



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

General Manager
Mauricio Guardado

Legal Counsel
David D. Boyer

MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Ford, Hasan, Huber, Keeling, Kimball, Jones, and Maulhardt

Absent: None.

1. FIRST OPEN SESSION 12:00 P.M.

1.1 **Public Comment:** None.

1.2 **Executive (Closed) Session:** 12:01 p.m.
The Board will discuss matters outlined in the attached Executive (Closed) Session Agenda (Exhibit A).

2. SECOND OPEN SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER 1:35 P.M.

2.1 **Pledge of Allegiance:** Director Maulhardt

2.2 **Public Comment:** None.

2.3 **Approval of Agenda**

Action: M/S/C (Hasan/Huber) to approve the Agenda.

Vote: Ayes: Ford, Hasan, Huber, Jones, Keeling, Kimball, and Maulhardt; Noes: None; Absent: None.

2.4 **Oral Report Regarding Executive (Closed) Session**

District Legal Counsel David Boyer stated there was no reportable action.

2.5 **Board Members' Activities Report**

Received and filed.

2.6 **General Manager's Report**

Received and filed.

2.7 Special District Leadership Foundation Presentation of District Transparency Certificate of Excellence to United Water Conservation District

Chief Human Resources Officer Josh Perez summarized this item for the Board and introduced California Special District Association's Public Affairs Field Coordinator Richelle Noroyan who presented the Board of Directors with the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. Received and filed.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action: M/S/C (Hasan/Jones) to approve the Consent Calendar as amended by the Board. Motion Item 3.6 was pulled for discussion.

Vote: Ayes: Keeling, Kimball, Ford, Hasan, Huber, Jones, and Maulhardt;
Noes: None; Absent: None.

3.1 Approve the Minutes for the July 9, 2025, Regular Meeting and the September 2, 2025, Special Meeting

Approved the minutes.

3.2 Groundwater Basin Status Report

Received and filed.

3.3 Investment Monthly Reports

Received and filed.

3.4 Approve a Request for a Payment Plan and Waiver of Accrued Penalty and Interest Charges from William G. Scholle Ranch LLC

Approved the proposed payment plan as well as a waiver of accrued penalty and interest charges for William G. Scholle Ranch LLC.

3.5 Adopt a Resolution Approving Board Norms

Adopted Resolution 2025-14 approving an appendix to the Board of Directors Policies and Procedures Manual which establishes Board Norms for all Directors serving at the District.

RESOLUTION 2025-14

Pulled from Consent Calendar and discussed at the request of Director Jones and concurrently the Board of Directors:

3.6 Adopt a Resolution Approving the Proposed Changes to the Existing Financial Policies and the Adoption of a Proposed New Financial Policy

Motion

Director Jones stated that an amendment was needed to the Expense Policy-Director and Executive document, clarifying how Directors account for their participation in non-District and virtual meetings.

After hearing the Board's concerns, the General Manager recommended that no action be taken and the full motion be returned to the Finance and Audit Committee for further review, taking into consideration the comments received.

Action: M/S/C (Hasan/Maulhardt) to move to table agenda item 3.6 for further review.

Vote: Ayes: Keeling, Kimball, Ford, Hasan, Huber, Jones, and Maulhardt;
Noes: None; Absent: None.

4. MONTHLY REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT

4.1 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report

Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan gave a PowerPoint presentation; received and filed. Director Hasan thanked staff for job well done with finding a market for the excess fill dirt.

4.2 Recreation Department Monthly Report

Senior Park Ranger Bernard Riedel, Jr. gave a PowerPoint presentation; received and filed.

4.3 Water Resources Department Monthly Report and Update on Activities of Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

**Dr. Bram Sercu, Water Resources Supervisor
Information Item**

Water Resources Supervisor Dr. Bram Sercu gave a PowerPoint presentation; received and filed.

At the conclusion of Dr. Sercu's presentation, Directors Maulhardt and Hasan recommended the information presented would be important to share with the public along with a summary as it depicted an excellent example of groundwater levels and was understandable. They commended

him for his presentation. Director Maulhardt added, members of neighborhood councils are always looking for speakers to present at its meetings and he offered to connect staff with individuals.

4.4 Administrative Services Department Monthly Report

Chief Financial Officer Brian Zahn and Chief Human Resources Officer Josh Perez gave a PowerPoint presentation; received and filed.

4.5 Engineering Department Monthly Report

Assistant General Manager Dr. Maryam Bral and Engineering Manager Robert Richardson gave a PowerPoint presentation; received and filed.

After a collaborative discussion between Board members and staff regarding the Project Timeline for Construction (slide 13), specifically funding of the Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Works and Spillway Improvements projects, Board members offered the following for consideration:

- The Board recognized the importance of funding the safety projects, and members expressed willingness to participate in special committee or Board meetings on funding opportunities and strategy, leaving the agendas and timing up to District staff.
- The Board expressed willingness to participate in meetings with potential funding partners and key parties to convey the importance of funding and constructing the public safety project.
- The Board recommended preparation of information handouts regarding the safety projects and potentially using graphics from Dr. Sercu's presentation to illustrate the importance of the Santa Felicia Dam to regional water resources. They recommended the information be tailored to the particular funding partner.
- Director Ford recommended a brief pause to develop the communication strategy before implementation.
- Director Jones recommended staff attend the CSDA seminar on how to finance large projects.

The General Manager's message for Board members was to advocate for the District by meeting with other representatives and that the revised schedule provides time for these advocacy meetings.

**4.6 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report
Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager
Information Item**

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella gave a PowerPoint presentation; received and filed. With staff consideration, Director Keeling requested a copy of the video depicting a snake capturing a fish (slide 3) be emailed to her.

5. MOTION ITEMS

**5.1 Adopt a Resolution Approving the Proposed New Public Outreach and External Affairs Manager Position
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Jones/Kimball) to adopt Resolution 2025-26 approving the creation of a Public Outreach and External Affairs Manager position to support the District’s outreach and public relations efforts.

Vote: Ayes: Keeling, Kimball, Ford, Hasan, Huber, Jones, and Maulhardt;
Noes: None; Absent: None.

Directors Maulhardt, Hasan, and Huber expressed their support for this addition to the organization.

