



# Rio Alto Water District

22099 River View Drive • Cottonwood, CA 96022

Phone: (530) 347-3835 • Fax: (530) 347-1007 • Website: [www.rawd.org](http://www.rawd.org)

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Agenda for the Six Hundred and Sixty Ninth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rio Alto Water District to be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., in the District Board Room.

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|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | Public Comment.  | INFORMATION |
|    | <p>This is the time set aside for citizens to address the Board on matters not on the agenda or that are on the consent agenda. Comments should be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. If your comments concern an item shown on the agenda, please address the Board after that item is open for public comment. By law, the Board cannot discuss or take action on matters that are not on the agenda. The chair reserves the right to limit the duration of each speaker to three minutes. Speakers may not cede their time. Speakers are asked to state, and spell their name for the record.</p> |             |
| 2. | Approval of Excused Absences.  | ACTION      |
| 3. | Manager's Report.  | INFORMATION |
| 4. | Approval of the Minutes of the Six Hundred and Sixty Eighth Regular Board Meeting Held on May 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room.  | ACTION      |
| 5. | Approval of May Disbursement Reports.  | ACTION      |
| 6. | Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2025/2026 Budget Distributed in the May Board Package.   | ACTION      |
| 7. | Notes from the ACWA Conference.  | INFORMATION |

8. Communications:

INFORMATION

Staff:

Directors:

Note: The Board of Directors, may, at any time throughout the meeting, open or close discussion or change the order of any Agenda item listed as necessary to facilitate the orderly transaction of District Business.

Note: Parties with a disability as provided by the American Disabilities Act who require special accommodations or aids in order to participate in a public hearing should make the request to the District Staff at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Addendum A  
 Manager's Report  
 June 13, 2025

Drought/Water Consumption/SGMA:

The new water year began October 1<sup>st</sup> and compares with the last two water years as follows:

Water Year	June 11 Precipitation Received	Average Precipitation to Date	Percent of Average	Shasta Lake feet from Crest
2024/2025	36.53	32.49	112%	16.42
2023/2024	31.31	32.73	96%	11.18
2022/2023	39.27	32.60	120%	4.75

Shasta Dam is currently releasing 8,562cfs. The most recent snow survey of May 31<sup>st</sup> shows the statewide average to be 62%.

Connections: We received one water/sewer connection since last reported. We have exceeded our budget on water connections by 1 and have now met our budget on sewer connections. Connections to date this fiscal year are:

<b>Connections to Date 2024/2025</b>	<b>#</b>
<b>Water 1" Meter</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Water 1" Duplex</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water 2" Meter</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water 1" Landscape Meter</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water ¾" Landscape Meter</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Normal Sewer/LPSS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Commercial Sewer</b>	<b>0</b>

Budgeted Water = 7, Budgeted Sewer = 5

Field Crew:

- The repaired cable reel for our sewer camera is now working and we have returned the loaner cable reel.
- We met with PACE Engineering on Dinghy issues and we now have some direction. Billy is reviewing the rough sketch they provided and evaluating how much of the work we can do and what we will have to hire out. Basically, we will sand slurry seal the existing line, extend the force main down the road halfway, add two new manholes and install a gravity line to manhole on Rio Alto.
- Slide repair at WWTP basically put on hold while we deal with Dinghy.
- Installed new meter and located sewer on new connection.
- Removed old meter with corp stop and installed a new meter and corp stop.



- Provided a tour of the WWTP and wetlands for the Town on Paradise staff.
- Continued sewer TVing and cleaning until the cleaner broke. Billy is evaluating the issue to see if we can have repaired locally.
- Completed sewer patch on Rio Alto Drive (before and after pictures attached).
- Installed meters on Gazelle and Jib.
- CCR report was completed and postcards mailed to customers.
- Attended sexual harassment training.
- Cleared sand caused by Dinghy break from Lift Station #2, manholes and headworks.
- While replacing the water heater in the lab, Scott found a leak in the main water supply to the lab which happens to be in the concrete slab. Scott is currently working up a materials list to reroute the water at the lab.
- Tyler and summer help have weed-eated the lake lots, lot outside gate, WWTP and Office by solar. They cut down the dying bushes at the office and cleared the debris.

Pending Projects:

- Selection of survey sites for backflow surveys.
- Dinghy repairs/replacement.
- Rerouting main water line into the lab.
- WWTP clearing out of cement gutters for drainage on hill.
- Replacing DG at wetlands.

Regulatory:

The May Water and Wastewater Reports are included in the board package.

Solar Updates:

PG&E has developed a new website and reports were not accessible at the time of this report.

Admin:

- 7-day notices mailed to over 90 customers, 24-hour notices posted on over 30 homes, 5 customers locked off.
- Working on training manuals.
- Complied with requirement to make the website ADA accessible.

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May 2025 Drinking Water Monitoring

**Bacti Testing**

Date	Results
5/6/2025	Absent
5/13/2025	Absent
5/19/2025	Absent
5/27/2025	Absent

**Source Water Monitoring**

No results for this period

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Lake California Wastewater Treatment Plant  
May 2025 Monitoring Report

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DATE	Sample Time	Eff. Flow (MGD)	EFF. pH (S.U.)	Total Coliform (MPN/100mL)	EFF. BOD (mg/L)	EFF. TSS (mg/L)
5/1	9:42	0.123	7.64	1.0		
5/2	9:53	0.129	7.60	1.0		
5/3	10:21	0.118	7.56	Weekend		
5/4	9:12	0.133	7.48	Weekend		
5/5	10:33	0.154	7.51	1.0		
5/6	9:41	0.082	7.55	<1		
5/7	9:19	0.126	7.77	<1	3.0	1.40
5/8	10:17	0.127	7.68	3.1		
5/9	9:08	0.119	7.78	<1		
5/10	9:02	0.117	7.78	Weekend		
5/11	9:41	0.143	7.60	Weekend		
5/12	11:01	0.151	7.38	1.0		
5/13	9:13	0.094	7.60	<1		
5/14	9:46	0.130	7.82	<1	3.0	0.900
5/15	9:52	0.123	7.78	<1		
5/16	8:40	0.125	7.73	<1		
5/17	8:09	0.110	7.71	Weekend		
5/18	10:35	0.146	7.70	Weekend		
5/19	11:44	0.137	7.54	<1		
5/20	10:25	0.124	7.63	<1		
5/21	8:57	0.112	7.71	<1	3.1	0.700
5/22	8:20	0.108	7.73	<1		
5/23	8:07	0.142	7.82	<1		
5/24	7:57	0.112	7.75	Weekend		
5/25	7:50	0.130	7.62	Weekend		
5/26	8:10	0.129	7.58	Holiday		
5/27	8:22	0.148	7.32	<1		
5/28	9:32	0.134	7.37	2.0	1.5	1.40
5/29	8:57	0.126	7.36	1.0		
5/30	10:10	0.139	7.22	<1		
5/31	9:50	0.117	7.33	Weekend		

Effluent Limitations

Constituent	Units	Limit
BOD 30-Day Average	mg/L	30.0
BOD 7-Day Average	mg/L	45.0
Total Suspended Solids 30-Day Average	mg/L	30.0
Total Suspended Solids 7-Day Average	mg/L	45.0
Total Coliform Organisms 7-Day Median	MPN/100 mL	23.0
Total Coliform Organisms Monthly Max.	MPN/100 mL	240.0
pH	S.U.	6.0 - 9.0

Monthly Results

Constituent	Results
Hardness (as CaCO3) (mg/L)	80.6
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	1.93
Ammonia (as N) (mg/L)	ND
Nitrate (as N) (mg/L)	0.769
Nitrite (as N) (mg/L)	ND
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg/L)	1.93
Electrical Conductivity (umhos/cm)	486

Total Coliform 7-day median

Week of	Median
4-27 to 5-3	1.0
5-4 to 5-10	<1
5-11 to 5-17	<1
5-18 to 5-24	<1
5-25 to 5-31	1.0



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## Town of Paradise Site Visit - Thank you!

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From Mattox, Marc <mmattox@townofparadise.com>

Date Thu 6/5/2025 12:00 PM

To Martha Slack <mslack@rawd.org>

Cc msulik@paradisairrigation.com <msulik@paradisairrigation.com>; Nicoletti, Chris <cnicoletti@townofparadise.com>; Goodwin, Jim <jgoodwin@townofparadise.com>; Marc Sulik <marcs5498@gmail.com>; Nelson, Colin <cnelson@townofparadise.com>; Hermanson, Paige <Paige.Hermanson@hdrinc.com>; Neethling, JB <jb.neethling@hdrinc.com>; McReynolds, Allison <Allison.mcreynolds@hdrinc.com>; Lange, Heidi <hlange@townofparadise.com>; Crowder, Steve <scrowder@townofparadise.com>; Steve Crowder <topdog2058@gmail.com>

Hi Martha,

On behalf of the Town of Paradise, thank you so much for taking the time on Tuesday to speak with our tour group about Rio Alto's history and operations. Hearing about your experience through significant changes at the water district and formation of a community services district was very educational. Please also pass on our thanks to your operations staff who kindly took their time to show us around the treatment plant and discharge wetlands. You have a great team and our tour participants appreciated seeing your facility and hearing about its operational challenges and successes firsthand from the folks that know it best. Your input has been invaluable as we consider options for treating and managing Paradise's wastewater.

Many thanks,



### Marc Mattox

Public Works Director & Town Engineer  
Town of Paradise | (530) 872-6291 x 125  
[Website](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Facebook](#)

1 MINUTES OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT HELD ON  
3 WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M., AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ROOM.  
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6 DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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8 Rick Brubaker, President  
9 Ginny Mercer, Vice-President  
10 Drew Battles, Director  
11 Pete Suggs, Director  
12 Louise Wilkinson, Director  
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14 STAFF PRESENT:

15  
16 Martha Slack, General Manager  
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18

19 ALSO PRESENT:

20  
21 Roger Horton, Homeowner  
22 Patrick Jasperse, Homeowner  
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24 ABSENT:

25  
26 None  
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28 Agenda Item #1 – Public Comment. The Directors thanked the homeowners in attendance and  
29 asked them if they had any comments on the agenda items. Having no comments we moved on  
30 to approval of excused absences.

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32 Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Excused Absences. All Directors were present.

