

NOTICE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND PUBLIC HEARING

will be held at

Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California
at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Important Notice Regarding Public Hearing Comments: Operators of water producing facilities within the District and all persons interested in the condition of the groundwater or surface water supplies within the District are invited to review the Investigation and Report and submit evidence and comments concerning the groundwater conditions and surface water supplies of the District. Persons wishing to present evidence or comments to the Board of Directors may do so in person at the public hearing and those not able to attend in person are encouraged to provide any evidence or comments they may have prior to the public hearing to the Board Secretary, Amber Thompson, **via electronic mail athompson@SYRWCD.com** and indicate **“PUBLIC HEARING”** in the subject line, or drop off at the District office **no later than 5:00 p.m. April 25, 2023**. Appearances may also be made supporting or protesting the Investigation and Report.

Important Notice Regarding Public Comments: For those who may not attend the meeting in person but wish to provide public comment on any other matter, please submit any and all comments and written materials to the District **via electronic mail at athompson@syrwcd.com or dropped off at the District office**. All submittals should indicate **“PUBLIC COMMENT”** in the subject line or drop off at the District office **no later than 5:00 p.m. April 25, 2023**.

Public comments and materials received by the District after the posting of meeting packet will become part of the post-meeting materials available to the public and posted on the District website.

AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public item.)

Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under the Agenda Item “Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda”.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2023.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING** on the 45th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, A Summary of Findings for the Previous Water Year (2021-2022), Current Water Year (2022-2023), and Ensuing Water Year (2023-2024)
 - a. Open Public Hearing
Any member of the public may address the Board relating to the 45th Annual Report. The time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes.
 - b. Close Public Hearing
 - c. Receive Board Comments
 - d. Consider Action to Accept and File Annual Report Including the Findings and Determinations Therein and Any Appropriate Revisions
6. Preliminary Draft Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Budget
7. Discussion of Climate and Water Supply in regard to Atmospheric Rivers – Request by Director Marymee
8. Discussion of Cachuma Project Modified Winter Storm Operations – Request by Director Jordan
9. Consider Forming an Ad-Hoc Committee Regarding SGMA GSAs Governance
10. Letter of Resignation from Director Hibbits; Determine Whether to Fill Vacancy by Appointment Pursuant to Water Code § 74204 and Gov’t Code § 1780
11. Attorney Report
12. Reports, acts by Board members, questions of staff, status reports, announcements, observations, and other matters, and/or communications not requiring action
13. Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda.
14. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

In compliance with the California Water Code, regular meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday in March, June, September, and December at various locations within the District. Special meetings may be held at any location within the District.
15. Closed Session
The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:
 - a. Public Employee Performance Evaluation/Appointment. (Gov’t Code § 54957(b)(1).) Title: General Manager; Assistant General Manager

- b. Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): Wolff vs SYRWCD, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 20CV01552 and Case No. 22CV02062
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)) relating to proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project, and complaints filed by the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project and SWRCB Order WR 89-18; proposed changes to the place and purpose of use of waters obtained through aforementioned permits for the Cachuma Project; and Reclamation’s Petition for Reconsideration or Rehearing re Order WR 2019-0148; and proceedings related to SWRCB Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423) held by the City of Solvang including the City of Solvang’s Petitions for Change and Extension of Time.
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Two Matters).
- e. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Two Matters).

16. Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report

17. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted on the District website (SYRWCD.com), at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California and at 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California. Notice was delivered in accordance with Government Code Sections 54950-54963. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the District at (805) 693-1156. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF ANNUAL GROUNDWATER ENGINEERING
INVESTIGATION AND REPORT AND PUBLIC HEARING THEREON**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Water Code Section 75570, et seq., including Water Code Section 75573, that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (District) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. (PST) at the special meeting of the District's Board of Directors to be held at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California, to consider the Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Investigation and Report), prepared by Stetson Engineers, Inc., pursuant to Water Code Section 75560, et seq. At the meeting or at one or more subsequent meetings, the Board will consider making findings and determinations under Water Code Section 75574. The written report was received by the Secretary of the Board on March 10, 2023 pursuant to Water Code Section 75570 and is available for examination at the District office and on the District's website, SYRWCD.com. You may call the District office at 805-493-1156 to examine the Investigation and Report. The public hearing and consideration of the Investigation and Report may be continued to one or more subsequent meetings of the District's Board of Directors.