RESOLUTION 2025-16

**5.2 Election of ACWA’s President, Vice President, and Region 5 Board for the 20265-’27 Term
Motion**

Action: M/S/C (Ford/Keeling) authorizing the General Manager to cast United Water Conservation Districts’ electronic vote for the Board Officer Candidates and the Region 5 Board Member slate.

Vote: Ayes: Keeling, Kimball, Ford, Hasan, Huber, Jones, and Maulhardt;
Noes: None; Absent: None.

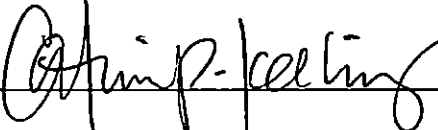
6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

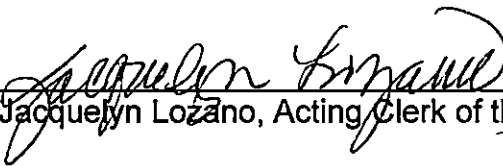
None were offered.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Board of Directors meeting of September 10, 2025.

ATTEST: 
Catherine P. Keeling, Vice President substitute for
Gordon Kimball, Board Secretary

ATTEST: 
Jacquelyn Lozano, Acting Clerk of the Board

**EXHIBIT A
EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION AGENDA**

1. LITIGATION

1.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and Government Code Section 54956.9(e)(1) (two matters).

1.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1) (four matters).

- A. Wishtoyo Foundation, et al v. United Water Conservation District, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Case No.2:16-cv-03869 GHK (PLAx).
- B. OPV Coalition v Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, Case No. 56-2021-00555357-CU-PT-VTA; Complaint for Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication of the Oxnard Groundwater Subbasin (No. 4-004.02) and Pleasant Valley Subbasin (No. 4-006) Pursuant to Sections 830, *Et Seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure; Declaratory Relief; Quiet Title; and Petition for Writs of Mandate.
- C. United Water Conservation District v United States, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 22-542L; Complaint for Just Compensation under the 5th Amendment.
- D. United Water Conservation District v. California Fish and Game Commission, a California Public Agency, Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County (Central District), Case No. 25STCP01671; Petition for Writ of Mandate challenging the Commission's determination to list O'mykiss as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.



United Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 10, 2025

1

**OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE
DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**



September 10, 2025

2



Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru



2

3

Recreation Area Water Treatment Plant



3

4

Freeman Diversion



4

5

Freeman Diversion



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Freeman Diversion



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Freeman Diversion



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Saticoy Recharge Grounds



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Saticoy Well Rehab

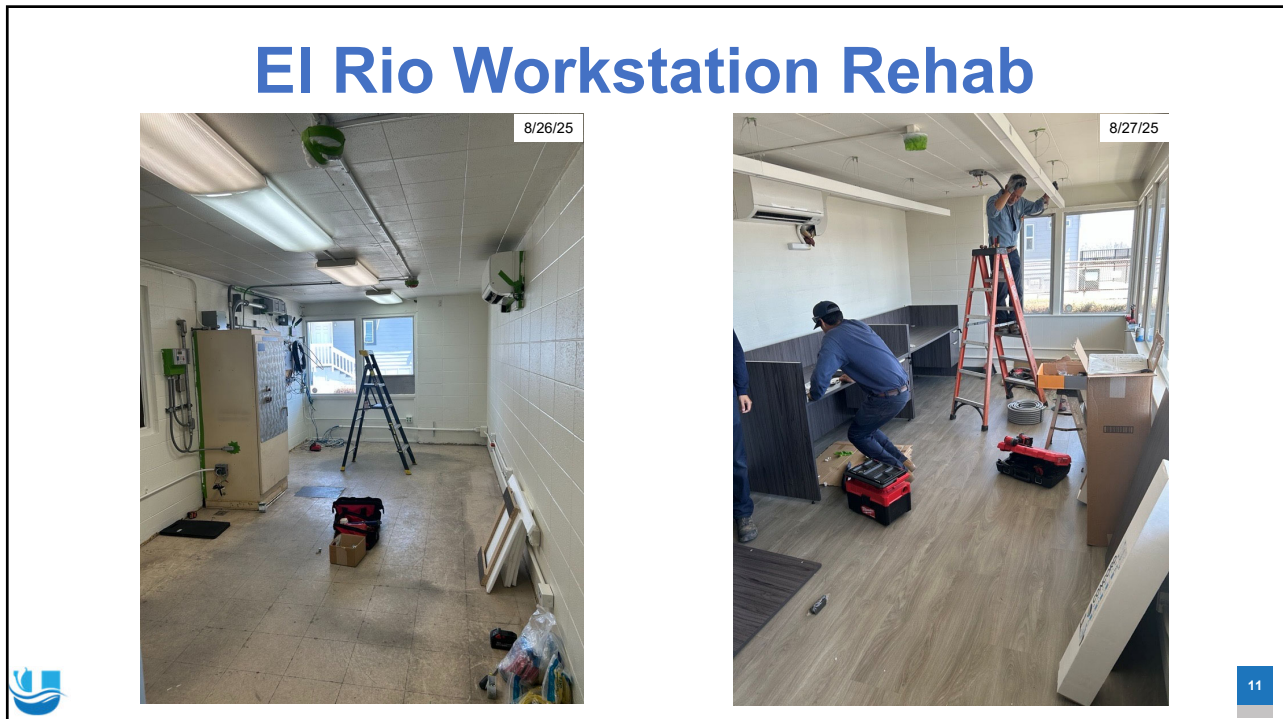


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El Rio Drain Work



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13

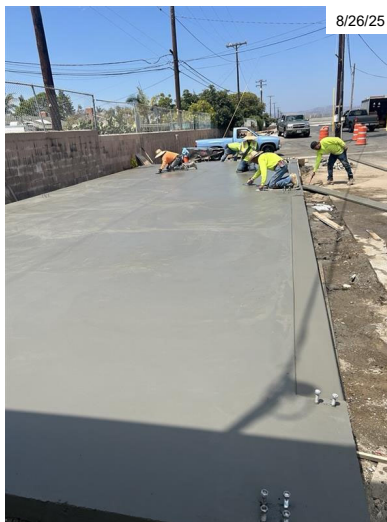
El Rio Storage Shed/Analyzer Room



13

14

El Rio Storage Shed/Analyzer Room



14

15

Questions?