33 Agenda Item #3 – Manager’s Report. The General Manager presented the Manager’s Report  
34 through May 21, 2025. A question answer period followed and the Manager updated the

1 Directors on the updates received from KC Consulting and Pace Engineering on the slide at the  
2 WWTP.

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4 Agenda Item #4 – Approval of the Minutes of the Six Hundred and Sixty Seventh Regular Board  
5 Meeting Held on April 16, at 6:30p.m. in the District Board Room. Vice-President Mercer made  
6 a motion to approve the Minutes of the Six Hundred and Sixty Seventh Regular Board Meeting  
7 Held on April 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room, seconded by Director Suggs.  
8 The motion carried (4-0). Director Wilkinson abstained.

9  
10 Agenda Item #5 – Approval of the March Disbursement Reports. Director Wilkinson made a  
11 motion to approve the April Disbursement Reports, seconded by Vice-President Mercer. A brief  
12 discussion followed. The motion carried (5-0). Director Wilkinson absent.

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14 Agenda Item #6 – Review and Possible Approval of Resolution 01-25, Placing in Nomination,  
15 Dean Sherrill, as a Member of the Association of the California Water Agencies, Region 2  
16 Board. The Directors commented that they appreciated Dean stepping up to the plate and  
17 participating in ACWA Region 2 Board. Director Wilkinson made a motion to Approve  
18 Resolution 01-25, Placing in Nomination, Dean Sherrill, as a Member of the Association of the  
19 California Water Agencies, Region 2 Board, seconded by Director Battles. The Motion carried  
20 (5-0).

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22 Agenda Item #7 – Distribution of the Draft 2025/2026 Budget for Review and Discussion and  
23 Possible Approval at the June Board Meeting. The General Manager gave a brief overview of the  
24 highlights of the 2025/2026 budget. She asked the Directors to review the budget and asked if

1 they had questions to set up a time to meet with her to go over those questions prior to the next  
2 board meeting. No action was taken.

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4 Agenda Item #8 - Communications:

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18 Having no further business to discuss, Vice-President Mercer made a motion to adjourn the  
19 meeting at 7:22p.m., seconded by Director Wilkinson. The motion carried. (5-0).

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21 Sincerely,

22 

23 Martha Slack, General Manager



Addendum A  
 Manager's Report  
 May 12, 2025

Drought/Water Consumption/SGMA:

The new water year began October 1<sup>st</sup> and compares with the last two water years as follows:

Water Year	May 10 Precipitation Received	Average Precipitation to Date	Percent of Average	Shasta Lake feet from Crest
2024/2025	36.04	30.91	116.5%	6.29
2023/2024	31.31	30.97	101.1%	5.26
2022/2023	39.01	31.26	125%	3.40

Shasta Dam is currently releasing 13,332cfs. Consumption for the period 3/3/25 – 05/2/25 is 20% lower than 2013 consumption for the same period and year to date consumption is 12.1% lower than the year-to-date totals for 2013.

Connections: We received one water/sewer connection since last reported. We have met budget on water connections and are one short of making budget on sewer. Connections to date this fiscal year are:

<b>Connections to Date 2024/2025</b>	<b>#</b>
<b>Water 1" Meter</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Water 1" Duplex</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water 2" Meter</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water 1" Landscape Meter</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water ¾" Landscape Meter</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Normal Sewer/LPSS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Commercial Sewer</b>	<b>0</b>

Budgeted Water = 7, Budgeted Sewer = 5

Field Crew:

- Deep Trekkar returned our cable reel, but it is still not working properly so we returned it again and have continued to use the loaner cable provided by them.
- Dingy has been repaired and is awaiting paving. We will be meeting with PACE Engineering after the conference for other options on Dinghy like abandoning the entire line and reinstalling one in the easement.
- Still no word back from PACE Engineering and KC Engineering with recommendations for the slide at WWTP.
- We have hired 2 students for the summer. One lives in Lake California and the other one lives in Red Bluff. Tyler will be in charge of the summer help and this should really help with the landscape throughout the District and take some burden off the operators.

- A tree fell on a car in the Fire Station parking lot. The tree was so close to Rio Alto that I had Pace Engineering come out and survey the property lines of the Office to be sure that the liability did not belong to Rio Alto. It has been determined the tree was on the Fire Department's lot.
- The Hydrant identification cap painting has been completed.
- Continued sewer TVing and cleaning.
- Proposed sewer patch next week.
- Installed meters on Gazelle and Jib.
- Located and extended sewer line on Gazelle.
- Dean is working on the CCR report.
- Landscaping and weed eating.
- Meter reads.

Pending Projects:

- Selection of survey sites for backflow surveys.
- Dinghy repairs/replacement.
- WWTP clearing out of cement gutters for drainage on hill.
- Mowing at the wetlands.

Regulatory:

The April Water and Wastewater Reports are included in the board package. Dean has also included a report on the recent committee meetings that he has attended. Great news!!!! Our second round of PFAS testing came back non detect!!!!

Solar Updates:

Solar updates period April 2, 2025 to May 1, 2025:

	<u>True-Up Month</u>	<u>Current Month Net Energy Usage</u>	<u>Cumulative Energy or Credits Dollar True-up</u>	<u>Cumulative Non-Bypassable Charges</u>
Office	August	\$(634.81)	\$2,292.90	\$ 425.87
WWTP	November	\$(391.86)	\$18,070.49	\$1,864.64
Well#6	February	\$(2,678.12)	\$(4,703.67)	\$675.64
Well#5	March	\$(4,519.93)	\$(7,482.05)	\$146.82

Admin:

- 3/3/25 – 5/2/25 billings prepared and mailed.
- Working on training manuals.

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**RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT  
WORKING ACCOUNT  
DISBURSEMENT/STATUS OF BANK ACCOUNT AS OF  
May 31, 2025**

1	Balance as of 04/30/2025:		\$4,727.95
2	Interest thru 04/30/2025:		\$0.17
3	Reconciled Balance as of May 1, 2025:		\$4,728.12
4	<b>Disbursements:</b>		
5	Aflac	Employee Paid Supplemental Insurance for May	\$687.32
6	Computer Logistics	Firewall Renewal for 2025-26 & Cloud Backup for May	\$1,376.17
7	FGL	Wastewater Monitoring & Wetlands Ground Water Well Monitoring	\$1,295.00
8	Quadient Finance	Postage on Postage Machine	\$1,008.05
9	Valley West Ace Hardware	Paint Pen & Plastic Glue for WWTP	\$18.85
10	Sanda Berg	Janitorial Service for May	\$135.00
11	AT&T	Phone & Internet Services April & May	\$252.24
12	Rick Brubaker	Mileage & Per-Diem ACWA Conference	\$839.40
13	Ginny Mercer	Mileage & Per-Diem ACWA Conference	\$702.80
14	Pete Suggs	Mileage & Per-Diem ACWA Conference	\$701.40
15	Lousie Wilkinson	Mileage & Per-Diem ACWA Conference	\$702.80
16	Martha Slack	Mileage & Per-Diem ACWA Conference	\$828.24
17	Deane Sherrill	Mileage & Per-Diem ACWA Conference	\$763.40
18	Pace Analytical	Drinking Water Monitoring/Heterotrophic Plate Count	\$350.60
19	Franchise Tax Board	Employee Withholding	\$300.00
20	Allodium	Telephone Service for May	\$473.94
21	ACWA JPIA	Employee Health Insurance for June	\$11,134.03
22	California Safety	Alarm Monitoring for May	\$70.00
23	Green Waste of Tehama	Trash Disposal for May	\$156.70
24	Hach Company	Chlorine Residual Testing Supplies WWTP Lab	\$166.97
25	Lawrence & Associates	Groundwater Monitoring Report Quarter 01/01 - 03/31/25	\$498.00
26	Verizon	Internet Well #5 & WWTP for May	\$75.24
27	Kenny & Norine	Re: Connection Fees, Ethics Training, Conflict Code, Form 700, Mr. Green - We were not receiving emailed invoices. 05/24/24 - 03/25/25	\$3,654.00
28	Pace Engineering	Dinghy Sewer Line Assistance 03/30	\$640.00
29	SCP	Chlorine	\$4,850.48
30	Coastal Business	Sharp Copier/Folding Machine 02/13 - 05/12	\$443.09
31	Energy Resources	CEC Loan Payment Semi Annual Solar Loan Payment	\$51,788.15
32	Ace Hardware	Irrigation Parts for Office & Cycle 2 Oil	\$89.03
33	FNBO - Visa	Distilled Water, Laptop Billy, Office/Lunchroom & Bathroom Supplies, Microsoft 365 Deane, Spray Nozzle for Vac Trailer,	\$1,992.55
34	ACH - Bank Fees		\$60.00

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**RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT  
WORKING ACCOUNT  
DISBURSEMENT/STATUS OF BANK ACCOUNT AS OF  
May 31, 2025**

