

AGENDA
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

OPEN SESSION - ROLL CALL

1. Public Comments
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 July 3, 2025, Committee meeting minutes.

3. UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Items

Review, discuss, and make a recommendation on the following agenda items to be considered for approval at the October 8, 2025, Board of Directors meeting:

3.1 Adopt a Resolution Approving Revision of the Owners Dam Safety Program and Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy

(Assistant General Manager Dr. Maryam Bral and Senior Engineer Adrian Quiroz)

Motion

Consider recommending adoption of a Resolution (Attachment A) approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owners Dam Safety Program, revision 11.0 dated October 2025, and the Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy, to the full Board.

3.2 Adopt a Resolution Determining that the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project

(Associate Environmental Scientist Haven Whipple)

Motion

Consider recommending adoption of a Resolution (Attachment A) determining that the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project (Project) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and directing staff to file the Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA and approving the Project, to the full Board.

4. Chief Dam Safety Engineer's Annual Dam Safety Program Report

(Assistant General Manager Dr. Maryam Bral and Senior Engineer Adrian Quiroz)

Information Item

In accordance with the Santa Felicia Dam Owners Dam Safety Program, the Chief Dam Safety Engineer for UWCD shall prepare and deliver an Annual Comprehensive Dam



Safety Program Report (Annual Report) and presentation to the UWCD Board of Directors. This Annual Report and presentation cover dam safety program activities from October 2024 through October 2025 (reporting period). *Per Government Code Title 18 § 388.113 Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information, the Annual Report is a critical/confidential document. Committee members only will be provided with hard copies.*

5. Monthly Department Updates

Information Item

Receive and review the monthly reports from the Engineering, Environmental Services, and Operations and Maintenance Departments as well as receive a verbal presentation of its highlights.

5.1 Engineering Department Update (Engineering Manager Robert Richardson)

5.2 Environmental Services Department Update (Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella)

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update (Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan)

6. Future Agenda Items

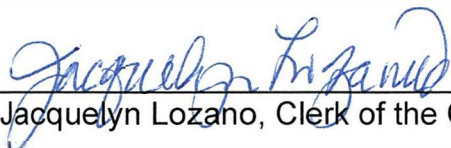
ADJOURNMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation 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.

Approved:  FOR MEG
Mauricio Guardado, General Manager


Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

This agenda was posted Friday, September 26, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. at the United Water Conservation District Headquarters, Oxnard, CA and www.unitedwater.org.


Jacquelyn Lozano, Clerk of the Committee



United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

From: Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Committee

Date: September 25, 2025 (October 2, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 2. Approval of Minutes
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the July 3, 2025, Committee meeting minutes (attached).



Board of Directors
Lynn E. Maulhardt, President
Catherine P. Keeling, Vice President
Gordon Kimball, Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Ford
Mohammed A. Hasan
Steve Huber
Rachel Jones

General Manager
Mauricio Guardado

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

**MINUTES
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030**

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members Roll Call

Present: Directors Ford and Kimball

Absent: Director Keeling (Chair)

1. Public Comments: None.

**2. Approval of Minutes
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) to approve the April 3, 2025, minutes.

Vote: Ayes: Kimball and Ford; Noes: None; Absent: Keeling.

3. July 9, 2025, UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Items

**3.1 Authorize the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Bid Document Preparation and Bid Phase Support Services for the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project (CIP 8002)
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) recommend to the full Board of Directors to authorize the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for the Bid Document Preparation and Bid Phase Support Services for the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project (CIP 8002).

Vote: Ayes: Kimball; Ford; Noes: None; Absent: Keeling.

**4. Monthly Department Updates
Information Items**

**4.1 Engineering Department Update
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager
Information Item
Received and filed; presentation attached.**



4.2 Environmental Services Department Update
Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager
Information Item

Received and filed; presentation attached.

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update
Randy Castaneda, Operations Supervisor – Water Treatment
Information Item

Received and filed; presentation attached.

5. Future Agenda Items

None were offered by the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT


Chair Keeling adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of July 3, 2025.


ATTEST: _____
Catherine Keeling, Chair

UWCD Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting


Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.



1



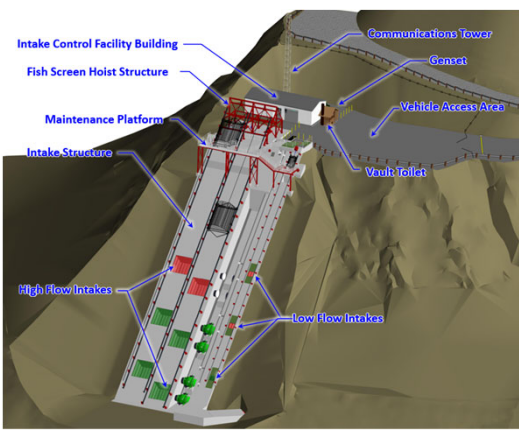
B. System Reliability




C. Regulatory & Environmental Compliance

Motion Item 3.1

Authorize the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for Bid Document Preparation and Bid Phase Support Services for the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project (CIP 8002)




Intake Control Facility Building
Fish Screen Hoist Structure
Maintenance Platform
Intake Structure
High Flow Intakes
Low Flow Intakes
Communications Tower
Control
Vehicle Access Area
Vault Tunnel




2

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B. System Reliability



C. Regulatory + Environmental Compliance

Motion Item 3.1

Santa Felicia Dam - Outlet Works Improvement Project – Two-Step Procurement Plan Step One: Contractor Prequalification




Contractor Industry Day
(Sept '25)

RFQ Process
(Sep – Dec '25)

SOQ Evaluation
(Dec '25)


Shortlist Bidders
(Dec '25)

- Evaluation Panel Evaluates:
 - Dam Safety Construction Experience
 - Tunneling Approach/Experience




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B. System Reliability



C. Regulatory + Environmental Compliance

Motion Item 3.1

Santa Felicia Dam - Outlet Works Improvement Project – Two-Step Procurement Plan Step Two: Best Value Selection Bid Process




Bid Process
(Jan – Apr '26)

Bidder Interviews
(Apr '26)

Bidder Scoring and Selection
(Apr-May '26)

- Bid Includes
 - Price Proposal
 - Technical Proposals
- Oral Interviews with Bidders
- Best Value Selection
 - Technical
 - Price



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Motion Item 3.1

Staff Recommendation:

Authorize the Professional Consulting Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. for Bid Document Preparation and Bid Phase Support Services for the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project (CIP 8002)

PCSA – Cost Breakdown Per Task

Proposed Tasks	Proposed Fee
1. Final Bid Documents	\$313,990
2. Contractor Prequalification Support	\$260,888
3. Bid Phase Support	\$413,562
4. Additional Technical Support	\$170,098
5. Optional Services	\$16,676
6. Contingency Services	\$120,000
Total	\$1,295,214



Questions?

