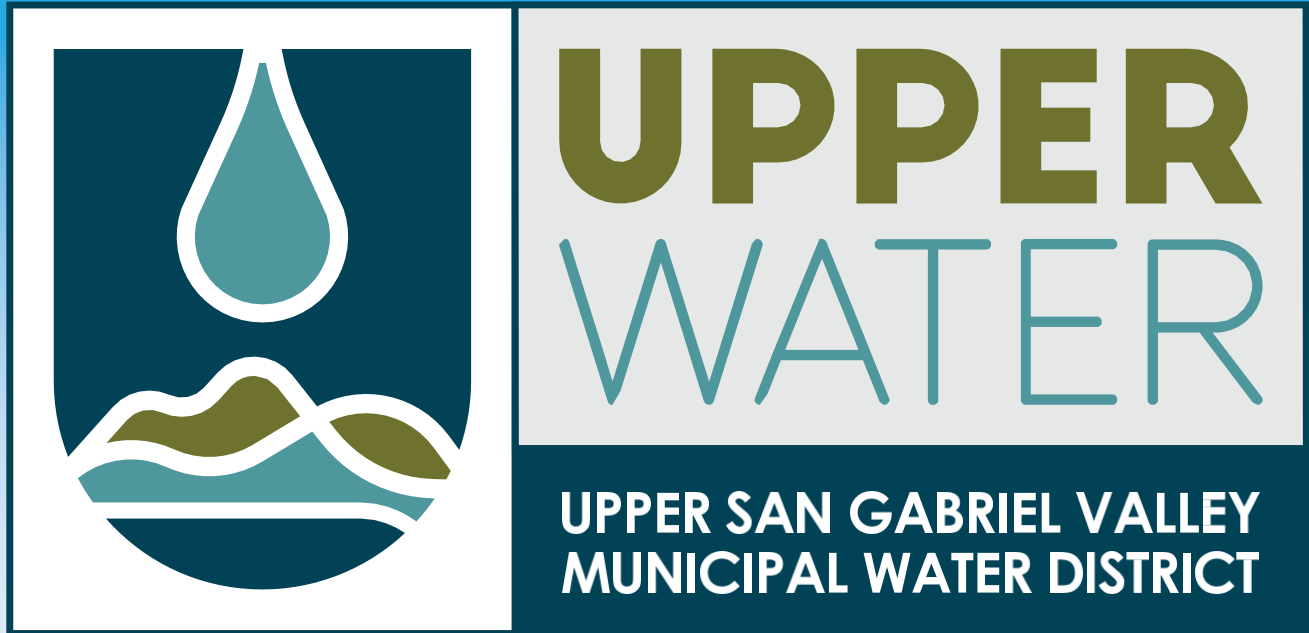




BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

October 28, 2026
4:30 PM



626 443 2297



www.upperdistrict.org



248 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite 200 – Monrovia, CA. 91016



info@usgvmwd.org

Securing Water Resilience for the San Gabriel Valley



A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
4:30 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
As provided under Government Code Section 54954.3, members of the public may address the Board on items considered on this agenda, as well as items not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Board. Please complete the appropriate speaker's card and submit it to the Board Secretary. A three-minute time limit on remarks is requested.
6. CONSENT CALENDAR
 - a) Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on October 14, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.
7. PRESENTATIONS
 - a) LA County Public Works - El Niño Preparedness (Presented by Lee Miller, Community Liaison.)
 - b) Upper Water - West Coast Weather Extremes (Presented by Tom Love, General Manager.)
8. INFORMATION ITEMS
 - a) Press Releases and News Articles
9. GENERAL REPORTS
 - a) Attorney's Report
 - b) General Manager's Report
10. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS
11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
12. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION



**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2026
4:30 PM**

13. ADJOURNMENT

To a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on November 18, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at 248 E. Foothill Blvd. Room #103, Monrovia, CA 91016.

American Disabilities Act Compliance (Government Code Section 54954.2(a))

To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District office at (626) 443-2297.

PRESIDENT KATARINA GARCIA, PRESIDING



UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2026 | 4:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 pm at the district office located at 248 E. Foothill Blvd, Rm. 103, Monrovia, California. The presiding officer was President Katarina Garcia.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Garcia called the meeting to Order

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS
PRESENT:

Treviño, Santana, Chavez, and Garcia.

DIRECTORS
ABSENT:

Fellow

STAFF
PRESENT:

Tom Love, General Manager; Martin Koczanowicz, District Counsel; Patty Cortez, Assistant General Manager; Albert Trinh, Finance Manager; Jessica Hernandez, Administrative/Accounting Assistant; Joyce Golestani, Executive Assistant/ Board Secretary I; Katherine Vasquez, Water Resources Analyst I; Yesenia Bugarin, Community Outreach Specialist

OTHERS
PRESENT:

Che Venegas, Justin Nakano

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion by Director Chavez, second by Director Treviño, the agenda was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TREVIÑO, SANTANA, CHAVEZ, AND GARCIA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: FELLOW

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

a.) Water Resources and Facility Management Committee –
Minutes of the meeting held on October 5, 2026, enclosed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

b.) Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee –
Minutes of the meeting held on October 7, 2026, enclosed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Director Treviño, second by Director Chavez, the consent calendar was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TREVIÑO, SANTANA, CHAVEZ, AND GARCIA
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: FELLOW

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

(a.) Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on September 23, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

(b.) List of Demands

(c.) Financial Reports

1. Financial Summary as of August 31, 2026

2. Director's Public Outreach

(d.) Federal Bill Summaries and Positions

**PROPOSED POLICY AMENDMENTS TO
SECTION 2.8 – BOTTLED WATER
PROGRAM**

Assistant General Manager Patty Cortez presented amendments to Section 2.8 of the Bottled Water Program. The revisions included reducing the community-event water allocation from 20 to 15 cases due to the use and cost of aluminum bottles, as well as requiring recipients to acknowledge that donated water may not be sold. Directors expressed support for the reusable and recyclable aluminum bottles.

On motion by Director Chavez, second by Director Treviño, the policy amendments to Section 2.8 – Bottled Water Program was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TREVIÑO, SANTANA, CHAVEZ, AND GARCIA

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: FELLOW

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items listed on the agenda were presented as informational items and ordered received and filed:

- Press Releases and News Articles

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The District Legal Counsel reported working with staff on public record requests and responses.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The District Engineer provided an update on ongoing efforts related to golden mussel control, water delivery infrastructure, and boundary revisions pending coordination with Three Valleys Municipal Water District.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager referenced the golden mussel briefing previously presented to the Water Resources and Facility Management Committee, confirmed the November 18 and December 9 Board meeting dates, and provided updates on the Colorado River Water Users Association Conference. The Assistant General Manager recognized Jessica Hernandez for her three years of service to the District.

METROPOLITAN REPORT

The Board received an update on the election of a new Metropolitan Board Chair and continuing Colorado River water supply concerns.

WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY REPORT

Treasurer Chavez reported that the annual assessment for WQA would remain unchanged at \$12 per acre foot.

WATERMASTER REPORT

Justin Nakano, from Watermaster provided updates on the key well level, reservoir inflows and releases, resumed spreading operations, and September well samplings.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Chavez requested clarification regarding the treatment of water entering the groundwater basin.

Director Santana discussed planned groundwater treatment facilities to address changing chromium standards.

President Garcia thanked staff for their work in recognition of Water Professionals Week.

ADJOURNMENT

President Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:28 PM.

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

SECRETARY

SEAL

California Wants \$60 Million to Stop a Tiny Invader Threatening Its Waterways

By Ashley Driggs – Published: October 8, 2026

The battle against invasive species in California reached a new milestone this May when lawmakers introduced federal legislation to target the golden mussel. With funds totaling \$15 million per year through 2030, the initiative signals a considerable commitment, but one that many scientists warn may face steep challenges from the start.

A Sudden Arrival Raises Alarms

It was only in late 2024 that California authorities first detected golden mussels near the Port of Stockton. Within just 15 months, these small but destructive bivalves were found throughout the state, reaching as far as San Diego by early 2026. Experts at the California Department of Water Resources linked their rapid expansion to the region's warm waters and the interconnected maze of water infrastructure that runs through California, creating conditions for the mussels to breed year-round and spread with unprecedented speed.

The proposed "Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2026" grew out of this alarm. The bill promises to unite local agencies, universities, ports, nonprofits, and more in a state-wide task force focused on limiting the mussel's impact, especially in the vulnerable Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where the problem first surfaced.