35	ACH - CERBT Contribution		\$0.00		
36	ACH - Payroll Tax Deposits		\$15,639.23		
37	ACH - CalPERS Pers/Pepra Contributions		\$8,217.64		
38	ACH - CalPERS Pers/Pepra Unfunded Contributions		\$9,184.50		
39	ACH - Deferred Comp/Pers457 Loan Payments		\$2,022.98		
40	Total Disbursement's:			\$121,117.80	
41	Total Transfer's from Investment Account:			\$124,542.49	
42	Total Interest Earned May 31, 2025:			\$0.24	
43	Total Book Balance as of May 31, 2025:			\$8,153.05	
<b>CASH ACCOUNT'S SUMMARY</b>					
			<b>Prior Bal.</b>	<b>Current Bal.</b>	
44	W	Total Cash in Working Account:	\$4,728.12	\$8,153.05	
45	W	Total Cash in Investment Account:	\$105,665.23	\$156,711.81	
46	C	Total Cash in CFD Checking Account:	\$256,720.20	\$380,218.59	
47	W	Total Cash in Payroll Account:	\$13,347.92	\$19,353.11	
48	W	Total Cash in Cash Imprest Drawer/Petty Account:	\$200.00	\$200.00	
49	W	Total Cash in LAIF Water Savings Account:	\$902,388.61	\$902,119.61	
50	S	Total Cash in LAIF Sewer Savings Account:	\$59,632.50	\$59,453.16	
51	W	Total Cash in LAIF Sinking Account:	\$277,144.82	\$277,144.82	
52	S	Total Cash in LAIF Capacity Expansion Account:	\$131,144.05	\$131,144.05	
53	W	Total Cash in #5 Well CEC Debt Reserve Account:	\$32,706.54	\$32,706.54	
54	W	Total Cash in #6 Well CEC Debt Reserve Account:	\$45,085.55	\$45,085.55	
55	W	Total Cash in Office CEC Debt Reserve:	\$2,465.60	\$2,465.60	
56	S	Total Cash in Office CEC Debt Reserve:	\$2,467.11	\$2,467.11	
57	S	Total Cash in WWTP CEC Debt Reserve	\$32,720.92	\$32,720.92	
58	C	Total Cash in LAIF USDA/CWSRF Debt Reserve Account:	\$340,607.68	\$340,607.68	
59	C	Total Cash in LAIF WWTP Short Lived Asset Account:	\$213,191.00	\$213,191.00	
60	C	Total Cash in LAIF Tax Levy Collections Account:	\$728,770.81	\$728,770.81	
61	C	Total Cash in LAIF Annual CFD Administration:	\$46,883.06	\$46,883.06	
62	<b>Total Cash on Hand:</b>				\$3,371,243.42
<b>BALANCE LAIF REHAB FUNDS:</b>					
			<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>Current Bal.</b>	
63	W	Total Cash in Well Rehab Fund:	\$172,248.61	\$172,248.61	
64	W	Total Cash in Hydrant Replacement Fund:	\$43,987.76	\$43,987.76	
65	W	Total Cash in Equipment Replacement Fund:	\$16,677.95	\$16,677.95	
66	W	Total Cash in Valve & Line Replacement Fund:	\$39,033.74	\$39,033.74	
67	W	Total Cash in Tank Rehab Fund:	\$130,746.75	\$130,746.75	
68	W	Total Cash in Vehicle Replacement Fund:	\$2,274.51	\$2,274.51	
69	W	Total Cash in Booster Station Fund:	\$6,085.26	\$6,085.26	
70	W	Total Cash in Generator Well #4 Fund:	\$50,398.78	\$50,398.78	
71	W	Total Cash in Computer Equipment & Upgrades Fund:	\$17,913.35	\$15,182.35	

**RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT  
WORKING ACCOUNT  
DISBURSEMENT/STATUS OF BANK ACCOUNT AS OF  
May 31, 2025**

72	W	Total Cash in Waterline Replacement Fund:	\$15,254.02	\$15,254.02	
73	S	Total Cash in Lift Station Motors Replacement Fund:	\$20,435.61	\$20,435.61	
74	S	Total Cash in Sewer Line Replacement Fund:	\$57,521.00	\$57,521.00	
75	S	Total Cash in WWTP Replacement Fund:	\$91,394.08	\$91,394.08	
76	S	Total Cash in Vehicle Replacement Fund:	\$2,274.52	\$2,274.52	
77	S	Total Cash in Lift Station #1 Facility	\$6,113.07	\$6,113.07	
78	S	Total Cash in Computer Equipment & Upgrades Fund:	\$11,213.75	\$9,393.09	
79	S	Total Cash in Lab Equipment Fund:	\$3,459.02	\$3,459.02	
80	S	Total Cash in Chlorine Generation Fund:	\$15,254.04	\$15,254.04	
81	S	Total Cash in Aerator Brush Replacement Fund:	\$10,169.37	\$10,169.37	
<b>82</b>		<b>Total Cash in LAIF Rehab Funds:</b>			<b>\$707,903.53</b>
83	W	Total Cash in Capacity Expansion Account RAWD	\$60,821.81	\$60,822.84	
84	S	Total Cash in Capacity Expansion Account RAID	\$40,526.50	\$40,527.19	
<b>85</b>		<b>Total Cash in Capacity Expansion Account:</b>			<b>\$101,350.03</b>
<b>86</b>		<b>Total Cash on Hand &amp; LAIF Funds as of May 31, 2025:</b>			<b>\$4,188,650.03</b>

87 Total deposits to the Investment Account for the month of May were \$216,649.57, which includes 2nd Installment County \$103,283.97 and \$5,000.00 LAIF Transfer.

88 Total transferred from LAIF Account to the Investment Account for the month of April was \$5,000.00. Reimbursement for Computer's: Billy's, Martha's, & Server Warranty

89 CERBT Balance \$397,453.46

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RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICT  
DISBURSEMENT/STATUS OF BANK ACCOUNT AS OF  
May 31, 2025

1	<b>Balance - 04/30/2025:</b>		<b>\$256,718.09</b>
2	Interest thru 04/30/2025:		<b>\$2.11</b>
3	<b>Reconciled Beginning Balance May 1, 2025:</b>		<b>\$256,720.20</b>
4	<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
5	Rio Alto Water District	2023-24 Annual Reimbursement RAWD Paid	<b>\$6,026.54</b>
6	Total Disbursements:		<b>\$6,026.54</b>
7	Total Deposits:		<b>\$129,522.04 *</b>
8	Total Interest Earned May 31, 2025:		<b>\$2.89</b>
9	Transfers to LAIF Account:		<b>\$0.00</b>
10	Total Transfers from LAIF Account:		<b>\$0.00</b>
11	<b>Total Book Balance as of May 31, 2025:</b>		<b>\$380,218.59</b>

12 \* Total deposits to the CFD Account for the month of May were \$129,522.04, 2nd Installment Special Tax Levy.

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Agenda Item #6  
Bring your Draft  
2025/2026 Budget  
provided in the May  
Board Package

**ACWA Conference & Expo  
Monterey, CA  
Spring 2025  
May 13 - 15, 2025**

*Kaiser*

**Spring Conference Covers Top California Water Issues**

The Spring 2025 ACWA Conference & Expo attracted more than 1,500 attendees to Monterey May 13-15 for presentations, panel discussions and keynote addresses focused on issues surrounding the state's most vital resource.

Panels explored disaster responses ranging from catastrophic wildfire impacts in Los Angeles to how water agencies throughout California can prepare for natural disasters of all types.

The conference also featured programs on improving watershed health, recharging groundwater basins with diverted floodwater and enhancing water supply coordination between local, state and federal water managers.

**Katherine Zitsch Speaking Wednesday, National Water Supply**

National Water Supply Alliance President Katherine Zitsch delivered the Wednesday keynote address and outlined her perspectives on water supply challenges shared in common by California and the U.S. Southeast. She compared how California and the U.S. Southeast share several issues in common. Both suffer from severe droughts, feature water challenges facing urban and agricultural communities alike and have a wary eye on the emergence data centers as a new type of high demand water users. During the late 2000s, drought brought Atlanta to within a month of running out of water, said Zitsch, who also serves as Senior Water Policy Advisor at the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center. But as in California, conditions radically reversed with the arrival of severe flooding. Water concerns easily cross regional and political differences. "It is red, it is blue, it is urban, it is rural, it is all of the above," Zitsch said. The certainty of there always being a drought around the next corner makes conservation a perennial topic, as well as the need for more water infrastructure funding. Georgia's transportation and energy sectors are booming, with the latter fed by increasing demand from new data centers. "We're accelerating, but people don't talk about the water supply, which is used for cooling," Zitsch said. "And so my thing is, that during any dinner party that you hear somebody say 'infrastructure' and they're talking about something, you need to say, 'and water'." Zitsch closed with a call for collaboration on water advocacy. "Water is a team sport," Zitsch said, later adding "When we get to Congress, we have to be doing it together. It's why I'm so excited to be here today."

The conference also included a Water Talk speaker on Wednesday, with Justin Wren delivering an inspiring presentation based on his experiences as a humanitarian and mixed martial arts fighter. By the numbers, the latest ACWA conference featured 25 educational sessions, 15 committee and task force meetings, nine ACWA regional membership meetings and 80 Exhibit Hall booths, along with receptions and myriad opportunities for professional network building. The conference was supported by 46 sponsors.

The summaries highlight just a few of the programs and panel discussions during conference.

**Wednesday 10:30 - 11:45**

*18*

# THE FUTURE OF WATER RATES

Two recent court rulings have called into question the rationality of tiered water rates, setting a more refined standard for rate-making and forcing agencies to rethink their methodologies and justifications. Panel delved into how water agencies can develop rate structures that not only comply with Prop 218 but also help address affordability, promote water efficiency and effectively communicate the value of water service to customers. Water rates are projected to increase in the future, particularly in California, due to rising costs of infrastructure, treatment, and maintenance, as well as the need to diversify water sources and address climate change impacts. These increases will affect both residential and commercial customers. Committed to keeping rates as low as possible through energy-efficient upgrades, securing grant funding, and streamlining operations. However, the cost of delivering safe, reliable water continues to rise, and these rate adjustments ensure can maintain and invest in the system for future reliability. Securing grants, maximizing the use of lowest cost water, increasing energy efficiencies, and reducing long-term costs by installing improved infrastructure, obtain legal counsel to be in compliance and within Prop. 218. Future years will require good planning & knowledge and ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY.

## **Practical/legal tools to protect your agency in rate setting**

**2:30 - 3:30**

Prop. 218 and Prop. 26 creates strict requirements for water rates. Recent court opinions have left the legal environment ore difficult to navigate and agencies with little clarity and direction. This session focuses on tools available to public agencies to effectively manage and mitigate risk. Attendees will learn about recent legislative tools, as well as practical advice on avoiding pitfalls and navigating risk. Have a public relations to work with customers to comply with Prop 218. Prop. 218 rates can only be for cost of service. Burden is always on agency to prove why rate increase. Rates must be on a parcel basis.

### **1. Understand Regulations:**

**State Insurance Regulations:** Familiarize yourself with your state's specific regulations regarding rate setting for property and casualty insurance.

**Prior Approval vs. File and Use:** Understand if your state requires prior approval of rates before implementation or if it uses a file and use system.

**Proposition 103:** In California, be aware of the requirements of Proposition 103, which mandates the Department of Insurance to review

and approve rates for most property and casualty lines.

**Unfair Discrimination:** Ensure your rate setting process does not result in excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory rates, according to the NAIC.

**NAIC Guidelines:** While not legally binding, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) provides valuable guidance on rate standards and actuarial practices.