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 C. REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE  B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

Public Outreach



June 9 – Staff presenting SFD SIP and SFD Inundation Maps at the Santa Paula Basin Pumpers Association Annual Meeting

Board of Consultants Meeting No. 10



May 20 – BOC Meeting No. 10 held on May 20-21



 A. WATER SUPPLY  B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Freeman Conveyance (Vineyard Ave Crossing)

- Obtained Well Permit (County) for geotechnical boring.
- Drilling Completed in Vineyard Ave on June 30th




A. WATER SUPPLY
 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project – Meter Exchange

- USDA NRCS confirmed grant payment (\$340,480) was approved, and the contract is now complete.
- Toro installed the proper (submersible) electromagnetic flowmeter for long-term reliability within the vault, as originally specified.
 - Work performed during June 23 – 24, 2025



**Remove Old Meter
(non-submersible)**



New Meter Arrived (Pictured within Crate)



**Install New Meter
(submersible)**

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B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

OHP Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- OLDCC DCIP Office of Compliance Audit

DCIP Grant	Original Agreement (21-Sep-2021)	Amendment No. 1 & 2 (08-Aug-2024)
Federal:	\$4,230,133	No change
Non-Federal	\$8,199,058	\$9,967,998
Performance Period	01-Sep-2021 – 31-Aug-2023	01-Sep-2021 – 31-Dec-2024



Final Non-Federal Amount: **\$9,963,606**

- DWR IRWM Prop 1 Project Completion Report

IRWM Grant	Original Agreement	Amendment No. 5 (21-Apr-2025)
State:	\$2,500,000	\$3,120,886.62
Required Match:	\$4,607,200	\$7,282,540
Performance Period:	24-Sep-2020 – 30-Apr-2024	24-Sep-2020 – 31-Oct-2025

TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES: \$14.46M

TOTAL GRANT FUNDING: 50.8% OF TOTAL PROJECT



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A. WATER SUPPLY



B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

EBB Water Treatment Project

Current and Upcoming Field Activities

Power Monitoring and System Study



Installed: June 3, 2025

Potholing for Pipeline Design



Dig Permit Submitted: May 30, 2025
 On Hold Pending Site Approval Request

Soil Resistivity Testing for Pipeline Design




Piezometer Well Installation for Open Trench Construction Requirements






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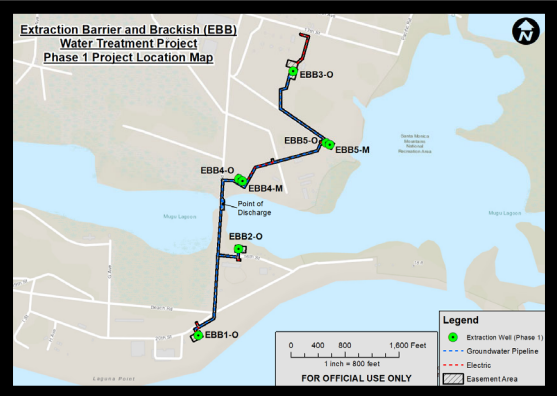
A. WATER SUPPLY




B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY


EBB Water Treatment Project

- Request for Information related to 30% Design
 - Navy submitted May 21st
 - District responded June 19th
- Site Approval Requests
 - New process to UWCD
 - Phase 1 Project (submitted)
 - Potholing (pending)
 - Other Field Activities (as needed)






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A. WATER SUPPLY



B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY


EBB Water Treatment Project

- FY25 DCIP Grant Application
 - **Letters of support – NBVC and USCG received**
 - **June 6 - Congresswoman Julia Brownley’s support letter to Secretary Hegseth**
- Monthly Meetings with NBVC Coordinating Funding Efforts:
 - May 16 – Major Tim Chow, CA Air National Guard, Commander/Base Civil Engineer
 - June 10 – Captain Angel L. Santiago, CEC, U.S. Navy Commander, NCG 1
 - June 16 - Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy) - Madara Jayatilake, Director of Water Resiliency & Security
 - June 30 – Rebecca Isacowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy Resilience & Optimization



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F. COMMUNICATIONS AND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH


Other Events and Public Outreach

Upcoming:


- July 16 – CoLAB WHEEL Committee – EBB Water Treatment Project presentation.

Past:


- May 29 – Tour of Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru to the City of Oxnard Emergency Services Manager, City of Ventura Emergency Services Manager, and City of Simi Valley Emergency Services Coordinator.
- **May 29** – Staff attended the APWA **tour for Hill Canyon Treatment Plant.**
- June 5 – Staff attended the RDP Regular Meeting.
- June 9 – Staff attended the Santa Paula Basin Pumpers Association Annual Meeting.
- June 10 – Staff attended a meeting with Captain Santiago and Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) staff to discuss the Innovative Readiness Training Program.
- **June 12** – Engineering staff **toured the City of Oxnard’s AWPf facility.**
- **June 17** – Fillmore and Piru Basin Pumper Association Meeting – **SFD and FY25-26 CIP Budget presentation.**
- June 17 – Chris Coppinger presented on the EBB Water Treatment Project at the AWA Water Issues Meeting.
- June 25 – AWA CCWUC Regular Meeting – EBB Water Treatment project presentation.
- **June 26** – Engineering Staff **toured Calleguas Municipal Water District’s Lake Bard and ASR Project**



May 29 – Emergency Managers Tour (Oxnard, Ventura, Simi Valley) of Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru.