Resilient Invader, Familiar Problems

Golden mussels aren't California's first invasive mollusk threat. Since 2007, the state has been managing quagga and zebra mussels, both notorious for clogging pipes, reducing irrigation flows, and causing costly damage to hydropower facilities. Yet the golden mussel, researchers explain, poses new kinds of challenges. It can survive in a wider variety of environments and withstand control measures that have worked against its counterparts.

In regions like the Great Lakes, similar invasives have forced facility operators to spend millions annually on maintenance and cleaning. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife now anticipates even steeper expenses here: golden mussels grow faster, tolerate harsher conditions, and require stronger, longer-lasting treatments to keep them at bay. That means higher operational costs and greater risk for the state's water and power systems.

Complex Solutions and Costly Choices

Public awareness campaigns have become a crucial part of the response. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has launched a statewide effort targeting boat owners and operators of boat launches, a key

vector for mussel spread. Maps highlighting confirmed sightings, educational materials, and partnerships with cleaning businesses aim to slow the mussel's advance by enlisting everyday Californians in the fight.

Yet controlling an established population is a daunting technical task. Experiences from South America show that once golden mussels take hold, reversing their spread is nearly impossible. Facilities can reduce the risk inside closed water systems through manual removal or specialized treatments like ultraviolet radiation. But freshwater lakes and rivers demand chemical interventions, like copper or potassium chloride, that bring their own environmental risks and regulatory hurdles. Every new method requires delicate balancing of ecosystem health and the urgent need to protect infrastructure.

The Window for Action

Despite the rapid spread, experts suggest the infestation is still young enough for early intervention to make a difference. Monitoring for larvae and environmental DNA (eDNA) is underway throughout California. Vigilance, vulnerability assessments, and proactive planning have become the state's best tools for limiting long-term damage.

Specialist consultants now play a growing role, guiding water agencies and facility operators through the complex science and strategy of mussel control. Their focus: early detection, rapid response, and minimizing service disruptions before infestations reach an irreversible stage.

Beneath the Surface

The golden mussel's sudden incursion lays bare just how closely California's natural systems are tied to the everyday workings of cities, farms, and industry. As agencies and communities scramble for solutions, one thing remains clear: the outcome of this struggle will shape the future of California's water and power for years to come.

ENVIRONMENT

New California law cuts red tape to stop golden mussel invasion. Next, action shifts to Congress



by **Chris Woodyard • Stocktonia**

Oct. 13, 2026, 7:31 a.m.



Screens on intake pipes from the Delta that prevent fish from entering Stockton's water system have been found to be 30% to 40% clogged with invasive golden mussels. (Photo courtesy of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office)

California lawmakers have already made a decisive move in the battle against golden mussels, the tiny bivalves that are clogging waterways and pipes in the Delta.

But it's a waiting game in Congress. There, the race is on to see whether measures to control the invasive species can be enacted before the end of the legislative year.

First detected two years ago in the Port of Stockton, golden mussels multiply by the millions and have spread across inland waterways throughout the state. **They clog water system intakes**, irrigation valves, and boat hulls and engine cooling inlets. The aquatic pests are believed to have **hitchhiked to inland California** in the ballast water of a ship from Asia, where they are common.

When it comes to legislative battles to try to stop them, there's been one recent major victory.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the **Golden Mussel Response Act**, authored by **Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom**, D-Stockton. The new law could help water agencies around the state cut through any red tape in taking action to rid their systems of the rapidly producing mollusks.

The bill was considered a priority for the California Legislative Delta Caucus, Ransom said.



A researcher holds a cluster of golden mussels on Nov. 13, 2024. The invasive species is causing damage to the Delta. (File photo by Xavier Mascareñas/California Department of Water Resources via Bay City News)

“We did it with urgency because the water managers were asking to be relieved from having to go through an excess of permitting, which was slowing down responsiveness,” she told Stocktonia. “Anytime you have to wait six months to respond to something that’s rapidly growing, that’s a problem.”

The problem has been especially acute for water districts, which are seeing intake pipes quickly encrusted by golden mussels in the Delta, [threatening water from reaching people](#) and farms.

Ransom said that at this point, it’s no longer possible to eradicate golden mussels, which have spread as far south as San Diego County.

“So now we need to figure out what we can do to contain and slow their impact,” she said. And the actions needed, she added, don’t all involve new laws. For instance, she said ships are being required to discharge their ballast water at sea now, not in the Delta, to prevent further infestations.

In Congress, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing last month on the [Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act](#), sponsored by U.S. Rep. Josh Harder, D-Tracy. It’s yet to be determined whether the measure will pass by the end of the legislative session, on Jan. 3.

The bill would deliver more federal funding to try to find treatments to slow the spread of the invaders.

“We’re going to need a much bigger gun” to deal with golden mussels, Harder told Stocktonia.

U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff, both California Democrats, have introduced a similar bill in the Senate in hopes the legislation can pass through both houses simultaneously.

Metropolitan board of directors elects Martin Miller as new board chair

San Diego representative will lead the district's governing board as climate change and regulatory changes increasingly stress reliability of region's imported supplies

October 13, 2026

Longtime water professional and businessman Martin “Marty” Miller was unanimously elected today to be the next chair of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest supplier of treated water in the country.

Miller, who has represented the San Diego County Water Authority on Metropolitan’s 38-member board since 2021, will serve a two-year term beginning Jan. 1. He is the first representative from San Diego to lead Metropolitan’s board in its nearly 100-year history. He succeeds outgoing Chair Adán Ortega, Jr., who has led the board since 2022.

“I am grateful to my colleagues for placing their trust in my leadership for the next two years,” Chair-elect Miller said. “Our board faces some important decisions ahead on how to invest in our region’s long-term water supply reliability, while balancing concerns about the affordability of water. I am committed to working with my colleagues to produce smart solutions that benefit cities and communities across Southern California.”

Miller will lead the board as Metropolitan continues to adapt to the growing challenge of climate change, which is stressing the availability of water imported by the district from the Colorado River and the Northern Sierra. In the coming years, Metropolitan’s board is expected to consider major new investments in local supplies, storage and water use efficiency, along with the need to reinvest in the reliability of the district’s existing water treatment and delivery systems.

Miller has worked in the public water sector for nearly two decades. He has served on the Vista Irrigation District Board of Directors since 2008 and on the Water Authority’s board since 2011. His election marks the latest milestone in a new era of collaboration between the Water Authority and Metropolitan following the settlement of a 15-year legal dispute last summer.

With his election, Miller becomes the 21st chairman in Metropolitan’s 98-year history. As head of Metropolitan’s board, Miller will represent district policies and programs at the national, state and local levels. He also will preside over monthly meetings of the board and its executive committee. In addition, he will appoint members, chairs and vice chairs of the district’s regular standing committees, subcommittees, special committees and task forces.

Miller currently serves as chair of Metropolitan's Finance, Affordability, Asset Management and Efficiency Committee, a position he held when he helped secure the unanimous approval of the district's two-year budget, which included additional funding to fix aging infrastructure and invest in future reliability. Miller is also a member of Metropolitan's Executive Committee; Engineering, Operations and Technology Committee; Legal and Claims Committee; Asset Financing Corporation; One Water and Adaptation Committee; Subcommittee on Imported Water; Subcommittee for CAMP4W; and Ad Hoc Committee on Colorado River Negotiations, and is vice chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity Investigations.

"Chair-Elect Miller has effectively chaired our FAAME Committee, recently helping to bring unanimous consensus for our biennial budget. Proven as a member of our leadership team, I'm confident that he will be a very effective leader for our board," Chair Ortega said.

He has also served on the Association of California Water Agencies energy committee and the Local Agency Formation Commission Special Districts advisory committee.

Miller has owned a commercial construction company for more than 45 years. He is a member and former president of the Vista Optimist Club and of the Rancho Buena Vista Little League Board, a role he assumed after taking the league's All-Star team to the Little League World Series in 2005. Born in Wendell, Idaho, Miller graduated from the College of Southern Idaho with a degree in architectural drafting. He and his family moved to Vista in 1986.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Arizona escalates water war, intervening in lawsuit over federal Colorado River cuts



Colorado River water flows in the Hayden-Rodes Aqueduct, part of the Central Arizona Project, in Phoenix. (Ronaldo Bolanos/Los Angeles Times)



By Ian James

Staff Writer | Follow

Oct. 16, 2026 Updated 1:05 PM PT



See more from the L.A. Times in Google Search. [Set us as preferred](#) >



In a sign of rising tensions over the water-starved Colorado River, Arizona has joined Nevada in suing the Trump administration for imposing major water cutbacks across the Southwest.