## **2. Documentation & Transparency:**

**Actuarial Memoranda:** Maintain detailed actuarial memoranda outlining the basis for rate determination, including the anticipated loss ratio.

**Clear Rationale:** Ensure your rate filings clearly explain the rationale behind your pricing decisions and demonstrate compliance with regulations.

**Record Keeping:** Implement robust record-keeping practices to document all aspects of your rate setting process, including supporting data and analysis.

## **3. Professional Expertise & Tools:**

**Actuarial Services:** Engage qualified actuaries to develop and validate your rate filings, ensuring they are sound and defensible.

**Rate Filing Software:** Consider utilizing specialized software designed for rate filing, which can streamline the process and help ensure compliance.

**Legal Counsel:** Consult with legal counsel specializing in insurance law to review your rate setting procedures and provide guidance on compliance matters.

## **4. Risk Management:**

**Errors and Omissions (E&O) Insurance:** Maintain adequate E&O insurance coverage to protect your agency against claims arising from alleged errors or omissions in rate setting.

**Compliance Audits:** Conduct regular internal audits of your rate setting practices to identify and address any potential compliance issues.

## **5. Stay Informed & Adapt:**

**Industry Updates:** Stay updated on changes in insurance regulations, industry trends, and best practices related to rate setting.

**NAIC Resources:** Utilize the resources and guidance provided by the NAIC to stay informed about regulatory developments.

By implementing these practical and legal tools, insurance agencies can strengthen their rate setting processes, mitigate legal risks, and ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

**Property and Casualty Model Rating Law - NAIC**

**Rate Standards.** Rates shall be made in accordance with the following provisions: A. Rates shall not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.

**(1) MO-134-1 GUIDELINES FOR FILING OF RATES FOR ... - NAIC**

Each rate submission shall include an actuarial memorandum describing the basis on which rates were determined and shall indicate and describe the calculation NAIC Insurance Documentation Process: Best Practices Dec 18, 2024 — Key Take aways for the Insurance Documentation Process: \* Consistency is Key: Ensure that files and attachments are managed consistently, making information Agency Performance Partners

## **REGION 2 - PORTOLA COTTONWOOD 2 - 3:45 - 5:00**

Rio Alto Water District General Manager, 4 directors & Dean Sherrill - Dean Sherrill has applied for the position of Region 2 member. District 2 extends from Trinity, Tehama, and Plumas Counties northward through Shasta and Lassen Counties to Siskiyou. Districts which perform at least one of three specific duties: water delivery, waste disposal (sanitation), and flood control and water conservation. Members understand water issues may be a difficult challenge positions on water policy . For these districts, water would only be one of a series of responsibilities for board members.

**Thursday 9:00 - 10:15**

## **JOINT POWERS AUTHORITIES - THE MULTI-HEADED DRAGONS**

Why are there so many joint powers authorities (JPAs) in the water world???



Their formation governance, organization and role with respect to water projects, facilities operations and SIGMA and the funding of JPA operations and capital projects. The Water Authority was established in January of 1992 and consists of twenty-seven member agencies. Twenty-five of the Water Authority's member agencies contract with the United States for the delivery of water from the federal Central Valley Project (CVP). The CVP water supply serves approximately 1.2 million acres of agricultural lands within areas of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Kings, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties, a portion of the water supply for nearly 2 million people, including urban areas referred to as the Silicon Valley and millions of waterfowl managed wetlands and other critical habitat. The Water Authority serves two primary purposes. It operates and maintains certain CVP facilities owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. In addition, the Water Authority advocates for common interests of its members by providing and disseminating information to legislative administrative and judicial bodies concerning a variety of issues involving the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta, water supply or water quality. Transactional matter in the areas of water rights, water quality, public agency law, agribusiness, and real property. Land acquisitions and eminent domain proceedings various irrigation and water districts, flood control & groundwater sustainability. Partnership of water agencies dedicated to avoiding the high cost of commercial insurance. Formed in 1979, JPIA is not an insurance agency or carrier. It is a risk-sharing pool for property, liability, workers' compensation and employee benefits, which allows for more rate stability, broader coverage and expanded benefits and services than private insurance. Our offerings are unique to the water industry; member agencies themselves – their directors and managers – have selected and refined the various programs. Only agencies that demonstrate a commitment to effective risk management programs are accepted in to JPIA. Meets the needs of its members for property, liability, workers' compensation, and employee benefits coverage. In addition, members receive assistance with training, personnel policies and procedures, developing job descriptions and employee handbooks. The core values of an organization are those values held which form the foundation on which we perform work and conduct ourselves. Have an entire universe of values, but some of them are so important to us that throughout the changes in society, government, politics, and technology, they are STILL the core values will abide by. In an ever-changing world, core values are constant. Core values are not descriptions of the work we do or the strategies we employ to accomplish our mission. These values underlie our work, how we interact with each other, and which strategies employ to fulfill our mission.

## **LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE PRESENTED BY EXECUTIVE EDGE 12:00 - 1:30**

Focused on the importance of leadership development in water management. Highlight the value of leadership development, programs & benefits for future.

Dr. Steve Swafford, IOM, is a Balance Warrior and CEO with over 30 years of experience in non-profits, trade associations, and professional societies. His expertise spans strategy, leadership development, communication, and governance. He brings a practical knowledge of strategy and executive leadership with past organizations such as the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), and American Subcontractors Association (ASA) where he most recently served as the executive director.

Steve is active in California Society of Association Executives (CalSAE) and American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) leadership serving on the Board of Directors; Leadership Development Committee; Membership Committee Chair; Professional Development Committee Chair; Southern California Regional Council; university leadership advisor; and volunteer staff pastor.



Additionally, Steve is a 15-year faculty member for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute of Management and serves on the Curriculum Committee for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Directors for Lambda Chi Alpha International Fraternity. Steve is Full-Time Practitioner Faculty for Pepperdine University's Graziadio Business School and co-founder of Leadership Outfitters, LLC.

Explores the principles of effective leadership that can be practiced by anyone on the team. As described in the best-seller *The Leadership Challenge*, the five practices of (1) model the way, (2) inspire a shared vision, (3) challenge the process, (4) enable others to act, and (5) encourage the heart are the cornerstone of leadership.

Within the discussion, will look at not only leadership, but how important the first follower is to the team, the dynamics between management and leadership; and what the group considers characteristics of leadership in their day-to-day experience.

**2:00 - 3:30**

## **Groundwater**

Title: "A Practical Guide to Diverting Flood Water for Groundwater Recharge"

Panelists: Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director, Sustainable Groundwater Water

Management, Department of Water Resources; Ryan Bezerra, Senior Partner, BKS Law Firm; Erik Ekdahl, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board; Stefanie Morris, Principal, CalNeve Water

Key issue(s): In January, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an Executive Order making it easier for local and regional agencies to apply state laws to maximize groundwater recharge. This built upon previous Executive Orders that supported recharge efforts during 2023's historic winter storms. Panelists discussed how water managers can use the orders and apply current regulations to fight floods while replenishing groundwater supplies. Bezerra quote: "The law is always a lagging indicator. ... We haven't caught up at all to the perspective of what happens if you're diverting flood water out of a stream and put it in the ground and who's got rights to it." Ekdahl quote: "There is far, far more capacity to store water underground than there is on the surface. It's pennies on the dollar. ... We need more storage, and our basins have more space than all the surface water combined."

**4:00 - 5:30**

**Attorney Program Title: "Burning Questions: Legal Duties and Risks in Fire-Prone California"**

Panelists: (Moderator) Claire Collins, Partner, Hanson Bridgett LLP; Laura Ratcliffe, Senior Counsel, Hanson Bridgett LLP; Kayla Villa, Litigation Manager, ACWA JPIA

Key Issue(s): In the era of increasingly destructive wildfires, this session examined the liability exposures and defenses of water agencies as both landowners and water suppliers. Panelists suggested strategies to mitigate risks and explored potential legislative reforms and opportunities for policy advocacy regarding the nexus between wildfire and public water agencies. Collins quote: "As a lawyer, understanding what defensible space and vegetation management is, and your local codes, is really important." Villa quote: "When it comes to mitigating risks, there are a lot of resources available to you — so use them."

## **COMMENTS ON CONFERENCE**

A lot of moving around & rushing to programs. A great deal of learning for future needs. Louise Wilkinson

## “Bridging the Gap Between Engineers and Accountants to Address Infrastructure Needs.”

Notes: Martha

Asset Management is a management system for the management of Assets- it is “the bridge”.

Asset Lifecycle Management:

- Preliminary Design
- Design and Procure
- Manage Project Portfolio
- Construct & Commission
- Maintenance Strategy
- Operate, Monitor, & Inspect
- Maintain, Respond & Repair
- Manage Work Orders & Reporting
- Analyze Performance
- Evaluate Intervention
- Model Risk and Renewal
- Renew, Replace or Retire
- Monitor Demand, Capacity & Service
- Establish Goals & Master Plan
- Evaluate Business Cases
- Optimize Capital Program

Assets exist to deliver value to stakeholders. Poor performing assets degrade service quality. You are in business to own, maintain, renew pipes, plants and tanks so you can provide a service safely, reliably and affordably. Your stakeholders have expected levels of service.

- Are you spending enough to maintain existing asset performance?
- Is current asset performance good enough?
- Are you paying and planning for growth?
- Asset Management is a commitment to a new “Business as Usual”
- It is about managing assets for value received from them not of them.

Capital assets are used to describe the assets that are used in operations and have initial useful lives extending beyond a single reporting period. Budgetary pressures often impede capital program expenditures or investments for maintenance and replacement especially for governments that don't prepare a multi-year capital plan. A government's financial and multi-year capital plan should address the continuing investment necessary to properly maintain its capital assets. Even if depreciation is funded, that amount is based on historical costs.

The better approach is a future-focused approach that includes O&M costs, cost of periodic future interventions, future replacement and estimated useful life.

The infrastructure funding gap: Compare funding needs for O&M, renewal/rehabilitation to the available capacity in the operating budget and capital reserves and debt limits- in most cases there will be a funding gap.

Options to deal with the gap:

- Adjust several levels, prioritize, seek efficiencies
- Increase funding in the form of higher user fees, increased investment income, seek out grant funding.
- Increase debt financing, which leads to higher debt servicing costs.