Operators of water producing facilities within the District and all persons interested in the condition of the groundwater or surface water supplies within the District are invited to review the Investigation and Report and submit evidence and comments concerning the groundwater conditions and surface water supplies of the District. Persons wishing to present evidence or comments to the Board of Directors may do so in person at the public hearing and those not able to attend in person are encouraged to provide any evidence or comments they may have prior to the public hearing to the Board Secretary, Amber Thompson, athompson@SYRWCD.com no later than 5:00 p.m. April 25, 2023. Appearances may also be made supporting or protesting the Investigation and Report.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AMBER THOMPSON
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

MAR 29 / 2023 – 59198

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MARCH 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California, as authorized by Resolution No. 719 of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District that was passed on February 16, 2023.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen, Art Hibbits, and Brett Marymee

Directors Absent: Mark Altshuler and Steve Jordan

Others Present, in-person: Groundwater Program Manager Bill Buelow and
Board Secretary Amber Thompson

Others Present, remote participation: Michelle Gearhart (Adamski Moroski Madden Cumberland & Green LLP, during closed session only), and Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. Three Directors were present providing a quorum with Directors Altshuler and Jordan absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

President Allen announced there was a request to move CLOSED SESSION and RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT to earlier in the meeting. All Directors agreed and Item 14, CLOSED SESSION, and Item 15, RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT, were moved to be addressed after Agenda Item 3 and before Item 4.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Ms. Thompson announced she did not receive any public comment prior to the meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 7, 2022 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2023

President Allen submitted the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 7, 2022 and of the Special Meeting held February 16, 2023 for Board approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Hibbits made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 7, 2022 and of the Special Meeting held February 16, 2023, as presented. Director Marymee seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2, with Directors Altshuler and Jordan absent.

6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

a. Surface Water Report

On behalf of Mr. Walsh, Mr. Buelow reviewed the Surface Water Report of the General Manager's Report from Mr. Walsh, dated March 15, 2023, the Rainfall and Reservoir Summary, Cachuma Daily Operations, and Downstream Users Accounting. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

b. Financial Reports

i. Quarterly Comparison Balance Sheet

Ms. Thompson passed out a revised Quarterly Comparison Balance Sheet and explained the reason for the revision. The Board reviewed the revised Quarterly Comparison Balance Sheet. There was no discussion, no public comment, and no action.

ii. Balance Sheet & Income Statement, FY 2022-23 Period 7, January 2023

Ms. Thompson passed out a revised Balance Sheet and explained the reason for the revision. On behalf of Mr. Walsh, Ms. Thompson presented the financial reports and notable items for Period 7 of FY 2022-23, as referenced in the General Manager's Report from Mr. Walsh, dated March 15, 2023. There was no discussion, no public comment, and no action.

iii. Approval of Warrant Lists for November, December 2022, and January 2023

On behalf of Mr. Walsh, Ms. Thompson presented the Warrant Lists for November, December 2022, and January 2023. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Marymee made a **MOTION** to approve the November, December 2022, and January 2023 warrant lists which include check #s 1066-1108 plus transfers and ACH transactions totaling \$223,053.19. Director Hibbits seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2, with Directors Altshuler and Jordan absent.

c. Investments

i. Consider Investment Policy Revisions

On behalf of Mr. Walsh, Ms. Thompson reviewed the Review and Revision to District Investment Policy Memorandum from Mr. Walsh, dated March 15, 2023. The Board reviewed the revised Operating Procedures Investment Program page of the Investment Policy. There was no discussion and no public comment.

ii. Consider Resolution No. 720, Adopting Revised Investment Policy

Ms. Thompson presented Resolution No. 720, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADOPTING A REVISED INVESTMENT POLICY. There was no discussion or no public comment.

Director Marymee waived the reading of the Resolution and made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution No. 720, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADOPTING A REVISED INVESTMENT POLICY. Director Hibbits seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Allen, Hibbits, Marymee
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: Altshuler, Jordan

iii. Consider Resolution No. 721, Transferring Funds from County Treasury Investment Pool and Close Account

On behalf of Mr. Walsh, Ms. Thompson reviewed the Close Account with County of Santa Barbara Investment Fund (SBIF) Memorandum from Mr. Walsh, dated March 15, 2023 and presented Resolution No. 721, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY TREASURY INVESTMENT POOL AND CLOSE ACCOUNT. There was no discussion or no public comment.

Director Hibbits waived the reading of the Resolution and made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution No. 721, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY TREASURY INVESTMENT POOL AND CLOSE ACCOUNT. Director Allen seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Allen, Hibbits, Marymee
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: Altshuler, Jordan

7. BOARD SECRETARY AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

a. Receipt of the Draft 45th Annual Report for review

Ms. Thompson announced that on March 10, 2023, she received the 45th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, A Summary of Findings for the Previous Water Year (2021-2022), Current Water Year (2022-2023), and Ensuing Water Year (2023-2024), Draft dated March 10, 2023 (Report) and that she posted it on the District's website for public access.

