

AGENDA
ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 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 October 2, 2025, Committee meeting minutes.

3. Asset Management Pilot Project Update (Senior Engineer Nathan Summerville)
Information Item

Receive an informational update from the Engineering Department regarding its activities in support of Asset Management and receive a presentation of its highlights.

4. 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.

4.1 Engineering Department Update (Engineering Manager Robert Richardson)

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

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

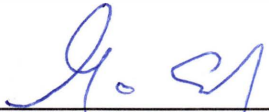
5. Future Agenda Items


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.

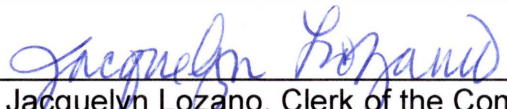


Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting AGENDA
November 6, 2025
Page 2

Approved: 
Mauricio Guardado, General Manager


Dr. Maryam Bral, Assistant General Manager

This agenda was posted Friday, October 31, 2025, at 11:50 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

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

From: Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Committee

Date: October 31, 2025 (November 6, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 2. Approval of Minutes
Motion

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the October 2, 2025, Committee meeting minutes that are 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, October 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
UWCD Headquarters, First Floor, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030**

OPEN SESSION

Chair Catherine Keeling called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members Roll Call

Present: Directors Ford, Kimball, and Keeling

Absent: None.

1. Public Comments: None.

**2. Approval of Minutes
Motion**

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

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

3. October 8, 2025, UWCD Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Items

The General Manager along with the Committee members agreed to combine Agenda items 3.1 and 4 (item 4 presented first) since the topics were similar in nature.

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) motion to approve amendment of the October 2, 2025, Agenda to combine items 3.1 and 4.

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

**4. Chief Dam Safety Engineer's Annual Dam Safety Program Report
Information Item**

Maryam Bral, Chief Dam Safety Engineer and Assistant General Manager along with Adrian Quiroz, Deputy Chief Dam Safety Engineer and Senior Engineer delivered a presentation as well as an annual report to the Committee in accordance with the Santa Felicia Dam Owners Dam Safety Program and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements. This Annual Report and presentation cover dam safety program activities from October 2024 through September 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 were provided with hard copies for review at the meeting.*



With guidance from the General Manager, Director Keeling requested the other Board members be given the opportunity to review the critical/confidential documents prior to the UWCD Board of Directors meeting being held on October 8, 2025. An email will be sent from Executive Assistant Tara Acosta to the Board members with instructions.

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

Motion

Senior Engineer Adrian Quiroz summarized this motion for the Committee, presentation attached.

Action: M/S/C (Kimball, Ford) recommend to the full Board of Directors adoption of a resolution approving the revised Santa Felicia Dam Owners Safety Program, revision 11.0 dated October 2025, and the Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy.

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

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

Associate Environmental Scientist Haven Whipple summarized this motion for the Committee, presentation attached.

Action: M/S/C (Ford, Kimball) recommend to the full Board of Directors adoption of a resolution 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.

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

5. Monthly Department Updates
Information Items

5.1 Engineering Department Update

Information Item

Engineering Manager Robert Richardson presented department highlights to the Committee, presentation attached.

5.2 Environmental Services Department Update

Information Item

Environmental Services Manager Marissa Caringella presented department highlights to the Committee which also included a *Freeman Fish Ladder Overview* presented by Environmental Scientist Evan Lashly, presentation attached.



**5.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Update
Information Item**

Chief Operations Officer Craig Morgan presented department highlights to the Committee, presentation attached.

6. Future Agenda Items

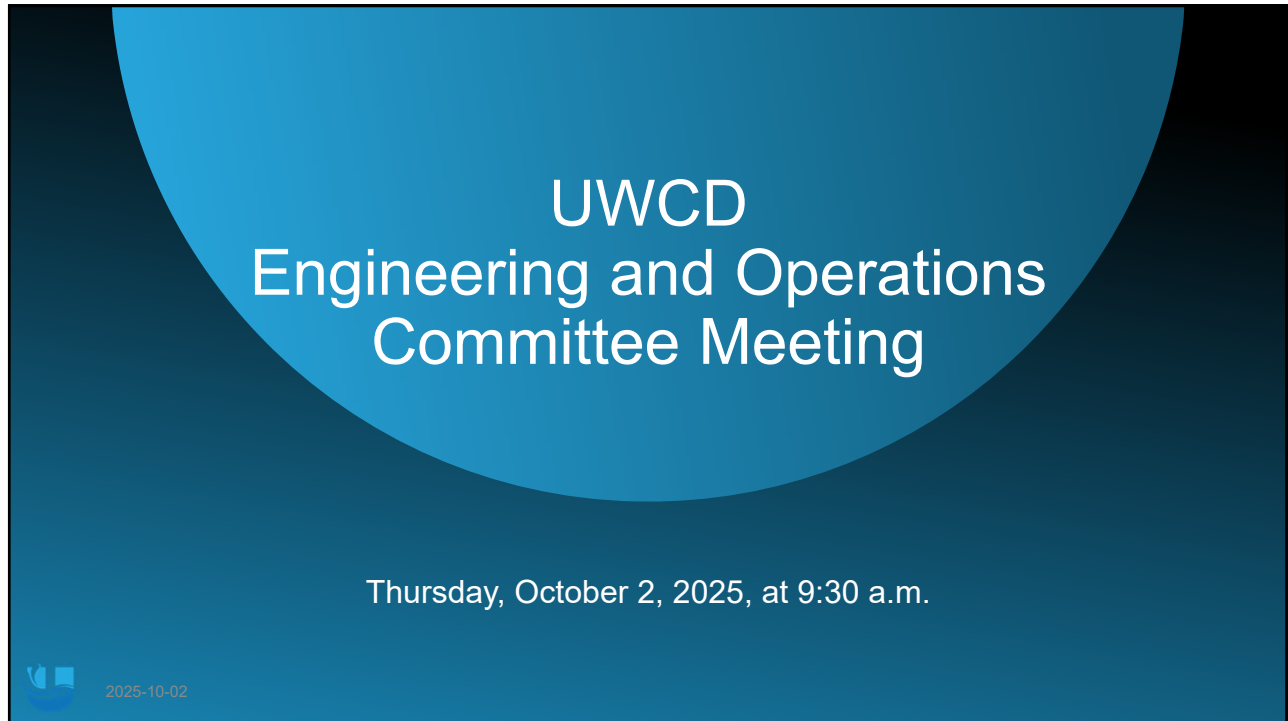
None were offered by the Committee.

7. Adjournment

Chair Keeling adjourned the meeting at 10:53 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 October 2, 2025.

ATTEST: _____
Catherine P. Keeling, Chair




UWCD
Engineering and Operations
Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.


