

DESERT WATER AGENCY
OCTOBER 6, 2015



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING 8:00 A.M. OPERATIONS CENTER - 1200 GENE AUTRY TRAIL SOUTH – PALM SPRINGS – CALIFORNIA

About Desert Water Agency:

Desert Water Agency operates independently of any other local government. Its autonomous elected board members are directly accountable to the people they serve. The Agency is one of the desert's two State Water Contractors and provides water and resource management, including recycling, for a 325-square-mile area of Western Riverside County, encompassing parts of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, outlying Riverside County and Palm Springs.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A. September 15, 2015 **EWING**
B. September 23, 2015 (Special) **EWING**
3. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT** **LUKER**
4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – A. Executive – September 29, 2015 **EWING**
5. **PUBLIC INPUT**
Members of the public may comment on any item not listed on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Agency. In addition, members of the public may speak on any item listed on the agenda as that item comes up for consideration. Speakers are requested to keep their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. As provided in the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from acting on items not listed on the agenda.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION** - None
7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
A. State Water Contractors Meeting of September 17, 2015 **RIDDELL**
B. Alternative Conservation Plans and Examples **LUKER**
C. Director's Report on ACWA Region 9 Event **EWING, STUART**
D. Directors Report on ACWA Board Workshop and Meeting **EWING**
8. **PUBLIC INFORMATION**
A. Media Information
B. PI Activities
9. **DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS**
10. **CLOSED SESSION**
A. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)
Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians vs. Coachella Valley Water District, et al

B. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)
Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians vs. County of Riverside, et al
11. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**
12. **ADJOURN**

Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting is asked to contact Desert Water Agency's Executive Secretary, at (760) 323-4971, at least 48 working hours prior to the meeting to enable the Agency to make reasonable arrangements. Copies of records provided to Board members which relate to any agenda item to be discussed in open session may be obtained from the Agency at the address indicated on the agenda.

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DESERT WATER AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

September 15, 2015

- DWA Board: Craig A. Ewing, President) **Attendance**
 James Cioffi, Vice President)
 Joseph K. Stuart, Secretary-Treasurer)
 Patricia G. Oygar, Director)
 Richard Oberhaus, Director)
- DWA Staff: David K. Luker, General Manager)
 Mark S. Krause, Asst. General Manager)
 Martin S. Krieger, Finance Director)
 Sylvia Baca, Asst. Secretary to the Board)
 Ashley Hudgens, Public Information Officer)
 Steve Johnson, Operations Engineer)
- Consultant: Michael T. Riddell, Best Best & Krieger)
17254. President Ewing opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and asked everyone to join Secretary-Treasurer Stuart in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Pledge of Allegiance**
17255. President Ewing called for approval of the September 1, 2015 Regular Board meeting minutes. **Approval of 09/01/15 Regular Board Mtg. Minutes**
- Director Oygar moved for approval. After a second by Vice President Cioffi, the minutes were approved as written.
17256. President Ewing called upon General Manager Luker to provide an update on Agency operations. **General Manager's Report**
- Mr. Luker gave a brief overview of the 2014-15 Replacement Pipeline project (Avenida Caballeros) and the 1040 Zone reservoir. He noted several Agency equipment damages. **Damaged Equipment**
- Concluding his report, Mr. Luker announced the United Way Tram Road Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 24. As in years past, the Agency will be participating. **United Way Tram Road Challenge**
17257. President Ewing noted the minutes for the September 9, 2015 Executive Committee were provided in the Board's packet. **Committee Reports – Executive 09/09//15**

17258. President Ewing opened the meeting for public input; there was no one from the public wishing to speak. **Public Input**

17259. President Ewing called upon Secretary-Treasurer Stuart to provide an overview of the financial activities for July and August 2015. **Secretary-Treasurer's Report (July)**

Secretary-Treasurer Stuart reported \$2,140,856 was received in Water Sales Revenues. \$184,788 was received in Reclamation Sales Revenues. Included in the Miscellaneous receipts, \$12,935 from SCE (Solar Field II energy rebate for June 2015), and \$6,400 from CVWD (Lamar billboard display cost sharing). \$3,105,294 was paid out in Accounts Payable (including \$755,407 for PERS 2015/16 unfunded liability). There were 22,155 active services as of July 31, 2015. Water consumption was <30.1%> less than July 31, 2013. **Operating Fund**