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke announced Friday that the state filed a motion to intervene in the lawsuit by the neighboring state.

He said the mandatory water cuts under the federal plan “would devastate Arizona’s economy.”

Nevada [sued](#) to challenge the Trump administration’s 10-year plan in August, saying similarly that what it receives from the river could shrink so much that it would devastate Las Vegas and surrounding cities.

The expanding legal fight could end up before the U.S. Supreme Court and further complicate efforts by seven western states to agree on how to share water from the shrinking river and its reservoirs, which are at record low levels.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

How failing negotiations could spiral into a bitter fight over the Colorado River

Feb. 5, 2026

In recent years, Arizona has depended on the Colorado River for [36% of its water](#). Much of it flows through the Central Arizona Project, the series of canals that run from the river to the Phoenix and Tucson areas.

But under the Trump administration plan, much or all of the water the state gets from the CAP canal could be slashed. Arizona faces especially large cutbacks because the CAP isn’t nearly as old as other aqueducts, giving it low-priority water rights and putting it among the first in line for cuts.

The Colorado River provides water for about 35 million people in cities from Denver to San Diego, as well as 30 Native tribes. About [three-fourths of the water](#) taken from it flows to farmland — about 5 million acres of it — producing alfalfa for cattle, lettuce, broccoli and other crops.

This year, the Rocky Mountains had the [least snow on record](#), and the lack of snowmelt is sinking reservoir levels lower.

Over the last three years, negotiators repeatedly held talks to try to reach a seven-state agreement to take less water, but the three downstream states, California, Arizona and Nevada, deadlocked with the four upstream states.

The Colorado River



© OpenStreetMap contributors

Paul Duginski LOS ANGELES TIMES

Arizona and Nevada have agreed with California — and the federal government — on cuts for the next two years, and will reduce the water they take by 3.2 million acre-feet

between now and the end of 2028.

For those two years, California will cut its Colorado River water use by about 12%, while Arizona will take about 31% less and Nevada 28% less. Buschatzke said Arizona is “strongly committed” to this deal and is in talks to finalize the details.

What the three states object to is that the Trump administration is not requiring water cuts for Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming.

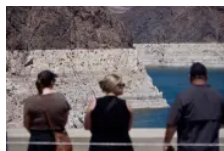
Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, said she “will not accept a forced federal plan that solves this crisis on the backs of our families, farmers, and businesses.”

“We are drawing a line in the sand,” Hobbs said.

The state is taking legal action, she said, because the federal government refuses to hold the upstream states “accountable for the water deliveries they owe Arizona, and is threatening to force draconian cuts.”

Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo, a Republican, welcomed his neighbor’s participation.

Arizona and Nevada object to the idea they could be ordered to endure much larger cuts after 2028.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Nevada sues Trump administration over its Colorado River plan

Aug. 24, 2026

The federal plan allows for drastic water reductions if they’re deemed necessary between 2029 and 2036, potentially requiring the three downstream states to cut 3 million acre-feet per year — as much as 40% of what they get.

“The United States’ decision puts the entire burden of sacrifice on the shoulder of three states,” Buschatzke said. “Such reductions could effectively dry up the Central Arizona Project.”

California uses more Colorado River water than any other state. None of California’s water officials have indicated the state is considering suing.

In the last quarter-century, relentless drought intensified by climate change has sapped the river’s flow and left its reservoirs severely depleted.

Both Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the nation’s largest reservoirs, have never been lower.

Arizona officials previously [warned](#) the federal government that if the water flowing into Lake Mead decreases further, it will trigger the state’s right to sue for a violation of the Colorado River Compact, a 1922 agreement that divided the water among the states.

The century-old agreement requires the water released from upstream dams for Arizona, Nevada and California to average at least 7.5 million acre-feet over any decade, plus an allotment for Mexico.

More to Read

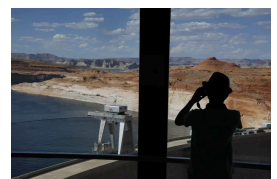
Colorado River plan to cut water amid drought brings uncertainty for cities and farmers

Aug. 29, 2026



As Colorado River reservoirs plummet, the Trump administration orders water cuts

Aug. 21, 2026



As Colorado River reservoirs shrink, Arizona warns of a legal fight

Aug. 18, 2026



Ian James

Ian James is a reporter who focuses on water and climate change in California and the West. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2021, he was an environment reporter at the Arizona Republic and the Desert Sun. He previously worked for the Associated Press as a correspondent in the Caribbean and as bureau chief in Venezuela. Follow him on Bluesky [@ianjames.bsky.social](#) and on X [@ByIanJames](#).

Getting groundwater recharge ready for Super El Niño—and the wet years beyond

Water Commission; October 20, 2026

Groundwater basins can serve as large underground reservoirs, storing water during wet periods for use in drought years. When water rights and environmental requirements are met, excess flood flows can be directed underground to replenish aquifers, reduce flood risk and improve drought preparedness. Recharge is becoming more important as climate change reduces the Sierra Nevada and Cascade snowpack and brings greater swings between drought and intense storms. Well-planned projects can provide multiple benefits, including water-supply reliability, aquifer replenishment and ecosystem enhancement.

Twelve years into implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, more than 250 groundwater sustainability agencies are carrying out nearly 2,000 projects and actions under more than 100 groundwater sustainability plans. More than 500 proposed projects focus on recharge and could add an estimated 1.5 million acre-feet of water supply annually. Recharge reported to the Department of Water Resources varies widely with conditions—from about 200,000 acre-feet in dry years to 4.9 million acre-feet in wet 2023.

At the California Water Commission's September meeting, a forecasted Super El Niño added urgency to a broader discussion of groundwater recharge readiness. State and local representatives examined how agencies could prepare to capture high flows if an unusually wet winter developed, while also building long-term capacity for future storms. State speakers included Steven Springhorn, technical assistance section lead at the Department of Water Resources; Amanda Montgomery, permitting program manager in the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Water Rights; and Adam Weinberg, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's statewide SGMA coordinator. Their presentations outlined state responsibilities for recharge, followed by local perspectives on project opportunities, challenges and implementation.

HOW GROUNDWATER RECHARGE WORKS

Groundwater recharge generally falls into two categories. Natural recharge occurs as rain and snowmelt infiltrate the ground and as water seeps from streams and floodplains. Managed aquifer recharge involves intentionally directing water underground to supplement natural recharge and support basin sustainability.

Natural and Managed Groundwater Recharge

Natural recharge

Rain/snowmelt infiltration
Stream and floodplain seepage

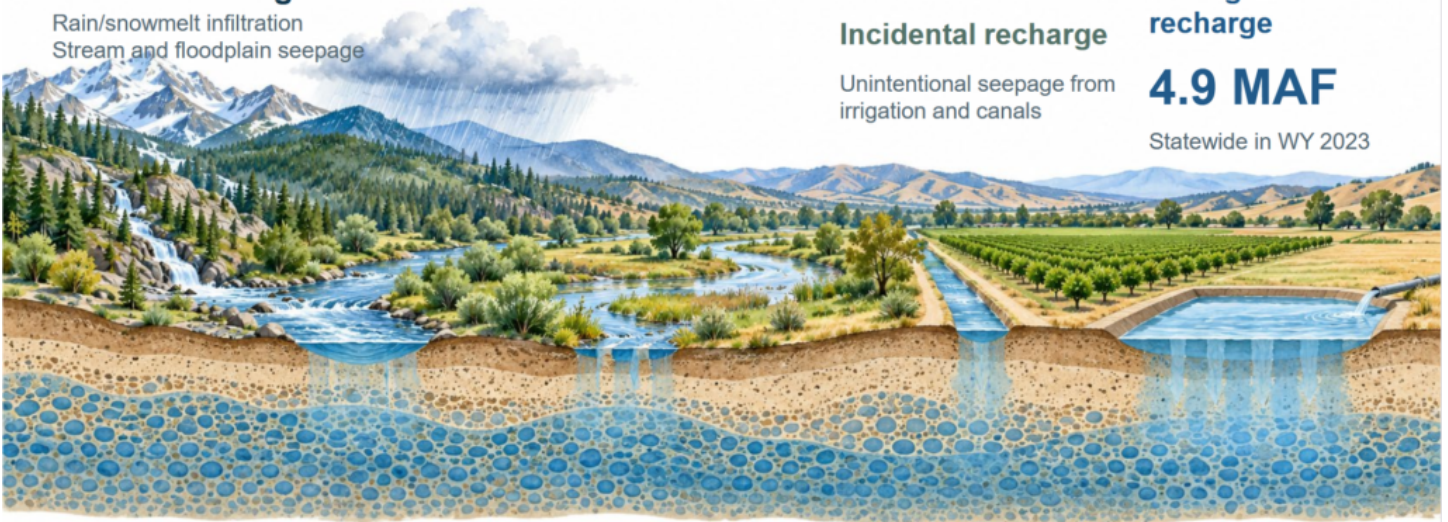
Incidental recharge

Unintentional seepage from
irrigation and canals

Managed recharge

4.9 MAF

Statewide in WY 2023



**Natural recharge underpins the groundwater system.
Managed recharge supplements it and supports basin sustainability.**

Sources: DWR, Bulletin 118 Update 2025, Highlights and Chapter 4. Conceptual illustration, not to scale..