Mr. Buelow added that the Report will be reviewed at the special meeting and Public Hearing to be held in April. A hard copy of the Report can be printed upon request.

b. Required Conflict of Interest Form 700 Filing

Ms. Thompson reported on the current Conflict of Interest Form 700 filing status of Directors and staff.

c. Required Ethics and Harassment Prevention Training

Ms. Thompson reported of the requirement to complete Ethics and Harassment Prevention training every two years and completion of these trainings are due in 2023. She provided information about the compliance training through the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) available to District staff and Directors at no cost.

8. GROUNDWATER PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

a. Groundwater Production, Reporting and Charges

i. Update on Groundwater Revenue

Mr. Buelow reviewed income received from Groundwater Pump Charges and Groundwater Production reported to date. There was no discussion, no public comment, and no action.

ii. Update on Well Registration and Groundwater Production Reporting

Mr. Buelow provided an update on Well Registrations and Groundwater Production Reporting including efforts to register unregistered or new wells in the District and efforts related to groundwater production of properties located in the Santa Ynez Uplands due to reports received regarding disconnected ID No. 1 service. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

b. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

i. Update on Well Verifications

Mr. Buelow reported that Member Agency staff from each of the three GSAs are processing well verification requests. To date, three wells have been issued well verifications in the EMA, two in the CMA and two in the WMA. In addition, there are four well verification requests for the EMA and one in the CMA currently under review by the consultant. There was no discussion, public comment or action.

ii. Update on Basin Governance

Mr. Buelow reported that staff from the Member Agencies continue to discuss and work on Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) creation for each management area. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

9. ATTORNEY REPORT

Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani reported on multiple legislative efforts on water rights reform as well as AB557 to eliminate the sunset date of AB361. Discussion followed.

Directors, by consensus, directed staff to submit a letter in support of AB557 signed by the General Manager, as recommended by the CSDA.

10. REPORTS, ACTS BY BOARD MEMBERS, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS, AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

Director Hibbits reported that his son is working for a vineyard consulting company that currently has a well verification request submitted to the EMA GSA and could possibly have dealings with properties in the other GSAs where he represents the District on the GSA Committee. He asked for precautionary practices to follow and if he should recuse himself from well verifications in certain circumstances.

Director Marymee requested an update on Santa Barbara County's Cloud Seeding efforts. President Allen responded that she received the most recent Cloud Seeding report from Santa Barbara County and will forward it to Ms. Thompson to distribute to all Directors and staff.

11. REQUESTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Director Hibbits, during discussion of Agenda Item 6.a., requested a review and discussion about Bureau of Reclamation's Winter Storm Operations, including water releases from Lake Cachuma, flooding to agriculture along the Santa Ynez River, problems created by willows in the River, and water quality of the River.

Director Marymee agreed with Director Hibbits' request and additionally requested the update include how Winter Storm Operation releases affected critical points along the Santa Ynez River.

Director Marymee requested the SGMA Update include reporting on the happenings of each GSA meeting and requested an update of SGMA Governance for the April meeting.

12. CONSIDER DATE OF NEXT MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED AS A SPECIAL MEETING INCLUDING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT DURING APRIL 2023

The next meeting of the Board will be a special meeting including a Public Hearing on the 45th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa

Ynez River Water Conservation District, A Summary of Findings for the Previous Water Year (2021-2022), Current Water Year (2022-2023), and Ensuing Water Year (2023-2024), Draft dated March 10, 2023 to be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023, AT BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board meeting will be June 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

14. CLOSED SESSION

This agenda item was moved directly after Agenda Item No. 3. The Board convened into Closed Session from 6:34 p.m. to 7:23 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): Wolff vs SYRWCD, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 20CV01552 and Case No. 22CV02062.
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)) relating to proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project, and complaints filed by the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project and SWRCB Order WR 89-18; proposed changes to the place and purpose of use of waters obtained through aforementioned permits for the Cachuma Project; and Reclamation’s Petition for Reconsideration or Rehearing re Order WR 2019-0148; and proceedings related to SWRCB Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423) held by the City of Solvang including the City of Solvang’s Petitions for Change and Extension of Time.
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Two Matters).
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Two Matters).

