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Mauricio Guardado

Legal Counsel  
David D. Boyer

## AGENDA WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.  
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room  
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

### ROLL CALL

- 1. Public Comment**  
**Information Item**  
The public may comment on any matter not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Committee. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.
- 2. Approval of Minutes**  
**Motion**  
Approve the minutes from the October 1, 2024, Water Resources Committee meeting.
- 3. Summary and Update on District Surface Water Conditions (Dr. Bram Sercu)**  
**Information Item**  
Staff will present a summary of reservoir releases and diversions during CY 2024 and provide an update on current hydrologic conditions in the Santa Clara River watershed in early CY 2025.
- 4. Summary and Update on District Groundwater Conditions (Kathleen Kuepper)**  
**Information Item**  
Staff will present a summary of hydrogeologic conditions within the groundwater basins of the District during calendar year (CY) 2024 and provide an update on current conditions in early CY 2025.
- 5. Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update (John Lindquist)**  
**Information Item**  
Staff will be available to respond to comments on the most recent Water Resources Department staff report.
- 6. Future Agenda Items**  
The Committee will suggest topics or issues for discussion at future meetings.

### ADJOURNMENT

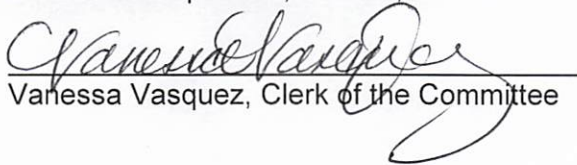
*The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participating in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda material in an alternative format, please contact the District's offices at (805) 525-4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.*

Water Resources Committee Agenda  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
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Approved:  for MEG  
Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

This agenda was posted Friday, February 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the United Water Conservation District Headquarters, Oxnard, CA and [www.unitedwater.org](http://www.unitedwater.org).

  
Vanessa Vasquez, Clerk of the Committee

**MINUTES  
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.  
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030**

**OPEN SESSION**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

All committee members were present (Ford, Kimball and Hasan).

**1. Public Comment**

No public speakers.

**2. Approval of Minutes  
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Hasan, Kimball) to approve the July 7, 2024, minutes.

Vote: Ayes: Hasan, Kimball and Ford; Noes: None.

**3. Summary and Update on District Surface Water Conditions**

Associate Hydrologist Luke Bryden presented a summary of reservoir releases and diversions to date during water year 2024 and provided an update on current hydrologic conditions in the Santa Clara River watershed (presentation attached).

**4. Lake Piru Reservoir Operations Planning for Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project**

Principal Hydrologist Dr. Bram Sercu presented a modified reservoir operations plan for the duration of the Santa Felicia Dam outlet works construction and the accompanying hydrological risk assessment (presentation attached).

**5. Summary of Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency's (FCGMA) Draft 5-Year GSP Updates for Oxnard, Pleasant Valley, and Las Posas Valley Basins**

Water Resources Supervisor John Lindquist presented an overview and highlighted key conclusions and recommendations from the FCGMA's draft 5-year GSP updates released in August for public review and comment (presentation attached).

General Manager Mauricio Guardado emphasized the importance of Navy's support of the Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project.



**6. Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update**

Water Resources Supervisor John Lindquist verbally summarized Water Resources Department activities and responded to comments on the most recent Water Resources Department staff report; no presentation given.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

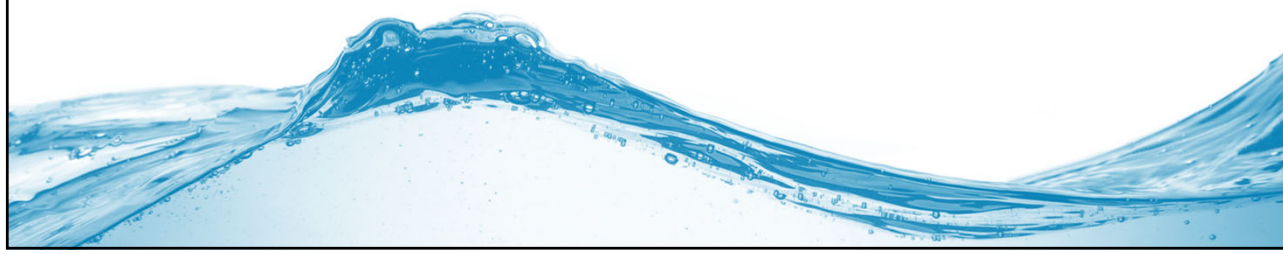
I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Water Resources Committee Meeting of October 1, 2024.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Kimball, Chair



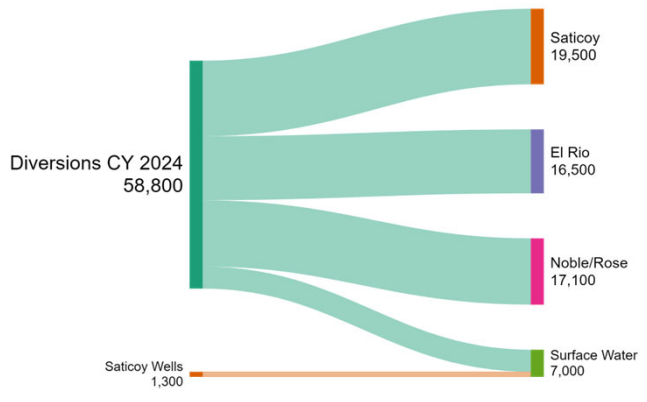
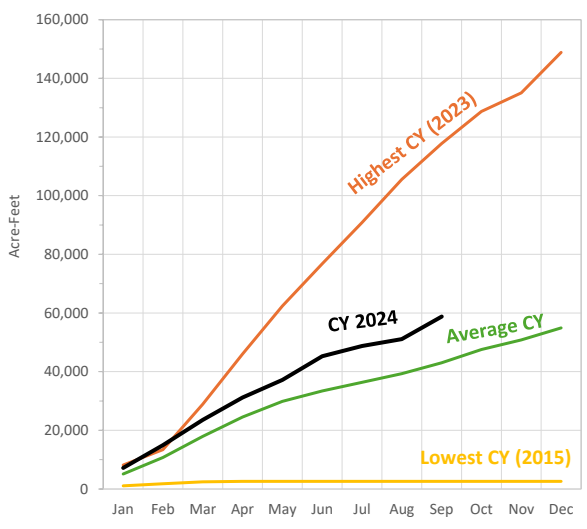
### 3. SUMMARY AND UPDATE ON DISTRICT SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS

Presented by: Luke Bryden, Associate Hydrologist  
Water Resources Committee Meeting  
October 1, 2024



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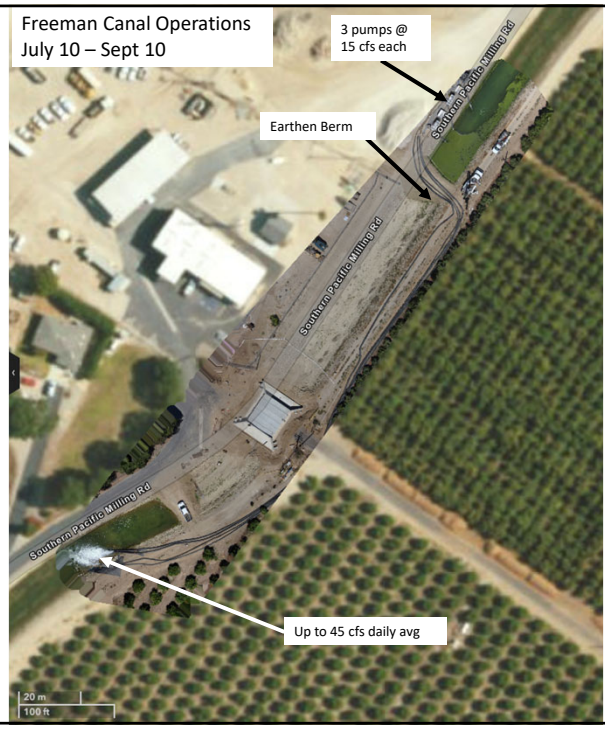
## 2024 Diversions



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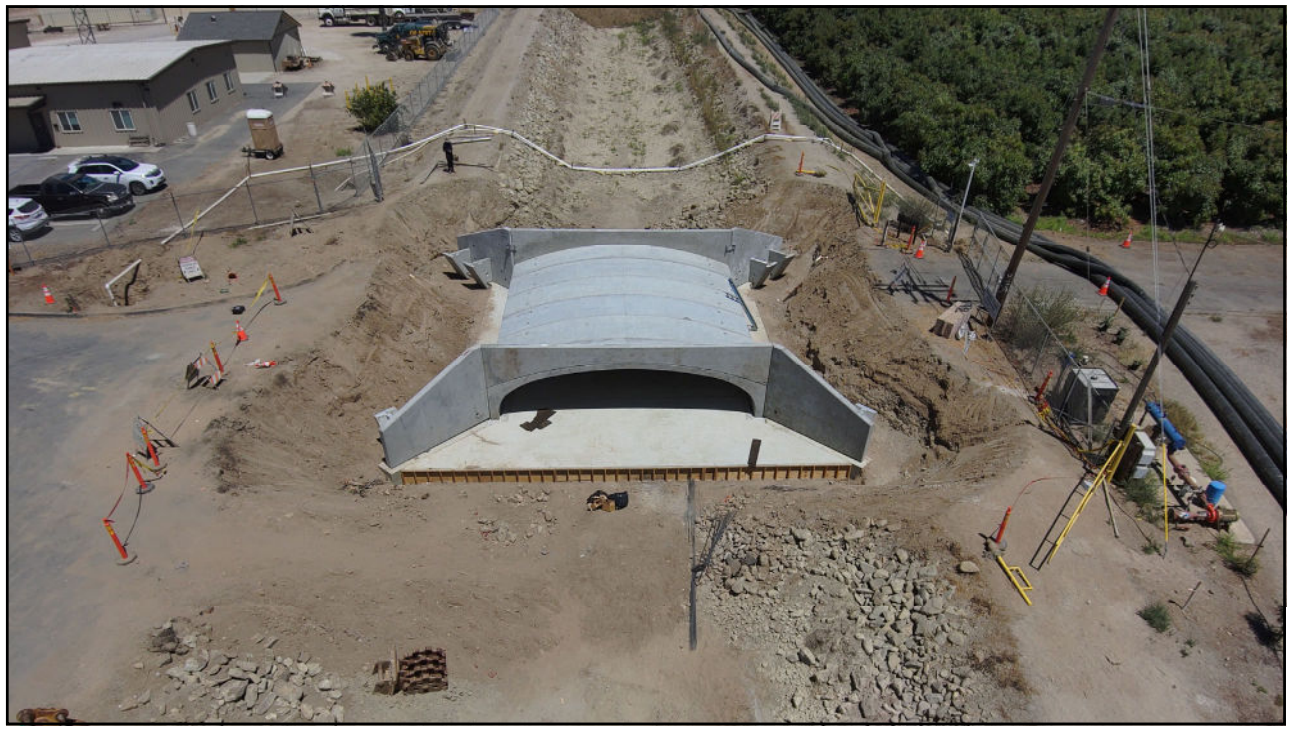
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# Bridge Construction at Saticoy