Water used for managed recharge may come from several sources:

- Water available under existing rights and permits
- Stormwater, particularly in urban areas
- Recycled water
- Water diverted under temporary permits
- Floodwater diverted under Water Code Section 1242.1. Enacted after the 2023 floods, the provision allows diversions from high-flow rivers under specified flood conditions. It was used in 2023 to divert about 400,000 acre-feet across California, primarily in the San Joaquin Valley.

“At DWR, our number one priority is to protect life and property any time it floods, and so that is the number one priority when flooding happens: flood response and flood management,” said Mr. Springhorn. “After that is being worked on, then we start to talk about what to do with that high-flow water. So we want to make sure that all this recharge discussion isn’t taken away from being flood-safe first, and then we’re recharge-ready—that is essentially the goal.”

Recharge Water Sources and Methods

WATER SOURCES AND AUTHORITIES



Flood-only operations



Flood Diversions §1242.1

Qualifying diversions without an appropriative right



Temporary permits

State Water Board authorization



Recycled water

Treated supplies under water-quality permits



Stormwater

Captured runoff with applicable permits



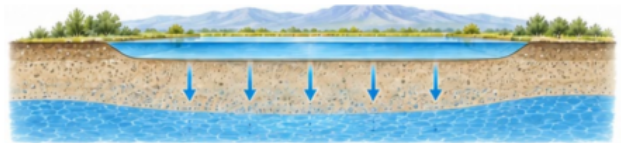
Existing water rights and permits

Traditional recharge supplies

RECHARGE METHODS

Surface spreading

Flood-MAR & dedicated basins



Dry wells



Aquifer storage and recovery



In-lieu

Reduced pumping; water left in storage



Managed aquifer recharge generally uses four methods:

Infiltration: Water is applied to the land surface and allowed to soak into the ground through agricultural managed aquifer recharge, dedicated recharge basins or similar approaches.

Dry wells: Water is directed into wells that allow it to bypass shallow confining layers that could otherwise slow infiltration or cause ponding.

Aquifer storage and recovery: Water is injected directly into an aquifer through wells that may extend hundreds of feet underground. These projects require permits from the regional and state water boards.

In-lieu recharge: Surface water is supplied in place of groundwater, allowing users to reduce pumping and leave groundwater in the aquifer.

Local agencies carry out most recharge projects in California. Preparing to capture water when it becomes available requires year-round work, including identifying suitable land and willing partners, readying conveyance systems and recharge basins, and ensuring projects operate safely and responsibly.

GETTING RECHARGE READY

Recharge projects are underway across California, but implementation remains complex. DWR's work with hundreds of local agencies has identified recurring challenges as well as opportunities to address them.

Recharge readiness depends on aligning four elements before high flows arrive and sustaining that work between wet years:

- **Water and authority:** Water must be available, and agencies must have the legal authority to divert and use it.
- **Infrastructure and partnerships:** Recharge requires conveyance facilities, groundwater basins with suitable capacity and local partnerships to plan and operate projects.
- **Protection and accountability:** Accurate water accounting is essential to an efficient, effective recharge system, and additional work is needed to strengthen these practices.
- **Funding and coordination:** Existing and forthcoming state funding, including Proposition 4 resources, must be coordinated and directed toward projects that provide the greatest benefit.

Because high flows can arrive quickly, agencies must be prepared to capture them while continuing to build local and statewide recharge capacity between wet years.

THE ROLES OF THE STATE AGENCIES IN GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Three state agencies provide the framework for groundwater recharge in California. The Department of Water Resources oversees groundwater sustainability plans and provides technical, planning and financial assistance. The State Water Resources Control Board administers water rights and water quality requirements and may intervene under SGMA when necessary. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife reviews and authorizes projects to protect fish, wildlife and habitat.

“Locals lead implementation, but it’s within this overall framework that our state agencies have created and are administering,” said Mr. Springhorn. “So we all have to be working together to make it as efficient as possible.”

The role of the Department of Water Resources

DWR supports groundwater recharge through two primary roles: regulatory oversight of groundwater sustainability plans and technical assistance that helps local agencies understand basin conditions and advance initiatives such as Flood-MAR and Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement.

DWR & Co: ready this season, building a stronger system for the future.

THIS SEASON: support local readiness

- Coordinate across DWR and state agencies.
- Support local planning, technical tools, and project problem-solving.
- Connect operations, flood management, and recharge opportunities.

LONGER TERM: Senate Bill 659 + Water Plan

- In the 2028 Water Plan and beyond:
- Quantify recharge opportunities; identify barriers and incentives.
- Prioritize protective, multibenefit approaches and system optimization.



“Although these two important roles of our groundwater team are really in the center of recharge, we work very closely across the department and are trying to work closer each day because so much of moving water, understanding when water is going to be in the system or not,” said Mr. Springhorn. “A lot of other parts of our department are experts in that, and so we’re trying to make sure that we have a really cohesive team across the department and working on all aspects to make recharge happen. We’ve been ramping up and providing technical assistance and project support to help locals implement projects on the ground.”

DWR provides GSAs with funding, planning support and technical assistance intended to build on successful local efforts, expand effective projects and improve regional coordination.

Current efforts include continued Flood-MAR and flood-diversion support, coordination among DWR’s flood and groundwater teams, groundwater characterization and monitoring, and financial assistance from several recharge-related funding programs. A bimonthly recharge-readiness webinar series is scheduled through February 2027.

LEARN MORE: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management>

The role of the State Water Board

Amanda Montgomery, permitting program manager in the State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Water Rights, described the role of the State Water Board in authorizing surface-water diversions for groundwater recharge, administering water rights and providing applicants with permitting guidance. The

board has issued permits for groundwater recharge—known in its terminology as underground storage—for more than a century, with increased emphasis since SGMA took effect.

2

Water Rights Permitting

Authorization to divert and beneficially use surface water

Temporary Permits

- 180-day
- 5-year
- Common starting point

'Standard' Permits

- Permanent - secures priority date
- Longer processing time than temporary permit

Change Petition

- Modify an existing permit or license
- Temporary (180-day or 5-year)
- Permanent change

California Water Boards

Two temporary water-right permits are available for diverting surface water to groundwater recharge: a 180-day permit covering one wet season and a five-year permit covering five successive wet seasons.

Temporary permits are often the entry point for projects seeking a new surface-water diversion. They generally take three to four months to process, include public notice and resolution of objections, and allow agencies to test a project before seeking a standard permit.

To be ready when high flows occur, applicants must address three common challenges:

- **Project planning:** Funding, project design and environmental review must be completed in time for the wet season. Executive orders previously suspended CEQA requirements for some temporary permits, but that coverage ended in the spring, so applicants must now prepare a CEQA document.
- **Water availability:** Applicants must show that water remains available after accounting for existing rights and in-stream needs for fish and wildlife.
- **Public concerns:** Applicants must address objections and proposed protective conditions.

The board offers pre-filing consultations to help applicants prepare. Filing fees are reduced for applications submitted at least 120 days in advance, and a five-year temporary permit carries the same application fee as a single-season permit.

For water availability, the board created a streamlined review pathway in 2019 that may be used for temporary or standard permits. “Basically, what we were looking for was an easy set of diversion criteria to be able to say this water can be taken without harming in-stream resources or senior demand,” said Ms. Montgomery.

One pathway uses the highest 10% of flows, or 90th-percentile flows, based on existing stream-gage data calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey. About half of temporary permits use this approach. A second pathway allows threatened flooding to serve as a diversion trigger. Many temporary permits combine this flood trigger with percentile-based flow criteria, while other projects develop watershed-specific triggers.