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT

President Allen advised there is nothing to report from Closed Session. The meeting continued with Agenda Item No. 4.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Cynthia Allen, President

Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

DRAFT

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ENGINEERING AND SURVEY REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*A Summary of Findings for the
Previous Water Year (2021-2022), Current Water Year (2022-2023),
and Ensuing Water Year (2023-2024)*



VIEW and/or DOWNLOAD the full report from [SYRWCD.com](https://www.syrwcd.com)

https://www.syrwcd.com/files/9031d7979/00-DRAFT_45th_SYRWCD_AR_2022_received2023-03-10.pdf



DRAFT
March 10, 2023

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 2023
TO: Cynthia Allen Mark Altshuler Art Hibbits
 Brett Marymee Steve Jordan
FROM: Kevin D. Walsh
SUBJECT: Draft Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Recommendation

- Review and direct staff: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Discussion

INCOME:

Groundwater Charge Rates.

The Final Budget assumes changes in the groundwater production charge rates to result in a nearly balanced budget generating an income on an accrual basis of \$760,000. Assuming Board approval of the Budget, the actual rates needed will be described more fully in a May 2023 Rates Study Report prepared by Raftelis.

Property Tax Revenue. The County of Santa Barbara projects a 3% increase from last year, which is used for the Budget estimate of \$365,000.

Investment Income. Investment Income is earned on Reserves and Cash accounts. The 2023-24 estimate of \$60,000 is based on projected Effective Yields of about 2% for LAIF and 5 Star Bank, and 4% for California CLASS.

SGMA Grant Reimbursements. The reimbursement for District's Grant Administration labor costs from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant is expected to total about \$34,650.

EXPENSES:

Internal Operations / Expenses are estimated to be about 18% more than the FY 2022-23 budgeted amounts. The increase is primarily due to upgrades in the billing system (accounted for in office expenses), an increase in the annual audit expense, increased efforts in Groundwater Charges Program, and cost-of-living and merit salary adjustments.

Legal and Engineering Expenses are budgeted 4.7% more than FY 2022-23. The State Water Board released Water Rights Order (WRO) 2019-0148 on September 17th, 2019. It is expected that an equal amount of the Legal and Engineering efforts on this “new” WRO will occur in FY 2023-24 with the same intensity as in the prior fiscal years. This is due to the mandated reports and studies regarding downstream water releases in the new WRO, plus our involvement in an expected new Biological Opinion (BiOp) issued by the National Marine Fisheries which may significantly affect Cachuma Project Operations. Our concerns involve issues regarding mandated Cachuma water releases to river for the endangered steelhead trout, State Water releases used for improving downstream water quality, and Cachuma Project modified winter storm operations. Recent regulatory decisions could have potential impacts on the District’s water rights release rates, amounts, and timing.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). All three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are in a transition to begin the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans. None of the GSAs have yet adopted any budgets, nor long-term funding mechanisms. It is not expected that any independent cash revenue will be generated by the GSAs for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The Budget figure of \$113,000 largely represents an estimate of the direct cash contributions for the District’s participation in the implementation of the GSA sustainability plans. The majority of this expense is for the District’s share of the 10% retention of the anticipated DWR grant expected to be available in 2024. FY 2023-24 SGMA direct expenses are about 36% lower than was budgeted for FY 2022-2023 (a \$62,000 reduction).

Contingencies are set at the same amount as FY 2023-2024: \$50,000.

RESERVES:

The District goal of \$2.0 million in total reserves will be met. Of this amount, \$1.6 million is earmarked for legal and engineering services mostly surrounding the activities of others seeking to restrict water rights in the watershed, and their actions resulting in negative consequences on water rights. The remaining \$400,000 is for other contingencies, such as unexpected large expenditures.

For FY 2023-24, no transfers out of reserves are expected.

KDW/amt

Attachment

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET (as of 4/26/23)