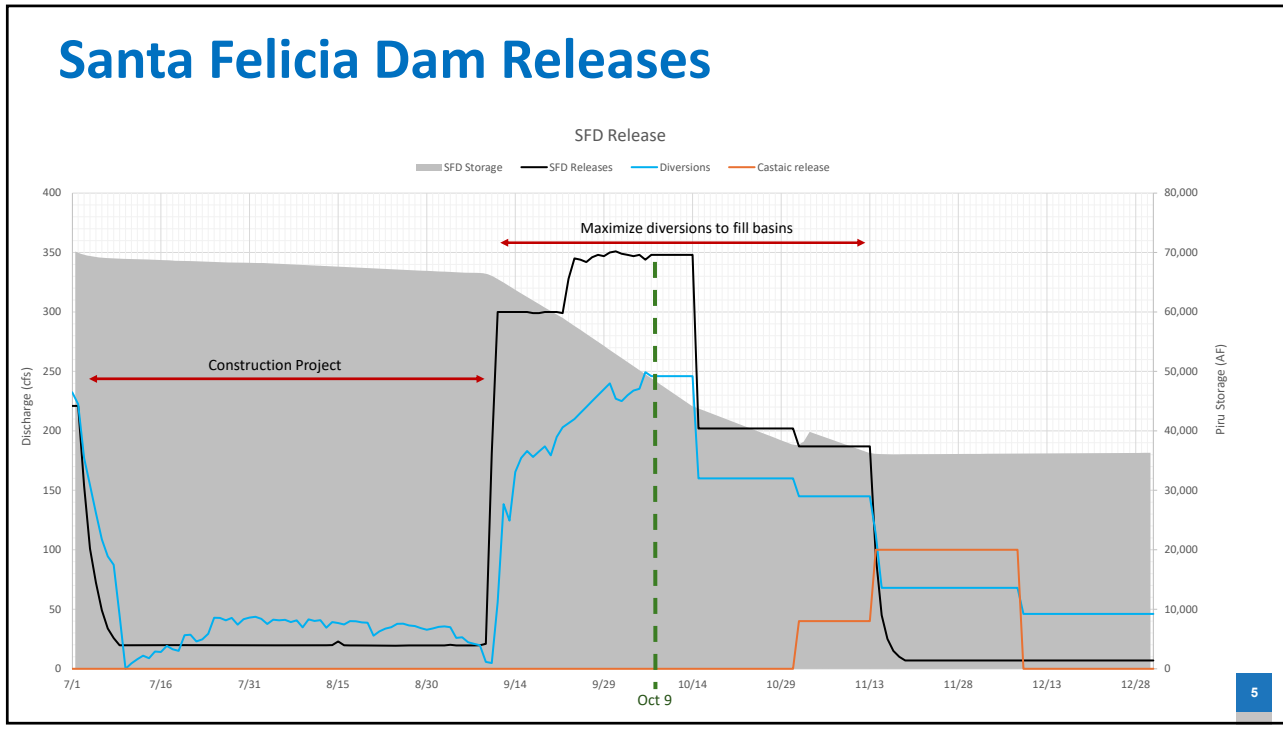


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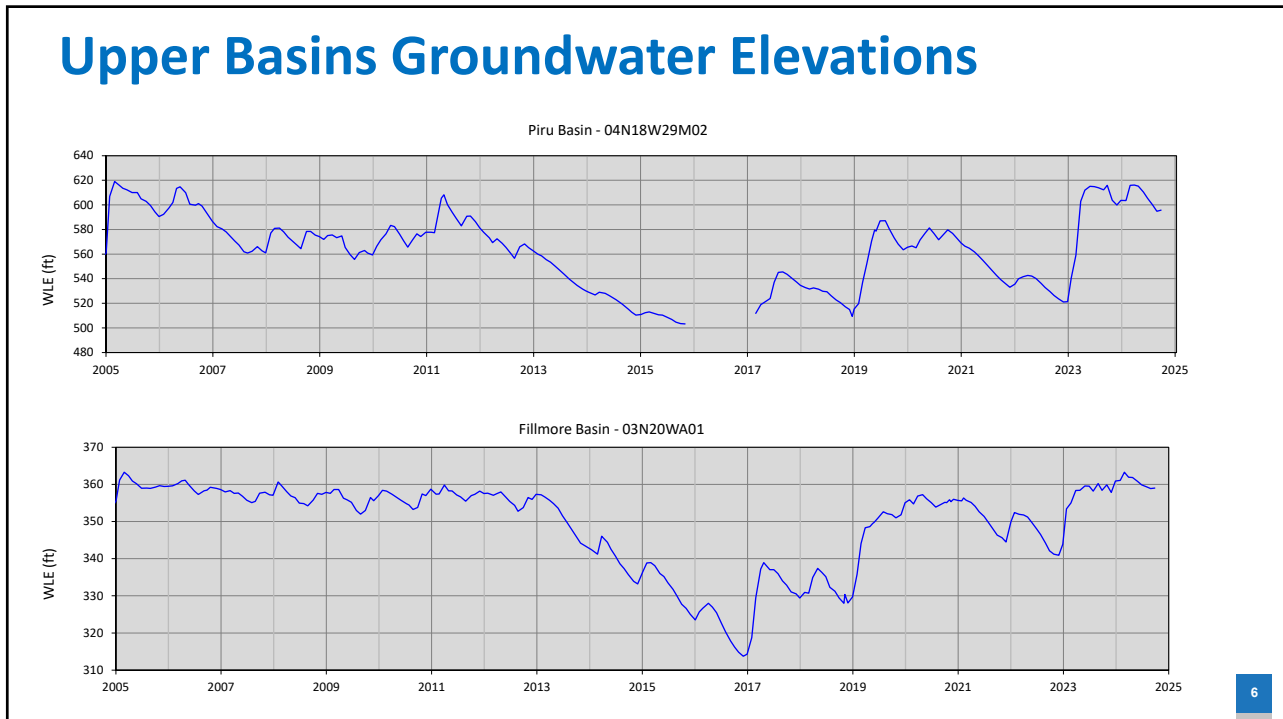
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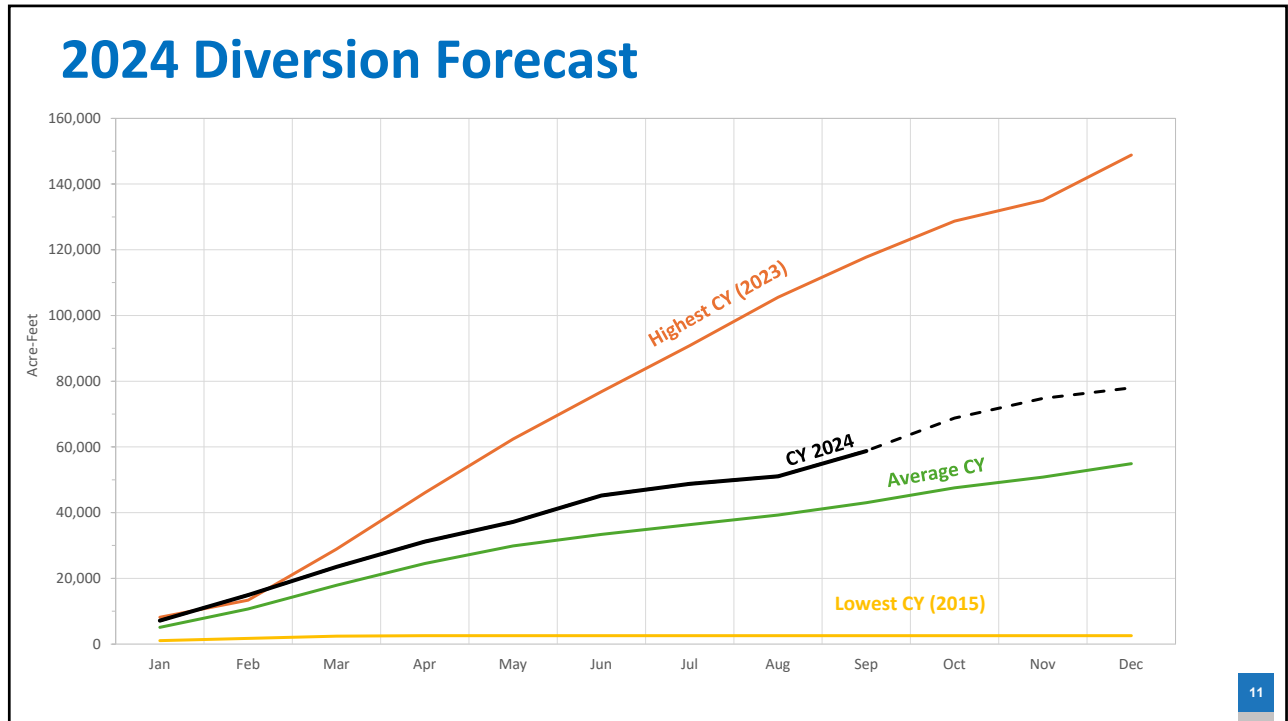
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# Questions?