Early community outreach can also shorten permitting by identifying likely concerns and incorporating protective conditions into project design before an application is filed.

Water Code Section 1242.1 provides a separate, permit-free pathway for qualifying flood diversions for recharge through 2029, unless extended. Participants must meet statutory conditions and comply with notice and reporting requirements; the board publishes submitted reports and provides technical guidance. The pathway remains limited, however, because an earlier executive order had covered a requirement linking diversion triggers to qualifying local flood plans, and many communities do not have plans containing the necessary information.

“The greatest challenge that we see in 1242.1 right now is similar to what I was talking about with CEQA. We had an executive order that was covering the requirement to have your diversion trigger be based on a local plan, so either adopted in the current general plan for the area, or in what’s called a Water Code 8201 local plan of flood management or flood control. Local plans are common, but having the right information for flood control is not common, and having that other type of plan is not common. So right now, if we enter into a super El Nino situation, many parties will not be able to use the 1242.1 pathway because we don’t have an executive order like we had in the past years.”

LEARN MORE:

https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/groundwater_recharge/

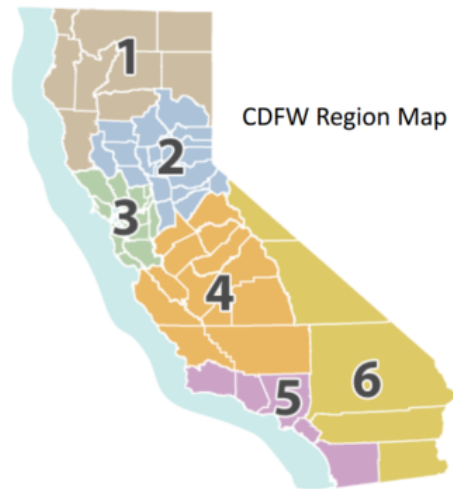
The role of the Department of Fish and Wildlife

Adam Weinberg, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s statewide SGMA coordinator, described the role of the Department of Fish and Wildlife in reviewing and authorizing groundwater recharge projects, protecting fish, wildlife and habitat, and providing technical guidance to state and local partners.

CDFW’s mission is to manage California’s fish, wildlife, plant resources and habitats for their ecological value and public use and enjoyment.

CDFW Recharge Regulatory Processes

- Water rights consultation
 - New permanent water rights
 - Temporary water rights
 - Change petitions
- Recharge project CEQA consultation
- Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements
- Incidental Take Permits



Water Right Consultation: Water Code section 1260 (j); CCR Title 23, section 680(a)
CESA ITP: Fish & Game Code § 2050 et seq
LSA notification: Fish & Game Code § 1600 et seq

3

CDFW has regulatory and nonregulatory responsibilities in groundwater recharge. Much of its regulatory work is conducted through regional offices, whose areas of responsibility are shown on the slide.

CDFW's principal regulatory role is consultation. Before submitting a final application to the State Water Board for a temporary or permanent water right, project proponents must consult CDFW and provide enough information for the department to assess environmental effects and recommend measures to avoid or reduce harm. Applicants must then make a bona fide effort to identify effects on fish and wildlife and describe protective measures in the application. Before approving the application, the State Water Board must consult CDFW to determine whether that effort was made.

Consultation is also required for petitions to change an existing water right, including water transfers. Project proponents are encouraged, though not required, to consult CDFW before circulating CEQA documents for proposed diversions and related infrastructure.

Other permits may apply. Construction in a streambed or bank may require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, and projects that could affect a state-listed species may require an incidental take permit. These requirements can apply to aquatic species at the diversion site or to terrestrial species and habitat in riparian areas or at the recharge location.

“We encourage project proponents to seek consultation with CDFW prior to submitting a notification for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement or an incidental take permit application,” said Mr. Weinberg.

CDFW also has nonregulatory responsibilities. “For instance, the primary role of my job as the statewide SGMA coordinator is to provide coordination, guidance and technical assistance to our regional staff in their review and assessment of groundwater sustainability plans,” he said. “Regional staff also receive technical support from our program hydrogeologist on SGMA and other groundwater issues. CDFW staff and management also participate in groundwater recharge coordination and advisory groups with our agency partners.”

A central challenge is balancing the water-supply benefits of recharge with the ecological benefits of functional flow regimes. CDFW’s review can also be constrained when applicants do not share environmental analyses, begin consultation shortly before filing or choose not to incorporate the department’s recommendations.

Mr. Weinberg also identified opportunities for projects that provide ecological, water-supply and flood-control benefits. The Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project and Dos Rios State Park expanded river access to floodplains, increasing recharge while creating thousands of acres of wildlife habitat and reducing downstream flood risk. Outside floodplains, recharge can also replenish aquifers that support in-stream and terrestrial groundwater-dependent ecosystems, known under SGMA as GDEs.

LEARN MORE: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Groundwater>

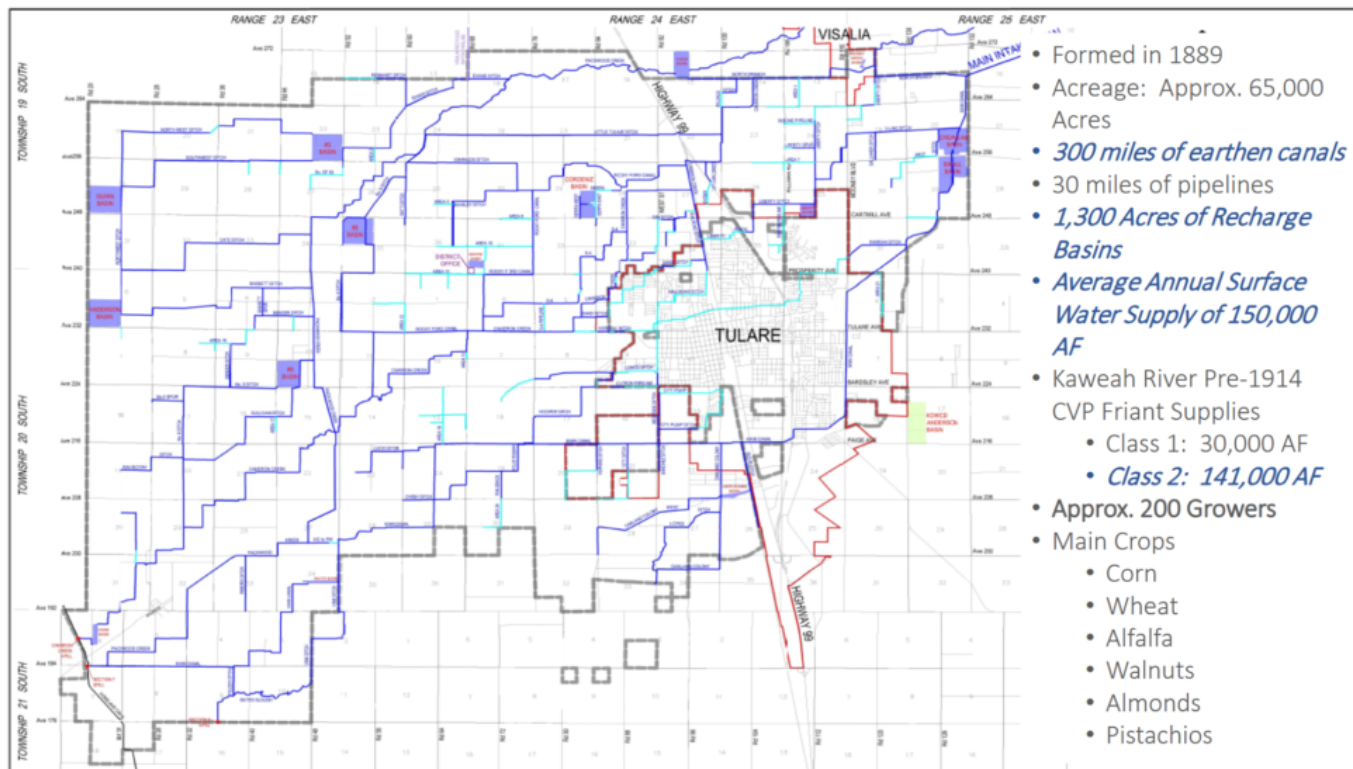
LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Kaweah Subbasin

Aaron Fukuda, chief executive officer of the Tulare Irrigation District and the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, described how decades of local investment, groundwater accounting and grower incentives are helping the district capture more water when wet-year opportunities arrive.