	(As of Jan. 31)			
	FY 2022-23 APPROVED BUDGET	FY 2022-23 7th Period ACTUAL		
REVENUES:				
Groundwater Charge Rates (cash basis)	674,000	(1) 449,178	(2) 644,000	(2) 760,000
SB County Property Taxes	355,000	213,404	355,000	365,000
Interest Income	10,000	18,407	44,000	60,000
SGMA Grant Reimbursement	48,000	48,133	48,133	34,650
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,087,000	\$ 729,122	\$ 1,091,133	\$ 1,219,650
EXPENSES				
<u>Internal Operations / Expenses</u>				
Employee Salaries	422,000	246,330	422,000	503,000
Payroll (SS and Medicare)	30,000	17,141	28,900	32,000
Employee Benefits	6,000	4,247	7,300	9,800
Retirement Plan Contributions	30,000	16,012	29,600	36,000
Outside Services	7,000	3,268	5,800	8,000
Office Expense	60,000	22,172	60,000	67,000
Director Fees	6,000	1,800	6,000	6,000
Travel & Training	7,000	4,955	7,000	8,000
Annual Audit	12,000	17,538	15,000	20,000
Insurance & Worker's Comp	20,000	18,779	20,000	21,000
Dues and LAFCO Fees	5,000	4,567	4,600	7,000
Groundwater Charges Program	65,000	31,661	65,000	76,000
Miscellaneous	3,000	361	3,000	4,000
SUB-TOTAL INTERNAL OPERATIONS	673,000	388,831	674,200	797,800
<u>Legal</u>				
General and Misc.	15,000	5,458	15,000	15,000
Downstream Release/Upper SYR Ops/89-18	2,500	0	0	2,500
WR Decision (2019-0148)	35,000	11,152	25,000	25,000
Fisheries Issues	15,000	24,744	30,000	30,000
Employment/HR	2,500	0	2,500	2,500
Groundwater Program	5,000	163	2,500	5,000
SUB-TOTAL LEGAL	75,000	41,516	75,000	80,000
<u>Engineering / Environmental</u>				
General & Misc.	10,000	1,789	9,000	9,000
Annual GW Report	20,000	5,057	22,000	22,000
Downstream Releases Operations / 89-18	65,000	36,857	40,000	65,000
Upper SYR Operations	5,000	333	2,500	5,000
WR Decision (2019-0148)	20,000	3,725	20,000	20,000
Fisheries Hydrology	30,000	8,735	30,000	30,000
Special Studies	30,000	13,888	35,000	36,000
SUB-TOTAL ENGINEERING / ENVIRONMENTAL	180,000	70,383	158,500	187,000
CONTINGENCIES	50,000	0	0	50,000
SGMA	175,000	119,736	140,000	113,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,153,000	\$ 620,466	\$ 1,047,700	\$ 1,227,800
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$ (66,000)	\$ 108,656	\$ 43,433	\$ (8,150)
CASH ON HAND	\$ 232,301	\$ 289,715	\$ 275,433	\$ 223,850
INVESTMENT RESERVES	1,848,025	1,985,064	2,026,150	2,026,150

1) Accrual Basis 2) Cash Basis

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 2023

TO: Cynthia Allen Mark Altshuler Art Hibbits
Brett Marymee Steve Jordan Steve Torigiani

FROM: Kevin D. Walsh

SUBJECT: Atmospheric River impact to climate and water supply.

Director Marymee requested information on this item during the March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Attached are three relevant articles with citation information summarized below:

- 1) Water Education Foundation, 2023, *Atmospheric Rivers*, accessed April 10, 2023, [https://Atmospheric Rivers - Water Education Foundation](https://AtmosphericRivers-WaterEducationFoundation)
- 2) Jake Bittle, March 25, 2023. *California's Atmospheric Rivers Are Getting Worse*. Website: WIRED. Accessed April 10, 2023, <https://www.wired.com/story/california-atmospheric-river-climate-change/>
- 3) Gabrielle Canon, March 15, 2023. *Atmospheric rivers are inundating California – but what are they?* The Guardian. Accessed April 10, 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/mar/15/what-are-atmospheric-rivers-explainer>

All three articles were written in response to the past winters above average rainfall, where more than 30 trillion gallons of water fell on the state. Atmospheric Rivers (AR) are long streams of overhead moisture fueled by prevailing winds combined with abundant moisture focused in a band approximately 300-400 miles wide for extended periods of time. Weather records dating back to the early 20th Century indicate a historical weather pattern that was more wet. The reconstructed history from dendrochronology (tree rings) and lake varves (sediment layers) show that the central coast region of California has endured far more intense rain periods and also suffered far longer and more intense dry periods than the 100-year record indicates.

KDW/amt

Attachments



Aquapedia background

ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS

Atmospheric rivers are relatively narrow bands of moisture that ferry precipitation across the Pacific Ocean to the West Coast and are key to California's [water supply](#).

They are commonly referred to as the "Pineapple Express" because of their origins in tropical regions. While atmospheric rivers are necessary to keep California's water reservoirs full, some of them are dangerous because the extreme rainfall and wind can cause catastrophic [flooding](#) and damage. Their presence has been likened to the West Coast version of the hurricane hazard posed to the southeastern United States.