Challenges for both asset management and financial Infrastructure:

- Material increases in the cost of infrastructure and operating expenses, along with a higher cost of borrowing
- Aging assets and declining asset conditions
- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Long term planning is often overlooked as we focus on day-today matters

Tactical approaches:

- Build the Asset Managers and Financial Managers relationships
- Asset managers improve financial acuity
- Financial managers increase your understanding of asset management principles and data, and the risk of deferring renewal work
- Better data
- Take a risk-based approach to capital budgeting using the Asset Management Plan as a key input
- Show stakeholders how data is being used to ensure the right work is being done at the right time on the right assets at the right cost
- Incremental progress is key

## “Lessons Learned from Wildfire and Building a More Resilient Water System”

Notes: Martha

Presenter: David Pedersen, PE  
Las Virgenes Water District (LVMWD)

### Lessons learned:

- Invest in emergency backup power and improved redundancy.
- Activate early and apologize later (if necessary).
- Water agency personnel are first responders; be safe
- Set up 12-hr. shifts and send people home to rest.
- Some chaos is normal but manage it.
- Request mutual aid before you need it.
- Document from start for FEMA reimbursement.
- Test emergency generators under load.
- Send a representative to Fire Incident Command (IC).
- Explain importance of facilities to IC Liaison Officer.
- Issue public notices and updates without delay.
- Emergency response is a sprint; disaster recovery is a marathon.

### LVMD's role:

- Inform community
- Push out accurate information
- Help neighboring colleagues
- Maximize media availability
- Combat misinformation
- Fix leaks, shutoff services and maintain system pressure
- Issue Do Not Drink Water Orders to affected areas

### The Role of Social Media:

- Social media is considered a primary source for information even during emergencies
- It is also used to confirm personal biases
- Headlines are often all that is read- sometimes the subtext is consumed
- Influencers can be considered sources of accurate information
- Stay on top of social media

### Planning a More Resilient Water System:

- Greater degree of redundancy such as backup power for all essential treatment and pumping systems with automated transfer switches
- Have interconnections with neighboring water systems
- Have larger amounts of gravity storage
- Looped distribution systems with isolation valves
- Emergency Response Planning/Hazard Mitigation Planning
- On-site Fuel Storage and Delivery Capabilities
- Routine Maintenance and Testing of equipment
- Emergency Contracts with Key Vendors
- Improved Communication with Power Utility Representatives
- Well-Trained employees

## “Communicating During Emergencies”

Notes: Martha

Speakers from Pasadena and Las Virginiis Water District in Irvine spoke on the importance of being prepared for the event of a wildfire and the importance of communication in the effective response. Communication needs to be within your own District, with partners in emergency response and the community.

- Both speakers agreed that it is imperative to have your reservoirs pre-filled in response to alert conditions that may be present.
- Have back up generators in place if you have or suspect a potential emergency.
- Maintain a working relationship with the Fire Department.
- Be prepared to add an emergency alert to your website. ( Have prepared statements to push out to the community.) Alerts should be accurate and updates should be furnished even if you have no new information. (This will reduce the amount of calls and misinformation received during emergencies.)
- Your website should have an emergency tab. This tab should contain information about preparing in advance for an emergency. Focus on getting majority of customers signed up for alerts.
- Provide relevant resources year round.
- Have procedures and internal communications in place with employees for their roles during an emergency situation. Remember to give support to your staff, humor plays a big role when confronted with stressful situations. Be sensitive to their needs, they will be working long hours and could be subject to personal impacts from the emergency.
- Educate through outreach the role of hydrants during a wildfire.
- Open an emergency operations center with your city manager or any other partners such as the Fire Department, FEMA, WARN. Have a designated employee who will be coordinating with the operations center.
- Preassign meeting times preferably 4 times per day.

## “Joint Powers Authorities-Multi Headed Dragons- Their Care and Feeding and You”

Notes: Martha

Speaker: Roger Masuda, Esq.

Government codes were established in 1921 to allow the optional creation of a separate legal entity. If two or more agencies want to develop a project, operate an existing project, or provided services they can form a legal entity separate from themselves for the following reasons:

- Member agencies are liable for the torts of the JPA but not are not necessarily liable for the contractual obligations of the JPA with the exception of the liability of retirement benefits upon dissolution.
- JPA's used for financing a major project without going to the voters for approval.
- The JPA has the power to issue revenue bonds if agreed upon by both parties.
- JPA is agreement with 2 or more public agency to jointly exercise a common power Powers can be latent but must exist in districts' enabling legislation but District has not provided prior to 2006.
- If District now wished to exercise latent power it has to apply to LAFCO.
- Each member must be a public agency.
- JPA is a qualifying public agency, so a public agency could join with its existing JPA to form a new separate JPA for financing purposes.
- Examples of JPA's
  - Group to finance, design, environmentally review, construct and operate a specific project.
  - Common-Interest JPA with projects to be determined and developed JPA owns the project but one member operates it.
- Subject to the restrictions upon the manner of exercising the power of one of the contracting parties.
- Designate a member Agency's governing law
- Only a member of the legislative body of a local agency member who serves as representative on the JPA Board may disclose confidential info received from closed session to their legal counsel or agency's board in closed session.
- Appointed member of your board attends JPA Board closed session to report back to your board.
- Voting- one member one vote? Project entitlement percentages?

JPA Agreement needs to spell out many provisions that could arise:

- One or more parties may agree to provide all or a portion of the services to the other parties in the manner provided in the APA.
- Hire its own employees?
- Contract with a JPA member agency to provide services?
- Contract with outside consultants?
- Who will be the JPA's Tort liability and E&O insurance carrier?
- Will liability contract continue to cover withdrawn member or accrue to date of withdrawal?
- Are there JPA employees with vested retirement benefits?
- Do members acquire an entitlement or right to use a percent or fixed amount of the capacity of the various JPA facilities?
- Do existing members have priority of use of the JPA facilities over use by any non-member?
- What happens if a member defaults in making project payments to JPA?
- What are the step-up obligations of the other JPA members?

## **ACWA Conference 2025 Event Code spring25**

### **Opening Keynote: Katheine Zitsch PE, OCEE**

My 2 cents:

The theme of Katheine's speech was: One water nation with similar water related problems, some bigger than others with similar themes. I very much enjoyed her presentation. Katheine spoke about her experiences with Georgia water. She represented the **National Water Supply Alliance (NWSA)**. I was hearted by the fact that there is a national effort to care for water and the challenges therein. My hope is that, through this effort, common solutions from maintenance, dire conditions, financial solutions, etc. can be collected and shared by large and small water districts alike. One interesting statistic Katheine mentioned, regarding very large data centers that support AI, was that one email message consumed 1 bottle of Dasani water. Georgia uses 600,000,000 gallons of water per day with very large data centers. It has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest MSA in the US that uses 98% surface water and has an average of 50 inches of rainfall per year. And still, they have 16 conservation methods (sounds familiar). I loved her presentation.

### **10:30 Wednesday**

**Policy: Preparing for California Growing Emergency Threats**

**Chair: Brandyn Hancocks - Compliance Manager Environmental, Safety & Emergency Management, Golden State Water company**

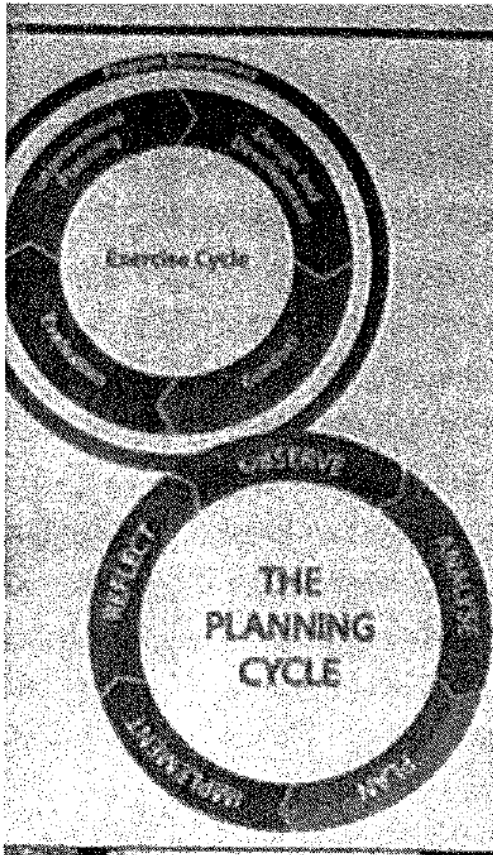
**Lori Nezhura – Compliance Manager Environmental,, Safety & Emergency Management, Golden State Water Company**

The session focused on the state perspective regarding emergency preparedness, planning and exercising cycles, training and hardening facilities

#### **Lori Nezhura**

The OES (Office of Emergency Services) follows 'Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) process. There are 5 levels to SEMS, Field, Local Government/city, Operational Area/County, OES Region and State respectively. That said written in quotes on the slide is, "All disaster starts and end at the local level".

The following picture shows the components of planning and exercising cycles



This presentation talked about preparing for natural disasters with emphasis on earthquakes. Lori is a resource for the Seismic Safety Commission. She is involved as a resource for training, help with FEMA, emergency management training, emergency planning (indicating plans are available online), mitigation strategy, infrastructure seismic hazard rating including roads and infrastructure seismic readiness.

A major concern is regarding the condition of levies across California. Lori indicated, on a grading scale of A through F (failure), the state has a current seismic readiness grade of "C". She indicated that a 7.5 magnitude quake would cause major damage to the levy system.