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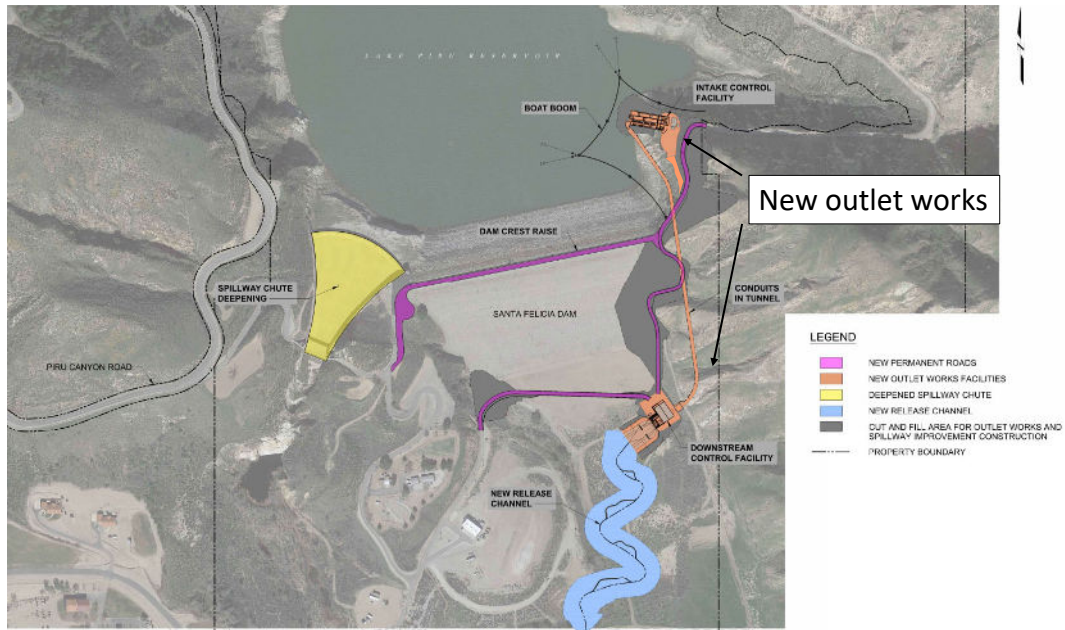
# 4. LAKE PIRU RESERVOIR OPERATIONS PLANNING FOR SANTA FELICIA DAM SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Presented by: Bram Sercu, Principal Hydrologist  
Water Resources Committee Meeting  
October 1, 2024



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## Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

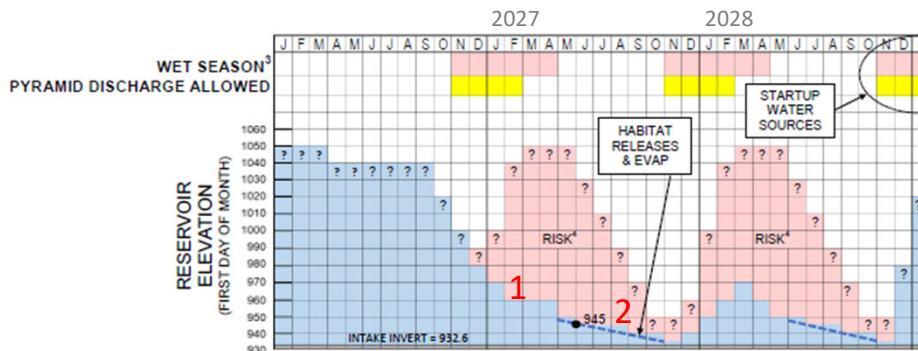


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## Two Risk Evaluations

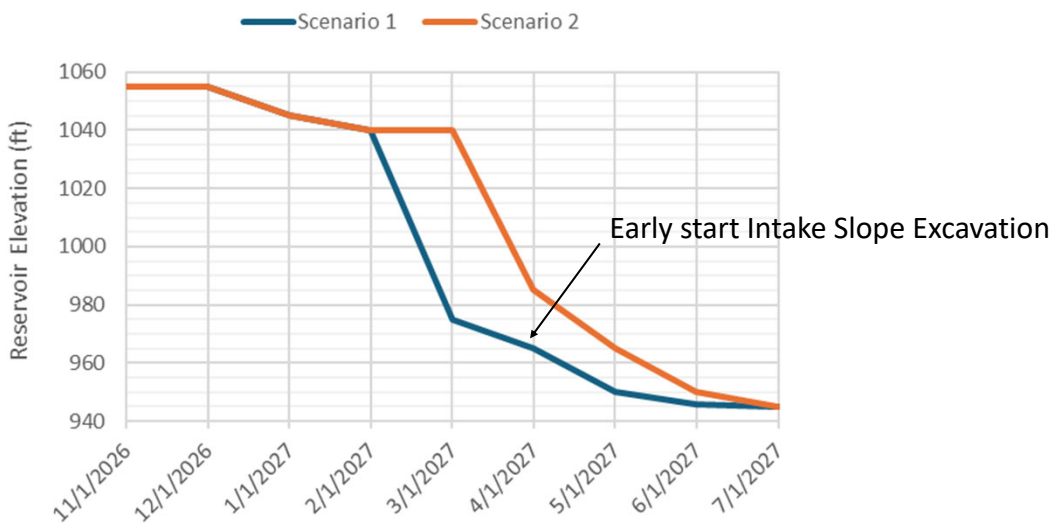
1. Can we meet maximum reservoir elevations during winter-spring?  
 → Construction schedule sloping intake & tunnel
2. Can we maintain some reservoir storage during dry period?  
 → Continuity habitat releases