General Fund receipts included \$733,782 in Property Tax Revenues and \$879,678 in Groundwater Replenishment Assessments. \$3,049,033 was paid out in State Water Project Charges and \$14,488 to CVWD (2014/15 IRWMP costs for RMC Consulting Services). **General Fund**

Regarding the Wastewater Fund, Secretary-Treasurer Stuart reported \$6,820 was received in Sewer Contract Payments. There were a total of 84 contracts with 30 delinquent (36%). \$82,674 was paid out in Accounts Payable. **Wastewater Fund**

Reporting on the August Operating Fund statistics, Secretary-Treasurer Stuart stated that \$1,985,085 was received in Water Sales Revenues. \$96,286 was received in Reclamation Sales Revenues. Included in the Miscellaneous Receipts total is \$302,098 from CPV for DWA's Conservation program (smart controllers) and \$12,493 from SCE (Solar Field II energy rebate (July 2015)). Paid out \$1,444,579 in Accounts Payable. Year-to-date Water Sales are 6% over budget, Year-to-date Reclamation Sales are 10% under budget, Year-to-date Total Revenues are 8% over budget, and Year-to-date Total Expenses are 4% under budget. There were 22,167 active services as of August 31, 2015. **August Fund – Operating Fund**

General Fund receipts included \$170,208 in Property Tax Revenues and \$196,023 in Groundwater Replenishment Assessments from private pumpers. \$1,521,380 was paid out in State Water Project Charges. **General Fund**

Regarding the Wastewater Fund, \$82,147 was received in Wastewater Revenue for July 2015. \$50,363 was received in Sewer Capacity Charges. There were a total of 81 sewer contracts, with 3 paid in full (34 total delinquent, 42%). \$64,864 was paid out in Accounts Payable. **Wastewater Fund**

17260. President Ewing called upon General Manager Luker to report on the August Water Production Comparison.

Discussion Items:
August 2015 Water
Production Comparison

Mr. Luker reported that the Agency and its customers achieved a 29 percent reduction during August 2015 compared to August 2013; the baseline used by the State Water Resources Control Board to measure statewide conservation achievements.

There was discussion on new legislation and the Agency's administrative penalties.

17261. President Ewing stated he will be attending the following ACWA events: 1) Region 9 Event on September 18 at Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and 2) Workshop/Meeting on September 24-25 at Cucamonga Valley Water District.

Directors'
Comments/Requests

17262. At 8:17 a.m., President Ewing convened into Closed Session for the purpose of (A) Existing Litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1), Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians vs. Coachella Valley Water District, et al.; (B) Existing Litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1) Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians vs. County of Riverside, et al, and (C) Public Employee Performance Evaluation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, General Manager.

Closed Session:
A. Existing Litigation –
ACBCI vs. CVWD, et al
B. Existing Litigation –
ACBCI vs. Riverside
County, et al
C. Public Employee
Performance Evaluation
– General Manager

17263. At 9:14 a.m., President Ewing reconvened the meeting into open session and announced there was no reportable action on Items 10A and 10B. Regarding Item 10C, President Ewing announced that the Board completed a public employee performance evaluation of General Manager Luker.

Reconvene

President Ewing made a motion to approve an adjustment to the General Manager's salary equivalent to the Cost of Living Adjustment that was recently given to DWA employees to become effective October 1, 2015. After a second by Director Oygar, the motion carried unanimously.

General Manager
Performance Evaluation

17264. In the absence of any further business, President Ewing adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Adjournment

Craig A. Ewing, President

ATTEST:

Joseph K. Stuart, Secretary-Treasurer

**MINUTES
OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
DESERT WATER AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

September 23, 2015

DWA Board:	Craig A. Ewing, President)	Attendance
	James Cioffi, Vice President)	
	Joseph K. Stuart, Secretary-Treasurer)	
	Richard Oberhaus, Director)	

Absent:	Patricia G. Oygard, Director)
---------	--------------------------------

DWA Staff:	David K. Luker, General Manager)
	Mark S. Krause, Asst. General Manager)
	Martin S. Krieger, Finance Director)
	Sylvia Baca, Asst. Secretary to the Board)
	Steve Johnson, Operations Engineer)