 2025-10-02

1



Owner Dam Safety Program
CDSE's Annual Dam Safety Program Report

Reporting Period – October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025

2

Topics(Based on 2022 ODSP Audit Recommendations):

- ✓ Dam Safety Incidents
- ✓ Critical Inspection Findings
- ✓ Surveillance and Monitoring
- ✓ Evaluations and Assessments
- ✓ EAP Exercises and Updates
- ✓ Dam Safety Trainings
- ✓ Public Outreach
- ✓ Dam Safety Program Needs (Current and Future)

Annual CDSE report includes 2024-25 dam safety events and accomplishments (Ref: 2025 Annual Dam Safety Program Report)



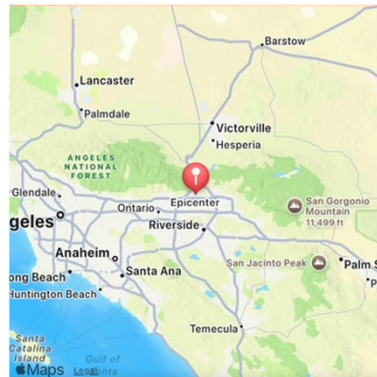
2025-10-02

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Dam Safety Incidents – Seismic Events

- None to Report (none with adverse impacts to SFD)
- Three post-earthquake inspections performed during reporting period, no adverse impacts to SFD detected.



4.5 M Earthquake – 79 miles from SFD
July 31, 2025



2025-10-02

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4

Dam Safety Incidents – Spillway Flow Events



SFD Spillway Ogee Weir

- No spillway flow events observed during the reporting period
- December 2024 – removed and replaced 250 lineal feet of degraded waterproof sealant material along the joints of the ogee weir



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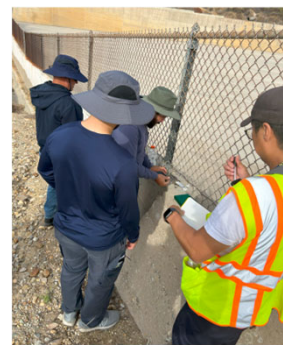
Critical Inspection Findings



- DSOD Annual Inspection completed on June 17, 2025.



- Engineering staff inspecting “drummy” concrete in spillway on August 5, 2025.




- Annual FERC Inspection completed on August 6, 2025.




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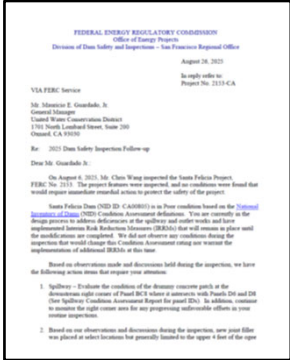


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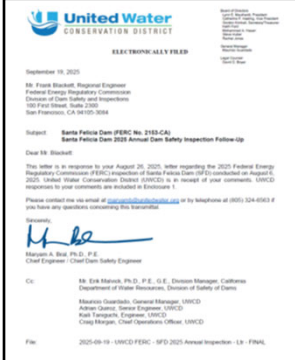
Critical Inspection Findings







- Received Inspection Follow-up letter from FERC on August 26, 2025.





- UWCD submits response to Inspection Follow-up letter on September 19, 2025.







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Surveillance and Monitoring



- Conducted 2025 SFD Biennial Monitoring Survey
- Conducted 9 out of 12 monthly inspections
- Conducted semi-annual spillway discharge channel erosion measurement
- Annual Dam Safety and Surveillance Monitoring Report (DSSMR) due to FERC by December 31, 2025.



2025 SFD Biennial Monitoring Survey

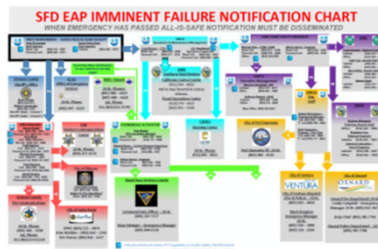


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EAP Exercises and Training



****Drill**** This is the United Water Conservation District Annual Felicia Dam and Lake Piru EAP Call-Down Drill. Please standby as you may receive a call. Reply with YES to confirm receipt.

2024 SFD Dam Safety Cross-Training	2025 Call-Down Drill	Everbridge System
November 19, 2024 25 Staff Members Participated	June 26, 2025 15 Agencies Received Notifications over 18 Minutes	June 26, 2025 35 out of 46 Responses
2025 SFD EAP Seminar	2025 SFD Dam Safety Cross-Training	
October 23, 2025 In-Person Seminar	December 11, 2025 Saticoy/SFD O&M, Eng and Rec	



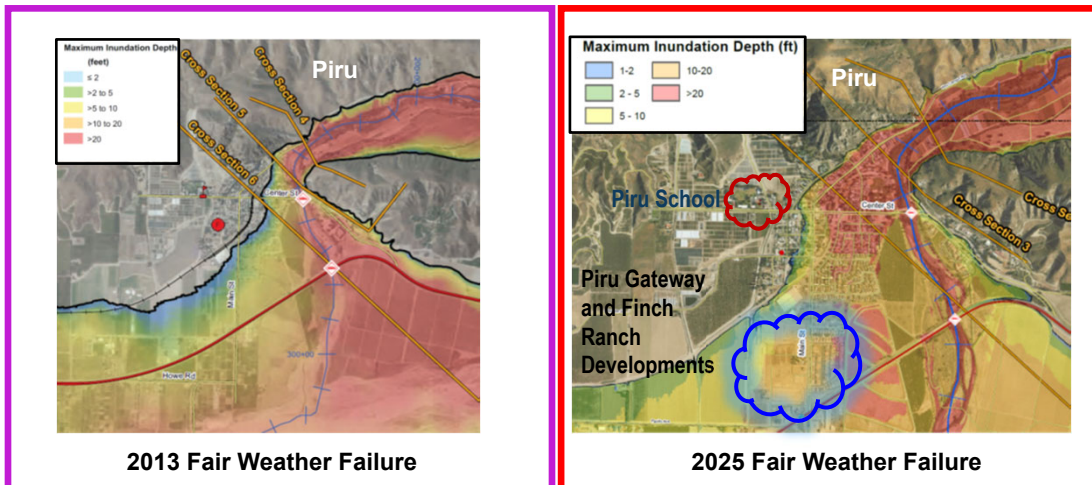
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2025 EAP Updates

- SFD EAP Inundation Map Update per DSOD Requirements



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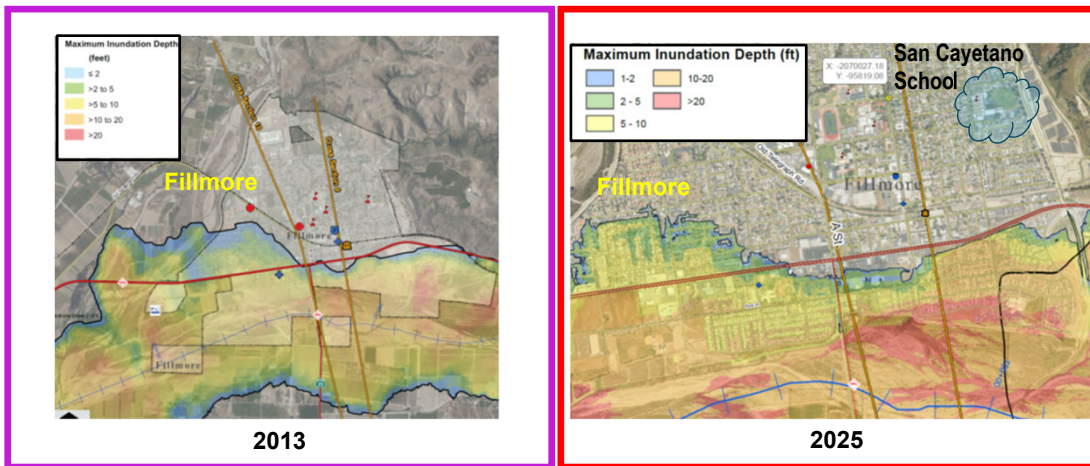
* 2025 Inundation Maps pending DSOD Approval

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2025 EAP Updates

- Larger scale maps will be more detailed.
- 10 maps compared to 4 maps in 2013 set.