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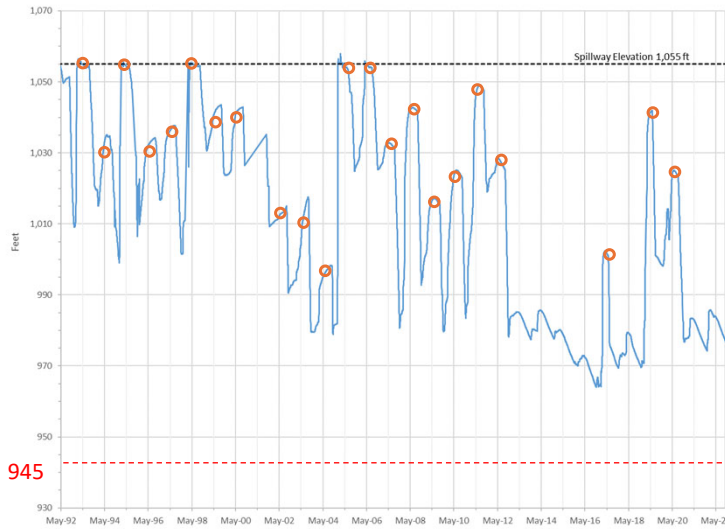
## 1. Can we meet maximum reservoir elevations?



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## Normal Reservoir Operations

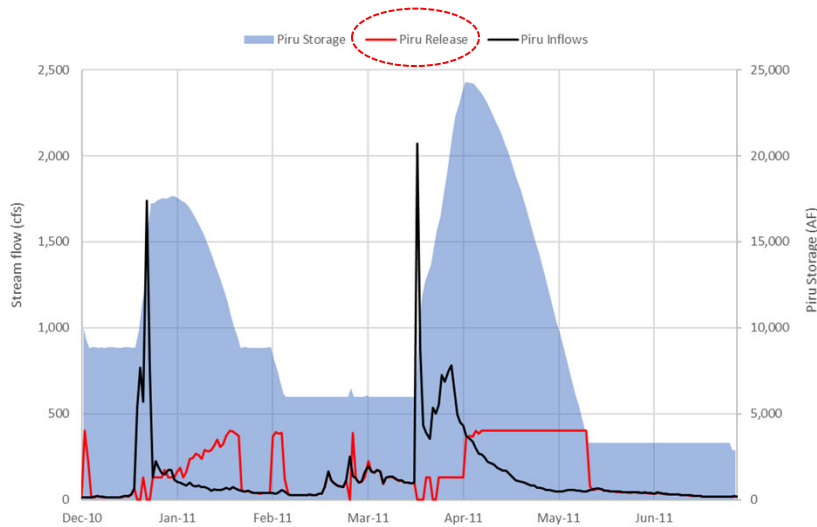


- Water level normally high after wet season
- Need water level at 945 ft by June/July 1
- **Increase winter releases from SFD**

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## Modified Reservoir Operations – Simulated Example

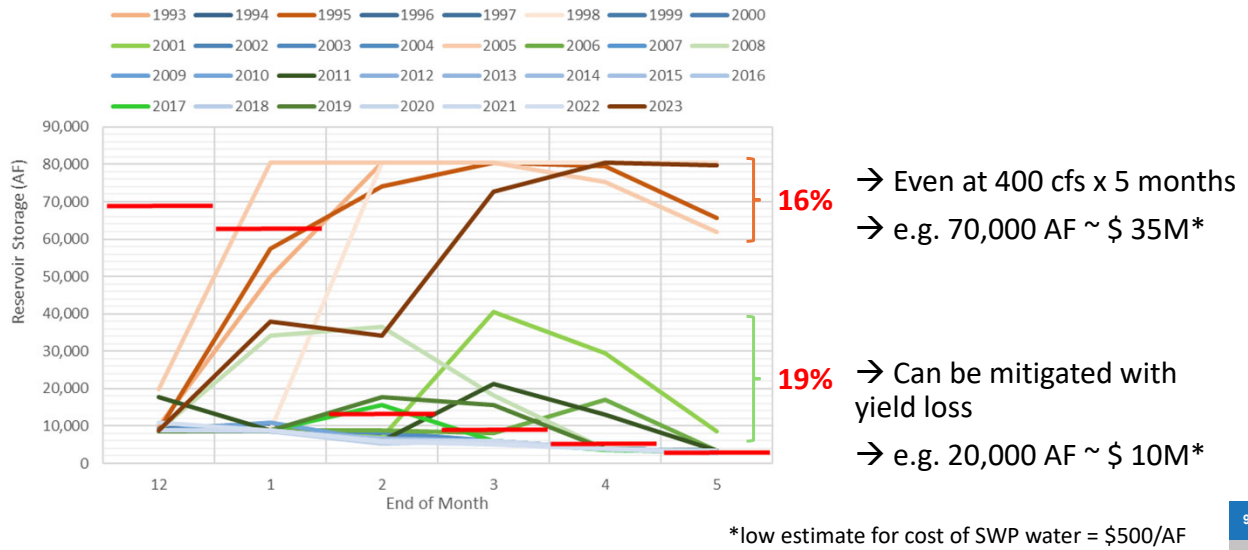


- ✓ Release up to 400 cfs
- ✓ Release in-between storms to limit yield losses

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## Probability of Exceeding Maximum Elevations (Scenario 1)



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## 2. Can we maintain habitat releases?

