

Santa Ynez River

WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

www.SYRWCD.COM

TELEPHONE

(805) 693-1156

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 719

SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460

Groundwater Production Statement

Production Period: January 1 – June 30, 2025

Due July 31, 2025

Reference: Water Code Section 75500 et seq.

Groundwater Charge Rates

(Production: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

Groundwater Production Charges for all types of groundwater (“water”) produced between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025:

Zone A: **\$22.60 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zone B: **\$15.70 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zones C, D, E, & F: **\$13.70 per acre-foot** of water produced

District staff are 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.

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 July 31, 2025.
- Statements without worksheets or signatures are deemed incomplete and do not constitute legal submittals.
- All submittals postmarked after July 31, 2025 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 yellow carbon copies for your records.

New Groundwater Charge Rates

(Production: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

As provided in Resolution No. 736, adopted by the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”) Board of Directors during a public meeting held on June 24, 2025, Groundwater Production Charges for all types of groundwater (“water”) produced **between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026**, were levied for Zones A, B, C, D, E, and F at the following rates consistent with a Rate Study Report prepared by Raftelis for SYRWCD:

Zone A: **\$22.00 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zone B: **\$14.80 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zone C: **\$9.20 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zone D: **\$9.20 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zone E: **\$9.20 per acre-foot** of water produced

Zone F: **\$9.20 per acre-foot** of water produced

Our Purpose

In 1939, the people of the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys joined together to form the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District. The purpose was to prevent the entirety of the upstream Santa Ynez River being diverted out of the Santa Ynez watershed to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County, which includes the populated and agricultural areas extending from El Capitan on the Gaviota Coast to the Ventura County line.

For years prior to the District’s formation, the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys were faced with numerous problems relating to maintaining an adequate supply of water throughout the watershed of the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries for domestic, farm and range purposes in years of drought, and heavy precipitation. The future of the Santa Ynez and Lompoc valleys depended upon an effective solution to these problems. The District represents a unit area in which the problems of control and conservation are intimately associated and must be considered and solved together.

The founders chose to form a Water Conservation District under the Water Conservation Act of 1931(Act) for several reasons including the following (from *Facts About the Proposed Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, 1939*):

- The Act is adequate to deal with water related problems, whether conservation, or protection.
- Enables District to deal adequately with other governmental agencies.
- Prioritizes water conservation.
- Allows District to conduct all manner of projects connected with water problems in common with the entire District, including surveys and investigations of the water supply and resources of the District, to promote the availability of water through springs, streams and wells.

- Provides that the five Directors are elected by the people, ensuring local control with limits on spending.
- Enables landowners within the District to improve and benefit their properties without cost to the rest of the District.

Since its formation, the District has gathered data and other information regarding groundwater production within its boundaries through its robust and long-standing well registration and reporting program. This program is applicable to and benefits all groundwater producers within the District. Groundwater charges levied by the District are in furtherance of District activities in the protection of water rights and the augmentation of the basin's water supplies from the Santa Ynez River, for the benefit of users within the District and which are necessary for the public health, welfare, and safety of the people of the District (Water Code Section 75521). The District recoups the costs of these activities by levying and collecting charges on groundwater production within the District. **The current year's groundwater charge rates are less than the prior year's groundwater charge rates for groundwater produced in each and all of the District's zones.**

The District's activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Planning, scheduling, and managing the release of water from and downstream of the Cachuma Project Bradbury Dam for the satisfaction and benefit of downstream water rights and water quality, including the timing, volume, and rate of flows to promote recharge in the river alluvium and the Lompoc Plain, as provided in State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. WR 2019-0148 and the 2002 Settlement Agreement between the District, its Improvement District No. 1, Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB), and the City of Lompoc, relating to the Operation of the Cachuma Project.
- Monitoring and reporting on groundwater and surface water conditions within the District and publishing findings in the District's Annual Engineering and Survey Report (Annual Report). The Annual Report also includes:
 - ◊ Making annual groundwater use estimates and forecasting groundwater storage and overdraft amounts within all zones of the District, including upland aquifers and nodes of the Santa Ynez River alluvium.
 - ◊ Determining the volume of water needed for replenishment, by calculating the aquifers dewatered storage below Bradbury Dam.
 - ◊ Reporting on Santa Ynez River system conditions, basin surface water use, and water purchased by contract by the constituents of the District.
- Supporting compliance with agreement(s) and procedures to mitigate downstream flooding because of Cachuma Project storm operations.
- Contributing to the review, preparation, and compliance with applicable biological assessment and opinions, including associated consultations, revisions, and replacements, for the protection of endangered species in the Santa Ynez River, while assuring that downstream water rights and water quality in the basin and downstream of Bradbury Dam are maintained and protected.
- Collecting, recording and maintaining records of well registrations and statements of groundwater production within the District, including:
 - ◊ Providing technical and legal support to District constituents to support permitting new well construction.
 - ◊ Documenting groundwater uses to protect groundwater rights.
- Participating in the three (3) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) covering the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin and District, including:
 - ◊ Supporting and collaborating on GSA initiatives as a party to each of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreements for the three GSAs, as requested.
 - ◊ Providing groundwater extraction and other data to the three GSAs to support the collection of each of the GSA's respective groundwater extraction fees, which prevents duplication of efforts.
 - ◊ Administering SGMA grant funding as requested by the GSAs.

Board of Directors

Robert Dunlap (Division 1 - Lompoc)	Larry Lahr (Division 4 - Buellton, Lompoc)
Stephen Jordan (Division 2 - Lompoc)	J. Brett Marymee (Division 5 - Solvang, Santa Ynez)
Philip Carpenter (Division 3 - Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills)	

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.

If you have any questions regarding District activities, please contact Bill Buelow, General Manager, at 805-693-1156.