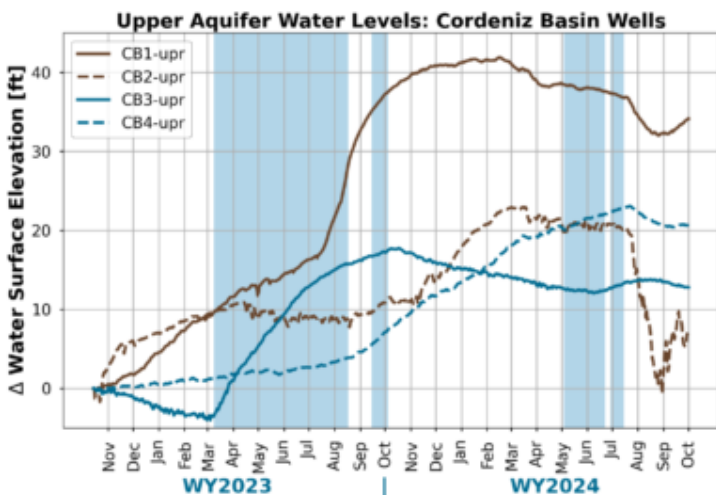
The Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which includes the Tulare Irrigation District, is part of the 441,000-acre Kaweah Subbasin. The critically overdrafted basin is managing several undesirable results identified under SGMA, including through groundwater recharge projects and management actions.

One of the district’s most important recharge assets is its 300-mile network of earthen canals across 65,000 acres. When full, the canals can recharge about 100 cubic feet per second, or 200 acre-feet per day.



The district also has 1,300 acres of strategically located recharge basins, many developed with partner agencies such as the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District. Together, the basins can recharge about 325 cubic feet per second, or 650 acre-feet per day, when the system is full.

A recharge basin near Okieville was built to address declining groundwater levels. Unlike facilities that generally receive water only during wet years, the Okieville basin receives water annually based on the allocation provided to district landowners.



The district's winter irrigation recharge program illustrates how groundwater accounting can create demand for floodwater. In 2022, the district established a pumping cap, fees and a system that tracks groundwater use in 30-day increments and credits recharge. When atmospheric rivers arrived in 2023, growers generated 800 cubic feet per second of demand within 24 hours,

prompting the district to activate its full system. The district diverted a record 420,000 acre-feet that year.

“So we’re looking at programs this year to incentivize growers and telling them to get their fields ready now if this El Nino year happens,” said Mr. Fukuda

Madera County

Stephanie Anagnoson, director of water and natural resources for Madera County, described how the county is combining groundwater credits, flood-control authority and grant funding to expand recharge across a large and economically important agricultural region. She also serves as flood control manager and general manager of three county groundwater sustainability agencies.

Madera County covers more than 2,000 square miles, extending across the Sierra Nevada to Devils Postpile, and has a farm-gate value of about \$2 billion, led by almonds, pistachios, dairy products and grapes. Recharge incentives are central to the county’s approach: Under a policy developed in 2023 and adopted in 2024, growers in the Madera County GSA can receive credit for applied surface water, including qualifying recharge completed in 2023.

Because of subsidence concerns, credited water must be extracted from the same aquifer where it was recharged. Water applied above the Corcoran clay, for example, cannot later be pumped from a deep well.

Recharge in the county follows three approaches: contracts between public agencies, flood diversions authorized under the 2023 executive order, and longer-term projects supported by grants.



@MADERACOUNTY
maderacounty.com



Three Approaches to Recharge

Contract-Based	Executive-Order Driven	Grant-Funded
-Between two public agencies -Benefits both parties based on what each party brings to the table -Approximately 900 AF over 10 years	-Between farmers and their GSAs -Benefits both parties -Approximately 75,000 AF in 2023 of flood flows	-In process -Benefits State, GSA and Landowner -Landowner agreements are a challenge

The county’s longest-running effort is a 10-year partnership with Madera Irrigation District. When excess surface water is available, the district provides it at no cost for recharge in a county road basin with unused stormwater capacity, demonstrating how agencies can pair existing water and land through a traditional agreement.

The 2023 executive order provided a less traditional pathway by allowing flood-control agencies to authorize diversions where land faced inundation, including much of the Madera County valley floor. Combined with GSA recharge credits, that authority encouraged growers near waterways—particularly the Eastside Chowchilla Bypass—to move floodwater underground.

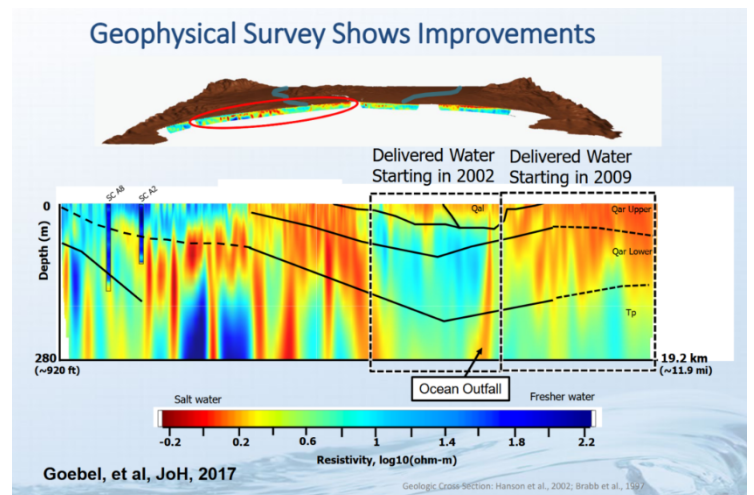
Grant funding supports projects that fill remaining gaps and provide multiple benefits, such as recharge basins that also reduce flood risk or stormwater basins that create habitat.

Pajaro Valley

Formed in 1984 and designated a groundwater sustainability agency in 2015, PV Water serves portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties, including Watsonville. The roughly 70,000-acre basin supports an agricultural economy valued at about \$1 billion annually.

Recharge comes from rainfall infiltration, enhanced stormwater recharge, managed aquifer recharge and in-lieu recharge. Water diverted from waterways is stored in infiltration basins and later recovered for delivery, while tertiary-treated recycled water and surface water reduce customers' need to pump groundwater.

The map on the lower left shows PV Water’s service area, seawater intrusion as of 2022 and the area where surface water, recycled water and recovered groundwater are delivered to agricultural customers. Supplies come from the College Lake project, the Harkins Slough infiltration basin and inland wells. “We can deliver at present around five to 6,000 acre-feet a year through our pipelines to customers, and in turn they keep about that much water in the ground, and that’s a real benefit to us,” said Mr. Lockwood.



A 2017 study (upper right) illustrates saltwater intrusion in Monterey Bay's coastal aquifers and shows fresher water where PV Water began surface-water deliveries in 2002 and expanded them into Monterey