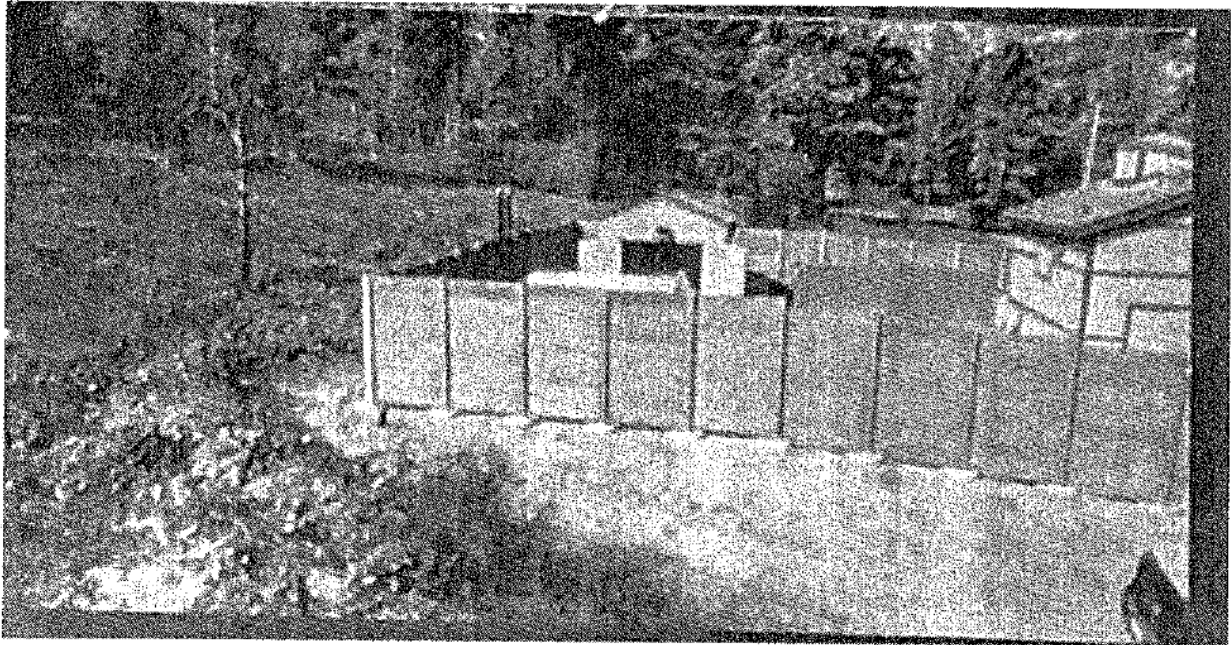
Online Emergency Plans are available, however voluminous (I think the plan is the same one we have but could not use).

Lori mentioned the Trump talked about getting rid of FEMA and returning this function back to the states. Lori referred to the FEMA Review Council created by Trump on January 24, 2025 through executive order 14180.

**Brandyn Hancocks**

Brandyn works for a private water company. Her work helps determine how to harden key facilities. She advocates leveraging other utility companies to help. Among these are fire, electric, gas, and portable facilities like porta-potties.

Brandyn, talked about the Golden State Water Company and their response to the Bridge Fire in Wrightwood CA in 2024. Wrightwood has about 4,100 customers. Golden State made a significant investment in emergency management, emergency power and fire prevention. The barrier in the photo shows how the facility was protected against the fire.



Also presented was a very large project for the City of San Diego Water Treatment Plant providing 20 mgd. Civil engineers used pre-stressed concrete to help harden these facilities against earthquakes.

The City of Redlands will be affected by the next major earthquake along the San Andreas fault and is estimated to occur between the years of 2032 and 2057. The last major quake was in 1857.

**“Facilities are only as strong as the Weakest Link” – What is ours?**

**2:30 Wednesday**

**Finance Forum: Long Range Financial Planning for Water Utilities**

**1000028166**

**Rob Hannay, East Bay MUD – Moderator**

Matthew Freiberg, San Francisco PUC

Jonathan Wunderlich Alameda County Water District

This session was very finance technical. Focus was on credit rating, risk and future planning. My takeaway, RAWD is doing very well in this area.

Recommendations are for stronger financial management, look as far ahead as possible with 5-year plans, 10-year plans and even as far ahead as 50 years. Due to aging infrastructure, focus on capital investments. Keep separate funds for capital expenditures. Managing and following best practice can increase credit worthiness.

The 50-year plan is really a look into where the district might be in 50 years. Projections would look at inflation, salary, income, and expense (infrastructure) trends to project out 50 years (sounds like fun to me).

Comparison of Credit rating contrasting California with the rest of the country shows California water utility as well positioned.

Capital funding needs to increase due to aging infrastructure. Water utilities are facing increasing challenges. Credit ratings in California are higher than the rest of the country. High ratings are AA and A+. California shows stronger financial management. 1.5 – 2 years cash reserves.

California shows a high level of planning in large part due to prop 218. California is more forward looking than the rest of the nation. Management is at a higher level. However, as a negative trend, capital need exceeds the rest of the nation. Affordability is a challenge. Rate structure supports increases in costs. Have the right person (Martha) in the room when dealing with rate increases.

Climate change has become a huge risk in planning with a 20% Management score. Climate is perhaps the most complicated risk to assess (this note may be my take on the overall conversation). Districts need to be thoughtful about reserves.

**9:00 Thursday**

## **Region Issue Forum: State, Local and Federal Efforts to Enhance Water Supply**

**1000028173**

Sargent Green, Fresno Metropolitan FCD

Johnny Amaral, Friant Water Authority

Dorene D'Adamo, California State Water Resources Control Board

Adam Nickels, Bureau of Reclamation

Dorene:

Dorene talked about environmental regulation, the impact regulations have had on permitting and water recharge

SGMA started in 2014.

- Families sold out farms
- Plans for sustainability got started
- Tolare Lake was put on probation
- Tuly? Lake was put on probation
- Interest in recharge increased
- More water going into the ground

Water permits

- Temporary from 4 months to 5 or 10 years
- 140,000 acre feet water rights
- Gained only 11,000 acre feet of water into the ground
- "Water Supply Approach" (google it) improved recharge to 100,000 acre feet

Bay Delta Plan is getting attention.

Adam:

Adam took us back in time to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century

- Water sustainability was thought about
- The Great Depression limited funding
- Roosevelt created 'The Big Deal' that added resources
- \$45B planning started 5 generations ago with 19<sup>th</sup> century knowledge

What will 100 years from now look like?

- Canal work?
  - 130,000 acre feet of water will be added to Norcal
  - Shasta is being thought about
- Fix existing infrastructure
- Use existing contracts but think about integrated ways that benefit all
- Think about it now!

Johnny: CA Water Resource Control Board

Talked about canals used for irrigation across the state with specifics about maintenance priorities within the San Joaquin Valley.

If not for the canal the east side of the valley would not exist today.

- Major investment that needs to be supported
- 152 miles of gravity fed canal was finished.
- One area subsided in Bradford(?) and a new canal needed.
- The canal was to be 14 feet deep and 10 miles long in the first phase of the project and phase two was to restore supply.

The Delta operations are always talked about in a negative light. Johnny worked in DC for 13 years and in general there is not enough collaboration regarding operational projects. This lack impedes progress, especially operational projects. We should not dismiss projects because they come from operations.

Sargent Green: Moderator

Sargent asked the questions: What are we doing locally and how do we use wet times to increase recharge?

- Water well locations interfere. A model is needed.
- Recharge locations process is needed
- Voluntary process is needed for land use
- Production is going bankrupt
- There are challenges in building more supply. We can get more through better collaboration and innovation needs to be more efficient.
- Recharge - Banking water – SGMA is upsetting what we are doing that works. Current recharge and desalinization solutions are working. Desalinization is in danger of losing permitting. Desalinization process needs to be improved.
- Energy nexus is another aspect to get water out of the ground.

- Regulation flexibility is needed. Some flexibility is not possible if it comes from prohibited legislation.
- There is a question about headwater pertaining to keeping water in the mountains that is being addressed by the headwaters committee. The Feds own large amounts of headwater.
- How does hydrocarbon extraction contribute to subsidence? The belief is there is no impact due to the depth of oil wells, however more analysis is needed.
- Sytes needs \$20 million more.

## **12:00 Thursday**

### **Federal Water Industry Trends: Leveraging Partnerships to Improve Forest Health**

Ian Lyle, ACWA – Moderator

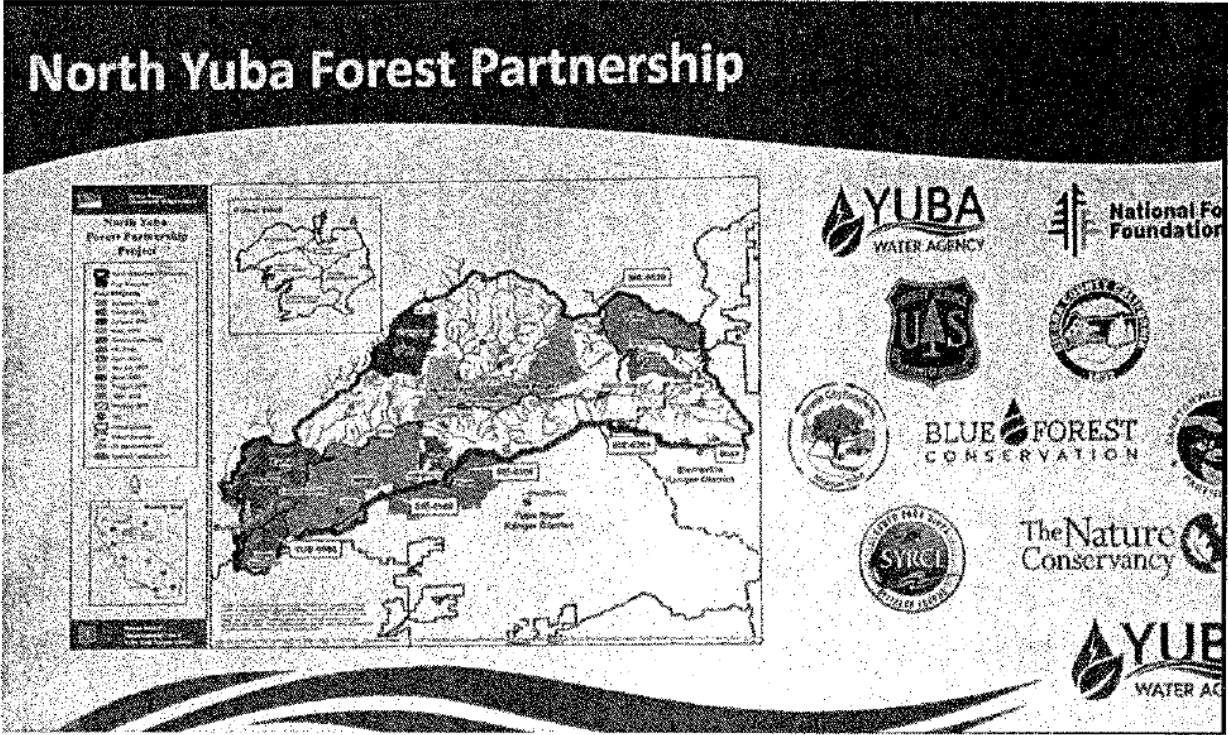
Joel Metzger, Utica Water and Power Authority

JoAnne Lessard, PhD, Yuba Water Agency

Talked about the Yuba River watershed project. The project focuses on environmental restoration and enhanced local ecosystems and water quality. One funding strategy is to leverage capital. Additional goals are to increase pace and scale by making money more rapidly available.