Consultant:	Michael T. Riddell, Best Best & Krieger)
-------------	---

17265. President Ewing opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Pledge of Allegiance**

17266. President Ewing opened the meeting for public input; there was no one from the public wishing to speak. **Public Input**

17267. President Ewing called upon Operations Engineer Johnson to present staff's request for the award of contract for constructing 2015/2016 replacement pipelines. **Action Item:**
Award Contract for
Constructing 2015/2016
Replacement Pipelines
(Indian Canyon, Stevens,
Wawona)

Mr. Johnson stated on September 22, 2015, the Agency received seven bids for the work of constructing 2015/2016 replacement pipelines (Indian Canyon, Stevens, Wawona). Borden Excavating submitted the lowest responsive bid, approximately 22% lower than the second low bidder; Weka, Inc. Borden is considered a capable contractor with a current Class A contractor's license. The engineer's estimate is \$950,000 and the budget amount is \$1.2 million including engineering, construction, inspection and overhead costs.

Continuing his report, Mr. Johnson noted that to accommodate the City's street rehabilitation and slurry project schedule, Agency staff has coordinated with the City's engineering department on a

rehabilitation schedule and expedited pipeline installation schedule to allow the Agency to replace the pipelines prior to the street rehabilitation work. Staff recommends award of the contract for subject work to Borden Excavating in the amount of \$730,269.00. Based on the bidding documents and the schedule arranged with the City, the project should begin the 2nd week of October, with completion by December 2015.

Action Item:

(Cont.)

Award Contract-2015/16
Replacement Pipelines
(Indian Canyon, Stevens,
Wawona)

Director Oberhaus moved to approve staff's recommendation to award the contract to Borden Excavating in the amount of \$730,269.00. After a second by Secretary-Treasurer Stuart, the motion carried unanimously (Director Oygar absent).

17268. In the absence of any further business, President Ewing adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Adjournment

Craig A. Ewing, President

ATTEST:

Joseph K. Stuart, Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT OCTOBER 6, 2015

On September 22 at approximately 9:00 p.m., staff responded to a call at 300 South Palm Canyon Dr. (Palm Springs Art Museum). The fire service had a considerable blow out which ended up flooding the lower level of the museum. The fire department also responded to the call and helped pump the water out. The fire service was off at the street. The museum provided fire watch. The water ran for approximately thirty to forty five minutes. Our Construction crew made the repairs and the fire service is back in service.



On September 23 at approximately 11:00 a.m., staff responded to a stolen two inch backflow at 950 Williams Rd. Staff received written permission to replace the backflow and the customer was going to make a police report. The backflow was replaced and is now back in service and the water loss was metered.



On September 24 at 7:30 a.m., staff noticed a large amount of trash outside the west side door of the Agency. There was an empty FedEx box along with empty brown lunch bags and medical marijuana boxes. Palm Springs Police were called and they took an incident report, they determined it to be someone dumpster diving.



On September 25 at approximately 2:30 p.m. the Assistant Construction Superintendent responded to a stolen fire hydrant (#2434) on the South side of Sunny Dunes Rd. East of San Luis Rey. The thieves must have turned the valve off, there was no sign of any water loss. A police report was made and the hydrant is back in service.



On September 28 at approximately 11:30 a.m. while Construction staff was taking the back on the previous stolen fire hydrant, it was noticed that the hydrant across the street was missing too (Sunny Dunes Rd., east of San Luis Rey). This appears to have occurred over the weekend. Construction has since flushed and chlorinated this hydrant (#1994).



On September 29 at approximately 9:40 a.m. after staff was flushing fire hydrant number #1994, they found another fire hydrant that was stolen on Sunny Dunes Rd. East of Gene Autry Trail (this is fire hydrant number #2439). A police report was made.



On Wednesday Sept. 30, DWA, CVWD, and MWD staff visited Lake Perris to tour the Dam remediation work currently in progress.