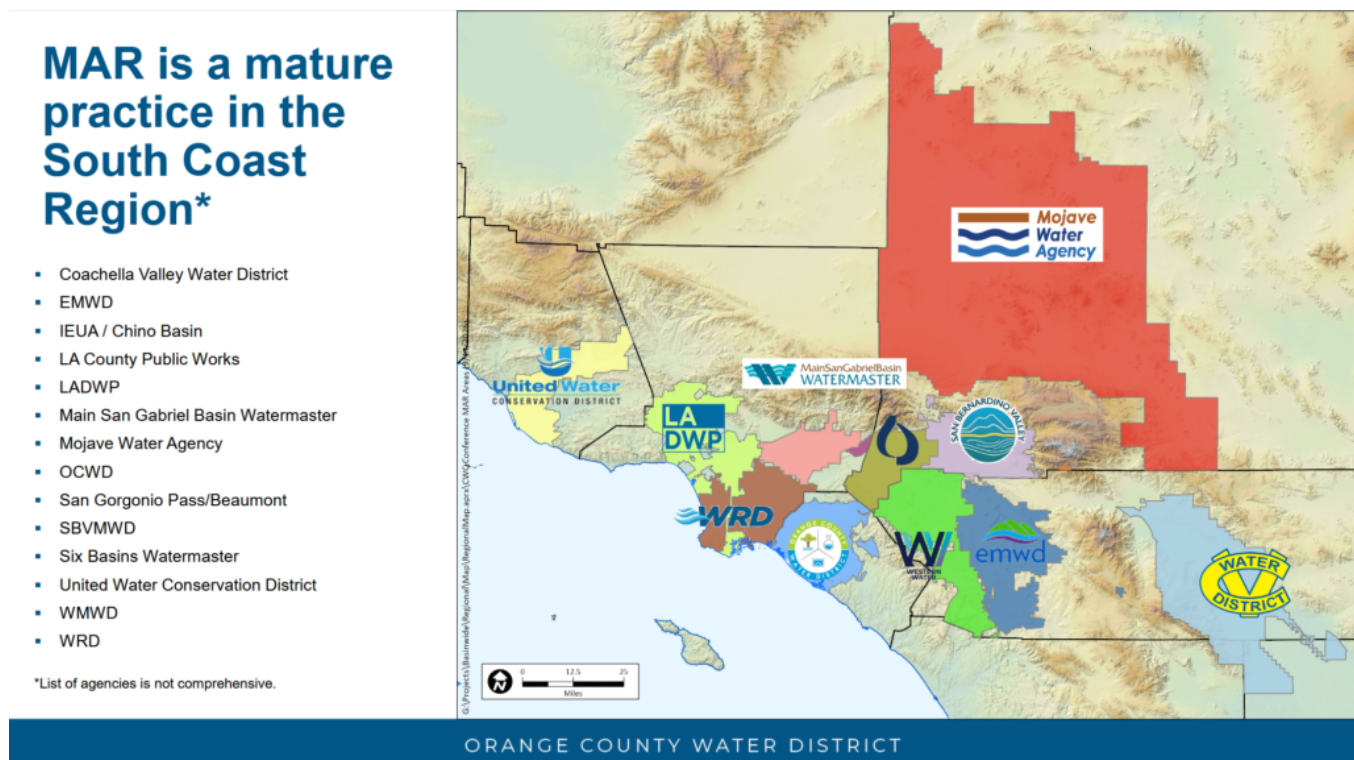
County in 2009. “In that area where we’ve been delivering water the longest, you can see it’s noticeably bluer than it is on either side,” said Mr. Lockwood. “We started delivering water to Monterey County in 2009 when the water recycling facility came on, and since then have extended our pipeline a little further to the north, which will help to alleviate seawater intrusion in that area.”

PV Water’s Recharge Net Metering Program encourages landowners to maintain recharge basins by offering rebates equal to 50% of the agency’s augmentation charge, based on the volume infiltrated. Funded through delivered-water sales and groundwater pumping fees, rebates have ranged from \$1,000 or \$2,000 in drought years to more than \$50,000 in wet years. “Part of why we pay this rebate to the landowners is because each year, after the water infiltrates into the ground, there is some level of maintenance that needs to happen, and this helps the property owners cover the cost of maintaining the basins,” said Mr. Lockwood.

Planned projects would expand this approach. PV Water is pursuing a relocated Harkins Slough facility, a second infiltration basin and more than 20 recovery wells to store winter flows for summer use. The Watsonville Slough System project is in permitting, additional recharge net-metering sites are being developed with state support, and the Pajaro River Flood Risk Reduction Project could increase recharge by setting back levees and expanding the floodplain.

Southern California

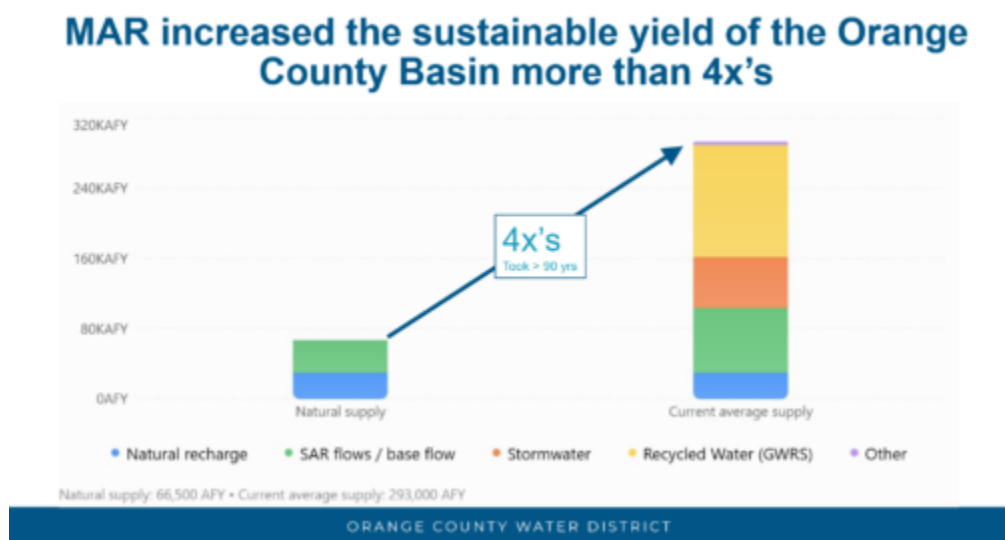
Adam Hutchinson, recharge planning manager for the Orange County Water District, described how Southern California agencies use a diverse water portfolio, regional coordination and reservoir operations to expand managed aquifer recharge and strengthen long-term water supplies.



Managed aquifer recharge has supported Southern California’s water supply for decades. The Orange County Water District has operated a recharge system for more than 90 years, using stormwater, flood flows, imported water and recycled water to help sustain the region’s groundwater basin.

Watershed-scale planning offers opportunities to use existing infrastructure more effectively. Through the Proposition 84-funded Santa Ana River Watershed Conjunctive Use Program, agencies reserved storage in groundwater basins across the watershed to bank wet-year water through managed aquifer recharge or in-lieu recharge for use during dry years. A decision-support tool helped identify the facilities needed to address system gaps and improve the value of existing investments. “DWR was very flexible in allowing us to repurpose some of that funding to really go where it was really needed to make it more impactful,” said Mr. Hutchinson. “It’s a great project, and managed aquifer recharge is really central to making this work.”

Forecast-informed reservoir operations provide another watershed-scale opportunity. Studies at Prado Dam have advanced to implementation after 10 years, while Seven Oaks Dam is moving from a preliminary viability review to a full assessment. “This is the first example, I believe, of two FIRO projects on the same river in the same watershed,” said Mr. Hutchinson. “The goal is to store stormwater temporarily without compromising the flood risk management purposes of the dams themselves, and this enhances water supply through managed aquifer recharge, and also has habitat benefits as well. So these are multi-purpose, multi-benefit projects.”



“These projects will allow us to have more water,” said Mr. Hutchinson. “When Orange County Water District became an agency in 1933, we were overdrafted, seawater intrusion. We had a lot of problems, but through our investments in recharge capacities and water sources, we are now able to do four times more pumping out of the basin, what Mother Nature

would provide. So this can happen. You just need to keep your eye on the ball and work hard at getting projects in the ground and looking at a diverse portfolio of water supply. But it can be done, and that’s why we’re here today to promote MAR on a statewide basis.”

Sacramento Valley

Steven Springhorn concluded the local presentations with an overview of recharge activity in the Sacramento Valley. The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has used temporary

permits for about a decade to capture water during wet seasons and has also applied for a standard permit.

Other efforts are advancing across the valley. The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and districts along the canal are exploring ways to expand recharge, while Butte County has piloted flood diversions under Water Code Section 1242.1.

The Sacramento region has long used recharge and conjunctive management through agencies including the Regional Water Authority, Sacramento Groundwater Authority and the city of Roseville. Local projects include aquifer storage and recovery, early Section 1242.1 diversions from the Cosumnes River, a developing regional water bank and a Section 1242.1 diversion by the Dunnigan Water District.

The Northern California Water Association and the Department of Water Resources also convene the Sacramento Valley Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Working Group. Over the past 18 months, the group has examined regional opportunities and challenges and provided technical support for recharge projects.

IN CLOSING...

The presentations underscored that groundwater recharge depends on more than wet weather. Capturing high flows requires permits, infrastructure, funding, environmental review and partnerships to be in place before storms arrive. Whether preparing for a possible Super El Niño or future wet years, coordination among state agencies, local water managers and landowners will be essential to expand recharge while protecting communities, water rights and ecosystems.+

“We can’t control when the water comes, but we can control whether we’re ready to capture it,” said Mr. Hutchinson. “So hopefully, we can keep growing the portfolio and be recharge-ready for future storms.”

Metropolitan maintains strong bond ratings from leading credit agencies

Ratings reflect sound financial management, long-term water

October 21, 2026

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has maintained strong credit ratings from the nation's leading credit rating agencies, reflecting Metropolitan's sound financial management, strong liquidity and disciplined long-term planning as the district fulfills its essential role in providing a reliable water supply for Southern California.