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* 2025 Inundation Maps pending DSOD Approval



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Public Outreach



- Photos (Upper left - Clockwise)
 - Local Emergency Managers Tour – May 2025
 - Santa Paula Basin Pumpers Association – June 2025
 - Piru Neighborhood Council Meeting – July 2025
 - VCOES Dam Safety Collaboration – August 2025

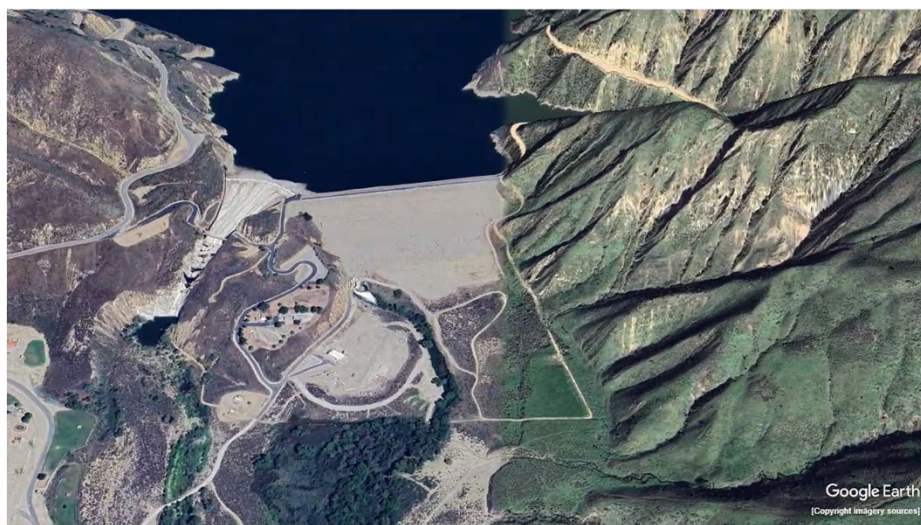


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Public Outreach



Animated SFD Inundation Map
SAMPLE



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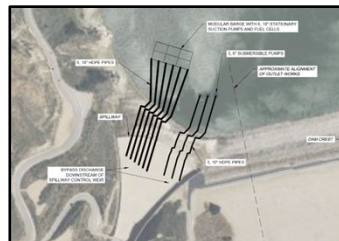
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Dam Safety Program Needs

SFD Interim Risk Reduction Measures

- ✓ 72" Butterfly Valve Redundancy Project – Completed December 2024
- ✓ Lake Piru Reservoir Drawdown Contingency Plan – Accepted by FERC March 2025



Lake Piru Reservoir Drawdown Contingency Plan



Construction of 72" BFV Redundancy Project



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SFD SIP - Evaluations and Assessments

- **New Release Channel Drilling**
Completed in January 2025.
Geotechnical Investigation Report
e-filed with FERC in April 2025.
- **Groundwater Infiltration Testing**
Completed in-house in July
2025.



New Release Channel Drilling - November 2024



Groundwater Infiltration Testing at SFD - July 2025

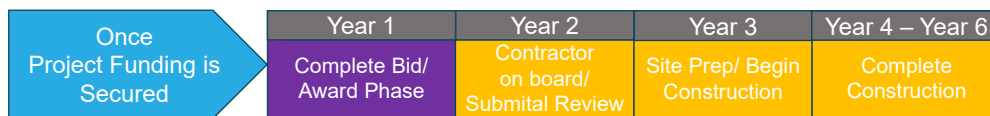
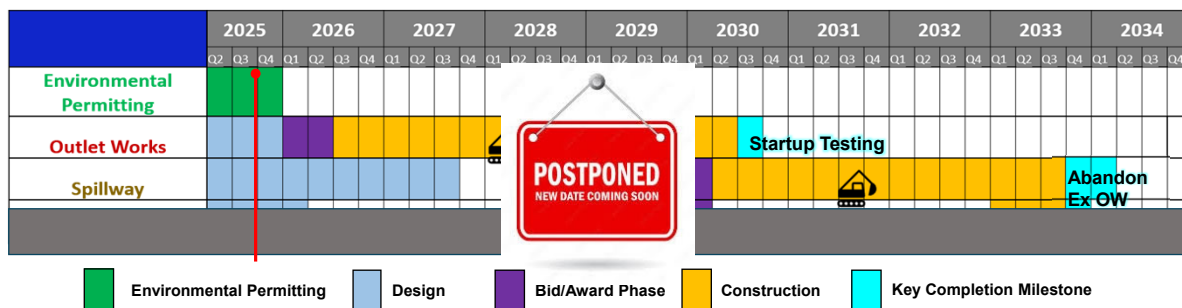


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Dam Safety Program Needs – SFD SIP



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Thank you!



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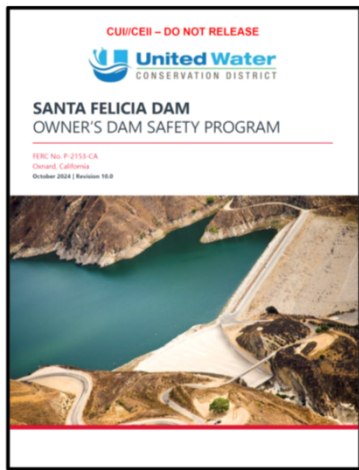
Resolution Adopting the Revised Owners Dam Safety Program Document - October 2025

3.1 A Resolution of the United Water Conservation District Board of Directors Adopting the Revised Owners Dam Safety Program and Overarching Dam Safety Program Policy, Dated October 2025