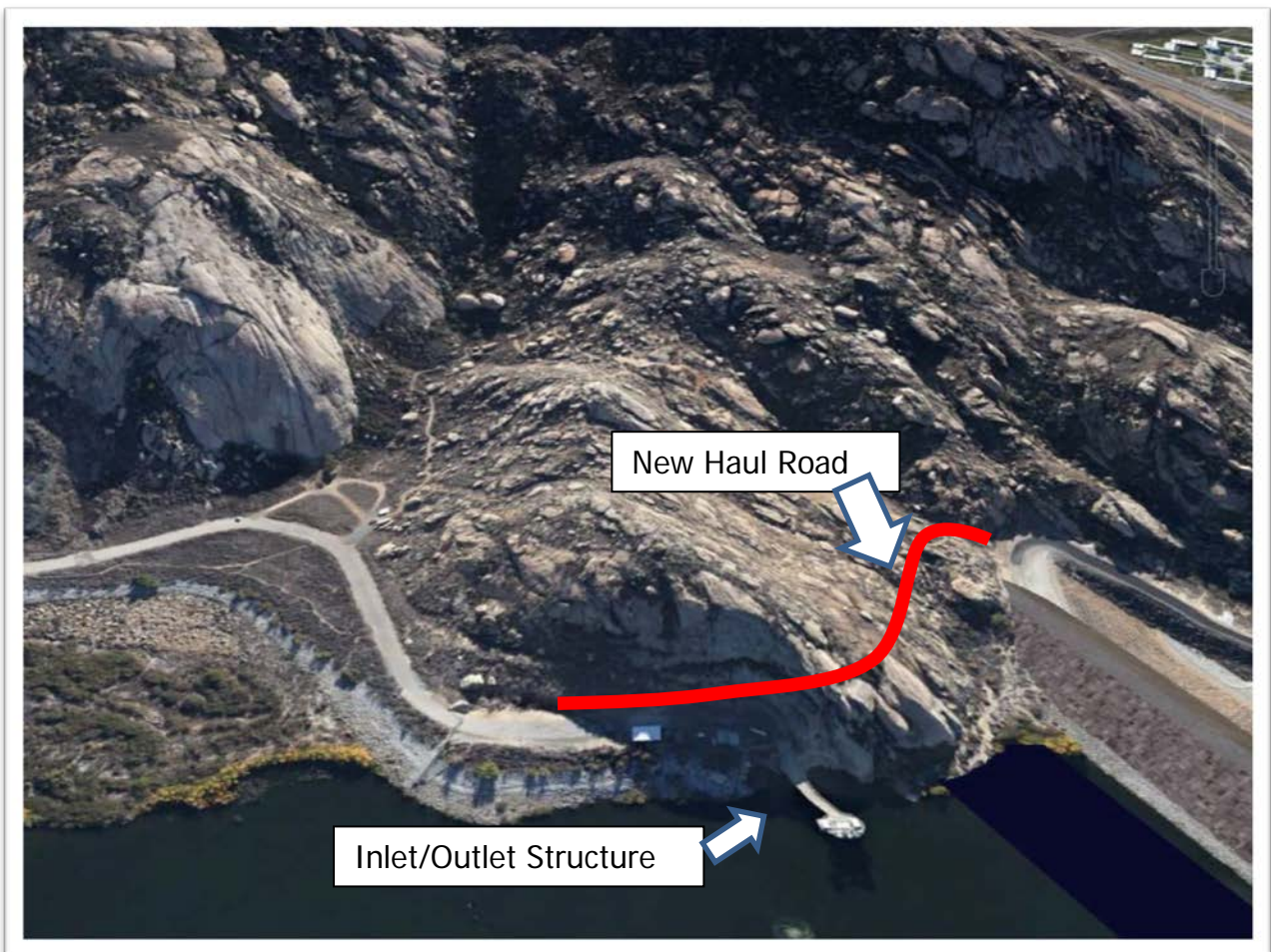
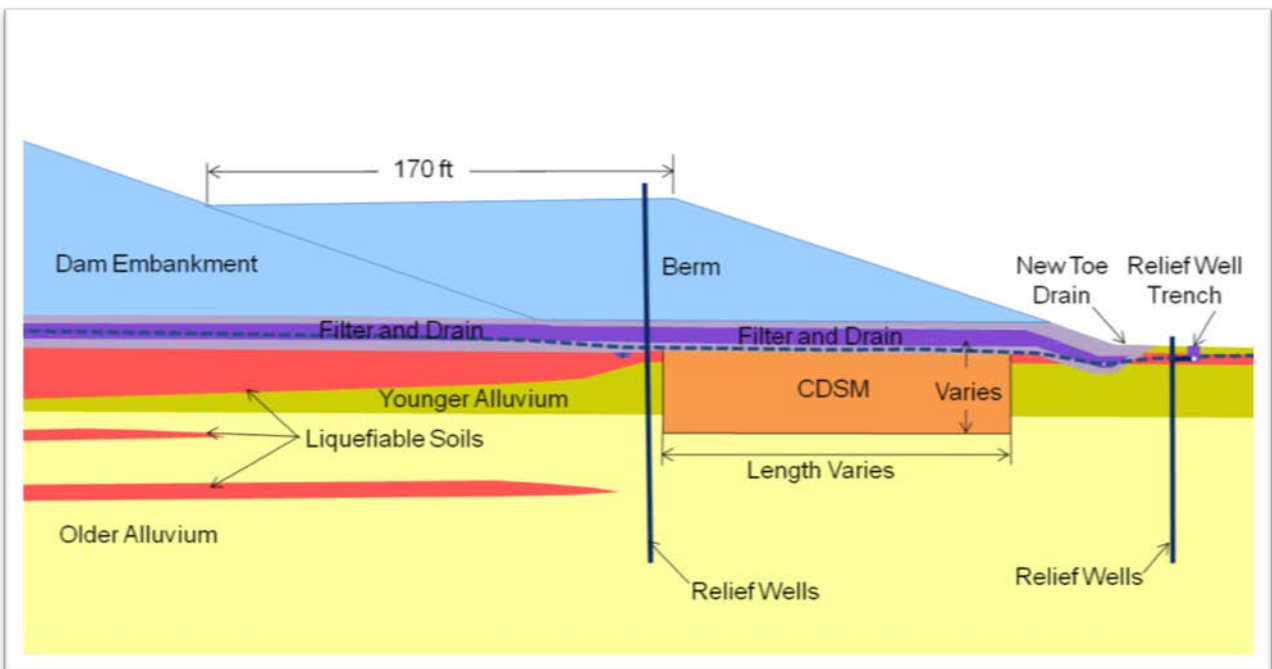
In 2005, DWR identified potential seismic safety risks in a section of the foundation of the dam and lowered the lake level to ensure maximum public safety until dam repairs are made. The reservoir has since been further drawn down to meet drinking water demands during the prolonged drought.