Jun 25 – AWA CCWUC Luncheon – EBB WTP Presentation



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A photograph of a hiker wearing a hat and a backpack, standing on a rocky streambed. A small pool of water is visible in the center of the stream. The surrounding area is filled with large, smooth boulders and some green vegetation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

July 3, 2025



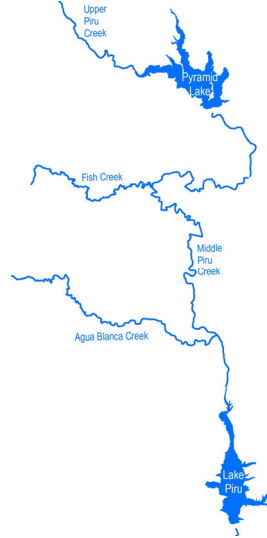
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Temporary Variance for Increased SWP Imports

5-year request submitted:

- Allows up to 25,000 af/yr
- Extends through WY 29-30
 - FERC license variance
 - WB 401 permit variance

Thanks to DWR for their partnership in this effort!



STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 44388
SACRAMENTO, CA 94243-0088
(916) 433-9371



June 30, 2025

Electronically Filed

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
808 First Street, Northeast
Washington, DC 20426

FERC Project No. 2426—Variance from Article 52 of License
for South SWP Hydropower Project Water Releases at Pyramid Lake

Dear Secretary Reese:



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**OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE
DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

July 3, 2025



The logo for United Water Conservation District is centered within a white circle. It features a blue stylized wave icon to the left of the text "United Water" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with "CONSERVATION DISTRICT" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.

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**Santa Felicia Dam
and
Lake Piru**



The slide features a background image of a large body of blue water under a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font. In the bottom-left corner, there is a small blue and white logo of a stylized wave.

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C. REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

DSOD Inspection

6/17/25 6/17/25

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B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Lake Piru Recreation Area

6/10/25 6/10/25

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 A. WATER SUPPLY

 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Freeman Diversion



5/30/25



6/2/25



25

25

 A. WATER SUPPLY

Desilting Basin



6/16/25



6/16/25



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A. WATER SUPPLY B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Saticoy Spreading Grounds



27

27




El Rio





28

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 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

800 Kw Generator



 29

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 A. WATER SUPPLY

 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Well 12




 30

30

 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Fe Mn Wash Water Tank



6/16/25 6/16/25 6/16/25

 31

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Questions?

 32

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STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager

From: Maryam Bral, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant General Manager
Adrian Quiroz, Senior Engineer

Date: September 16, 2025 (October 2, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 3.1 Adopt a Resolution Approving Revision of the Owners Dam Safety Program and Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Consider recommending adoption of a Resolution (Attachment A) approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owners Dam Safety Program, revision 11.0 dated October 2025, and the Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy, to the full Board.

Discussion:

The Board of Directors first adopted Resolution 2012-15 on October 10, 2012, adopting the Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) Owners Dam Safety Program (ODSP) as a policy of the District to demonstrate its continued commitment to dam safety. The ODSP was prepared in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Engineering Guidelines and formalized existing practices into a District policy. The FERC considers the ODSP a “living document” that must be continuously updated.

Per FERC guidelines, ODSPs must undergo an independent external audit every five (5) years. In 2022, the District retained Gannett Fleming, Inc. (GF), to conduct an external audit of the ODSP for the SFD. As a result of the audit, GF prepared a report that included sixteen (16) recommendations for improving the SFD ODSP.

External ODSP Audit Recommendation No. 3 included expanding the ODSP to indicate that the document serves as the District’s Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy. As part of addressing this recommendation, a Policy Synopsis Document dated October 2024 was developed to synopsise the principles and policies presented in the ODSP document. Subsequently, on October 9, 2024, the Board adopted Resolution 2024-16, adopting the Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program and the overarching Dam Safety Program Policy, dated October 2024, as a policy of the District. The adoption of Resolution 2024-16 addressed Recommendation No. 3.

3.1 Adopt a Resolution Approving Revision of the Owners Dam Safety Program and Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy **Motion**

The ODSP and associated Policy Synopsis Document have been updated to reflect recent organizational changes as well as other improvements to the dam safety program such as the updated SFD monthly visual inspection checklist. Provided as Attachment A is a Resolution adopting the revised ODSP and Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy. A strikeout draft of the revised ODSP and Policy Synopsis Document, dated October 2025, are provided as Attachments B and C, respectively.

Additionally, External ODSP Audit Recommendation No. 2 included the recommendation of adopting the practice of adopting an annual resolution affirming the UWCD Board of Directors' commitment to dam safety in October of every year. The Resolution also serves as a formal declaration reaffirming the District's commitment to Dam Safety as policy, addressing the recommendation of adopting this annual resolution.

Fiscal Impact:

No additional fiscal impact at this time. Staff will allocate the necessary budget on a fiscal year basis to ensure compliance with the ODSP and Overarching Dam Safety Policy.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution

Attachment B – Santa Felicia Dam, Owners Dam Safety Program (October 2025) Rev. 11.0 ***(Per Government Code Title 18 § 388.113 Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII) this is a critical/confidential document. Committee members only will be provided hard copies.)***

Attachment C – Santa Felicia Dam, Owners Dam Safety Program, Policy Synopsis Document (October 2025) Rev 1.0 ***(Per Government Code Title 18 § 388.113 Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII) this is a critical/confidential document. Committee members only will be provided hard copies.)***

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ADOPTING THE REVISED OWNER'S DAM SAFETY PROGRAM AND
REAFFIRMING THE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO DAM SAFETY AS
POLICY**

WHEREAS, the United Water Conservation District ("District") owns and operates Santa Felicia Dam; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2012, the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District adopted Resolution 2012-15, a formal declaration of the District's commitment to Dam Safety as policy; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2024, the Board of Directors of United Water Conservation District adopted Resolution 2024-16, a formal declaration of the District's commitment to Dam Safety as policy; and superseding Resolution 2012-15

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned Resolution 2024-16 included the adoption of the Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program and the overarching Dam Safety Program Policy, dated October 2024, as a policy of the District, living documents that must be continuously updated; and

WHEREAS, training, succession planning, program assessments, corporate accountability, and staff are some of the key elements of the Santa Felicia Owner Dam Safety Program; and

WHEREAS, recent organizational changes in District personnel warrant modification to the Santa Felicia Owner Dam Safety Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The District Board of Directors hereby adopts the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owner Dam Safety Program and the overarching Dam Safety Program Policy, within, dated October 2025, as a policy of the District, a formal declaration reaffirming the District's commitment to Dam Safety as policy.
2. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-____
(continued)

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of October 2025.

