

Santa Ynez River

WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

www.SYRWCD.COM

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Groundwater Production Statement

Production Period: July 1 – December 31, 2025

Due January 31, 2026

(Reference: Water Code Section 75500 et seq.)

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 the instructions, semi-annual groundwater production statement(s), and worksheet(s) for reporting your well water production. Please follow the steps below:

- Use the worksheet(s) to calculate your water production, then transfer the totals to the statement(s) to calculate the groundwater charge.
- Return the completed statement(s), worksheet(s), and payment to our Post Office box on or before **January 31, 2026**.
- Statements submitted without the required worksheets or signatures will be considered incomplete and will not qualify as a legal submittal.
- Submittals postmarked after **January 31, 2026**, will incur a **10% penalty plus 1% interest per month** on any delinquent groundwater charge payment.
- All calculations will be reviewed by District staff, and corrective adjustments will be made if necessary. “Prior charges” listed on the statement reflect penalties, interest, or correcting adjustments from previous reporting periods and are due and payable immediately.
- Please retain the yellow copies for your records.

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Groundwater Charge Rates **

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

In accordance with Resolution No. 736, adopted by the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”) Board of Directors at a public meeting on June 24, 2025, groundwater production charges for all groundwater (“water”) produced between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, have been levied for Zones A, B, C, D, E, and F. These rates are consistent with the Rate Study Report prepared for SYRWCD by its consultant Raffetlis.

Zone A: \$22.00 per acre-foot
Zone B: \$14.80 per acre-foot
Zone C: \$9.20 per acre-foot
Zone D: \$9.20 per acre-foot
Zone E: \$9.20 per acre-foot
Zone F: \$9.20 per acre-foot

**** The groundwater charge rates for this fiscal year are lower than the previous year’s rates in all six District zones.**

SYRWCD – Frequently Asked Questions

When was the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“District”) formed and for what purpose?

- The District was formed in 1939 under the Water Conservation Act of 1931 (Act) by the citizens of the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys.
- Its primary purpose was to conserve for local use and prevent diversion of the entire upstream Santa Ynez River out of the watershed to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County.

What does the District do?

- While not an exhaustive list, the District addresses a wide-variety of water-related issues within its boundaries, including conservation, management, and coordination with other governmental agencies, including the Federal, State, County and other local agencies including the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.
- It conducts surveys and investigations of local water-supply conditions and water resources.
- It determines the volume of water needed for aquifer replenishment by calculating dewatered storage below Bradbury Dam and uses this information to plan water -rights releases.
- The District ensures sufficient Santa Ynez River water continues to be released downstream of Bradbury Dam to satisfy water rights and beneficial uses within the District consistent with State Water Board orders and other legal requirements.

What requirements does the District have regarding groundwater production facilities?

- Operators of water-production facilities within the District must register wells and biannually report groundwater production to the District. The District documents groundwater production and use to, among other things, help protect groundwater rights within its boundaries.
- New wells must be registered upon completion of installation.
- Biannual groundwater reports must be submitted and groundwater charge payment must be made within one month after the end of each reporting period (June and December).

SYRWCD – Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

How does the District generate funding for its activities?

- The District receives some revenue through a portion of the County's receipt of ad valorem property tax revenues.
- The District raises the remainder of its revenue needed to operate by levying and collecting groundwater charges on groundwater production within the District, as permitted by the Act.

How is the District governed?

- The District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors, ensuring local control and fiscal accountability.
 - ⇒ 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)
- The Board meets quarterly and at other times as needs arise at locations within the District.
- Information on the Board and its meetings are available on the District's website at SYRWCD.com.

What are some of the benefits the District provides to its constituents?

- Technical and legal support to constituents seeking permits for new well construction.
- Activities enable landowners to improve and beneficially use their properties.
- Supporting compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act as a participating member of the Joint Powers Authorities for all three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Santa Ynez Basin.
- Compliance with agreement(s) and procedures to mitigate downstream flooding because of Cachuma Project storm operations.
- Ensure the Santa Ynez River flows are released downstream of Bradbury Dam for beneficial use by the District's constituents.

What information is contained in the District's annual report?

- As required by the Act, the District produces an annual report on Santa Ynez River system water conditions, basin surface-water use, and water purchased by constituents through contract.
- The report also includes groundwater-use estimates and forecasts of groundwater storage and potential overdraft for all zones of the District, including upland aquifers and nodes of the Santa Ynez River alluvium.
- The District has produced 47 editions of its annual report. Past and current reports can be found on the District's website at SYRWCD.com or at the District office.

How can I contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District?

- The District office is located in Santa Ynez, California at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101.
- The District office is open Monday - Friday. To best serve you, please call 805-693-1156 to make an appointment.
- Additional information can be found on the District's website at SYRWCD.com.