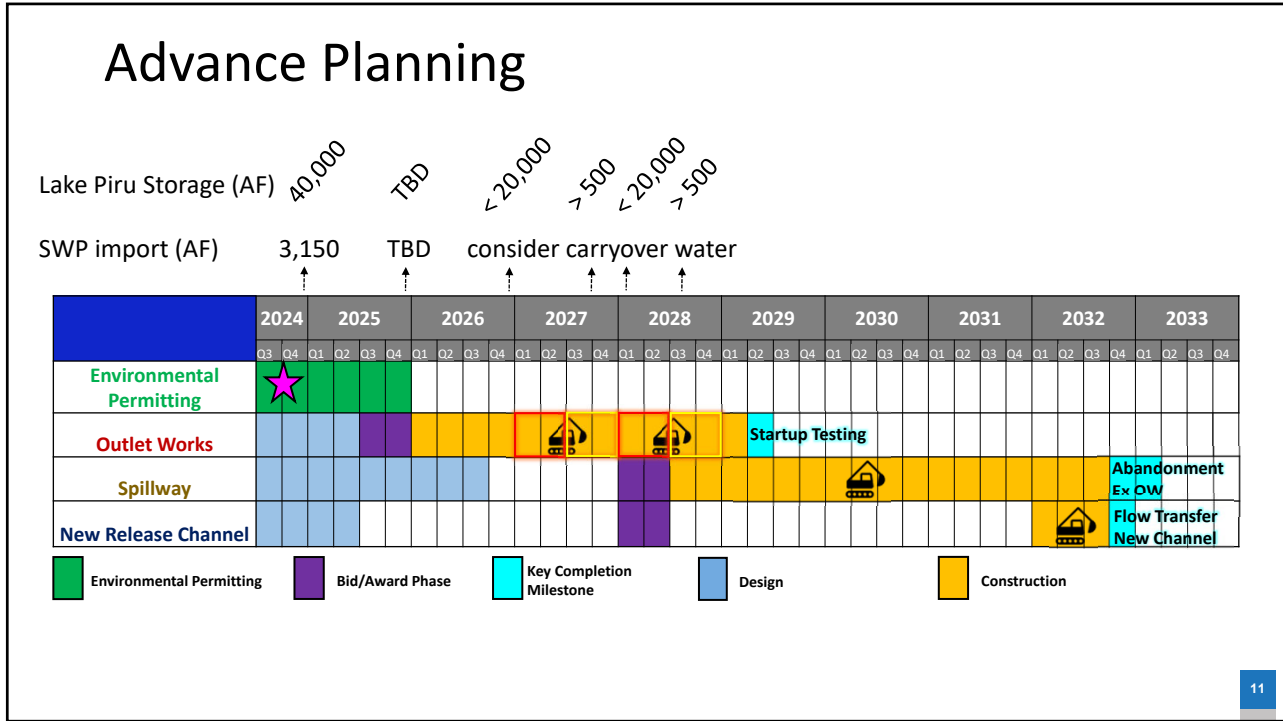
Simulated Lake Piru volume during outlet works construction (AF)

Hydro Year	2027				2028												2029		
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2012	876	456	293	336	601	826	1019	846	468	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1573	5261
2013	718	259	92	0	0	1573	5261	3874	2881	2353	1800	1245	711	180	0	1280	1107	1249	1213
2014	715	185	0	1280	1107	1249	1213	961	600	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	370	637	963
2015	902	455	116	98	468	735	1061	938	602	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	4120	15532	5919
2016	690	178	0	0	4120	15532	5919	3582	2886	2295	1612	931	286	0	0	0	0	0	2629
2017	286	0	0	0	0	0	2629	3173	2838	2328	1759	1189	658	125	0	0	5610	15144	13164
2018	705	173	0	0	5610	15144	13164	3917	2886	2882	2651	2091	1580	1081	839	3902	5970	5992	5993
2019	1580	1081	839	3902	5970	5992	5993	3969	2886	2816	2256	1568	910	402	132	98	367	693	827
2020	910	402	132	98	367	693	827	679	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	3735	4793	4406	3746
2021	597	85	0	3735	4793	4406	3746	3836	2790	2252	1689	1152	644	112	0	373	31121	27398	65879
2022	729	197	0	373	31121	27398	65879	75527	74859										

Insufficient water to maintain releases ~ 35% probability/yr


Risk can be virtually eliminated by reducing habitat releases to 3-5 cfs and purchase of up to 500 AF of SWP water

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# Questions?




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## 5. SUMMARY OF FCGMA'S DRAFT 5-YEAR GSP UPDATES FOR OXNARD, PLEASANT VALLEY, AND LAS POSAS VALLEY BASINS



Presented by: John Lindquist, Water Resources Supervisor  
Water Resources Committee Meeting  
October 1, 2024



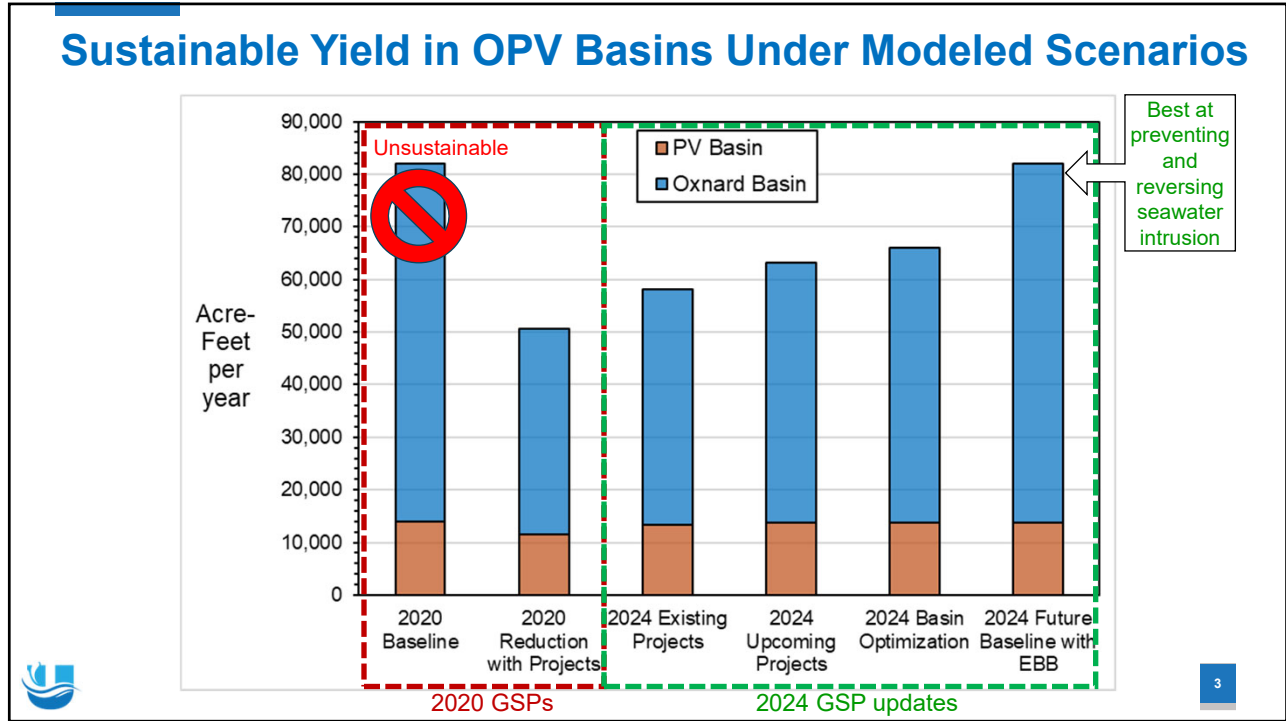
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## Comparison of Major Assumptions and Projects in 2020 GSPs vs. 2024 GSP Updates