ATTEST: _____

Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board President

ATTEST: _____

Gordon Kimball, Board Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF REPORT

To: **Engineering and Operations Committee Members**

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

From: Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager
Haven Whipple, Environmental Scientist
Adrian Quiroz, Senior Engineer
Tony Huynh, Risk and Safety Manager

Date: **September 15, 2025 (October 2, 2025, meeting)**

Agenda Item: 3.2 Adopt a Resolution Determining that the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Consider recommending adoption of a Resolution (Attachment A) determining that the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project (Project) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and directing staff to file the Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA and approving the Project, to the full Board.

Discussion:

The District is the lead agency for the proposed Project under CEQA. The proposed Project will be located on the western shore of Lake Piru near United's existing Water Treatment Facility. It consists of digging an 8-foot-deep hole and installing a 60-foot pole to serve as housing for a new siren to improve coverage of the existing emergency alarm system. The proposed Project involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and negligible or no expansion of capacity.

The Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) Section 15301 "Existing Facilities" (Class 1). Section 15301 (f) pertains to safety features, citing the "addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices." The District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

3.2 Adopt a Resolution Determining that the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project is Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project Motion

Mission Goal:

Meets mission-related Goal B (System Reliability) and Goal F (Communications and Community Outreach).

Fiscal Impact:

The County Clerk and Recorder's Office filing fee for the CEQA NOE is \$50.00 which is included in the Adopted Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget under project account 051-400-81060; 8058-835.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution

Attachment B – Notice of Exemption

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-___

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DETERMINING THAT THE LAKE PIRU EARLY WARNING SYSTEM INSTALLATION PROJECT (“PROJECT”) IS EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVING THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, pursuant to the proposed Project the United Water Conservation District (“District”) intends to construct and install a 60-foot pole and warning siren on the western shore of Lake Piru; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project will address a coverage gap in the existing early warning systems at Lake Piru; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project will be located near the District’s existing Water Treatment Facility and will alert boaters on the lake and campers and visitors at the Lake Piru Recreation Area of an imminent emergency; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project’s device would be equipped with a rotating speaker with four active speaker cells, capable of reproducing six standard warning tones and an audible range of 6,100 feet (1.2 miles) at 70 decibels (dB) and 12,200 feet (2.3 miles) at 60 dB; and

WHEREAS, for the proposed Project, an excavator would be used to dig an 8-foot-deep hole to install a 60-foot pole, and the hole would be backfilled with the native excavated soil; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project would be completed in one day; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) categorical exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and

WHEREAS, the key consideration under a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 exemption is whether a project involves negligible or no expansion of use; and

WHEREAS, examples of projects that are exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 include the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services and also the addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing facilities; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) because the proposed Project involves the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of District facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, and also the addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing District facilities, again, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) categorical exemption consists, in part, of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) because the proposed Project involves the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 sets forth the following exceptions to categorical exemptions:

“(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located--a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource"; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The District's Board of Directors hereby finds and determines that the proposed Project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Specifically, the Board of Directors finds and determines that the proposed Project is categorically exempt pursuant to the Class 1 Existing Facilities exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15301) because the proposed Project involves the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of District facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, and also the addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing District facilities, again, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, and is also categorically exempt pursuant to the Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures exemption because the proposed Project involves the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures.

2. The District's Board of Directors hereby finds and determines that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

3. The District's Board of Directors hereby approves the proposed Project and authorizes its implementation when deemed appropriate by the General Manager.

4. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the District's Environmental Services Manager to file a Notice of Exemption for the Project in accordance with CEQA.

5. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of October 2025.

ATTEST: _____

Lynn E. Maulhardt, Board President

ATTEST: _____

Gordon Kimball, Board Secretary/Treasurer

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Governor’s Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
Online Submittal via CEQA Submit

From:
United Water Conservation District
1701 North Lombard Street, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

Ventura County Clerk
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Project Title: Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation

Project Location: The address for site entry is 4780 Piru Canyon Road, Piru, California 93040 (nearest cross street is Dominguez Canyon Road). The Project will be completed near United Water Conservation District’s Lake Piru Recreation Area (34.473026, - 118.757202).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project (Lead Agency): United Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: United Water Conservation District

Project Description: United Water Conservation District (United) will construct and install a 60-foot pole and warning siren on the western shore of Lake Piru to address a coverage gap in the existing early warning systems at Lake Piru (Project). The Project will be located near United’s existing Water Treatment Facility (34.473026, -118.757202), and will alert boaters on the lake and campers and visitors at the Lake Piru Recreation Area of an imminent emergency (Figure 1). The device will be equipped with a rotating speaker with four active speaker cells, capable of reproducing six standard warning tones and an audible range of 6,100 feet (1.2 miles) at 70 decibels (dB) and 12,200 feet (2.3 miles) at 60 dB. An excavator will be used to dig an 8-foot-deep hole to install a 60-foot pole. The hole will be backfilled with the native excavated soil, and the Project will be completed in one day.