15

16



17



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Ventura County Fair
July 30 through August 10, 2025

24

Canyon Fire
August 7, 2025

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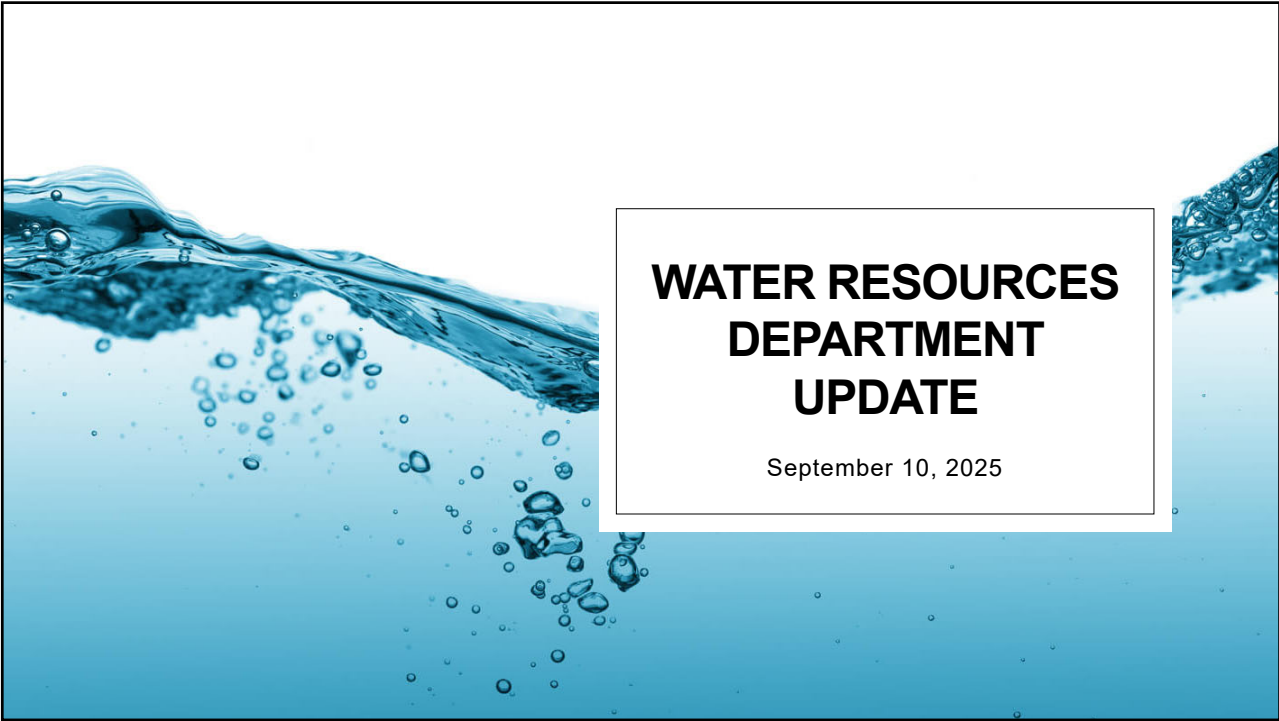
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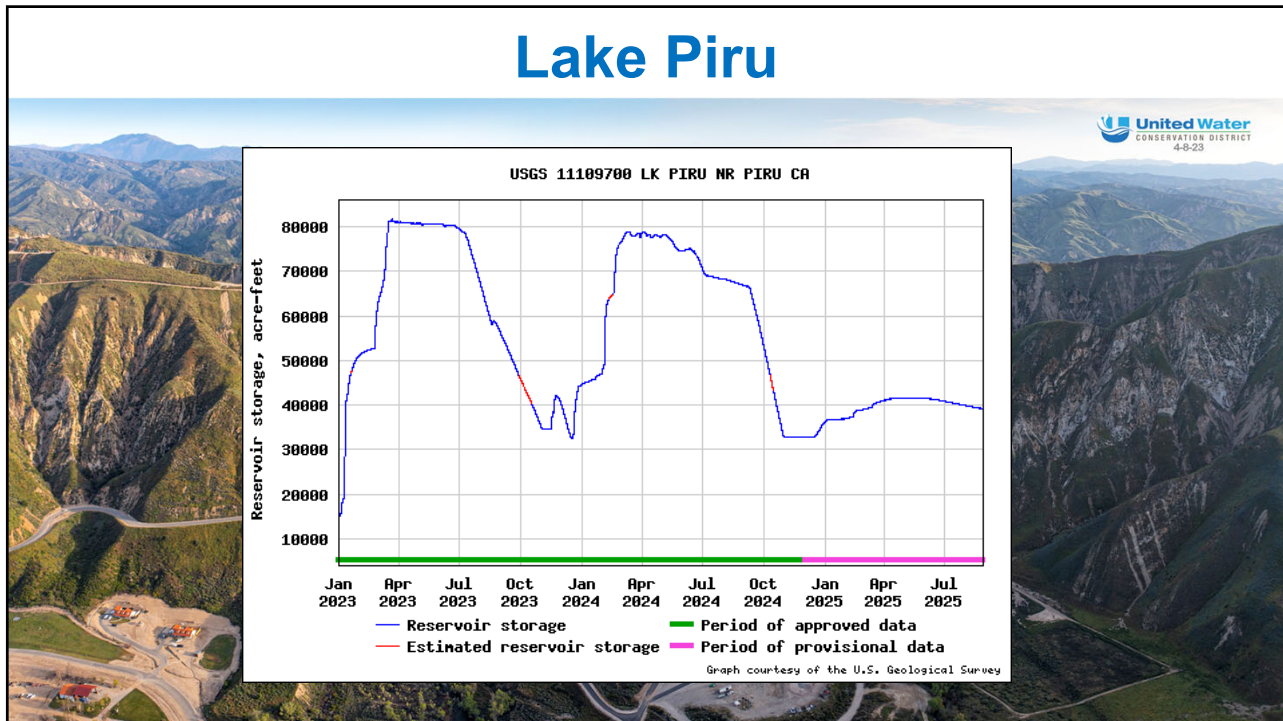
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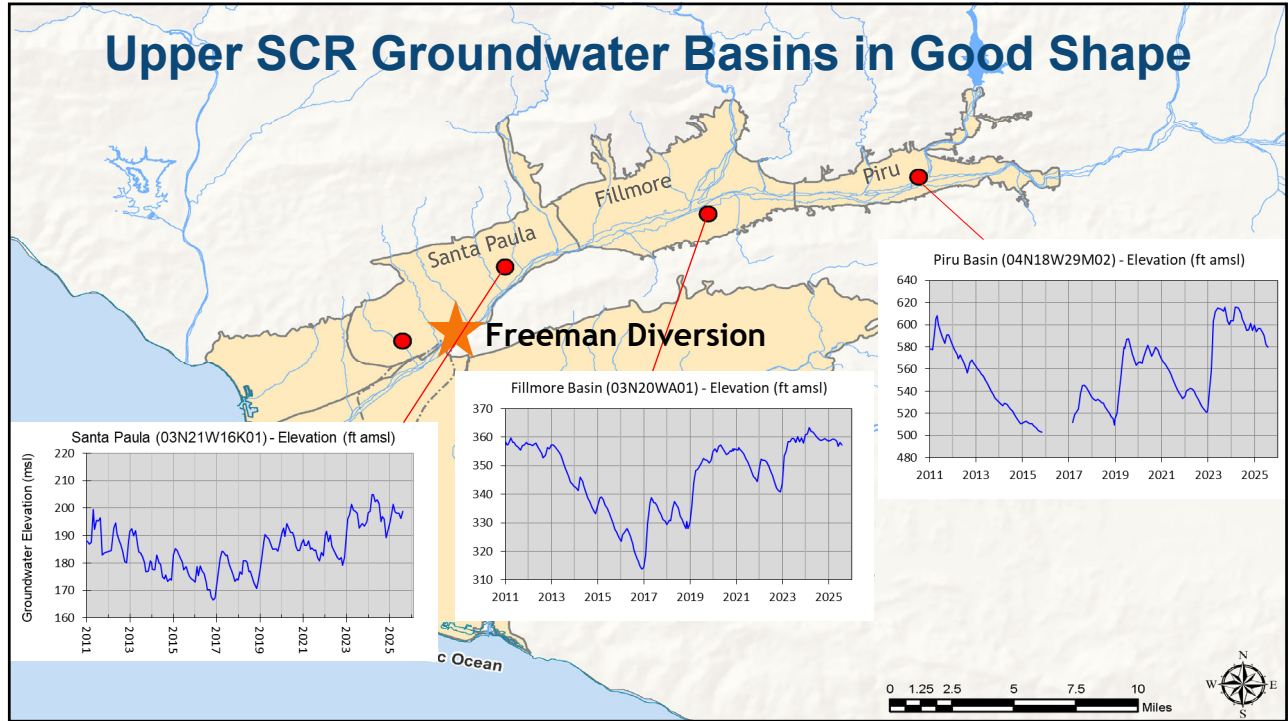
Water Resources Department