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ODSP Overview



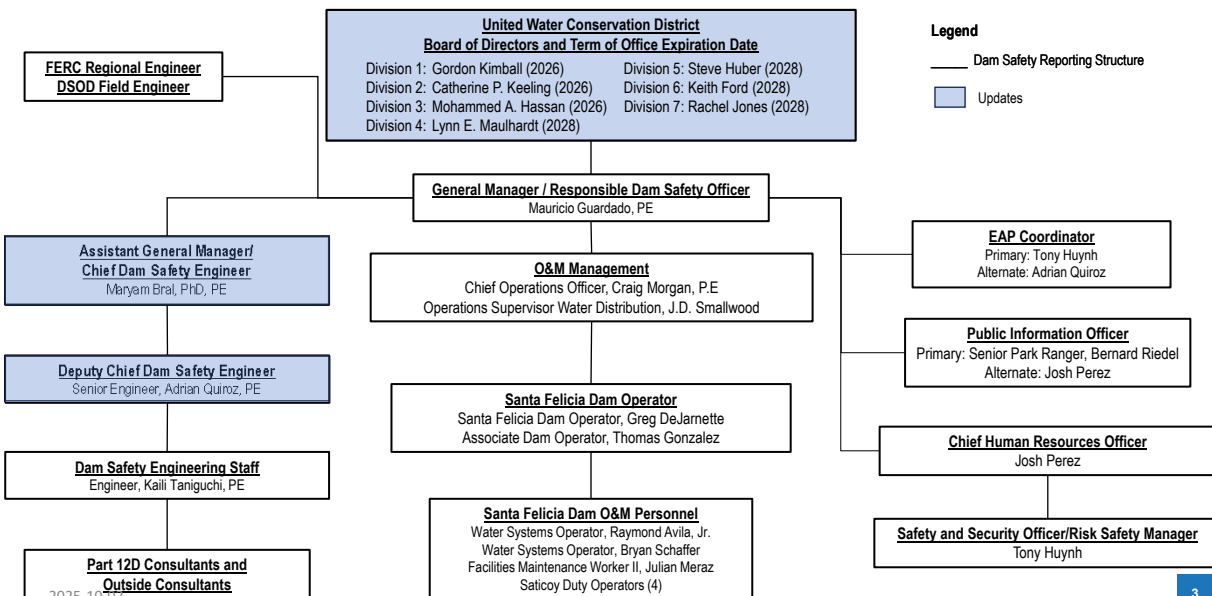
- **Purpose:** Promote dam safety accountability, prevent dam failure, and foster a strong dam safety culture within organization. The ODSP serves as policy for the District.
- **Applicability:** Required for dams with high or significant hazard classification.
- **Key Elements:**
 - Designate a Chief Dam Safety Engineer/Coordinator
 - Define policy, roles, responsibilities, training, and communication
 - Maintain records and continuous improvement
- **Oversight:**
 1. Annual review with executive management
 2. Self-Assessment every two-years
 3. 5-year external audit
- **Responsibility:** Ultimate dam safety responsibility remains with the owner/licensee

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Dam Safety Reporting Structure




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QUESTIONS?



RESOLUTION 2025-XX

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, listing 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF October, 2025



B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY




F. COMMUNICATIONS AND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Motion Item 3.2

Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project

Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption



Lake Piru
Recreation
Area

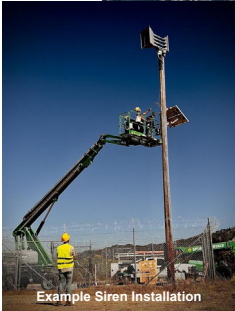
Santa Felicia
Dam

About the Project:


- Installation of 60-foot pole and warning siren
- Range of 1.2 miles at 70dB and 2.3 miles at 60dB
- Alerts boaters and campers of emergencies

Status:

- 100% Design - Complete
- Estimated Construction Cost - \$111,177.12
- CEQA Notice of Exemption - In Progress
- Categorically Exempt Under Class 1, Guidelines § 15301 – Existing Facilities and Class 3, Guidelines § 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures



Example Siren Installation





B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY



F. COMMUNICATIONS AND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Motion Item 3.2

Request to the Engineering and Operations Committee:

Recommend this item go to the Board to consider adoption of a Resolution determining that the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA and approving the Project.

Questions



 C. REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE  B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

- Federal Share Request - \$17,404,800
- September 15 - Submitted sub application to CalOES
- CalOES anticipates submitting priority projects to FEMA: April 2026
- Estimated Award Date: January 2028
- Estimated Period of Performance: 1/1/28 - 12/31/31




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Lake Piru Recreation Area

Priority projects in planning for FY25-26:

- Restroom rehabilitation
- Water Treatment Plant rehabilitation and upgrades

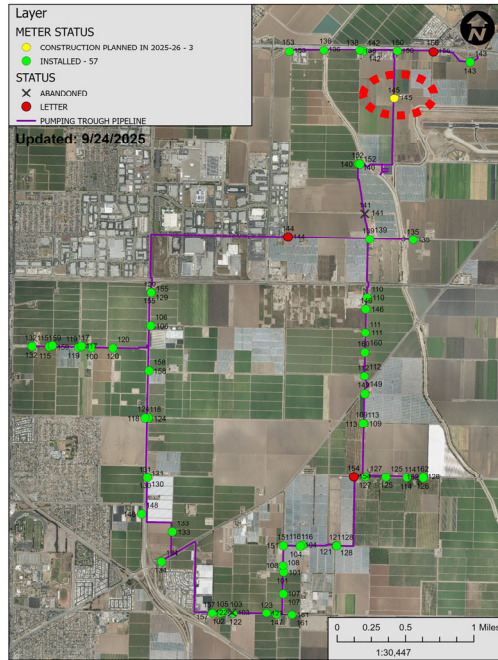


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PTP Metering Improvement

- Installed new meter (Turnout No. 145)
- Amendment No. 5 (reduced scope and time extension request) submitted to DWR
 - 62 meters originally (2 abandoned)
 - 57 meters installed
 - 4 pending easements
 - 3 pending installations



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Utility Requests



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LM1

Utility Requests



PV Pipeline Pre-Construction (Costco Development) Condition Assessment on September 11, 2025



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A. WATER SUPPLY



B. SYSTEM RELIABILITY

EBB Water Treatment Project

Summary of Real Estate Actions:

	License Agreement (Monitoring Wells)	Memorandum of Agreement (Phase 1)	License Agreement (Phase 1A)	Outgrant Easement (Phase 1B)
Original	~1970s	Nov 9, 2023	Feb 21, 2023	Pending
Modified/Succeeded	Mar 28, 2024	--		--
Expires	Mar 28, 2029	Nov 9, 2027	Feb 20, 2026	50 years
Purpose	Operate/construct existing and new monitoring wells	UWCD/Navy roles and responsibilities	Design and environmental documentation	Construction
Status	Construction Complete Site Approvals Pending (instrumentation)	NEPA EA (admin draft) complete	30% Design Site Approvals Pending (remaining field work)	Legal map and description complete



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F. COMMUNICATIONS AND
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Other Events and Public Outreach

Upcoming:

- October 7 – Meeting with Ventura County Executive Office CEO to discuss Santa Felicia Dam
- October 16 – 2025 Water Sustainability Summit VI
- October 23 – 2025 Santa Felicia Dam Emergency Action Plan Seminar
- October 27-29 – Dr. Maryam Bral attending the 2025 Installation Innovation Forum in Monterey, CA



