenue. Water sales, the variable rates that would likely be most affected by any proposed rate increase, make up about 65%.

"The key piece here that is driving a lot of the work we're doing is that rates cannot exceed the cost of providing service," he said. "And then within that, the cost recovery methodology needs to be proportional to the cost of providing service. You need to kind of have a cost basis for everything you do."

The district, which supplies water to 191,000 customers, operates on two-year budget cycles. The current budget was approved in June 2025. This year, the spending plan is \$188 million.

Inflation is stressing the budget, primarily around salaries, which are on pace to increase 4% annually for cost-of-living adjustments and healthcare premiums jumping 8% to 10%, among other increases, Uppendahl said.

The last rate increase plan began in 2023, when most single-family home ratepayers were told their bills would rise about 20%. Officials said the hike was needed to secure water supply and

tackle deferred maintenance. Capital costs have increased from \$24 million in the 2022-2023 fiscal year to \$67 million in 2025-2026 and \$65 million this year.

Since enacting the new rates, the district has established a water supply category within its capital improvements program, allocating about \$9 million this year and for each of the past two years.

Uppendahl assumes that the capital improvements budget will start to decrease \$5 million to \$7 million over the next four years.

When it comes to the rate tiers, the water district has four tiers for residential customers who make up about 90% of the customer base. All neighboring districts have three or fewer tiers, Uppendahl said.

For commercial, industrial and institutional customers, the district has three tiers. Neighboring districts only have one tier for these customers.

Reducing the number of tiers could simplify rates, but the district is looking at how that might affect customers before making any proposals, Uppendahl said.

Board member Ranjiv Khush said that as he read the staff report and saw the projected increases in expenses for various line items, "I could feel my blood pressure going up."

He said he felt relieved seeing that the overall annual increase was projected at only 4.5%.

"We can't translate how that's going to map out in terms of rate increases, but it feels like we're going to be at a less sort of impactful situation than we were in 2023, and that's something I appreciate as a ratepayer," he said.

Khush encouraged staff to continue looking at creative ways to cut costs, considering the projections.

Despite water sales dropping last year, the district was still able to balance its budget, Uppendahl said. The deficit was offset by better-than-expected interest earnings, salary savings and other savings, he said.

Board president Jed Smith said that's a key fact when discussing the district rates and finances.

"I think it's really important for the public to understand that we are managing this agency not at a loss, that we're covering ourselves," Smith said. "We're being thoughtful and prudent about our expenses and we need to continue to do that."

Smith said he's interested in seeing other ways to tighten expenses, including trimming the capital improvements budget.

Uppendahl said the district rate study is expected to be completed in the spring. A public hearing to consider any proposed changes will be scheduled in conjunction with the district's budget process.

READERS' FORUM

Brian Jaffe is the right choice for Larkspur City Council

I came to Larkspur when I was 4 years old. As someone with a passion for preserving the storied nature and small-town charm of our city, I did a close examination of candidates in what I consider to be the first competitive race for Larkspur City Council in years. One stands out on the November ballot: Brian Jaffe. He thinks and acts differently. He sees the big picture and works in detailed strokes.

I met Jaffe at the recent Larkspur Wine Stroll. He was eager to speak his truth and listen to the voices of constituents. He spoke of a historic Larkspur bringing itself gracefully into the future, rather than being led by a clumsy state housing mandate. He spoke of how Larkspur can move forward, without allowing its character to be changed. At a recent candidate forum, he exuded the most energy and willingness to advance policies to guide us — including the question about the “food desert” left by the vacated Lucky supermarket building near downtown.

Jaffe is demonstrating that energetic attitude by walking across Larkspur and knocking on doors. His website and social media accounts track his path. I spent a morning walking my neighborhood with him. The response was outstanding. Voters we spoke to agree: People are ready for new ideas and new energy.

This man understands our city's role as a conduit to the tech haven of San Francisco, while remaining nestled in the redwoods and creeks of our city. He understands that when it comes to Sacramento and the politics there, elected officials aren't playing around. Neither does Jaffe. He walks the walk and speaks with determination, grace and grit. That is why I firmly and gladly endorse him as our next City Council member.

— *Elliott Dosker, Larkspur*

MMWD should charge less to 'smart' meter opt-outs

I want to thank the North Marin Water District. Recently, I received a notice that I might have a leak. I logged into the district's online system, saw my hour-by-hour water use and spent a couple of evenings isolating the problem. Because of the “smart” meters, I found and fixed it myself without hiring a plumber, which saved me a good deal of money.

So I was glad to learn that Marin Municipal Water District is moving to smart meters too. It's about time MMWD entered the 21st century.

I do have a concern. I understand MMWD may charge \$40 every two months for customers who opt out (“MMWD proposes ‘smart’ meter opt-out fee,” Sept. 8). NMWD, as I recall, charged only about \$10 every two months when it made the switch years ago. I hope MMWD will consider a more reasonable fee, so that customers who prefer a traditional meter aren't penalized.

For everyone else, the technology pays for itself. Early leak detection saves water and money.

— *Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Jacobs, Novato*

Vote yes on Measure X for loosened zoning in Sausalito

I am writing in support of Measure X in the November election for Sausalito voters. It would allow for a

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