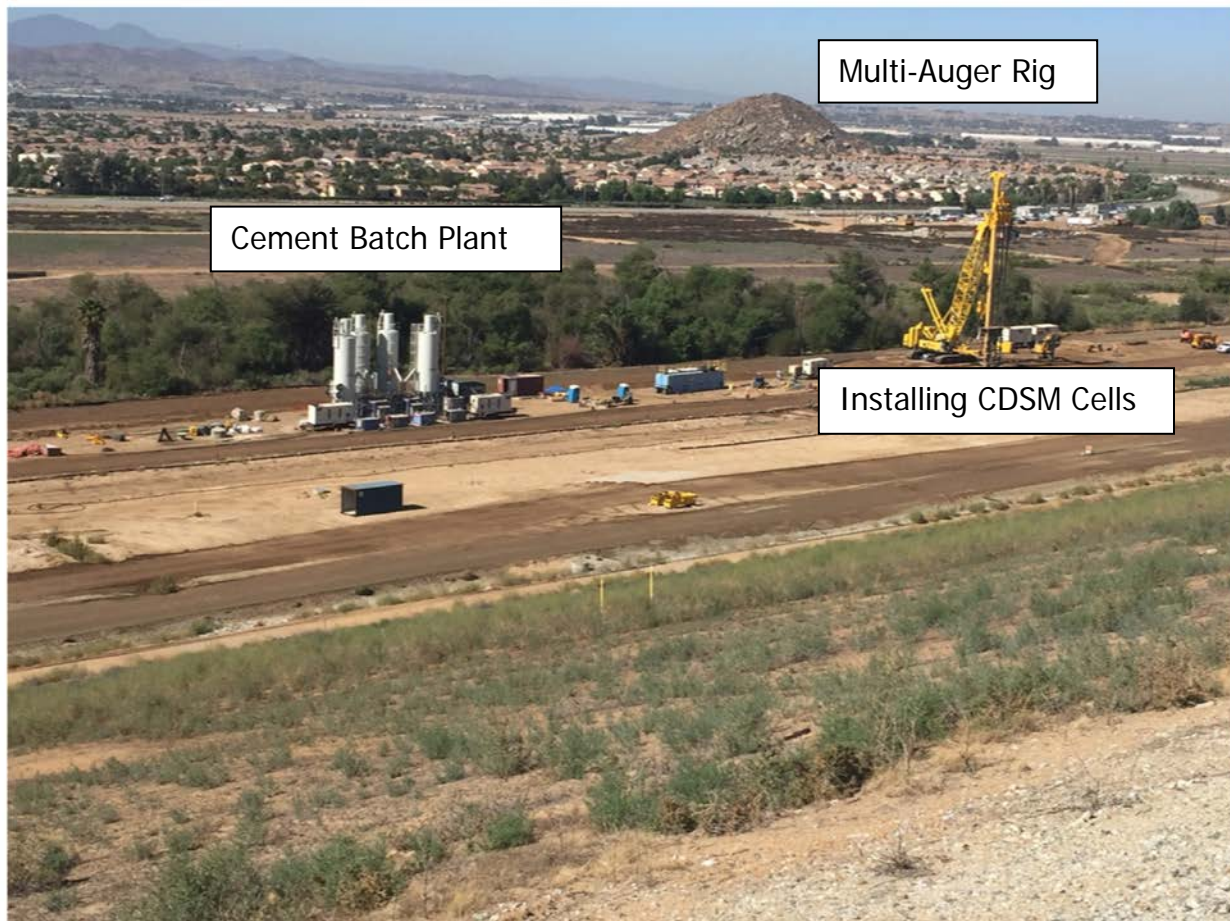


Construction to strengthen the Dam foundation began in 2014 and is expected to continue for three years. Pulice Construction, Inc. was awarded a 75 million dollar contract to perform the work.

The Dam Remediation design concept is to remove and replace loose soils, improve the deeper foundation soils by Cement Deep Soil Mixing (CDSM) and construct a stability berm on the downstream side of the Dam and include drainage features.

Staff's observations on the tour were of the work being done in the remediation zone which included completed clearing and grubbing, dewatering, removal and replacement of loose shallow soils, set up of two CDSM's, rock processing and stockpiling for filter and drain system, and partial construction of a New Haul Road near outlet structure.