Last week, S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed its top AAA long-term rating to Metropolitan's anticipated \$280 million water revenue bonds, 2026 Series A, and also assigned an AA+/A-1+ dual rating to its proposed \$200 million variable-rate subordinate water revenue bonds, 2026 Series B. Moody's Ratings affirmed Metropolitan's Aa1 senior revenue bond rating and assigned an Aa1 bond rating to the district's proposed 2026 Series A bonds. Fitch Ratings assigned an AA+ rating to the 2026 Series B bonds and affirmed its existing ratings on the district's outstanding debt, including AAA for its general obligation bonds.

“Earlier this year, our board of directors unanimously approved a fiscally prudent budget and rate structure that strengthens Metropolitan's financial foundation by providing more predictable revenue to cover fixed costs,” said board Chair Adán Ortega, Jr. “That greater financial stability, combined with our commitment to investing in critical infrastructure through our Capital Investment Plan, positions Metropolitan to manage financial challenges responsibly and sustain the region's water reliability for the long term.”

Strong credit ratings help Metropolitan borrow money at favorable interest rates, reducing the near- and long-term cost of financing the projects needed to maintain and improve the region's water system. By managing borrowing costs, Metropolitan protects the long-term affordability of water. Metropolitan continually invests in its facilities and programs that support water deliveries to its 26 member water agencies, which strengthens its water reliability and resilience to serve nearly 19 million people across six counties.

“Metropolitan's strong credit ratings reflect our sound financial management, strong cash position and disciplined long-term planning. These strengths provide the financial flexibility to navigate uncertainty, invest in critical infrastructure and maintain a reliable, affordable water supply for Southern California,” said Katano Kasaine, Metropolitan's assistant general manager, chief financial officer and treasurer.

The rating agencies cited Metropolitan's financial management and planning as important strengths.

S&P pointed to Metropolitan's strong financial profile, strategic importance to Southern California's economy and methodical approach to managing climate-related risks and potential water shortages. Moody's highlighted the district's debt service coverage, strong liquidity, and prudent financial and budgetary practices. Fitch's rating of AA+ reflects Metropolitan's very strong revenue and operating risk profiles, historically low leverage and improved financial performance.

The agencies also recognized the challenges Metropolitan faces, including climate change, drought, major infrastructure investment needs, and uncertainty surrounding future Colorado River operations.

"The decisions we make today will shape Southern California's water future for decades to come," said Metropolitan General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh. "We have a responsibility to look beyond immediate challenges and prepare for the changing conditions that will affect how we plan, manage and deliver water across the region."

Metropolitan is preparing for the future through long-term water supply planning to adapt to climate change, investing in its system through its Capital Investment Plan and diversifying and strengthening the region's water supply portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

ITEM 10. (c) GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager's Monthly Report October 14, 2026

Work Anniversaries: Jessica Hernandez, Administrative Assistant – 3 years

Water Supply Update



Baldwin Park Key Well: 249.9 feet on 10/2/26
San Gabriel Canyon: 22,320 AF combined storage as of 9/29/26
San Gabriel Reservoir: inflow 40 cfs; release 40 cfs
Morris Reservoir: inflow 35 cfs; release 35 cfs
MWD 2026 Water Supply/Demand Balance Forecast: Surplus 304,000 AF as of 9/30/26



USG-3 deliveries during September 2026: None
MWD Cyclic Account Balance (9/30/26): 127,000 AF
Rainfall as of 9/30/26:
 • 0.51" - Puddingstone Dam
 • 0.74" - San Gabriel Dam
State Water Project Allocation: 45% as of 9/30/26

MWD Water Supply Conditions as of September 30, 2026, are summarized as follows:

Reservoir	Capacity	Current Storage
San Luis (SWP share)	1.06 MAF	92%, 981 TAF
Lake Oroville	3.42 MAF	48%, 1.6 MAF
Lake Powell	24.3 MAF	22%, 5.2 MAF
Lake Mead	26.1 MAF	26%, 6.8 MAF

*Storage volumes are in units of Million Acre-Feet (MAF), or Thousand Acre-Feet (TAF)



Drought Actions

WSCP status: Level 2, 20% conservation target, 3 day/week outdoor watering summer, 2 day/week outdoor watering in winter

Water Use Efficiency



Residential Water\$mart Rebates
 Since July 2026 - \$37,043



Commercial Water\$mart Rebates
 Since July 2026 - \$213,152



Water Smart Home Kits
 Homes Served This Month: 12

Education and Outreach



Landscaping Workshops with UC Master Gardeners

Upper Water has partnered with the UC Master Gardeners and Green Media Creations (sponsored by MWD) to provide free landscaping workshops for local communities. The workshops focus on regionally appropriate landscaping and offer residents practical guidance for improving their home landscapes.

October:

- Thursday, October 1st (Online): Irrigation & Controller Basics: Smart Watering from 6:00PM-7:00PM (Green Media Creations)
- Saturday, October 17th (In-person): Fire Resilient Gardening
Upper Water Office – 248 E. Foothill Blvd. Monrovia, CA 91016 from 10:00AM-11:30AM (UC Master Gardeners)

National Theatre for Children

Available to K–5th grade students in the Upper Water service area. This free, new assembly program features live professional actors and interactive performances that teach students about water conservation, how the water system works, and the importance of protecting local water resources.

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Facilities Tour

Available to 6th–12th grade students in the Upper Water service area. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, this free program provides behind-the-scenes tours of solid waste and wastewater treatment facilities, giving teachers and students a firsthand look at how waste is managed and water is recycled. Upper Water may also provide up to \$750 in bus stipends to eligible classes.

Watershed Restoration Program

- Upper Water staff has secured two dates with the U.S. Forest Service staff to plant trees in the San Gabriel Mountains, near crystal lake. The tree planting events are scheduled on the following Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- October 24, 2026
- November 14, 2026

“Being Water Wise is...” Student Art Contest

Upper Water is updating its student art contest submission requirements to align with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's revised guidelines. Beginning with the 2026-27 Art Contest, only original **hard-copy** artwork submissions will be accepted. The contest theme remains unchanged, and contest resources are available on our website. The Art Contest submission deadline is **Thursday, April 8**, and all student artwork must be received by mail or hand-delivered in person by the end of the day.

Legislative Update



Bills Signed by the Governor

AB 35	Safe Drinking Water Act
AB 2032	Fish and wildlife: golden mussels
AB 2568	Water district directors: compensation
AB 2619	Water resources: data centers
SB 599	Atmospheric rivers: forecasting
SB 1153	Disaster preparedness: urban water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire

Federal & Election Updates

Despite Congress being in recess, federal agencies continue advancing key water policy efforts, including proposed supplemental rulemaking to the Waters of the United States (WOTUS), Title XVI feasibility study procedures, and a federal permitting reform package. Meanwhile, Congress is expected to prioritize passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and appropriations bills when it returns after the election.

Looking ahead to next month's elections, all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 U.S. Senate seats, including two special elections, will be on the ballot. At the state level, all California State Assembly seats and half of the State Senate seats are up for election. Early polling shows former Attorney General Xavier Becerra as the front-runner of the gubernatorial race. Discussions with legislative leaders and current polling suggest Democrats anticipate a strong election cycle, though voter turnout remains a key concern.

Finance and Administration



Financial Highlights through 8/31/26

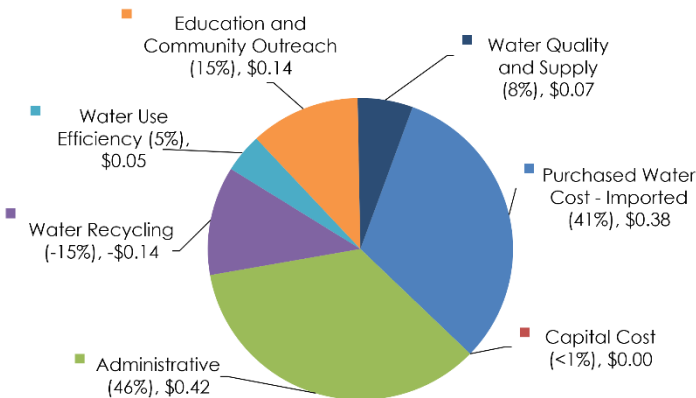
- Treated water sales: 667 AF
- Untreated water sales: 0 AF
- Recycled water sales: 604 AF
- YTD net operating revenue: -\$0.07M



Staffing Updates

- 10 FTE's, No Vacancy

YTD Use of Funds as of 8/31/26 - \$0.92M



Note: YTD percentages remain distorted by the reversal of FY 2025-26 year-end accruals.