- Upper SCR groundwater basins in good shape
- Freeman Diversion and Saticoy wells providing Ag deliveries
- OPV groundwater basins beginning to respond to dry conditions
- Conservation release planned
- Allocation plan has not received further comments since July
- Staff participated in multiple outreach events over the summer

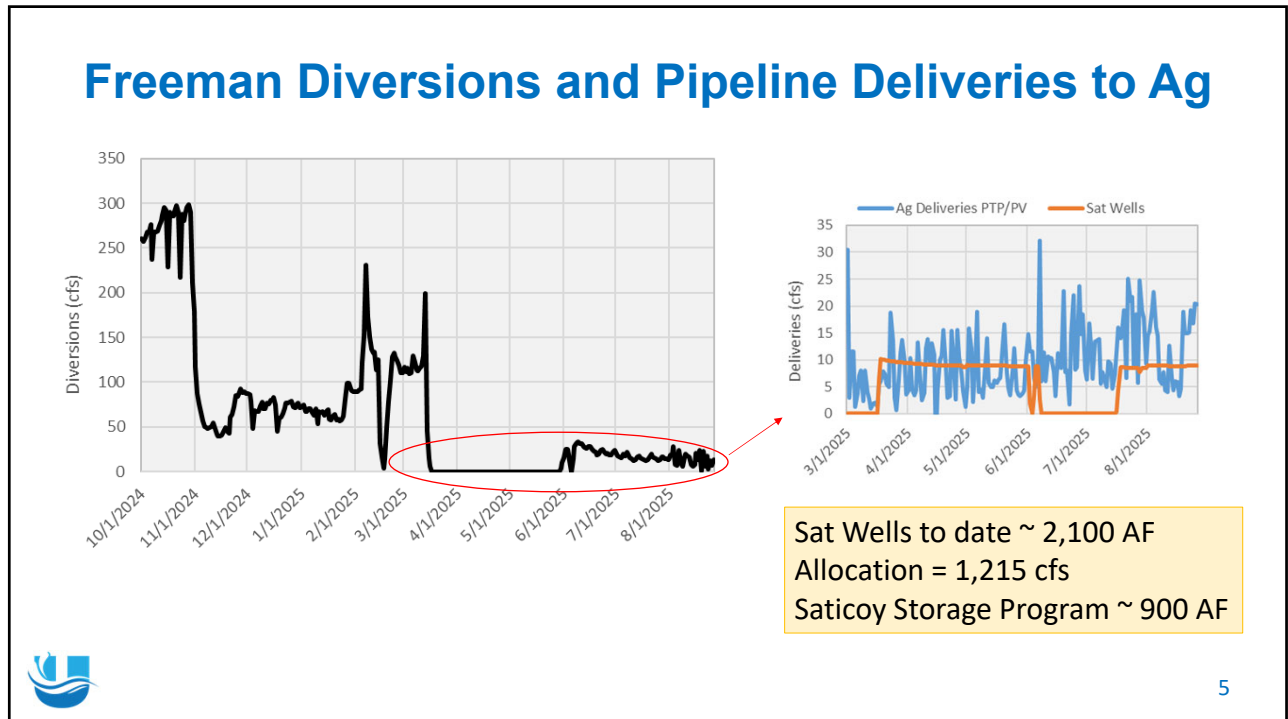


Lake Piru

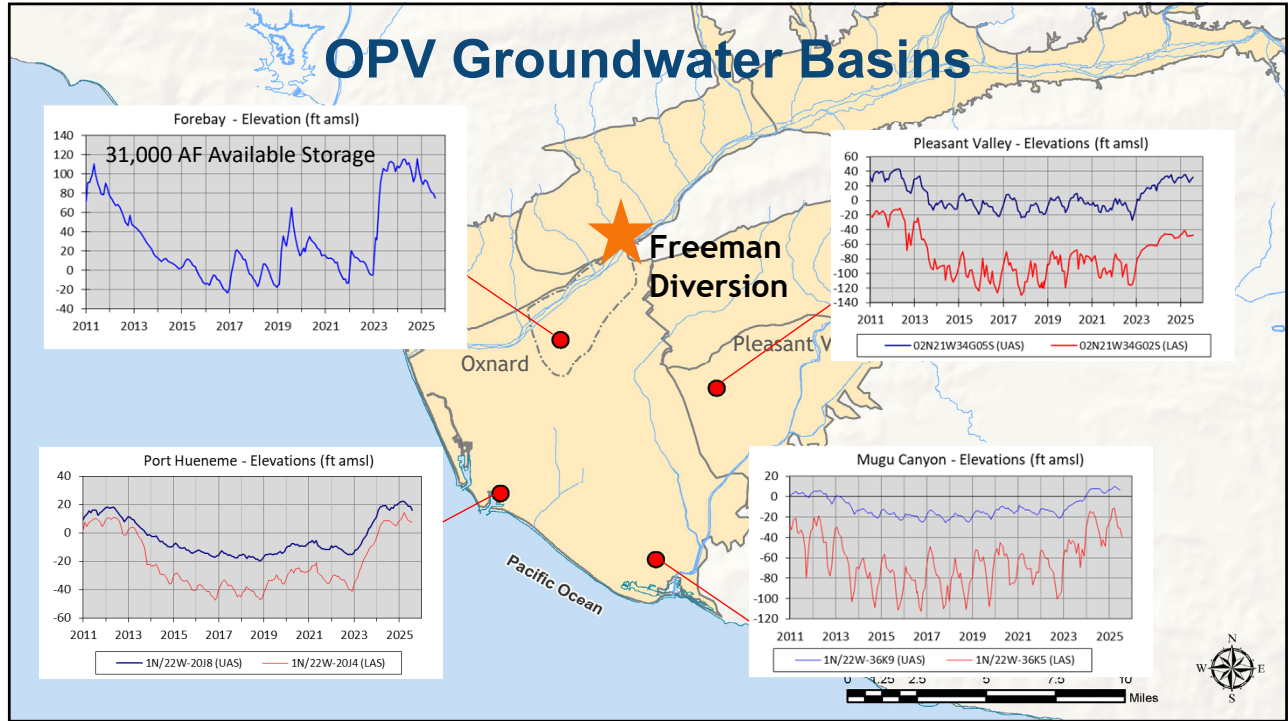




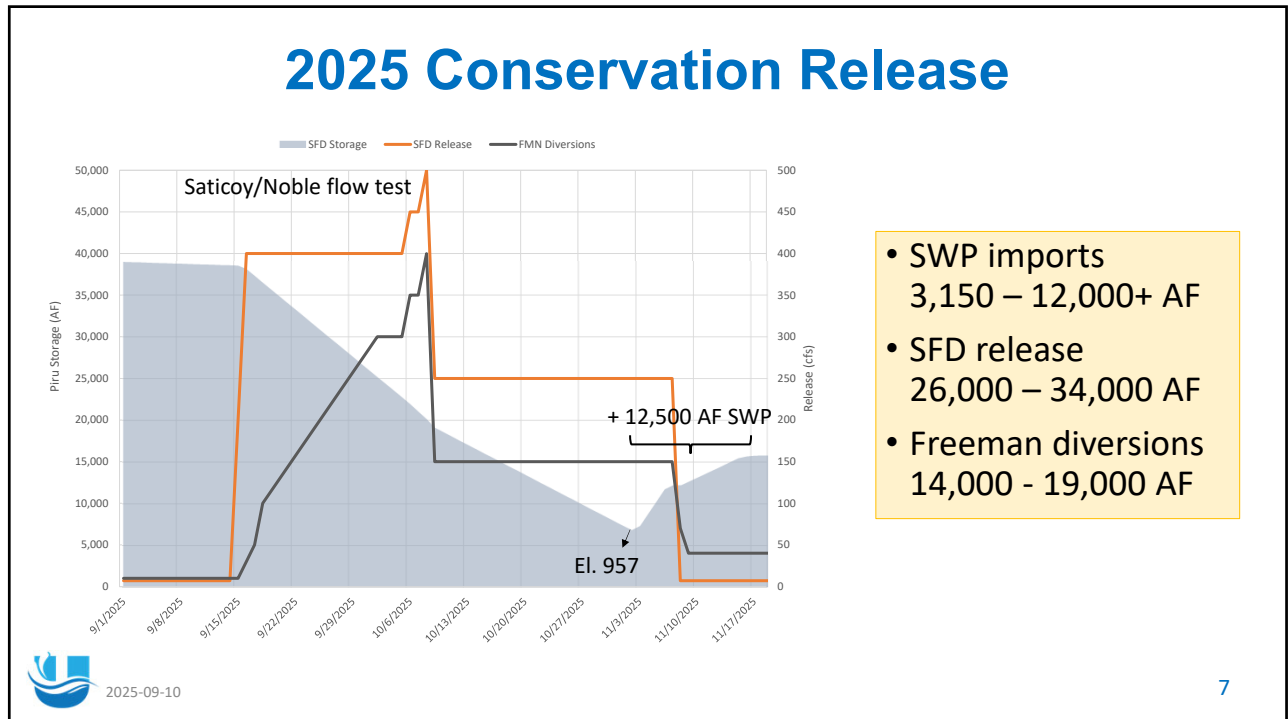
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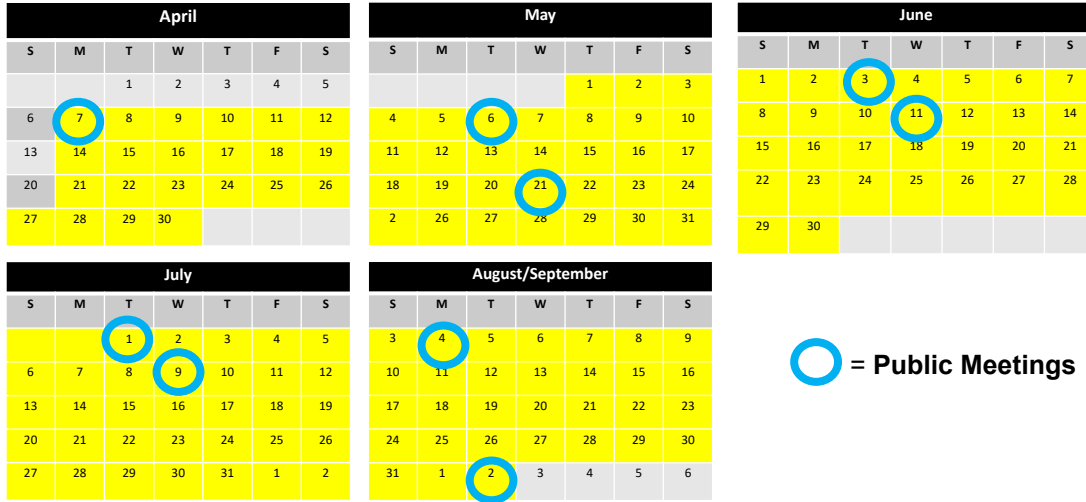