Their mission is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, protect local communities and safeguard water supply by treating acres of forest in a collaborative effort. Yuba Water community Impact Grant Program provides \$10 million per year. \$26 million has been spent to date on the Watershed Resiliency project under this program. An additional \$182 Million has been leveraged in external funding.

Forest mastication as a technique used to reduce risk of devastating fires with the waste feeding a Biomass plant.



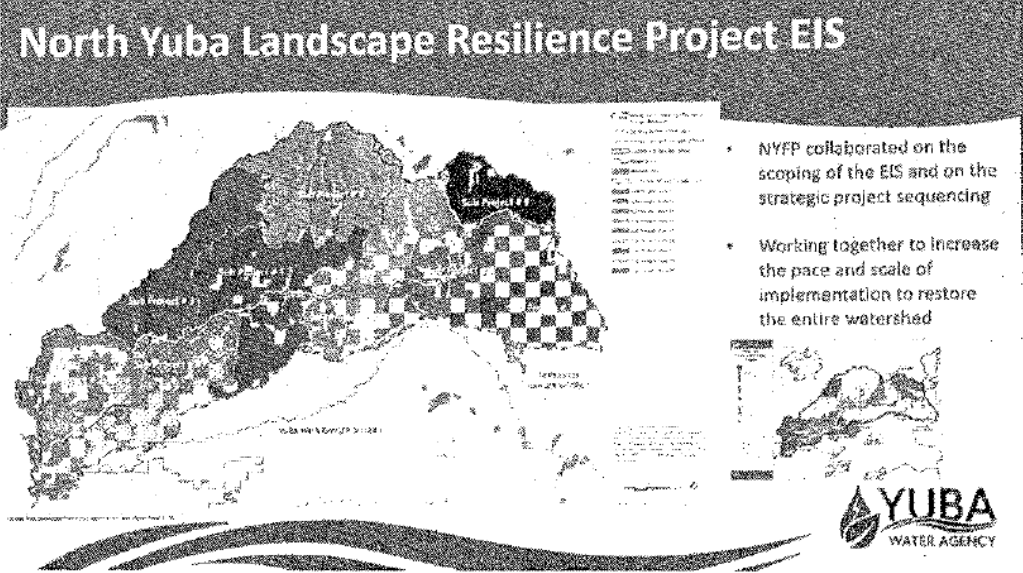
2018 They partnered with Blue Forest, private, state and federal partners for 15,000 acres. Funded through bond money

2019 Nine organization for another 275,000 acres

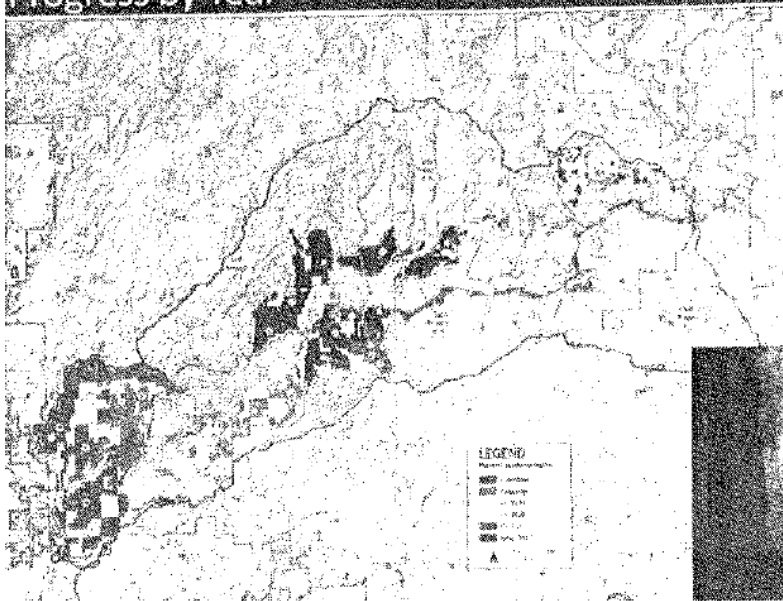
2022 additional \$6 million over a 10 year bond funded 26,000 acres

2022/2023 federal funding for \$130 million

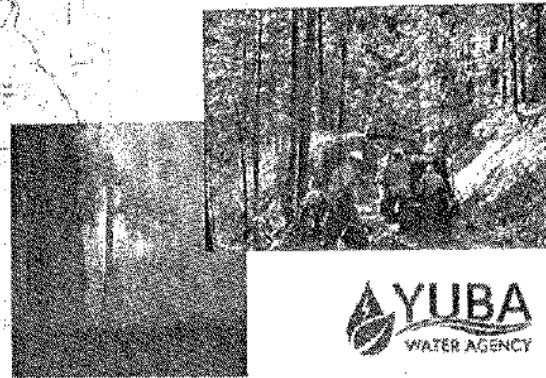
North Yuba Landscape resiliency Project EIS



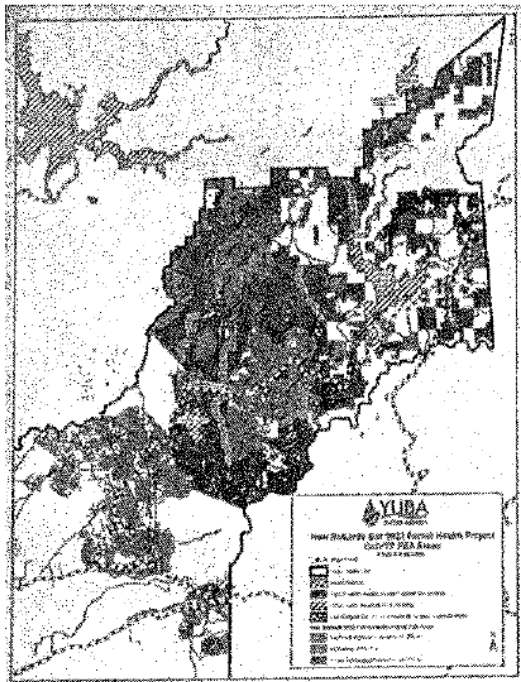
## NYFP IMPLEMENTATION Progress by Year



Fiscal Year (Oct-Sep)	Treatment Completed (acres)	Prep and Layout (acres)
FY19	1,923	Not Tracked
FY20	2,999	Not Tracked
FY21	3,288	Not Tracked
FY22	508	1,368
FY23	1,479	4,439
FY24	3,838	7,000
FY25	1,935	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,920</b>	<b>12,886</b>



The wood from deforestation was used to feed a 5 MW Biomass plant. Funding was provided in 2024 from a \$7 million in a grant and \$8.3 million in a low interest loan.



## Cal VTP Project Specific Analysis (PSA)

- Replaces Project-level PSAs in the county
- Analyzed all fuel reduction treatments and mitigations of all forested acres in upper Yuba County
- Provides CEQA coverage for new forest health and fire prevention projects led by other partners with only pre-treatment surveys being required and a notice of determination (NOD) for consistency with this PSA



Why Forest Health Matters to Water Agencies

## Why Forest Health Matters to Water Agencies

- Over 1/3 of U.S. population lives in high wildfire risk counties
- 60% of California's developed water supply originates in forested headwaters
- Poor forest management led to unhealthy forests
- Extended droughts have led to megafires in these unhealthy forests, which led to:

Degraded water quality and infrastructure damage

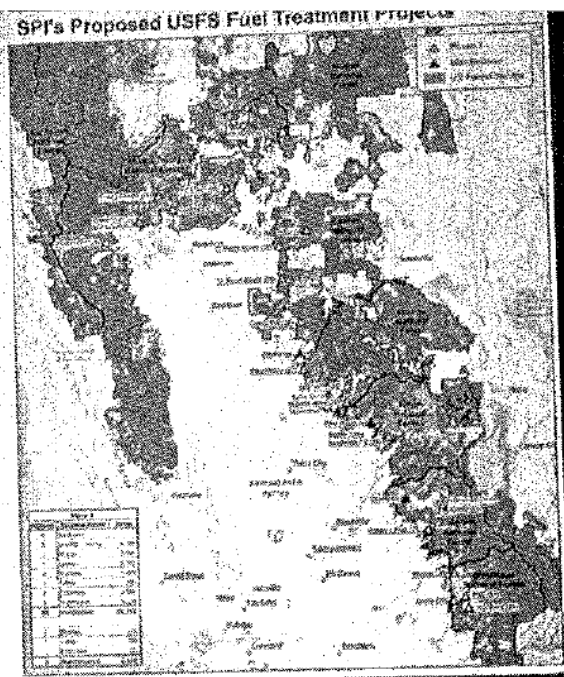
Public-Private Partnership successes

Sierra Pacific Industries owns 1.74 million acres in CA

400 miles of shaded fuel breaks

### Example of Successful Public-Private Partnership: USFS/SPI Fuel Break Network

- Sierra Pacific Industries owns 1.74 million acres of land in California
- \$75M agreement w/ USFS (2025)
- 400 miles of shaded fuel breaks
- Builds on SPI's 2,200-mile network



In closing the speakers talked about reduction in staffing, turnover of Forest Service staff and not seeing funding for maintenance as issues. Due to the issues building relationships with diverse groups is important (mentioned Tribal Communities as an example).

# **JPIA MEETING MAY 12, 2025**

## **Heading**

ANDY THE GOAT WAS INTRODUCED AS ACWA'S NEW MASCOT. (A NETWORK DEDICATED TO YOU) HE IS TO BE THE CHAMPION OF CALIFORNIA'S WATER AGENCIES.