At the extreme end of atmospheric rivers is a phenomenon deemed by the U.S. Geological Survey as [ARkStorm](#), an event that is expected to occur only once every 1,000 years but with the potential to dump massive amounts of water and cause widespread flooding.

Typical atmospheric rivers are about 250 to 375 miles wide and are present somewhere on the planet at any given time. A strong atmospheric river transports an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to as much as 15 times the average flow of the Mississippi River. Most atmospheric rivers are not disaster events and are critical to California because they deliver about half of the annual precipitation. For operators of [flood management](#)/water supply reservoirs, atmospheric rivers are challenging because the need to maintain enough storage space for incoming [runoff](#) means sometimes releasing valuable reservoir water that communities rely on during the dry summer months.

Because of this perception of "wasted" water, efforts are underway to sharpen [forecast-based decisions](#) so that unnecessary releases can be avoided. Current forecasts of atmospheric rivers are reliable out to about five days.

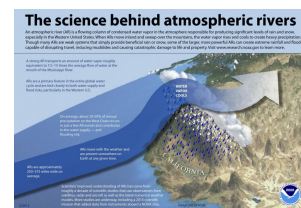
Improved understanding of atmospheric rivers has come from more than a decade of scientific studies using new satellite, radar, aircraft and other observational and computer-modeling improvements.

The Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E), part of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is at the forefront of atmospheric rivers research. In 2020, CW3E launched a new sub-seasonal to seasonal forecasting tool to better predict the influence atmospheric rivers will have on the Western United States.

Meanwhile, the method known as Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) aims to use the latest forecast technology to plan for the arrival of atmospheric rivers. California reservoirs such as Lake Mendocino in Mendocino County, Folsom Lake northeast of Sacramento and New Bullards Bar Reservoir northeast of Yuba City are using the method to retain as much water as possible during the short storm window.



[A massive 1986 Northern California flood near Marysville, north of Sacramento, caused the south levee of the Yuba River to breach, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate their homes. \(Photo: CA Department of Water Resources\)](#)



JAKE BITTLE

SCIENCE MAR 25, 2023 8:00 AM

California's Atmospheric Rivers Are Getting Worse

As climate change makes storms warmer and wetter, the state's flood control system is struggling to keep up.



PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK T. FALLON/GETTY IMAGES

THIS STORY ORIGINALLY appeared on [Grist](#) and is part of the [Climate Desk](#) collaboration.

California is no stranger to big swings between wet and dry weather. The “atmospheric river” storms that have battered the state this winter are part of a system that has long interrupted periods of drought with huge bursts of rain—indeed, they provide somewhere between 30 and 50 percent of all precipitation on the West Coast.

The parade of storms that has struck California in recent months has dropped more than 30 trillion gallons of water on the state, refilling reservoirs that had sat empty for years and burying mountain towns in snow.

But climate change is making these storms much wetter and more intense, ratcheting up the risk of potential flooding in California and other states along the West Coast. That's not only because the air over the Pacific will hold more moisture as sea

SYRWCD BOARD MEETING - April 26, 2023
Page 18

temperatures rise, leading to giant rain and snow volumes, but also because warming temperatures on land will cause more precipitation to fall as rain in the future, which will lead to more dangerous floods.

The family of storms that descended on the state this week only underscored this danger, shattering snow records and overtopping levees across the state.

“There’s a cascading chain of impacts,” said Tom Corringham, a researcher at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. “As you push the rivers harder, as you push the flood protection system harder and harder, you get sort of exponentially increasing impacts. You flood the whole floodplain, or a levee breaks, and that’s where you get the really catastrophic events.”

An “atmospheric river” is a long, narrow ribbon of moisture that carries water vapor from the tropics to land at higher latitudes. One of the most well known examples is the “Pineapple Express,” which streams eastward from Hawaii across the Pacific Ocean and makes landfall on the West Coast. The term atmospheric river originated back in the 1990s, and it caught on because of the high volume of water that these ribbons can contain: A single one can move more than twice as much water through the sky as flows out of the mouth of the Amazon, the world’s largest river by volume.

As sea and air temperatures in the Pacific Ocean rise, the storms hitting the West Coast now retain more moisture, leading to longer and more intense bouts of rain. At the same time, precipitation from low- and medium-intensity storms has started to taper off, leaving California to swing on a pendulum between extreme drought and extreme rain. Research suggests that with further warming, atmospheric river events will account for an ever larger share of California’s total water budget, dumping water faster than the state can absorb it.

“Across the globe, some places are gonna get wetter, and some places are gonna get drier, and for California, it looks like we’re gonna get both,” said Corringham. “There’ll be longer periods of drought, and then when the rains come, those events are going to be more intense. For water management, that’s not what you want.”