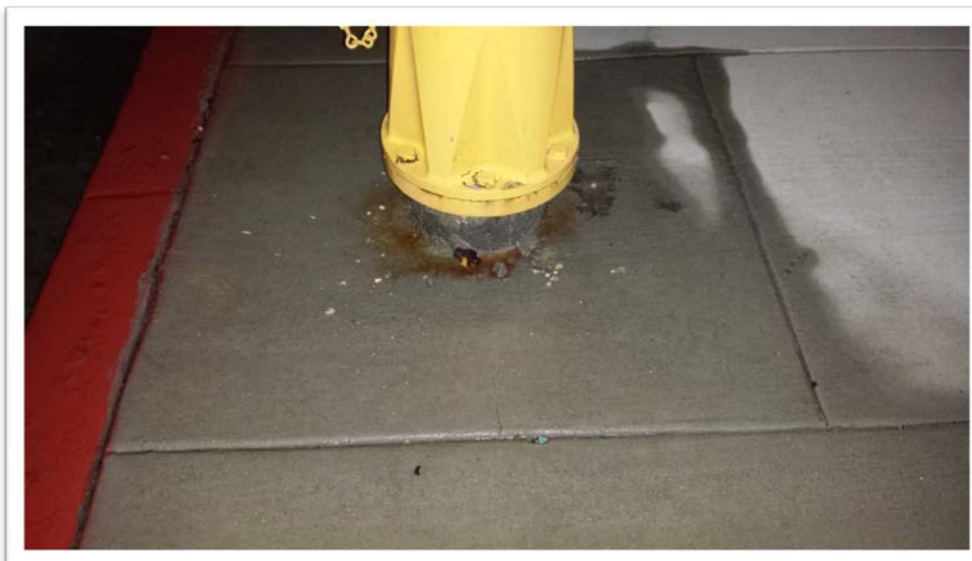




Staff was informed that there have been delays getting the necessary power from SCE for the rock processing and dewatering activities. The power lines have now been installed. There is also a significant delay in the construction of the New Haul Road. The bid by the sub-contractor was significantly below the second low bidder. The road was supposed to be completed in May of this year and is currently only 20% completed. This road is necessary to haul the all materials for the filter system and remediation berm for the project. Protecting the existing inlet/outlet structure during the blasting for the road has been a major concern and now a change in the geology of the rock discovered during blasting has created yet another delay. The delay is not yet affected the overall schedule of the project. Work continues on the relocation of monitoring wells, filtration drains, and the preparation for the construction of the CDSM stability cells. The rock Crushing sub-contractor is also having difficulty producing filter material to the specification required by the contract and is planning on re-tooling in order to achieve what is required. They have been making claims that the problem is due to the native material. To date there have been approximately \$400,000 in approved change orders (0.53% of the project total cost).

Overall, it is DWR's opinion that the project problems are not significant enough to delay the project and they believe that the significant claims brought by the contractor so far are not valid and DWR has the facts to prove it.

On October 1 at approximately 3:00 a.m. stand-by was notified of a fire hydrant alarm on fire hydrant #2431. This hydrant is located on the South side of the intersection of Indian Springs Rd. and Rio Blanco Rd. When staff arrived, the fire hydrant was spraying out of the flange. The thieves attempted to unbolt the fire hydrant. Staff noticed that the valve in the street was nearly off; they replaced the bolts and gasket and turned the hydrant back on. A police report was made.



Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
September 29, 2015

Directors Present: Craig Ewing, Jim Cioffi

Staff Present: Dave Luker, Martin Krieger

1. Discussion Items

A. Review Agenda for October 6, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

The proposed agenda for the October 6, 2015 Regular Board meeting was reviewed.

2. Other – None.

3. Adjourn

September 17, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: GENERAL MANAGER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF DESERT WATER AGENCY

FROM: BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

RE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS AUTHORITY AND
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE STATE WATER CONTRACTORS, INC.

The September 16, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Water Project Contractors Authority was conducted at the Senator Hotel in downtown Sacramento. The September 17, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Water Contractors, Inc., was conducted at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in downtown Sacramento.

1. SWPCA Board Meeting.

The primary topic of discussion at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Water Project Contractors Authority was the proposed agreement between SWPCA and the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency to fund proposals for habitat restoration projects in the Delta and in Suisun Marsh. The 2008 biological opinion for the Delta Smelt included requirements to create or restore 8,000 acres of tidal habitat. The opinion was issued to the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project, although the Central Valley Project acknowledges that it should be responsible for some portion of the mitigation requirement as well, since the CVP also diverts water from the Delta. DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation have been discussing a memorandum of agreement that would allocate costs between them, although that MOA has not been executed yet. In the meantime, DWR has been collecting money from the Contractors on their statements of charges to cover the cost of addressing that mitigation requirement, and in fact has spent a lot of money already without very much to show for it. The State and Federal Contractors Water Agency has been discussing with DWR an approach in which DWR would solicit proposals from outside entities to perform habitat restoration projects, under contract with DWR, in exchange for which DWR would

receive mitigation credits to be applied to the habitat restoration requirements set forth in the biological opinion. David Okita has been hired by DWR to oversee that project, and he has been meeting with the Department of General Services to help develop a RFP process that will satisfy State contracting guidelines. Okita was present at the meeting and reported that the discussions with the Department of General Services are underway and will continue. Meanwhile, the General Manager of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, Byron Buck, has approached the State Water Project Contractors Authority with a request that the members of SWPCA advance the “upfront” money to allow the SFCWA to develop proposals in response to DWR’s anticipated requests for proposals to perform habitat restoration projects. Byron Buck projects that during the initial year, a budget of \$750,000 will be required to develop a proposal, submit it to DWR, and then get started on the work, assuming that the proposal submitted to DWR is accepted by DWR. SFCWA would be competing with other private enterprises that might also wish to submit proposals. However, Byron Buck believes that the SFCWA would have a competitive advantage in submitting its proposal, since it would be willing to perform the work at cost, without seeking to profit from the work. The “upfront” money would be utilized to get the process going, DWR would make progress payments as work is performed, and the payments received would be used to fund the next project, and then the next project after that, until the entire 8,000 acre habitat restoration requirement has been satisfied.