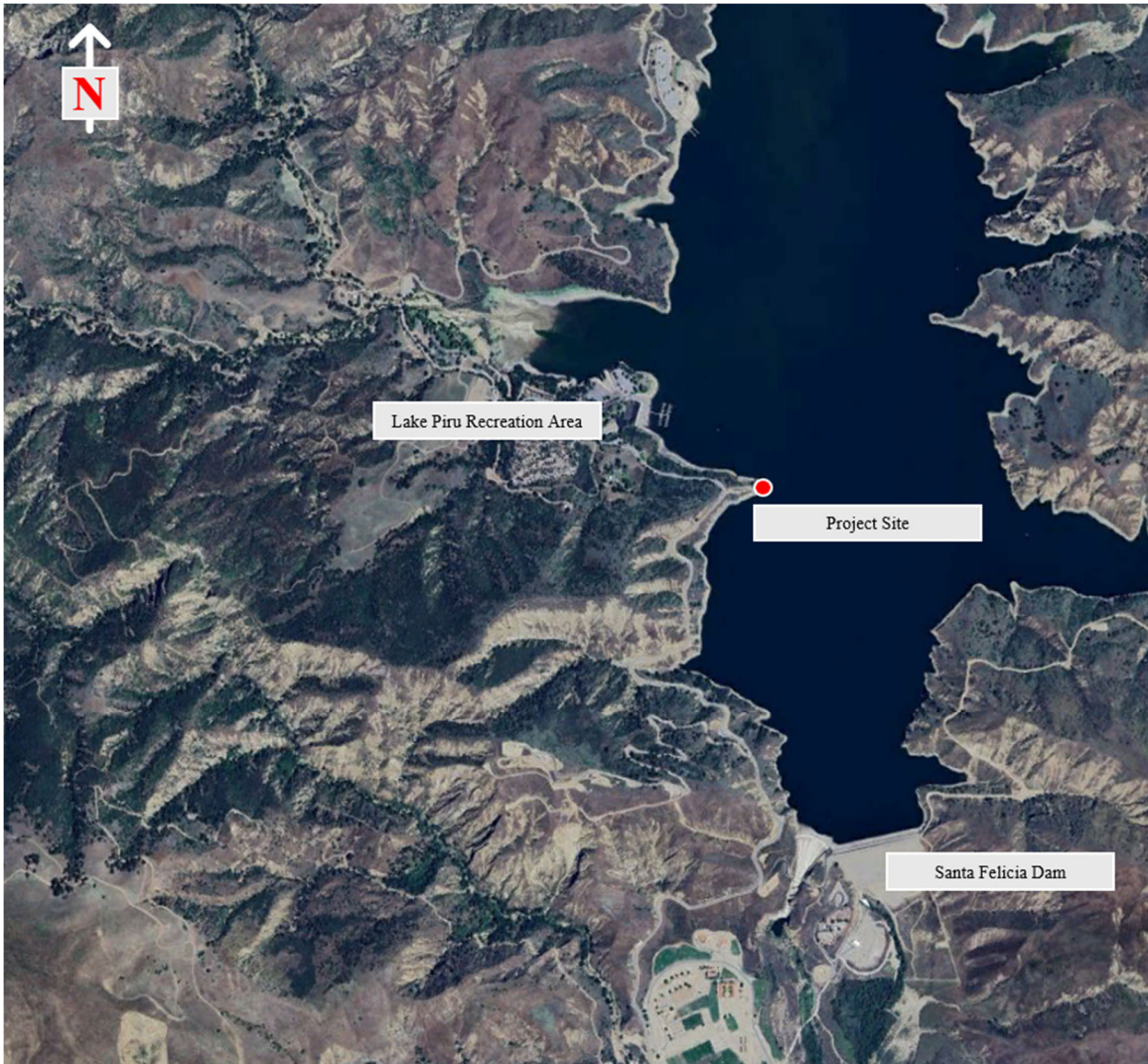


Figure 1. Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project location.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
 Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
 Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
 Categorical Exemptions: Class 1, Guidelines § 15301 – Existing Facilities, Class 3, Guidelines § 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
 Statutory Exemption
-

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) Section 15301 Existing Facilities (Class 1) and Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Class 3)

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) categorical exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The key consideration under a CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 exemption is whether a project involves negligible or no expansion of use. Examples of projects that are exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 include the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services and also the addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing facilities.

The District reviewed the Project and determined that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) because the Project involves the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of District facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, and also the addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing District facilities, again, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) categorical exemption consists, in part, of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures. The District reviewed the Project and determined that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

because the Project involves the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 sets forth the following exceptions to categorical exemptions:

“(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located--a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.”

The District determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Adrian Quiroz, Senior Engineer
Telephone: 805-525-4431
Email: AdrianQ@unitedwater.org

Marissa Caringella
Environmental Services Manager
United Water Conservation District

Date _____

Date OPR received for filing: _____



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

From: Robert J. Richardson, Engineering Manager Nathan
Summerville, Senior Engineer

Date: September 25, 2025 (October 2, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for August 2025, as well as receive a presentation of its highlights. Please refer to the end of the report for a list of acronyms.

Discussion:

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- FERC General Compliance
 - FERC conducted its annual inspection on August 6 (see **Figure 1**) and provided a copy of its final 2024 inspection report on August 1. A follow-up letter was received from FERC on August 26 requesting a plan and schedule to address their comments within 30 days.
- FERC EAP
 - On August 28, Staff met with Fillmore Unified School District and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services to discuss the EAP related to Santa Felicia Dam.
- Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - Efforts to advance the SFD Outlet Works Improvement Project included a meeting with Ventura County's CEO, Sevet Johnson, to advocate for the SFD SIP, and an outreach meeting with Rancho Temescal to discuss project updates and construction logistics. An initiative to pre-qualify contractors in preparation for solicitation for construction bids has been postponed to focus efforts on securing construction funding.
- *Grants: See the Grants section as part of this report.*
- *Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*

Lake Piru Recreation Area FIP

- Lake Piru Campground and Recreation Area Renovations

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

- Staff, along with the consultant, Stantec, reviewed options and costs for the LOG bathroom replacement and rehabilitation due to a history of significant maintenance.
- Staff continued to work on concepts for the rehabilitation of the Lake Piru WTP.

Freeman Diversion Expansion

- Staff coordinated with the Design team and Technical Advisors regarding the conceptual design and estimated costs.
- *Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*

Freeman Conveyance System Upgrade – Freeman to Ferro

- Staff are working with their Design team for an updated assessment of the conveyance capacity of the Freeman Conveyance System. The last major assessment of the system was in 2020, and significant changes have occurred in the last 5 years.
- Vineyard Avenue Crossing:
 - Staff received the final geotechnical report.
- *Grants: See the Grants section as part of this report.*
- *Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*

OH Well Replacement

- Staff is working with prospective contractors on rehabilitation options for Well No. 17.

OH Well 14 Energy Efficiency Upgrade

- Staff continued to work on planning efforts and logistics for the replacement of the variable frequency drive.

Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility

- Staff met to discuss programming improvements for the Fe/Mn Treatment Plant.
- *Grants: See the Grants section as part of this report.*

OH Pipeline

- On August 31, Staff provided stakeholders with the Annual Supply and Demand Assessment.