When an atmospheric river touches down in North America, it releases all its moisture. Depending on where you are along the West Coast, you encounter that moisture as either rain or snow: Lower-altitude areas like the Central Valley experience heavy rains, while mountainous areas like the Sierra Nevada see massive mounds of snow. When it comes to controlling water and avoiding floods, this balance is crucial. Snow piles up, creating a steady source of freshwater as it melts during warmer, drier months; extreme rain, meanwhile, rushes downstream all at once.

Climate change is upsetting this balance. The warmer it gets in California, the more precipitation arrives as rain rather than snow, which will put much more pressure on the state’s rivers and reservoirs. The state’s reservoir systems are designed to absorb gradual snowmelt, but they can’t handle a sudden influx of rushing water.

Corringham’s research shows that because a slight increase in flooding can cause rivers to overtop levees and spill out into floodplains, the risk of flooding increases exponentially even with a moderate increase in the wetness of an atmospheric river. As a result, it won’t take much planetary warming to lead to widespread flood devastation—the results may be visible over the next few decades, or even earlier.

We’ve already seen what big bursts of rain can do to the state’s fragile water control system. In early 2017, when an atmospheric river storm eased the state’s last big drought, water levels at the state-managed Lake Oroville reservoir reached unprecedented heights. As rain kept falling, the reservoir’s spillway began to collapse, forcing the state to evacuate more than 180,000 people from the river basin downstream. A subsequent investigation found that federal regulators had deferred major upgrades on the spillway structure.

Just two weeks ago, during a torrential atmospheric river storm, a decades-old levee burst along the Pajaro River near Santa Cruz, inundating the entire community. Officials in the town said it may be months before homes in the area are habitable.

Even if the state makes it through the present round of storms without a catastrophic flood, it won’t be out of the woods yet. That’s because of the monumental snowpack in the Sierra Nevada range. As temperatures shoot up over the coming months, much of that snow will thaw out and flow downstream, creating what one expert has called a “stress test” for the Central Valley’s flood management system.

“If temperatures are warmer, and warm at a faster rate, that can cause the snowpack to melt faster than normal, and it might be harder to anticipate and harder to control,” said Allison Michaelis, an associate professor at Northern Illinois University. **SYRWCD BOARD MEETING - April 26, 2023**
Page 19

Sign in

Support the Guardian

The

Advertisement

California

Explainer

Atmospheric rivers are inundating California - but what are they?

Severe storms brought on by this weather phenomenon have dumped 30tn gallons of water across the state



A home submerged in floodwater as the Salinas River begins to overflow its banks in Salinas, California. Photograph: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Gabrielle Canon

@GabrielleCanon

Wed 15 Mar 2023 18.02 EDT

Atmospheric rivers, the severe storms that have doused [California](#) during its extremely wet winter, have dumped 30tn gallons of water across the state, buried mountain towns in snow and caused widespread flooding - and they aren't over yet, with more expected to continue into spring.

But what exactly are they and why are they causing so much damage? Here's what you need to know.

SYRWCD BOARD MEETING - April 26, 2023
Page 20

What is an atmospheric river? The basics

It's all in the name here - ARs are exactly what they sound like. These long streams of overhead moisture - or as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa) simply says, the “[rivers in the sky](#)” - have delivered both destructive and drought-reducing downpours across the state with alarming intensity.



📷 A tree, blown over by 50 mph winds, crushes a parked car in El Camino Real in Burlingame, California. Photograph: Terry Schmitt/UPI/Rex/Shutterstock

The storms are supercharged by warm water vapor that evaporates off the Pacific Ocean, loading them with enough water to rival the average flow at the mouth of the mighty Mississippi River, with up to 15 times its volume. Moving with weather systems, they appear as a trail of wispy clouds that can stretch for hundreds of miles, ready to unleash deluges wherever they make landfall.

The storms are both a destructive force and a welcome relief for a state still grappling with drought. California was desperately dry just months ago but the storms - which began in earnest in late December - have refilled reservoirs and supplied a strong snowpack that will provide essential moisture through the hotter months to come. ARs have always played an important role, providing for roughly half of the state's annual precipitation, but their power and quick succession this year have increased the dangers. On top of huge amounts of water, which can overload rivers and reservoirs, dangers can include [strong gusty winds](#), and are responsible for an overwhelming majority of the flood damage across the western US in recent decades.