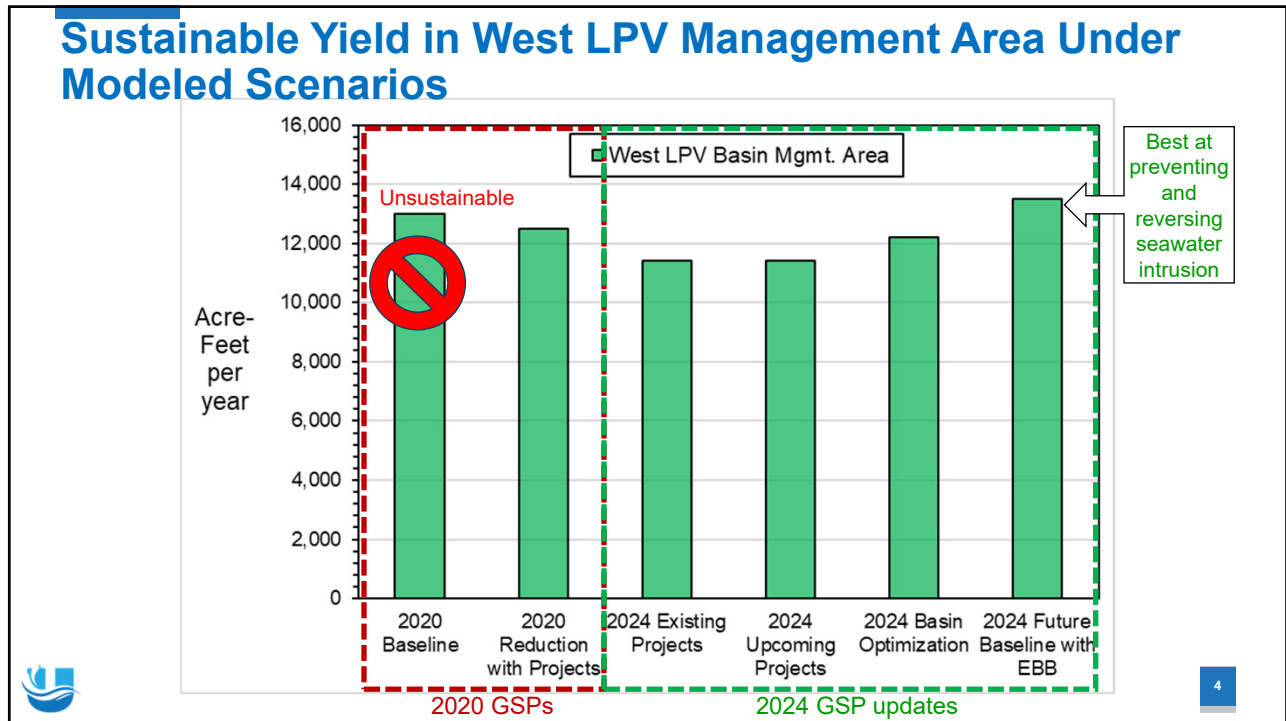
<u>2020 GSPs</u>	<u>2024 GSP Updates</u>
Baseline OPV pumping = 82,000 AFY	Baseline OPV pumping = 82,000 AFY
Assumed Near-Term Projects:	Assumed Near-Term Projects:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPV Desalter</li><li>• Increased Conejo Creek diversions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPV Desalter</li><li>• Increased Conejo Creek diversions</li></ul>
Assumed Future Projects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Increased SWP imports by United</b></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycled water deliveries (much)</li><li>• Temporary fallowing</li><li>• WLPV imported water <i>in lieu</i> of pumping</li></ul>	Assumed Future Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycled water deliveries (<b>less</b>)</li><li>• WLPV imported water <i>in lieu</i> of pumping (?)</li><li>• <b>Freeman Expansion, Phases 1 &amp; 2</b></li><li>• <b>EBB Water, Phases 1 &amp; 2</b></li></ul>



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## FCGMA's Conclusions (OPV Basins)

- Conditions are significantly better today than in 2020
  - Wet years, projects already implemented, demand reduction
- Making progress toward sustainability
  - Uncertainty remains about timing and feasibility of new projects
- EBB project now seen as having significant positive potential
  - Will require new sustainability criteria; waiting for Phase 1 data
- **“...it is unclear what legal effect the adjudication action will have on FCGMA’s continued ability to implement the GSP and sustainably manage...” the OPV Basins.**



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## FCGMA's Conclusions (West LPV Mgmt. Area)



- Groundwater levels have risen in west, near United’s spreading grounds
  - Groundwater levels declining in eastern part of WLPMA, due to lack of recharge
- Current pumping = 15,700 AFY (2016-22 average)
  - Current sustainable yield = 11,400 AFY
- Basin Optimization Plan and Basin Optimization Yield Study planned by LPVB PAC and TAC
  - FCGMA will evaluate a potential “rampdown rate” (evaluation mandated by judgment)



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| Questions?



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** UWCD Water Resources Committee

**Through:** Mauricio Guardado, General Manager  
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

**From:** Dr. Jason Sun, Supervisory Water Resources Engineer  
Murray McEachron, Hydrologist Supervisor  
John Lindquist, Water Resources Supervisor

**Date:** February 21, 2025 (March 4, 2025, meeting)

**Agenda Item: 5.0 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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### **Staff Recommendation:**

Receive a report on Water Resources Department activities for the month of February 2025, including a summary of the activities of the Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee and three local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency).

### **Discussion:**

#### **Staff Activities**

Notable activities conducted by staff during the month included the following:

- Groundwater modeling:
  - Staff continued updating the groundwater model for the Fillmore-Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPGSA).
  - Staff supported the OPV adjudication process.
  - Staff received a request from Mound Basin GSA for a detailed budget estimate on modeling support for the Mound Basin GSP update. Staff are currently preparing the level of effort estimate.
  - Staff prepared to apply for WaterSMART Applied Science Grants to support updates to the district-wide regional model. The grant program is currently on pause, and staff will apply once applications reopen.