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- Proposed Allocation Ordinance has been circulated since April.
- Staff have received formal and informal comments.



Ventura County Taxpayers Association



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Questions?




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Finance Department

- Closed out Fiscal Year 2024-25
- Preparing Financial Policies for the Fillmore Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- Processing WIFIA Construction Letter of Interest
- Closed out 25-2 Groundwater billing
 - Totals came in over-budget for the fiscal year
 - Will begin preparing for GSA billing



2

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Administrative Update

Josh Perez
Chief Human Resources Officer


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Human Resources

- Working on recruitment for the following positions:
 - Associate Engineer and Engineer – interviews conclude tomorrow
 - Hydrologist and Senior Hydrologist – final interviews
 - Executive Assistant – final interviews Monday 9/8
 - Water Treatment Operator II – starting next week and will be introduced in October
- Held an AI in the workplace Brownbag on July 23
- Preparing for 2025 Healthcare Open Enrollment period based on CalPERS released information



July 23, 2025
AI in the
Workplace Brownbag




Save the Date for
Our Open Enrollment
Webinar

CalPERS Health Open Enrollment is Monday, September 15–Friday, October 10, 2025

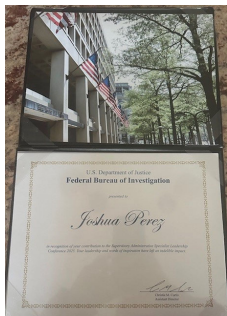
Learn about Open Enrollment and find out about the resources available to help you explore your options and find the plan that's right for you. Join us for an overview including:

- Information about CalPERS health plans and benefit changes for 2025
- Open Enrollment resources available on the CalPERS website and in myCalPERS
- Answers to frequently asked questions



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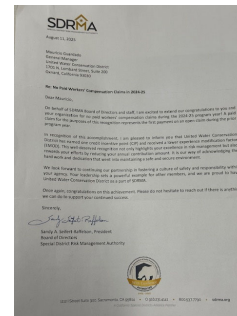
Human Resources and Risk Management Recent Success Stories



2025 FBI Mid-Level Management
 Keynote Speaker



CSDA District of Transparency
 Presentation at Annual Conference



SDRMA letter acknowledging our
 Workplace Safety Program

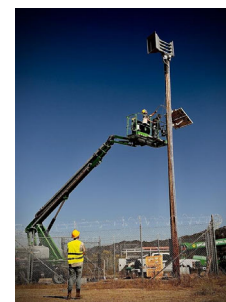


Risk Management

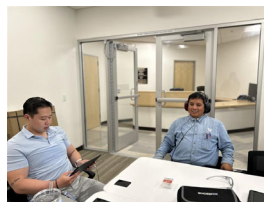
- Coordinated Piru Community outreach partnership between the District and Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services
- Oversaw the dam siren CIP alongside Engineering and coordinated contractor access and social media updates
- Conducted annual hearing test for staff across multiple departments who are part of the District's Hearing Conservation Program



August 7, 2025 – Outreach video
 filming with OES



July 23, 2025 – Dam Siren Upgrade
 at Piru Spreading Grounds



August 11, 2025 – Annual Hearing Tests



continued

- Coordinated internal response to Canyon Fire and disseminated Situation Status Reports
- 2023 Winter Storms Disaster Recovery/FEMA Public Assistance Grant Update:
 - Finance received four checks from FEMA totaling \$331,910.99
 - To date, the District has received a total of \$401,067.97



Canyon Fire started August 7, 2025,
near Lake Piru



7

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Technology Systems

- Managed a total of 103 tickets in July covering routine service requests and user support
- Upgraded firewall management systems to the latest vendor-approved stable version, addressing vulnerabilities and performance issues
- Deployment of a new server and network monitoring system began replacing a legacy platform to improve infrastructure visibility
- Intern-led projects included:
 - Enhancements to the District's management workflows
 - Planning for Brown Bag presentation to educate staff on best practices of document handling
 - Continued improvements to internal tooling for automating PC imaging and deployment process



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C. REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