“Whether there are too many or too few determines whether parts of California are above or below normal in precipitation,” said Dr Marty Ralph, director of the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes and researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. “When you get a couple of them back to back, especially if the watersheds are already very wet, we start to see the pile-on effects.”

What impact will the climate crisis have on them?

California’s climate has long vacillated dramatically from wet to dry, but models show these shifts will occur with increasing intensity. The destructive set of storms falls in line with climate models’ predictions, according to Ralph.

Supercharged by more moisture coming off the Pacific as ocean temperatures rise, scientists expect that ARs will only grow more severe as the world warms, adding more risks for floods across California and the US west. The storms will also drop more rain than snow due to hotter weather on land.

Along with amplifying risks from rain-related floods, warmer downpours on the snowpack also spark rapid runoff concerns. It also could eat into what California considers a water savings account of sorts, by rapidly melting the snow that sits high atop mountain ranges and typically trickles more slowly through systems during spring and summer.



📷 A person walks past a snowbank in front of a restaurant in Mammoth Lakes, California.
Photograph: Mario Tama/Getty Images

What’s coming next?

Recent atmospheric river storms have forced entire towns to evacuate and unleashed hurricane-force winds and knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people. And there’s more on the way in the coming weeks.

“The potential for another potent storm system to impact California early next week is increasing, with heavy precipitation and flooding possible,” the National Weather Service warned on Wednesday, adding that “any additional precipitation on top of a melting snowpack, saturated soils, and already swollen streams will exacerbate flooding concerns”.

State officials foresee the possibility of at least two more storms in March alone, raising the potential for a “worst-case scenario” of back-to-back atmospheric rivers between 21 to 23 March, according to Michael Anderson, a state climatologist.

Ultimately, residents across the state are bracing for more severe weather. It's a taste of what's to come as the world warms, and Californians will have to come to grips with more dramatic swings from wet and dry as the climate intensifies. "This pattern is consistent," Ralph said, "where we go from a very deep drought to a flood situation."

Reuters contributed reporting

I hope you appreciated this article. Before you move on, I was hoping you would consider taking the step of supporting the Guardian's journalism.

From Elon Musk to Rupert Murdoch, a small number of billionaire owners have a powerful hold on so much of the information that reaches the public about what's happening in the world. The Guardian is different. We have no billionaire owner or shareholders to consider. Our journalism is produced to serve the public interest - not profit motives.

And we avoid the trap that befalls much US media - the tendency, born of a desire to please all sides, to engage in false equivalence in the name of neutrality. While fairness guides everything we do, we know there is a right and a wrong position in the fight against racism and for reproductive justice. When we report on issues like the climate crisis, we're not afraid to name who is responsible. And as a global news organization, we're able to provide a fresh, outsider perspective on US politics - one so often missing from the insular American media bubble.

Around the world, readers can access the Guardian's paywall-free journalism because of our unique reader-supported model. That's because of people like you. Our readers keep us independent, beholden to no outside influence and accessible to everyone - whether they can afford to pay for news, or not.

If you can, please consider supporting the Guardian today. Thank you.

Betsy Reed

Editor, Guardian US



Single	Monthly	Annual
\$5 per month	\$7 per month	Other

[Continue →](#)
[Remind me in May](#)





SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 2023

TO: Cynthia Allen Mark Altshuler Art Hibbits
Brett Marymee Steve Jordan Steve Torigiani

FROM: Kevin D. Walsh

SUBJECT: Winter Storm Operations for the Cachuma Project

Director Jordan requested an update from staff regarding Winter Storm Operations for the Cachuma Project.

Winter Storm Operations (previously known as Emergency Winter Operations) for the Cachuma Project are defined in the 2000 Biological Opinion as published by the National Marine Fisheries Service, page 11:

Emergency Winter Operations

The Cachuma Project was not constructed to provide flood control. However, in the past the reservoir has been used to both delay storm peaks by 2.5 to 3 hours and decrease peak outflow by a few percent. Reclamation proposes to modify this approach to better address flood control need by including:

- A. Pre-storm Reservoir drawdowns of several feet, termed “precautionary releases”.
- B. Release of storm inflows up to a calculated maximum flow while holding the reservoir below normal operational level, termed “pre-releases”.
- C. Holding the spill gates (keeping them closed) to achieve extra reservoir capacity, termed “gateholding”.

Peak storm flows can be reduced by up to 40% by combining the above operations procedures. Reclamation intends to ramp down spills at the conclusion of storm events.

Implementation: Immediate, if needed to protect life and property.

There have been some questions as to whether the above operations were conducted during the January 9th storm event which resulted in property damage and crop loss.