Pleasant Valley Pipeline

- Staff began planning and coordinating for a Pre-Project Condition Assessment of the PV Pipeline impacted by an upcoming development near Springville Drive in Camarillo. The developer, Costco, has agreed to reimburse the District for the effort.

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

Utility Requests

- Throughout August, Staff responded to three utility requests.

Recycled Water Planning

- Staff continued planning efforts with the City of Oxnard and PVCWD for short-term operational testing for recycled water deliveries through the new Laguna Road Recycled Water Pipeline.

Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- Staff continued to coordinate with NBVC Staff on Site Approval Requests for the Phase 1 project and environmental document review.
- *CEQA/NEPA/Permits: Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*
- *Grants: See the Grants section as part of this report.*

Asset Management/CMMS System

- Staff continued planning efforts for additional condition assessment work related to the OH Pipeline. The scope of work is related to recommendations derived from the Asset Management Pilot Project.
- Staff supported a District-wide effort to develop a Data Management System.

Grants:

- DWR:
 - IRWM Prop 1 – Iron and Manganese Treatment Project:
 - Staff worked on preparing the 1-year post-construction performance report.
- FEMA:
 - HMGP – SFD SIP Projects (Outlet Works Improvement Project):
 - The grant application, due September 15, has received 13 letters of support from the following agencies: Assembly Member Steve Bennett's office, Central Coast Labor Council, City of Fillmore, City of Oxnard, City of Santa Paula, Piru Neighborhood Council, Pleasant Valley County Water District, RDP, Ventura County Board of Supervisors, CoLAB, Ventura County Public Works Agency, Ventura County Taxpayers Association, and Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission.
 - SLCGP - Operational Technology Modernization Project
 - Staff updated the SLCGP FMFW and sent it to Cal OES. Pending their review, reimbursements for project expenses can begin.

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

- OLDCC:
 - DCIP – EBB WTP
 - On August 18, staff received news that the Phase 1 EBB WTP was not selected for FY25 DCIP grant funding. An out-briefing has been scheduled for October 14 with OLDCC to review United's submission.

- SWRCB:
 - GWGP – EBB WTP
 - Staff completed the fourth progress report and invoice.

Professional Development (Conferences, Trainings, Webinars)

- On August 5, staff participated in APWA's "Pipeline Condition Assessment 101 Training.
- On August 19, Engineering and O&M Staff presented a Lunch and Learn event open to all United employees to share knowledge of successes and key lessons from two past projects: first, the Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant planning, design, and construction, and second, the OH Pipeline Shutdown covering new connections for Cal Am, O&M Projects, and Asset Management Condition Assessment (see **Figure 2**).
- On August 29, staff attended a Utility Collaboration Committee call sponsored by AWWA and attended by utility managers across the United States. A presentation from Helix Water District in East County, San Diego, was provided regarding the condition assessment of mortar-lined steel pipe using Remote Field Technology

Current and Upcoming Public Outreach Activities

- On August 7, Staff attended a VC Cal OES Piru Community Outreach Effort at Santa Felicia Dam.
- On August 20, Staff held a meeting with NAVFAC EXWC and received a tour of their Seawater Desal Test Facility.
- On August 20, Maryam Bral and Robert Richardson attended the Military Appreciation Mixer hosted by the West Ventura County Business Alliance at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum (see **Figure 3**).

5.1 **Engineering Department Monthly Report**
Information Item



Figure 1 - O&M and Engineering staff during the SFD FERC Inspection on August 6.



Figure 2 - Senior Engineer Nathan Summerville presenting on the Asset Management Condition Assessment during the "Lessons Learned" presentation on August 19.

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item



Figure 3 - Meeting with NAVFAC EXWC and tour of SDTF on August 20.

Acronym Index

Acronym	Definition
APWA	American Public Works Association
AWWA	American Water Works Association
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMMS	Computerized Maintenance Management System
CoLAB	Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business
DCIP	Defense Community Infrastructure Program
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
EBB	Extraction Barrier and Brackish
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Regulatory Commission
FIP	Facility Improvement Project
FMFW	Financial Management Forms Workbook
GWGP	Groundwater Grant Program
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
IRWM	Integrated Water Management Plan
LOG	Lower Olive Grove
LPRA	Lake Piru Recreation Area
NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County

5.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

Acronym	Definition
NAVFAC EXWC	Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OH	Oxnard Hueneme
OLDCC	Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation
PTP	Pumping Trough Pipeline
PT	Pumping Trough
PV	Pleasant Valley
PVCWD	Pleasant Valley County Water District
RDP	Regional Defense Partnership
RO	Reverse Osmosis
SDTF	Seawater Desalination Test Facility
SFD	Santa Felicia Dam
SIP	Safety Improvement Plan
SLCGP	State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
VC	Ventura County
WTP	Water Treatment Plant/Project
WUE	Water Use Efficiency



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

Through: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
Anthony A. Emmert, Assistant General Manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

From: Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager

Date: September 15, 2025 (October 2, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report
Information Item

Staff Recommendation:

Review this staff report from the Environmental Services Department (ES) staff regarding its activities for the month of August 2025.

Discussion:

1. Santa Felicia Project Operations and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License Support

Water Release Plan and Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan

Under the Water Release Plan and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) license for the Santa Felicia Project, United Water Conservation District (United) is required to make certain water releases from the Santa Felicia Dam for steelhead habitat and migration when specific triggers are met. Triggers for habitat water releases are based on cumulative rainfall within the water year. The measured cumulative rainfall for the current water year has not exceeded the triggers for enhanced water releases; therefore, the minimum required habitat water release between June 1 through October 1, 2025, is seven cubic feet per second.

Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan

On August 25 and 26, 2025, ES staff conducted exotic species eradication efforts in the spillway ponds as part of FERC compliance in accordance with the Revised Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan. A total of eight bullfrogs were removed from the spillway ponds.

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

Santa Felicia Whitewater Boating Access Plan

On August 19, 2025, ES staff supported the Recreation Department in submitting a fall conservation release notification to whitewater boating stakeholders in compliance with Article 408 of United's FERC license. Stakeholders were notified that United anticipates releasing 400 cubic feet per second from the Santa Felicia Dam beginning on September 15, 2025.

