

Santa Ynez River

WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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New Groundwater Charge Rates

The California Supreme Court has ruled that water conservation districts must follow the voter-approved dictates of Proposition 26, which requires fees be assessed according to costs of serving those who pay the fee. The section of the California Water Code relating to setting fees, which Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) has followed since 1979, is now unconstitutional. Despite our efforts, the SYRWCD has been forced to revise its fees to be consistent Proposition 26.

Current rates for water produced between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 for all zones are as follows:

Agricultural Water	\$14.14 per Acre-Foot
Special Water	\$14.14 per Acre-Foot
Other Water (Non-Ag)	\$14.14 per Acre-Foot

Our Purpose

In 1939, the people of the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys joined together to form this water conservation district. The purpose was to prevent the entirety of the upstream Santa Ynez River being diverted out of the watershed to a coastal stretch of populated and agricultural areas extending from El Capitan on the Gaviota Coast to the Ventura County line.

Today, the SYRWCD protects water rights and supplies within the Santa Ynez River watershed, manages releases of water from Bradbury Dam to replenish downstream aquifers along the river and on the Lompoc Plain, and monitors, reports, and manages groundwater conditions.

Management activities include:

- Monitor and report on groundwater conditions
- Make annual groundwater use estimates and forecast groundwater storage and overdraft amounts
- Determine water volume for replenishment of dewatered storage
- Report river system conditions, basin surface water use, and water purchased by contract
- Coordinate and participate in activities of the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.

Groundwater Production Statement

Production Period: July 1 – December 31, 2022

Due by January 31, 2023

Reference: Water Code Section 75500 et seq.

Enclosed are instructions, semi-annual groundwater production statement(s), and worksheet(s) for reporting your well water production.

- Use the worksheet(s) to calculate water production then statement(s) to calculate cost.
- Return the statement and worksheet(s) with payment to our Post Office box address on or before January 31, 2023.
- Statements without worksheets are deemed incomplete and do not constitute legal submittals.
- All submittals postmarked after January 31, 2023 are debited a 10% penalty and 1% interest per month on any delinquent groundwater charge payment.
- Calculations will be reviewed and correcting adjustments made, if needed. "Prior charges" listed on the statement indicates a penalty, interest, or correcting adjustment for prior statement(s) and is due and payable now.
- Keep the carbon copies for your records.

District staff is available to answer your questions and assist you with your groundwater reporting. Please call us at **805-693-1156 ext. 408** or email gwdept@syrwcd.com.

Office Location

Our office is located at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, CA 93460.

Water users in the Santa Ynez - Solvang - Los Olivos areas should not confuse this District with the Improvement District No. 1 (ID1) by the same name. ID1 is a separate district formed many years ago to acquire and serve water in the aforementioned areas.

We appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have. If you have any questions regarding District activities, please contact Kevin Walsh, General Manager, at 805-693-1156.