Annual Fire Extinguisher Training
September 23, 2025



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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

October 2, 2025





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Brief Updates

- Collaboration on EBB Environmental consultations
- Supporting EBB monitoring well sample collection
- Interest from Navy in using Freeman sediment

Highlight: Fish ladder operations



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Photo Credit: H. Whipple

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FREEMAN FISH LADDER INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

October 2, 2025



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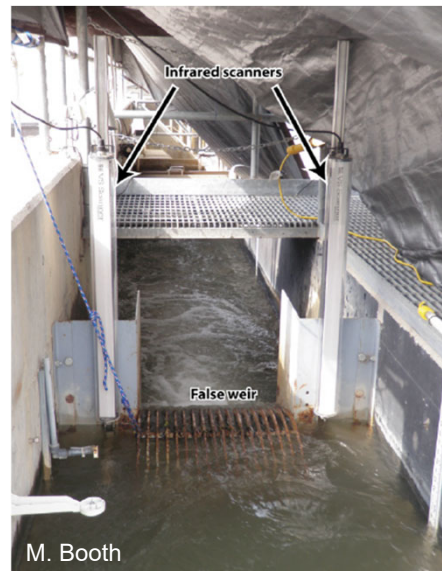
Fish Ladder Monitoring Methods

Video Monitoring 2002-2025

- 2002 false weir and surveillance system installed
- 2010 DVR/VCR upgraded to digital
- 2016 upgraded cameras
- 2020 incorporated cloud upload/remote review
- 2023 upgraded cameras & added overhead camera
- 2024 added grid pattern

DIDSON Monitoring 2019-2025

- Underwater sonar



Fish Ladder Monitoring Methods

Video Monitoring

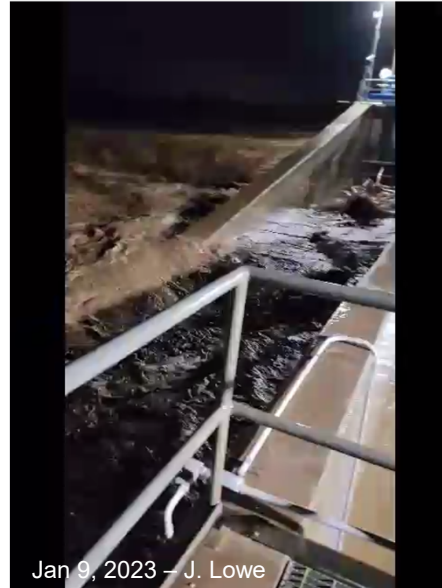
- 3 high speed digital network cameras
- Infrared beam trigger
- Network storage device -> cloud upload
- Daily system check (trigger test)
- Daily footage review

2025 Video Clips

bird	102
splashing water	96
IR beam test	84
bug	59
no noticeable trigger	48
falling debris	7
fish	7
survey team	6
frog	3
turtle	1
Grand Total	413



Fish Ladder Monitoring Results 2023



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Fish Ladder Monitoring Results 2023

2023 Results

- Inundated fish ladder and cameras
- 25 individual clips of *O. mykiss*
- 3rd party footage review
- 2 fish took multiple trips
- Not likely any anadromous individuals



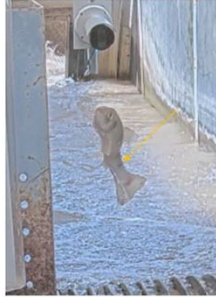
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Video Monitoring Results Review

Observation 10



Observation 11



Observation 12



Cramer Fish Sciences

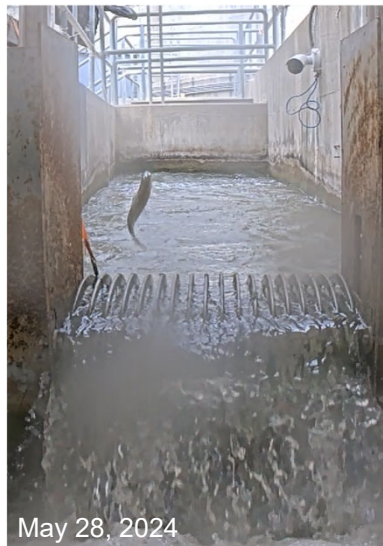


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Fish Ladder Monitoring Results 2024

- Four video clips
- Four individual fish

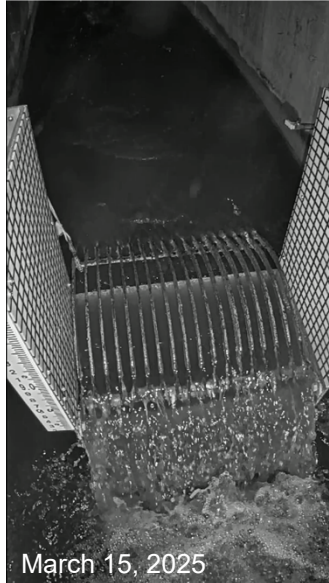


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Fish Ladder Monitoring Results 2025

- Seven video clips
- Six individual fish
 - One fish two trips



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Fish Ladder Monitoring Results 2025

- Seven video clips
- Six individual fish
 - One fish two trips



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Pacific Lamprey History



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Improving Lamprey Passage at the Freeman



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Pacific Lamprey at the Freeman

2024

- 24 adults
 - 7 through tube
- 4 juveniles

2025

- 17 adults
 - 14 through tube
- 110 juveniles





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Thank You!



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OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

October 2, 2025



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Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru

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2025-10

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Freeman Diversion and Saticoy