2. Petition to Revise the Critical Habitat Designation for Southern California Steelhead

On March 20, 2025, United submitted a petition to the Department of Commerce to revise designated critical habitat for southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; *O. mykiss*) below Santa Felicia Dam. On July 11, 2025, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) posted a 90-day finding that United's petition presents substantial scientific information that the petitioned action may be warranted. This finding initiates a one-year formal review period and NMFS opened a public comment period to solicit new scientific or commercial data related to the petition. The public comment period closed on September 9, 2025.

3. Increased State Water Project Imports from Pyramid Lake to Lake Piru

In June 2025, ES staff collaborated with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to finalize and submit United's request for a variance to DWR and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's FERC license for Pyramid Lake to allow increased State Water Project (SWP) imports from Pyramid Dam to Lake Piru. ES staff and DWR also prepared a request for a temporary amendment to the Clean Water Act (CWA) 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Both the FERC temporary variance request and the SWRCB temporary amendment to the 401 WQC were submitted to the respective agencies by DWR on June 30, 2025.

In July 2025, DWR filed a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for the temporary amendment to the 401 WQC. On August 21, 2025, the SWRCB filed a public notice of the request for a temporary amendment, beginning a 21-day public review period, which ended on September 11, 2025. On August 25, 2025, FERC issued notification of the application for a variance, beginning a 30-day public review period which will end on September 24, 2025. Throughout the month of August, ES staff coordinated with DWR and FERC on the status of the variance request and to provide information in response to questions received from agency stakeholders.

4. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of August 2025, ES staff supported Freeman Diversion operations and maintenance activities by coordinating with resource agencies as needed, conducting pre-construction surveys, and providing on-site biological monitoring. Specifically, during the week of August 11, 2025, ES staff supported Operations and Maintenance staff with fish screen and head bay maintenance activities.

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

On August 28, 2025, ES staff accompanied California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff while they conducted monthly surveys upstream and downstream of the Freeman Diversion. No *O. mykiss* were observed.

In August 2025, ES staff received and reviewed a sediment deposition scoping analysis for Freeman Diversion operations. The analysis is part of a cost-benefit analysis to inform future sediment disposal decisions.

5. Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

On August 8, 2025, the General Manager and United staff met with NMFS Washington D.C. leadership to discuss the Freeman Diversion and the proposed Improved Denil Fish Passage Project. On August 15, 2025, a follow up meeting was held with NMFS West Coast Region leadership to discuss the path forward for the Freeman Diversion Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). United has scheduled a meeting with NMFS technical staff for October 15, 2025, to present the Improved Denil Fish Passage Project, the MSHCP, and discuss issuance of an incidental take permit for the Freeman Diversion.

Between August 19 and 22, 2025, Dr. Stewart Reid (Western Fishes) conducted Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) surveys in the Santa Clara River (SCR) mainstem and lower reaches of major tributaries in support of United's MSHCP. Dr. Reid found juvenile lamprey throughout the watershed. Additional surveys in the upper Sespe Creek watershed are planned for late September 2025.

6. Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project

In August 2025, United staff reviewed and addressed comments from the Navy on the draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment for the EBB Water Treatment Project. The document will undergo further review by the Navy in preparation for future public distribution and review per NEPA requirements.

7. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of August 2025, ES staff continued conducting quagga mussel monitoring activities on Lake Piru, lower Piru Creek, and the spillway pool in accordance with the Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan. ES staff also continued quagga mussel veliger (larva) sampling in the United's lower system. United continues to meet and coordinate regularly with Pleasant Valley County Water District.

In August 2025, suspected golden mussels were detected on settlement plates in Pyramid Lake, immediately downstream of Warne Powerplant. Specimens were sent to the lab for DNA confirmation testing.

8. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Support

In August 2025, ES staff reviewed potential project impacts and drafted Notice of Exemption (NOE) CEQA documents to support the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

at Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru Recreation area. The NOE will go to the Board for consideration in October 2025.

9. Grant Efforts

On August 6, 2025, United submitted a grant application for the Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention 2025-2026 grant opportunity. United requested \$429,580 to remove *Arundo donax* from 110 acres on United property along the Santa Clara riverbed. United received five letters of support for the multi-benefit project from the City of Oxnard, City of Ventura, County of Ventura, Ventura County Fire Department, and Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

In August 2025, United continued to coordinate with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on the WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Project program grant (\$3 million). Staff met with the grant office technical representative to discuss the environmental checklist and grant agreement status. United is currently awaiting final grant agreements from USBR for the WaterSMART grants.

Also in August 2025, ES staff supported Engineering staff and the Grant Task Force by updating environmental materials for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The grant application is due September 15, 2025.

During the month of August 2025, ES staff met with the Catalina Island Conservancy to discuss the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program. The IRT program provides training opportunities for military units that benefit American communities. United is interested in applying to program for improvements to the Lake Piru Recreation Area.

10. Miscellaneous

On August 5, 2025, ES staff attended a webinar hosted by Nossaman LLP on federal updates on energy, transportation, and water.

On August 5, 2025, ES staff provided support to the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency by participating in an interview panel for their water resources planner position.

On August 12, 2025, ES staff attended a webinar hosted by Environmental Science Associates on federal environmental policy updates.

On August 13, 2025, ES staff conducted snorkel surveys for resident *O. mykiss* in Santa Paula Creek; numerous *O. mykiss* were observed.

On August 18, 2025, ES staff attended the ACWA Permit Reform Working Group meeting.

On August 18, 2025, ES staff attended the first Santa Clara *Arundo* Management Coordinating Workgroup meeting. The group is funded through a grant managed by SCV Water.

5.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

On August 20, 2025, ES staff attended a meet and greet with the Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center at Point Mugu Naval Base.

On August 25, 2025, ES staff Evan Lashly renewed his Certified Arborist status with the International Society of Arboriculture to continue providing arborist services to the District.

On August 28, 2025, ES staff attended the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee Meeting.

During the week of August 25, 2025, ES staff participated in kick-off meetings for United's Data Management System Road Mapping project.

During the month of August 2025, ES staff continued fieldwork to support the Fillmore Piru Basin GSA in filling hydrologic data gaps.

In August 2025, Tessa Lenz returned from maternity leave.