**Agenda Item: 5.0 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Hydrology:
  - Staff are monitoring and coordinating with the Operations Department for operations of diversions while implementing the bypass flows for steelhead migration.
  - Staff continued to assist in evaluating fish passage under consideration for United's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), particularly comments provided by NMFS and CDFW.
  - Staff is preparing a new model to evaluate proposed bypass flows on an hourly basis to help inform the HCP process.
  - Staff continue to provide information and review reports for the FPBGSA.
  - Staff continued collecting surface water data throughout the district's service area, following up with quality control, analysis, and reporting activities required or requested to support water resources management by United and other entities within our service area.
  - Staff is assisting with the preparation of the five-year update to United's Santa Clara River Watershed Sanitary Survey required by the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
  - Staff are preparing with Legal for the Evidentiary Hearing with Wishtoyo.
  - Staff evaluated the flex allocation program for the recent operations of the Saticoy Wells.
  
- Hydrogeology:
  - Staff continued to participate in planning and execution of Phase 1 of the EBB Water Project at Navy Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu, including the following activities:
    - Processing aquifer-testing and water-quality data from the new EBB monitoring wells.
    - Coordinating with contractors and the US Navy to transfer or dispose of wastes from drilling and testing of the new EBB monitoring wells.
    - Plan last steps in SGM grant funding, including final reporting to DWR under SGM grant
  - Staff continued planning for support of the first 5-Year GSP Update effort in the Fillmore and Piru Basins.
  - Staff continued development of United's Water Resources Development draft budget for FY 2025/26.

**Agenda Item: 5.0 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Staff helped the Finance Department develop projections for groundwater and surface water use throughout United's service area to aid in budget development.
  - Staff coordinated with other departments within United to develop a proposal to update United's data management system (DMS).
  - Staff tabulated and transmitted groundwater quality data to parties involved in a lawsuit in Santa Paula basin. United is not a party to this lawsuit.
  - Staff continued supporting United's legal counsel with collection and organization of information pertaining to the OPV Basins adjudication.
  - Staff prepared annual reports to FCGMA regarding surface-water use (required for our "SCR flex allocation") and Forebay conditions (for GREAT water allocation adjustment by the City of Oxnard).
  - Staff began organizing data and preparing a five-year update to United's Santa Clara River Watershed Sanitary Survey required by the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
  - Staff provided support to the Engineering and the Operations Departments during a meeting with DDW regarding an amended water supply permit for El Rio Well #20.
  - Staff provided support to the Operations Department in evaluating potential causes of occasionally elevated electrical conductivity measurements at PTP Well #3.
  - Staff responded to reports of artesian conditions occurring at three wells (two on Teal Club Road and one south of Hueneme Road), including reviewing construction details and recent groundwater elevations at the affected wells.
  - Staff conducted routine collection of groundwater elevation and quality data throughout the District's service area, following up with quality control, analysis, and reporting activities required to support water resources management by United and other entities within our service area.
  - Staff continued with plans to optimize the efficiency of United's groundwater monitoring program by obtaining cost estimates for passive samplers (HydraSleeves) and selecting monitoring wells for their initial installation.
- Outreach and Education
    - Staff gave presentations on the EBB project at the American Ground Water Trust Annual Conference (February 4) and the CalDesal Annual Conference (February 5).

**Agenda Item: 5.0 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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- Staff attended an Association of Water Agencies-Ventura County “Waterwise Breakfast” meeting, which included a presentation by United General Manager Mauricio Guardado on shifting Federal and State policy regarding water-supply reliability (February 20).

**Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA)**

Staff continue to participate in the FCGMA’s groundwater sustainability planning and implementation efforts in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins. United staff continue to meet periodically with FCGMA staff and other stakeholders to evaluate groundwater conditions and advance water-supply projects that support a sustainable, resilient water-supply portfolio for the region. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to FCGMA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

*Board of Directors meetings* –The FCGMA held a special Board meeting on February 12, which included the following notable agenda topics:

- The Board approved the revised “First Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Oxnard Subbasin” and directed agency staff to submit it to DWR.
- The Board received a presentation from the County of Ventura Public Works Agency regarding the development of a map-based database that depicts boundaries and contact information for water purveyors throughout the County.
- The Board received a presentation from Calleguas Municipal Water District on their Water Resources Implementation Strategy (WRIST), including discussion of potential water-supply optimization strategies in the Las Posas Valley Basin, their storage 51,995 AF of stored groundwater in the OPV Basins, and their interest in developing a water-banking framework in the Oxnard Plain area.
- The Board received a presentation from the City of Oxnard on the City’s Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) Program, including discussion of their Phase 1 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project and their Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) expansion plans.
- The Board received a presentation from the Hallmark Group (a consulting firm) on results of their analysis of Agency staffing needs, concluding that the Agency is currently understaffed, and that the Agency will require additional staff as its responsibilities increase in the future.
- The Board approved support of a State legislative proposal to amend SGMA to provide that Section 10726.6, Action to Determine Validity of Plan, sets forth the sole process for challenging a GSP, and authorized the Chair to sign a letter of support.

The FCGMA cancelled its regular Board meeting scheduled for February 26. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 26.

**Agenda Item: 5.0 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) Information Item**

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**Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA)**

Staff continue to participate in FPBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP implementation for the Fillmore and Piru basins. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to FPBGSA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

*Board of Directors meetings* – The FPBGSA held a regular Board meeting on February 20, which included the following notable agenda topics:

- The Board waived penalties and interest charges totaling \$4,586.27 for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for late payment associated with pumping from its Fillmore Fish Hatchery wells.
- The Board received a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates summarizing the Water Year 2023-2024 Annual Reports to the California Department of Water Resources for the Fillmore and Piru Basins.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 20.

It should be noted that on February 27, DWR approved the GSPs that were resubmitted by the FPBGSA for the Fillmore and Piru Basins in July 2024. The GSPs originally submitted for these basins by the FPBGSA in January 2022 were deemed incomplete by DWR.

**Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)**

Staff continue to participate in MBGSA activities supporting SGMA compliance and GSP implementation for the Mound basin. United staff also attended and, where appropriate, contributed to MBGSA Board and Committee meetings, as follows:

*Board of Directors meetings* – The MBGSA canceled their February 24 regular Board meeting.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 24.

**Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Staff continue to participate in the Santa Paula Basin TAC in support of the Santa Paula Basin Judgment and in conformance with SGMA reporting requirements for adjudicated basins, as follows:

- Staff revised the draft version of the WY 2023 Santa Paula Basin annual report based on input from TAC members and participated in a TAC meeting on February 24 to discuss the schedule for finalizing and submitting the report, as well as filing the required annual summary data with DWR.