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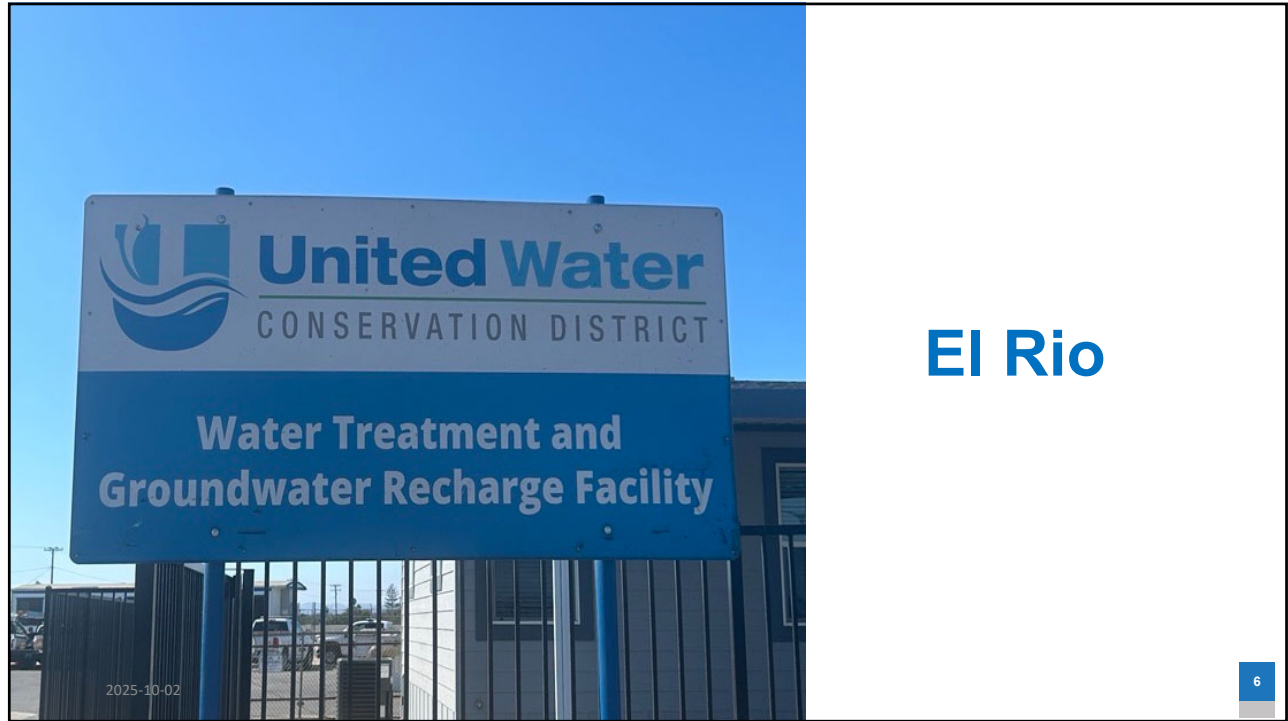
Saticoy Grounds



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Iron and Manganese Filter Pumps



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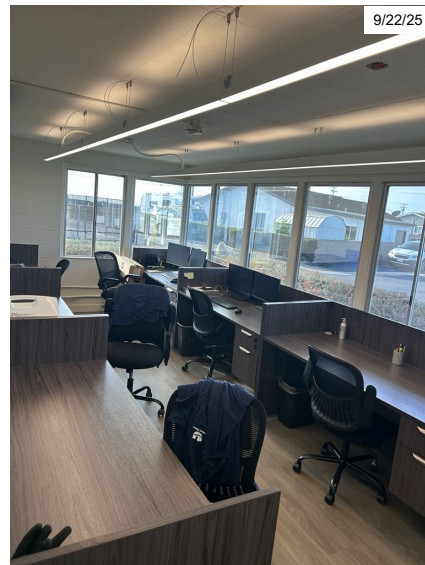
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El Rio Workstation Rehab



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PV Pipeline Shutdown



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PTP Turnout 145



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STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee

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

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

Date: November 3, 2025 (November 6, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 3. **Asset Management Pilot Project Update**
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive an informational update from the Engineering Department regarding its activities in support of Asset Management and receive a presentation of its highlights.

Discussion:

A pilot project for the District's Asset Management effort was completed July 31, 2025, which focused on developing comprehensive asset registers for two critical assets: the Chlorine Building at the El Rio Groundwater Recharge and Water Treatment Facility and the Oxnard-Hueneme (OH) Pipeline. Completing the pilot project supports the larger Asset Management/Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) effort under Capital Improvement Project (CIP) 8041. The project was supported by HDR Engineering, Inc. and included a review of a section of OH Pipeline video inspection that was conducted on November 24, 2024. The final deliverables of the project included asset data specifications, asset registers, maintenance plans, and a condition assessment report for the OH Pipeline. The presentation is an interim progress report that highlights the long-term goal of the Asset Management effort, describes the pilot project in more detail, discusses immediate action items currently in-process related to the OH Pipeline, and lays out a timeline for completing the Asset Management Effort.

Mission Goal:

Meets mission-related Goal B (System Reliability) and mission-supportive Goal D (Fiscal Responsibility).

Fiscal Impact:

Not Applicable to information items. Funding for CIP 8041 is included in the Adopted Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget.



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee

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

From: Robert J. Richardson, Engineering Manager

Date: November 3, 2025 (November 6, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

Receive this summary report from the Engineering Department regarding its activities for September 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 and EAP
 - Staff e-filed a response letter to FERC's 2025 FERC Inspection follow-up letter on September 19.
 - Staff planned and prepared for the 2025 SFD EAP Seminar scheduled on October 23.
 - Staff reviewed the SFD August Monthly Inspection data.
- Outlet Works Improvement Project
 - The BOC Meeting No. 11 has been scheduled for March 25 -26, 2026.
- *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
 - Staff held a kick-off meeting for the Phase 1 LPRA WTP improvements with its design consultant, Stantec.
 - Staff worked with its design consultant, Stantec, to develop plans and specifications for restroom rehabilitation.
- Lake Piru Asphalt Rehabilitation
 - Staff prepared cost estimates for areas requiring asphalt rehabilitation.

4.1 **Engineering Department Monthly Report** **Information Item**

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

- Engineering, Water Resources, and O&M Staff collaborated and conducted a flow test in the Freeman Conveyance system. The information which captures impacts from recent improvement projects (Grand Canal Headworks in 2021, and Inverted Siphon Replacement in 2024) will be used to update and calibrate the conveyance system model. The model will further define the conveyance upgrades required when the Freeman Diversion is expanded.
- *Please see the Monthly Environmental Services Department Report for updates on the Project's environmental compliance and permitting process.*

OH Well Replacement

- Staff are developing a scope of work for redevelopment of Well No. 17.

OH Well 14 Energy Efficiency Upgrade

- Staff are developing a scope of work for rehabilitation of Well No. 14.

OH Well 13 Rehabilitation

- Staff are developing a scope of work for rehabilitation of Well No. 14.

Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant

- Staff are developing a scope of work for programming updates and automation improvements to the Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant.

OH Pipeline

- Staff emailed Stakeholders regarding the Annual Supply and Demand Assessment.

Pleasant Valley Pipeline

- No major updates to report.

Utility Requests

- Staff held a meeting with the City of Camarillo and Faring Capital staff at City Hall regarding Envision property development west of Springville Dr. that impacts the PV Pipeline.
- Staff held a meeting with NV5 (design consultant for the Rural Community Assistance Corporation) to discuss information needs regarding the Vineyard Avenue Acres Mutual Water Company Consolidation Project. Staff followed up with information related to OH Pipeline water supply.

4.1 **Engineering Department Monthly Report** **Information Item**

- Staff received a revised site plan and access easement for the Camarillo Costco development. Staff is additionally working on an indemnification agreement between the District and Costco.
- Staff completed a video inspection of a portion of the Pleasant Valley (PV) Pipeline to document the pre-construction condition prior to completion of construction of the Costco Development in the City of Camarillo (see **Figure 1**). Costco agreed to reimburse the District for the pre-construction video inspection

PTP Metering Improvement Project

- O&M Staff installed a new meter at PTP No. 145. Still pending are installations at PTP No. 144, 154, and 156 (easements required).