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee Members

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

From: Craig Morgan, Chief Operations Officer
Randy Castañeda, Operations Supervisor - Water Treatment
J.D. Smallwood, Operations Supervisor - Water Distribution

Date: September 16, 2025 (October 2, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive this summary report from the Operations and Maintenance Department regarding its activities for August 2025, as well as a presentation of its highlights.

1. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**

- On August 1, 2025, the lake level was 1015.8' and on August 31, 2025, the lake level decreased to 1014.95' due to Habitat Flows, reduced inflows, and evaporation caused by warmer weather.
- Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) release flows consistently remained at 7+ cubic feet per second throughout August due to Habitat Flow requirements.
- SFD's monthly inspection for August was completed and submitted on August 25, 2025.
- SFD staff is continuing to assist with the installation and upgrade of a new siren system at the North Piru Spreading Grounds, supporting ongoing improvements to site safety and emergency communication infrastructure.
- On August 6, 2025, SFD staff hosted FERC for the annual dam inspection. The visit included a comprehensive review of dam structures, operations, and maintenance practices.
- The Canyon Fire began on August 7, 2025, at 1:25 p.m. and remained active for seven days, reaching 100% containment on August 14, 2025, at 5:52 a.m. SFD staff played a critical role in supporting response efforts by providing site access, staging areas, and operational guidance to fire crews throughout the incident.
- SFD staff have been collaborating with various departments in preparation for the annual Conservation Release scheduled for September 15, 2025. These efforts ensure coordinated operations and readiness for the release.

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report Information Item

- **Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities**

- Various clean-up activities such as access road maintenance, pond discing, the painting of various equipment at the Freeman Diversion, and trash collection in and around the Saticoy facility and the Freeman Diversion.
- Tours continue at the Freeman Diversion.
- Saticoy staff completed discing of the Noble Basins and the Rose Basin in preparation for the upcoming Conservation Release and the 2025–2026 winter storm season. This work supports both weed abatement and improved groundwater recharge.
- Saticoy staff are preparing for the annual Desilting Basin project scheduled for November. Preparatory efforts include procuring heavy equipment rentals, conducting job site walks, performing potholing within the basin, and coordinating operational plans for this year’s work.
- On August 11, 2025, Saticoy staff performed annual Headbay maintenance at the Freeman Diversion. Work included inspection and repairs of the fish screens and associated components. This maintenance was completed in preparation for the 2025 Conservation Release and the 2025–2026 storm season.
- Static water levels (distance to water - from the well pad to the water table):

Facility	2025*	2024	2023
Saticoy	79'	47'	16'
El Rio	82'	67'	79'
PTP	82'-143'	65'-107'	76'-105'

** Static groundwater levels are typically recorded in the last week of the month. This table represents data in the months of June and July.*

- **Oxnard Hueneme (OH) Delivery System**

- Located and marked out utility lines around El Rio 5500 Room for drain line replacement project.
- Began remodeling work for El Rio Booster Plant office areas.
- Monitored drain line replacement work by Gallegos Plumbing and demolition/concrete slab work by A&A Concrete for new El Rio storage building.
- Obtained annual VOC, SOC water quality samples from various OH wells.
- Reviewed the annual Ventura County Environmental Health inspection report of El Rio facility.
- Assisted Control Systems reset multiple alarm conditions at El Rio wells 12 and 13 sites.
- Assisted Saticoy personnel with grading and earthwork around El Rio Ponds 8 and 9.
- Participated in job interview panel for Water Treatment Operator III positions.
- Performed El Rio well field energy curtailment per Voltus Demand Response Auction Mechanism event.
- Changed out oil and oil filters for El Rio Gas Engine 3.

5.3 **Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report** **Information Item**

- Assisted Quinn Co. make repairs to El Rio chlorine building emergency electrical generator.
- **Pleasant Valley County Water District (PVCWD)**
 - Demand was met with UWCD surface water and Saticoy well supply.
 - Monitored rehab work by General Pump at Saticoy well 1 and then test ran it for operational functionality.
 - Excavated abandoned 8" turnout on PV pipeline as part of new Costco store construction.
- **Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP)**
 - Worked with contractor to relocate fence on front side of PTP well 2 location.
 - Made repairs and adjustments to various PTP turnout flow meters.
- **Control Systems**
 - Completed Phase 1 of El Rio Network Upgrade.
 - Deployment of Win-911 host on a separate physical backup system.
 - Met with the California Energy Commission to discuss opportunities to reduce the District's energy consumption and carbon footprint.
 - Attended EPA's Cybersecurity 102 course.
 - Supported Cybersecurity Grant Funding and Cybersecurity best practices work.
 - Introduction to Control Systems Cross-training with IT intern staff.
 - Troubleshooting of OH VFD due to PLC fault.
 - Participated in Dam Siren Upgrade installation.
 - Added Freeman Smolt Bypass Gate operation to SCADA.
 - Fiber optic cable upgrade between VFD and CL2 to allow 10Gbps traffic flow.
 - Deployed the first OPTO22 controller at Freeman for Smolt Bypass Control.
- **Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant**
 - All the chlorine residuals and turbidity readings for the Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant (LPWTP) were within proper ranges in the month of July.
 - Monthly pH, turbidity, and coliform samples were obtained from the treatment plant as part of the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule compliance monitoring. The results were favorable, with another passing grade.
 - Basic maintenance and inspections are ongoing and continuing.

2. **Operations and Maintenance Treatment Compliance Projects Update**

- Completed and emailed monthly El Rio Surface Water Treatment Rule Report to DDW.
- Completed monthly inspection of OH Clear Wells.
- Completed and emailed monthly DDW Safer Clearinghouse - drought resilience report to SWRCB.
- Obtained miscellaneous water quality samples from OH and PTP water systems.

5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report Information Item

- Logged CL2 residuals from grab samples taken at miscellaneous surface water delivery locations.
- Calibrated El Rio CL2, NH3 leak detectors and Gas Engine natural gas sensors.

3. Safety and Training

Tailgate safety meetings were conducted at all individual O&M field locations and the topics included refresher training on equipment used at the various O&M locations; specifically, tailgate safety meetings were conducted prior to every commencement of maintenance activities at the Freeman Diversion.

Attachment:

Operation Log for August 2025