PROPERTY PROGRAM COMMITTEE:They audit every two years. They also never use the same person.

PROPERTY MARKET AND COMMERCIAL MARKET: Turns very quickly/rates are dropping. Better commercial market. Trying to work for a commercial rate reduction.

PROPERTY PROGRAM COVERAGE STRUCTURE:( pg.90) Added new carriers FM & Aegis. JPIA looking at 15% rate increases for the next few years.

CENTURISK:(PG.90) Risk Star (property asset software.

PARAMETRIC INSURANCE CONCEPTS:(pg.93) Covers things that traditional insurance doesn't. Reduces gaps in coverage.

MEMBER REQUESTED COVERAGE CONSIDERATIONS:(pg.94) Underground pipes usually excluded with coverage over 1,000 feet from covered structure.

WE NEED TO LEARN HOW TO BEST EMBRACE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BE AHEAD OF THE THREATS ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

## PREPARING FOR CALIFORNIA'S GROWING EMERGENCY THREATS

Cal OES Eisenhower said "Plan is nothing-Planning is everything."

Lori Nezhura: 5 levels of SEMS-Do emergency training-help with emergency funding-mitigation-sizemic retrofitting is eligible . Fire isn't eligible.

Anthony Fellow:Concerned about the canal system. Earthquakes a big concern. They started a water recycling program. Aging infrastructure and getting new employees will present problems.Recycling water will help with water supply. Money will continue to be a problem.

Brandy Hancock: Precast concrete walls help fortify infrastructure but they are. not eligible for state or federal funding. Work in partnership with other public water systems. Test for benzene during fires. Work together with one voice.

Rick Brady:Likes pre-stressed concrete tanks. He works in treatment plants.Tanks built before 1994 do not meet current sizemic codes. Pre-stressed concrete tanks make them earthquake proof. Earthquake occurrence in California 175-200 years. Says don't put money in steel tanks. Use drones to inspect tanks.

Chelsea Shipman:(financial raring specialist) California is set to meet financial rating AA. The rest of the country A-. Prop 218 helps with transparency in financial matters. California has to operate at a higher level. More stringent plans and requirements here. Keeping rates affordable is a concern in California

I attended the LESSONS LEARNED FROM WILDFIRE AND BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT WATER SYSTEM with Martha. I read her report and it is very complete. I have nothing to add.

# ACWA Spring Conference 2025

## Notes

By: Dean Sherrill

### Tuesday May 13, 2025 – Groundwater Committee Meeting

- Update provided at Region 2 Meeting on 5-14-25

### Wednesday May 14, 2025 AM – Preparing and Executing Effective Communications During an Emergency.

- Jennifer Mayo, City of Pasadena Water and Power
  - Opened Emergency Operations Center during Eaton Fire.
  - Added additional crews.
  - Pre-filled reservoirs.
- Mike McNutt, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
  - Opened Emergency Operations Center.
  - Deployed generators.
  - Topped off reservoirs.
  - Prepared statements for public release.
- Laura Camp, Montecito Water District
  - Topped off reservoirs.
  - Checked generators for proper operation.
  - Make sure employees are safe.
- Lessons Learned
  - Dis-information regarding dry hydrants and Do Not Drink orders was a battle.
  - Don't forget internal communications.
  - Think about staff – housing, child care, etc.
  - Ask for mutual aid if needed.
- What to know to better prepare for future disasters
  - FEMA EOC training.
  - Identify translators if necessary.
  - GIS Mapping.
  - Secondary staff person for website updates.
  - Call for help if needed.
  - Every situation will be different – you can't write SOPs for everything.

### **Wednesday May 14, 2025 PM – Addressing Wildfire Impacts and Recovery Needs**

- David Pederson, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
  - Invest in emergency backup power and improved redundancy.
  - Activate EOC early and apologize later if necessary.
  - Water agency personnel are First Responders – be safe.
  - Setup 12 hour shifts and send people home to rest.
  - Request mutual aid before you need it.
  - Test emergency generators under load.
  - Issue public notices and updates without delay.
  
- Shane Chapman, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
  - Prepare workforce for emergencies.
  - Prepare to work with Law Enforcement and National Guard.
  - Work with other utilities i.e., power and communications.
  - Educate the public that large scale fires are beyond the capabilities of public water systems.
  - Request mutual aid if needed.
  
- Kevin Phillips, Paradise Irrigation District
  - Prepare to run system without employees as they may have lost homes in the fire.
  - You have 30 days to get system back up and pressurized to save it.
  - Build system back stronger i.e., backup power and redundancy.
  - Look for changes to construction standards.
  - Gain back public trust.
  - Mandate cross connection control devices after meter.

### **Thursday May 15, 2025 AM – Western Water Roundtable**

- Bill, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
  - Nearing end of agreements for Colorado River water use.
  - Colorado River provided water to 40 million people.
  - 5.5 million ac-ft of Ag use per year.
  - 7 states and Mexico rely on the Colorado River.
  - 1.5 million to 2 million ac-ft of cuts needed.
  - Lower Basin states take first 1.5 million ac-ft of cuts.
  - 88% of Colorado River water rights in California are used for agriculture.
  
- Sean Taylor, Van Ness Feldman, LLP
  - New administration Executive Orders impacting Funding
    - Ending of DEI programs.
    - Pause of Agency grants, loans and other financial assistance.

- Executive Action impacting Bureau of Reclamation
  - “People over Fish” seeks to maximize water deliveries to the Central Valley and Southern California. Weakens ESA/NEPA protections.
  - Shasta Dam Enlargement – expand dam to deliver more water to farmers, threatened Tribal sites and endangered salmon.
  -

**Thursday May 15, 2023 PM – Water Agencies Shaping Tomorrow through Exemplary Projects and Programs**

- Calleguas / Las Virgenes Interconnection
  - 100% imported water.
  - Serves 75% of Ventura County population.
  - Las Virgenes serves 75000 residents.
  - Calleguas had only 1 pipeline for import from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
  - Interconnection improves reliability.
  - Underground pump station.
  - 2- 500 KW generators.
  - 11000 ft. of 30 inch steel pipe.
  - \$6.3 Million grant from DWR.
  
- San Bernadino Water Conservation District
  - Began in late 1800s.
  - 71 recharge basins.
  - 15 ft/day percolation
  - Since 1912, 1.49 million acre feet as been recharged.
  - 90% of recharge water comes from local streams and rivers.
  - State Water Project water is used in high allocation years.
  - Recharges 15,000 acre feet per year (10% of average annual pumping).
  
- Santa Margarita Water District – Trampas Canyon Dam and Reservoir
  - Santa Margarita Water District provides drinking water, wastewater and recycled water services to 210000 accounts.
  - Water portfolio is 70% imported, 5% groundwater and 25% recycled water.
  - A 40 foot wide levee breach in March flooded the town of Pajaro.
  - New reservoir hold 1.6 Billion gallons of recycled water.
  - \$93 Million project.
  - Stores 5000 ac-ft of recycled water per year.

ACWA Spring Conference

Monterey, CA

May 13 – 15, 2025

Thursday, May 15, 2025 – Attended by Ginny Mercer & Rick Brubaker

***“Western Water Round Table”***

Moderator:

Ian Lyle – ACWA

Speakers:

Sean A. Taylor - Van Ness Feldman

Chris Kearney – The Ferguson Group

Bill Hasencamp – Metropolitan Water District

This session was engaged with water industry leaders in a discussion focusing on the most pressing issues facing water users in California and the West. Included in the discussion were updates on the Colorado River and other critical state and/or federal policy matters.

Key points:

- The Colorado River Basin - Two countries and seven states receive water from the Colorado River, and each have received allocation cuts of 3–4 million-acre feet by the Federal Government based primarily on the Sackett Decision
- Because of the low snowpack on the Western Slope, where the Colorado River starts, the water supply was well below average. More than 20 major reservoirs and tributaries will have a lower-than-usual water supply between April and July, with Lake Powell, one of the larger reservoirs that provides storage for millions of water users in the basin will like receive less than 70% of its normal inflows Basin region of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah.
- With this year’s conditions, Colorado River states would be conserving or cutting back on their water use under any of the six plans dominating current planning discussions: two competing proposals from basin states — one from the Upper Basin and one from the Lower Basin — and four options from the federal government. The Federal Government has a fifth option, called the “no action” alternative, is theoretical and a required part of the federal planning process but it would not sustainably manage the river. They are still looking for a 7-state plan but that will need agreed-upon legislation to complete. The final management plan won’t be decided until later this year or early in 2026.

- It was pointed out that both Senate Committees that will deal with this issue are chaired by “water people” and will hopefully provide a good path forward on regulation codification.
- We were told one of the main reasons for the “Colorado River” water sharing difficulties is the 2023 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* which had enormous ramifications for the health of the nation’s waterways. It was stated “to call *Sackett* the most important water-related Supreme Court decision in a generation” would be a complete understatement and according to this presenter, this decision dramatically weakening the *Clean Water Act* by SCOTUS deciding for themselves, without any scientific support whatsoever, what wetlands deserve protection from pollution and destruction. More recently, Trump’s EPA issued guidance to exclude even more types of wetlands from protection and is pursuing strategy to sharply reduce federal funding for grants and agency spending through Executive Orders, Direct Termination of Federal grant programs and budget proposals to cut federal grants and agency spending.
- *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* = Michael and Chantell Sackett, who ran an excavation company, sought to develop property a few hundred feet from Priest Lake, a popular vacation site in the Idaho Panhandle, with plans to build a house there. To prepare the lot for construction, they began to fill it with gravel. In 2007, responding to a neighbor’s complaint, the EPA halted the work after determining that the Sacketts’ lot contained a federally protected wetland. Under the authority granted to it by the *Clean Water Act*, the agency ordered the couple to remove the gravel and cease any further construction without a permit. The Sacketts sued in 2008, and the case wound its way through the federal court system for the next 14 years. Among other things, their lawyers argued that the wetland the Sacketts filled was not a protected “water of the United States,” merely because there was dry land between it and other bodies of water—and thus it wasn’t subject to EPA regulation. Their case was won in 2023 with SCOTUS ruling that “agencies cannot gift themselves unlimited power.”

It was an interesting presentation and delved into politics and water lobbying efforts at the federal level.