SFD Regulatory Compliance



July 10, 2025: SFD Biennial Monitoring Survey



August 6, 2025: Annual FERC Inspection of Santa Felicia Dam



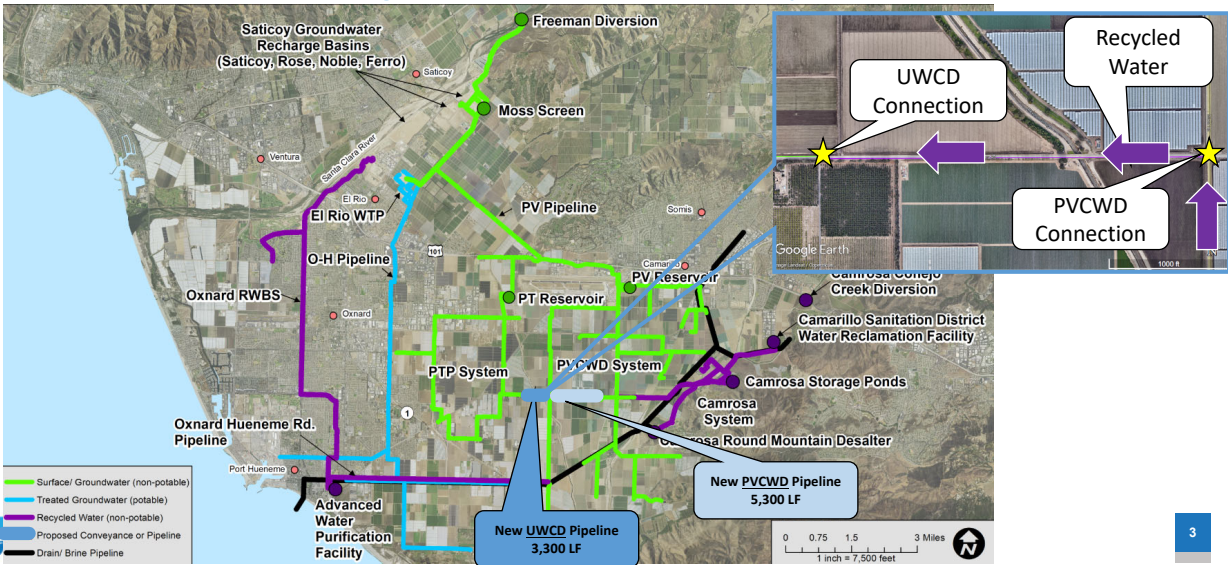
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A. WATER SUPPLY

B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Recycled Water Connection Laguna Road Pipeline Project





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Utility Requests

Pleasant Valley Pipeline - Springville Developments
 Write a description for your map.

US 101

Ventura Blvd

Springville Drive

Overland Rd

Ventura Blvd

Costco

Legend

1000 ft

Google Earth

Envision Auto and Commerce Center

Costco Camarillo

4

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A. WATER SUPPLY
 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

EBB Water Treatment Project Funding

Phase 1 Total Cost: \$51M

OLDCC Defense Community Infrastructure Program

- ✓ **July 3:** FY25 DCIP Grant application submitted to OLDCC
- ✓ **Aug 18:** OLDCC announces grant awards – UWCD's grant application **unsuccessful**
- ☐ **Oct 14:** Debrief meeting with OLDCC, both UWCD and Navy Staff attending

| Category | Amount |
|--------------|-----------------|
| DWR SGM | \$1.4 M |
| SWRCB GWGP | \$8.4 M |
| Other | \$41.5 M |
| Total | \$51.3 M |

DWR SGM
 SWRCB GWGP
 Other

5

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A. WATER SUPPLY
 B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

EBB Water Treatment Project Status

Monitoring Wells

- License Agreement (26-Mar-2024)
- Construction Complete
- Transducer and Telemetry Installation

Phase 1A

- MOA (9-Nov-2023)
- License Agreement (21-Feb-2023)
- Land Surveying
- Geotechnical Exploration
- Environmental Surveying
- 30% Design Complete (22-Apr-2025)
- Draft NEPA EA (19-May-2025)
- Site Approvals & Dig Permit**
- Potholing
- Soil Resistivity Study
- Temp. Piezometer Wells
- Final NEPA EA and CEQA IS/MND
- 60% to Final Design Pending

4+ month delay

Phase 1B

- MOA (9-Nov-2023)
- Outgrant Easement
- Construction Permits (e.g. Well Drilling)
- Construction Extraction Wells
- Manifold Pipelines
- Discharge Facility

Completion Deadline:
February 2029
(SWRCB GWGP R3 Grant)

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F. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Current Public Outreach and Other Events



June 24: Staff tours CMWD's Lake Bard WTP and Las Posas ASR Facilities.



July 16: Adrian Quiroz presenting at the Piru Neighborhood Council Meeting



July 15: Staff tours Active Membranes laboratory in Moorpark, CA.



July 16: Kaili Taniguchi presents SFD SIP update to City of Fillmore City Council

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 F. COMMUNICATIONS AND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Current Public Outreach and Other Events



August 20: Staff meets with Expeditionary Warfare Center (EXWC) and tours Seawater Desalination Test Facility




Learn at Lunch – Lessons Learned


Presentation Topics:

- *Key takeaways and lessons learned during the construction of the Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant at El Rio (Robert Richardson and Adrian Quiroz)*
- *Lessons learned regarding the shutdown of the OH pipeline in November 2024 (Craig Morgan and Nathan Summerville)*








C. REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE




B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY


SFD Safety Improvement Project Updates

July 15, 2025: Groundwater Infiltration Testing









- Completed In-house through collaboration between Engineering, Water Resources, O&M and Environmental
- Identified locations at the project site where percolation is feasible
- Will help support the plan for nuisance water during construction (i.e., tunnel excavation)







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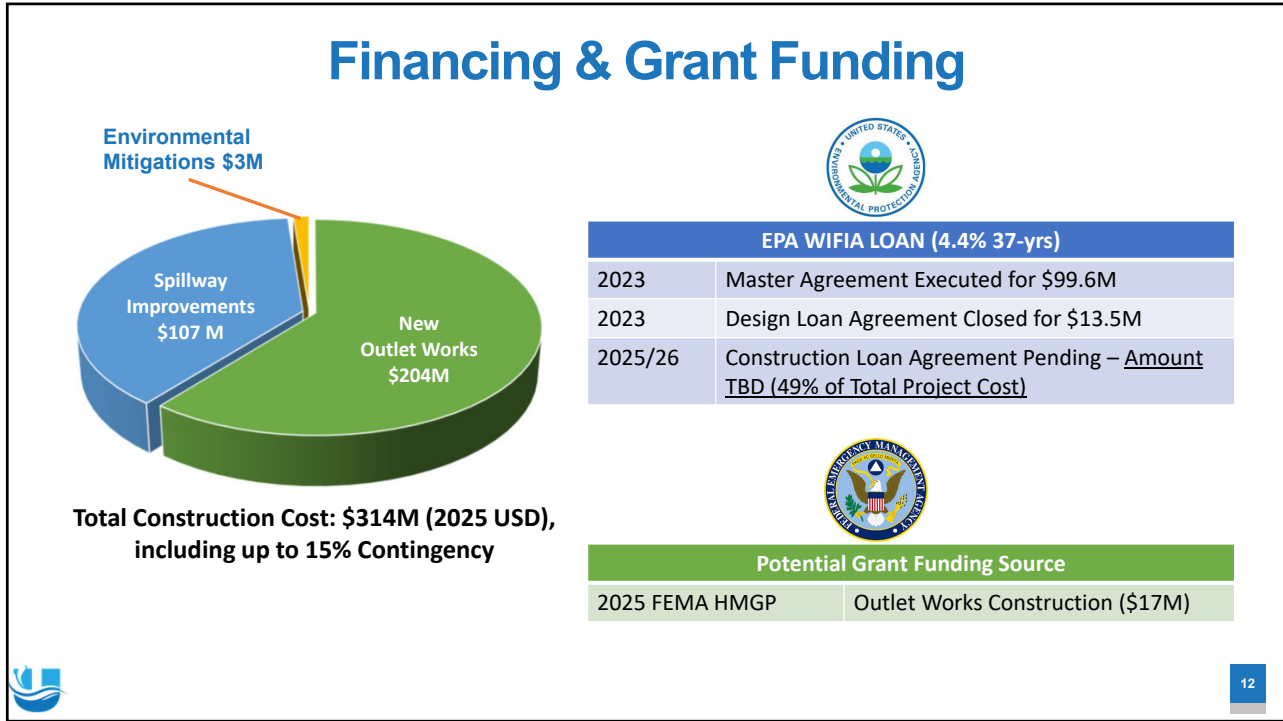
Agency Consultation Overview