PTP Recycled Water Connection – Laguna Road Pipeline Project

- No major activities to report.
- Staff continued coordination efforts with PVCWD and the City of Oxnard on recycled water deliveries.

Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project

- Staff continued coordination efforts with Navy Staff on the approval of real estate actions for the Phase 1 project.
- Staff held a meeting with Navy environmental subject matter experts on the design of the discharge facility.
- Staff are in receipt of new level transducers for the recently constructed monitoring wells. Staff are preparing for installation.
- *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

- Please refer to the separate informational item this month.

Grants:

- DWR:
 - Prop 1 Water Use Efficiency Grant - Installation of SCADA Integrated Metering System at Turnouts of the PTP System
 - On September 28, Staff submitted Amendment No. 5 request to DWR related to the AgWUE grant, requesting a reduction from 62 to 57 meters and a time extension through January 2026.
- FEMA:
 - HMGP – SFD SIP Projects (Outlet Works Improvement Project):
 - On September 15, the HMGP sub-application was submitted to Cal OES. The requested Federal share was \$17.4 million for the construction of the SFD OW.

4.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

- SLCGP – Staff Operational Technology Modernization Project
 - On September 15, Cal OES finalized changes to the grant agreement, allowing United to begin reimbursements.
- SWRCB:
 - GWGP – EBB WTP
 - No major updates to report.

Professional Development (Conferences, Trainings, Webinars)

- On September 15, Staff participated in The Art of Public Speaking by Ken Steele, hosted by the Human Resources department.
- On September 23, Staff participated in the Monthly Safety Meeting and Annual Fire Extinguisher Training (See **Figure 2**).

Current and Upcoming Public Outreach Activities

- On September 11, Staff attended the RDP Regular Meeting. The meeting included a presentation by Valarie Vartanian and Steve Granade entitled: Coastal Resilience, Naval Base Ventura County.



Figure 1 - PV Pipeline Pre-Construction (Costco Development) Condition Assessment on September 11, 2025

4.1 **Engineering Department Monthly Report**
Information Item



Figure 2 - Matthew Wong participating in the Monthly Safety Meeting and Annual Fire Extinguisher Training on September 23, 2025.

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**4.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report
Information Item**

Acronym Index

Acronym	Definition
ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
AgWUE	Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
APWA	American Public Works Association
AWA	Association of Water Agencies
BOC	Board of Consultants
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMMS	Computerized Maintenance Management System
DCIP	Defense Community Infrastructure Program
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Regulatory Commission
FIP	Facility Improvement Project
GPRS	Ground Penetrating Radar Systems, LLC
GWGP	Groundwater Grant Program
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
IRWM	Integrated Water Management Plan
LOG	Lower Olive Grove
LPRA	Lake Piru Recreation Area
LT	Lieutenant
MottMac	Mott MacDonald
NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OH	Oxnard Hueneme
OLDCC	Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation
OW	Outlet Works
PTP	Pumping Trough Pipeline
PV	Pleasant Valley
PWO	Principal Warfare Officer
RDP	Regional Defense Partnership
RW	Recycled Water
SAR	Site Approval Request
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SFD	Santa Felicia Dam

4.1 Engineering Department Monthly Report Information Item

Acronym	Definition
SLCGP	State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
Toro	Toro Enterprises, Inc.
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
VCPWA	Ventura County Public Works Agency
WTP	Water Treatment Plant/Project



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee

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

From: Marissa Caringella, Environmental Services Manager

Date: October 22, 2025 (November 6, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.2 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 September 2025.

Discussion:

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

Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project

On September 8, 2025, ES staff filed a letter with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the administrative record. The letter acknowledged receipt of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Biological Opinion for the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project (SFDSIP), and restated United Water Conservation District's (United) position that the SFDSIP is not likely to adversely affect southern California steelhead.

Water Release Plan and Water Release and Ramping Rate Implementation Plan

Under the Water Release Plan and the FERC license for the Santa Felicia Project, 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 2025 water year did not exceed the triggers for enhanced water releases; therefore, the minimum required habitat water release between June 1 through October 1, 2025, was seven cubic feet per second.

4.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

Lower Piru Creek Herpetological Monitoring Plan and Arroyo Toad Protection Plan

On September 29 and 30, 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.

Lower Piru Creek Habitat Improvement Plan

As part of FERC license compliance, FERC requires United to submit a NMFS-approved draft Lower Piru Creek Habitat Improvement Plan (HIP) for review and approval. On September 15, 2025, United notified FERC that the revised draft HIP would be submitted to NMFS by October 15, 2025. Since the last submittal of a draft HIP on September 2, 2024, United met with staff from NMFS and FERC on December 5, 2024, and March 12, 2025, to discuss NMFS' technical comments.

United Water Conservation District v. FERC, Court Case in Abeyance

On September 29, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals granted United a motion to hold the court case "United Water Conservation District v. FERC" in abeyance and directed United to file status reports every 60 days. United filed the court case to challenge the biological opinion issued by NMFS on FERC's issuance of a license for the Santa Felicia Project. On September 8, 2025, the ninetieth status update was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit.

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, NMFS posted a 90-day finding that United's petition presents substantial scientific information that the petitioned action may be warranted. This finding initiated a one-year formal review period and a public comment period that was open through September 9, 2025. During the comment period United submitted additional documentation and stakeholder letters of support.

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 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.

4.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

On September 5, 2025, FERC filed an additional information request asking for analysis of nine additional species and to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the variance request. On September 22, 2025, DWR submitted all materials and a request for response to the USFWS, CDFW, and USFS. On September 23 and 30, 2025, the USFWS and USFS responded, respectively, that they had no additional comments on the variance request. United and DWR staff coordinated with CDFW on their comments. United anticipates the consultation requested by FERC will be completed in October 2025. FERC processes may be delayed by the federal government shutdown.

4. Freeman Diversion Operations

During the month of September 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, ES staff supported Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff with planning and operational responses to the conservation release water arriving from Santa Felicia Dam.

On September 17, 2025, ES staff accompanied CDFW staff during monthly surveys upstream and downstream of the Freeman Diversion. No *O. mykiss* were observed.

5. Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

On September 10, 2025, Judge Carter issued an Opinion (Dkt 693) in the Wishtoyo et al. v. United Water case. United staff is coordinating with legal counsel to ensure compliance with the Opinion.

During the month of September 2025, United staff prepared for an October 2025 meeting with NMFS technical staff focused on the Improved Denil Fish Passage Project, the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and issuance of an incidental take permit for the Freeman Diversion. The meeting was delayed due to the federal government shutdown.

Between September 22 and 25, 2025, Dr. Stewart Reid (Western Fishes) conducted surveys for Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) in portions of the upper Sespe Creek watershed, completing the 2025 planned surveys in the Santa Clara River watershed in support of United's MSHCP.

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

In September 2025, United staff met with the Navy to discuss technical aspects of the draft NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) for the EBB Water Treatment Project. The EA will undergo further review by the Navy in preparation for future public distribution and review per NEPA requirements.

4.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

7. Quagga Mussel Management

Throughout the month of September 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.