| Agency | Status | Date |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|
|  GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH STATE OF CALIFORNIA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Feb 15, 2019 |
|  NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT 1966 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Feb 11, 2021 |
|  CALIFORNIA Water Boards REGULATORY AGENCIES CALIFORNIA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mar 2, 2022 |
|  U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | May 6, 2025 |
|  NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Jul 15, 2025 |
|  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
|  U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
|  GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH STATE OF CALIFORNIA | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

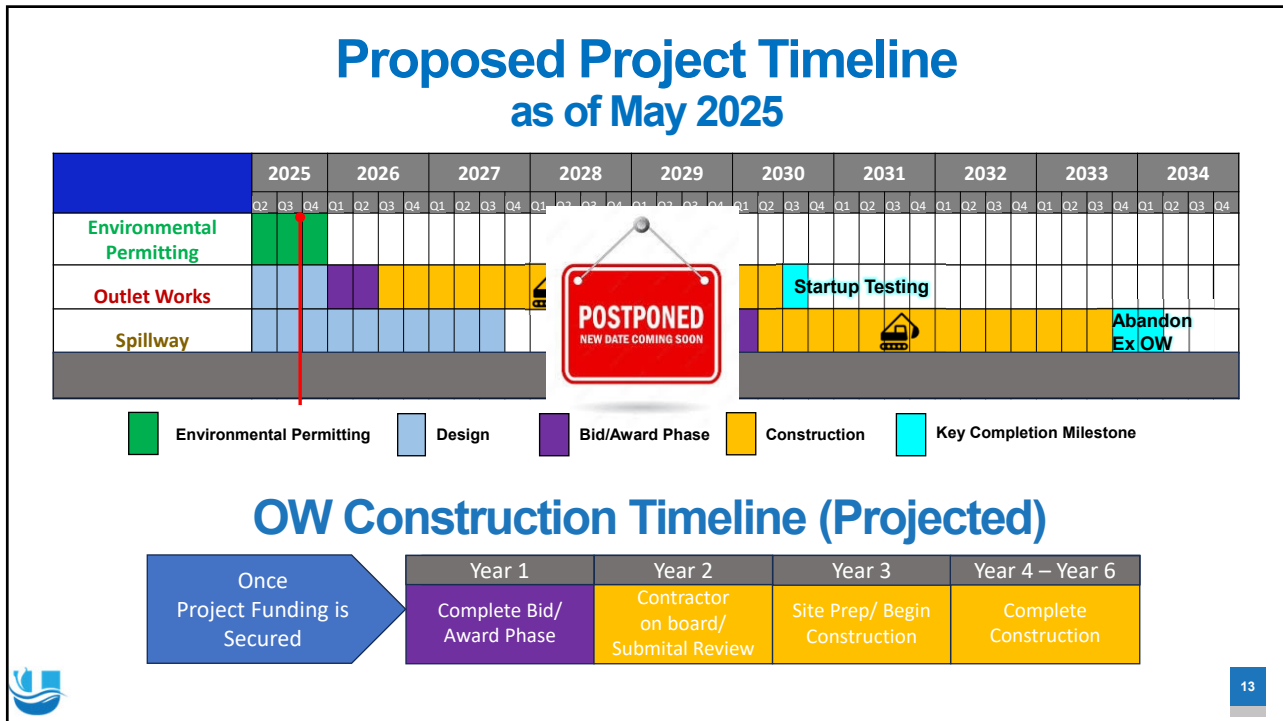




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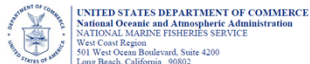


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A slide for the United Water Conservation District. The top right corner features the logo, which consists of a stylized water drop icon next to the text "United Water" and "CONSERVATION DISTRICT" below it. The background of the slide is a photograph of a natural stream flowing through a dry, brushy area. The text "ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE" is prominently displayed in large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the date "September 10, 2025" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a small blue icon of a water drop.

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Santa Felicia Dam



July 15, 2025 Refer to NMFS No: WCRO-2025-00736

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

Dear Secretary Reese:

On March 7, 2025, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) request for formal consultation under Section 7 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This request concerns the United Water Conservation District's (licensee) application to amend its Santa Felicia Hydroelectric Project No. 2153 license to implement the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (proposed action). The proposed action is within range of the endangered Southern California (SC) Distinct Population Segment of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and designated critical habitat for the species.

The biological opinion concludes the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered SC steelhead or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for this species.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 226

[Docket No. 250707-0119; RTID 0648-XE896]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; 90-Day Finding on a Petition To Revise the Critical Habitat Designation for Southern California Steelhead

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: 90-Day petition finding; request for information.

Received NMFS Biological Opinion for the SFDSIP July 15

Received NMFS 90-day finding on Critical Habitat Petition July 10



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Santa Clara River Resource Management Activities

Submitted CalFire grant application for Arundo removal project Aug 6

Santa Clara River watershed *O. mykiss* population survey data collected through the summer



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