On September 12, 2025, DWR, CDFW, and California State Parks confirmed presence of golden mussels at Pyramid Lake and Silverwood Lake in San Bernardino County. These are the southernmost golden mussel detections in the State Water Project.

8. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Support

In September 2025, ES staff drafted a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) to support the Lake Piru Early Warning System Installation Project at Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru Recreation Area. The NOE went to the Board for consideration in October 2025.

9. Grant Efforts

In September 2025, ES staff supported Engineering staff and the Grant Task Force by updating environmental materials for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program related to the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project. The grant application was submitted on September 15, 2025.

On September 18, 2025, ES staff received an information request from the local review panel for United's CalFire Arundo removal project grant application. ES staff completed the request the same day and the application was passed on to the state level review panel.

10. Miscellaneous

On September 11, 2025, ES staff attended a NEPA Essentials training hosted by the Association of Environmental Professionals.

On September 11, 2025, ES staff attended the American Public Works Association presentation on technology to streamline workflows and reduce project risk.

On September 11, 2025, ES staff attended a Navy presentation on Coastal Resilience at Pt. Mugu Naval base presented at the Regional Defense Partnership monthly meeting.

On September 15, 2025, ES staff notified O&M, Recreation, and Engineering that the nesting bird season has ended for their planning purposes.

On September 15, 2025, ES staff attended the Art of Public Speaking presentation hosted by Ken Steele.

4.2 Environmental Services Department Monthly Report Information Item

On September 15, 2025, ES staff submitted a poster abstract on pacific lamprey to the California Central Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society to present at the 2025 Annual Wildlife Symposium. The poster was accepted.

On September 16, 2025, ES staff attended the AWA Water Briefing presentation on "Solving Water Sector Workforce Challenges."

On September 23, 2025, ES staff attended United's annual fire extinguisher safety training.

On September 24, 2025, ES, Engineering, and Recreation staff met to discuss tree replacement as part of the Habitat Mitigation Required for Loss of Olive Trees measure in the Lake Piru Recreation Area County Conditional Use Permit.

On September 30, 2025, ES staff attended the DWR Water Year briefing.

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



STAFF REPORT

To: Engineering and Operations Committee

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: October 9, 2025 (November 6, 2025, meeting)

Agenda Item: 4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

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

1. Major Facilities Update

- **Santa Felicia Dam**
 - On September 1, 2025, Lake Piru level was 1014.9' and on September 30, 2025, the lake level decreased to 999.5' due to the Conservation Release.
 - The annual Conservation Release was initiated on September 15, 2025, in accordance with operational requirements. Releases will continue as planned and be adjusted based on downstream flow conditions and water management objectives.
 - Santa Felicia Dam (SFD) release flows have varied over the month of September with the highest flow rate being 450 cubic feet per second due to the Conservation Release.
 - SFD's monthly inspection was completed and submitted for the month of September.
 - The monthly siren test was successfully completed on September 5, 2025. All systems operated as expected, and no issues were observed during the test.
 - Operations and Maintenance staff have been assisting the Recreation Department with onshore marina anchor movement and cleanup efforts.
 - Sediment removal and site maintenance are ongoing as lake levels drop in response to the Conservation Release.

- **Freeman Diversion, Saticoy, and El Rio Recharge Facilities**
 - A variety of maintenance activities are underway in anticipation of the Conservation Release and the upcoming storm season, including fish screen

4.3 Operations and Maintenance Department Monthly Report Information Item

inspections and cleaning, traveling water screen inspections and cleaning, pond discing, and preparations for the Desilt Clean Out project.

- Various tours have been conducted at the Freeman Diversion providing visitors with an overview of facility operations, sediment management activities, and ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration between other water districts and stakeholders.
- Sediment flushes are being conducted at Freeman Diversion in response to increased flows resulting from the Conservation Release.
- Operations and Maintenance, Control Systems, and Engineering staff worked together to successfully conduct a flow conveyance test from Noble Basin 1 to Noble Basin 2, yielding valuable data to support future engineering projects, including the Vineyard Undercrossing to Ferro Basin.
- Static groundwater levels (distance to water - from the well pad to the water table):

Facility	2025*	2024	2023
Saticoy	73'	30'	14'
El Rio	76'	63'	77'
PTP	73'-113'	67'-113'	78'-106'

* Static groundwater levels are typically recorded in the last week of the month. This table represents data in the month of September.

- **Oxnard Hueneme Delivery System**
 - El Rio operators assisted D&H Water Technologies technicians with preventative maintenance service of post-CL2 injectors.
 - El Rio operators monitored CalAm Water's initial testing of their new Oxnard Hueneme (OH) pipeline emergency turnout at Rose Avenue and Simon Way.
 - United Water Conservation District (District) staff installed back-up NTU meter inside El Rio analyzer room.
 - El Rio operators made repairs to Gas Eng. 1 pump assembly.
 - District staff performed confined space entry into OH pipeline Head Control Valve on Rose Avenue to perform a system check prior to surface water being reintroduced from Saticoy operations.
- **Pleasant Valley County Water District**
 - District staff isolated, drained Pleasant Valley (PV) pipeline, then worked with contractors to expose inspection hatches used for video surveying of segments near new Costco store construction in Camarillo.
 - District staff assisted the contractor with pump/efficiency testing for Saticoy Well 1. This was part of post-rehabilitation work that was conducted on the entire well and pump assemblies.
- **Pumping Trough Pipeline**
 - El Rio operators isolated the upper end of Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP) system to replace a propeller type flow meter at turnout 145 with an electromagnetic model. This work is related to the CIP No. 8022.

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

- El Rio operators assisted the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District compliance officer with annual inspections of PTP emergency generators.

- **Control Systems**

- Webinar - CISA - Operational Technology Asset Inventory Guidance
- Meeting with OPTO22 Vendor
- Webinar - CISA - Logging Made Easy – Log Management
- Meeting with CheckPoint Rep – Network and CISSP Discussion
- Saticoy Radio Link - Network Configuration Change to Out of Band (OOB)
- Completed El Rio GE Office electrical update, lighting and network overhaul

- **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 September.
- 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.

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

- Completed monthly Surface Water Treatment Rule and quarterly OH Pipeline Stage 2 Disinfection By-product Rule reports and sent them to the California State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water office.
- El Rio operators performed monthly visual checks of OH clear wells.
- El Rio operators obtained monthly static water levels for OH, PTP, and Saticoy wells.
- El Rio operators completed weekly, monthly, and quarterly water quality sampling from OH and PTP water systems.

3. **Safety and Training**

- Began training new El Rio operators on overall operations of OH, PTP, and PV water systems.
- El Rio operators worked with fence contractor to replace the section that was damaged, due to a car accident, along Rose Avenue.
- El Rio operators completed monthly leak detector tests and calibrations for chlorine, aqua ammonia, and natural gas monitors.
- El Rio operators began OSHA HAZWOPER 40-hour Introductory and 8-hour Refresher courses.

Attachment:

Operation Log for September 2025