The General Managers and legal counsel for the SFCWA and SWPCA have been working on a draft agreement between SFCWA and SWPCA to provide the funding necessary to get the program going, until such time as progress payments are received in amounts sufficient to keep the program going, through conclusion. A draft of the proposed funding agreement was circulated at the Board meeting, with a caution that the draft was still subject to review and revision both by SFCWA and by SWPCA members themselves. The draft assumes that some SWPCA members will elect to participate, and will contribute funds to get the program going. Amounts contributed by those that elect to participate would be in proportion to their Table A Amounts. It is anticipated that Metropolitan Water District will be a participant and therefore will provide most of the “upfront” funds, and that a number of other SWPCA members will also elect to participate. The ideal scenario would be if all members participate, but it is anticipated that some members may not be in a position to do so. The amount contributed by each member would be credited to that member’s “contribution account” in anticipation that all of the money

advanced will be returned to that member upon conclusion of the program. DWR will bill all State Water Contractors (both those participating in the program and those that do not) according to their Table A Amounts as necessary to make progress payments, in accordance with the executed State Water Contracts. For those members that do elect to participate, the current draft agreement provides that the amount reflected in each participating member's contribution account will be increased by some percentage each year in order to compensate that participating member for the use of its money. Although the draft agreement provides for participation by Central Valley Project Contractors, as well as State Water Project Contractors, at this time it is anticipated that only SWP Contractors in fact will participate.

In addition to the draft agreement between SFCWA and SWPCA to fund the program, the participating members of SWPCA would each execute a Specific Project Agreement among themselves. Thus, the participating members would be bound by the Specific Project Agreement that they executed, while those members that elect not to participate would not be bound by the Specific Project Agreement. Specific Project Agreements are contemplated by the Joint Powers Agreement that created the SWPCA.

The Contractors believe that the projects will be completed more efficiently, and far less expensively, in this manner than if DWR itself were to "staff up" to perform these projects. The Contractors believe that ultimately it will cost them less to perform the work in this manner, rather than relying upon DWR to do so in house.

2. SWC Board Action Items.

At the State Water Contractors Board meeting, the Board acted on a couple of items. First, the Board directed the Interim General Manager to send a letter to DWR in support of a proposal to purchase flows in the San Joaquin River from Oakville Irrigation District and from San Joaquin Irrigation District at a price of \$500 per acre-foot. The flows will produce a total quantity somewhere between 22,000 and 24,000 acre-feet. The cost would be split evenly between DWR and the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority. The flows may produce water that would be available for allocation to Contractors next year, or may be used instead to satisfy flow requirements in the Delta.

The SWC Board also took action to approve a proposal by DWR to convert historic State Water Project land records, currently in paper form, to a GIS system instead. DWR developed a six page business case which demonstrated that the estimated cost (\$6.5 million) would be recovered in the form of reduced expenses within 8.5 years. The savings will result from a reduction or reassignment of DWR staff currently used to manage the paper record system, which would be replaced by the GIS system. DWR hopes to fund the expenditure from other funds currently on hand and in the existing budget.

3. Water Supply Report.

As of the date of the meeting, total storage in Lake Oroville was at 1.05 million acre-feet. DWR was releasing water from Oroville to the Feather River at the rate of 1,200 cubic feet per second. Combined diversions from the Delta for both the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project were at the rate of 2,300 cubic feet per second. Combined storage in the San Luis Reservoir was at 420,000 acre-feet, with 350,000 acre-feet belonging to the State Water Project and 70,000 acre-feet belonging to the Central Valley Project. Projected storage at Lake Oroville for the end of October was at 900,000 acre-feet. There was discussion of the cost of removing temporary barriers that have been installed in the Delta for the benefit of both the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. The Bureau of Reclamation has indicated that it is not prepared to fund its share of the cost of removing the barriers. The Board took action directing the Interim General Manager to send a letter to DWR objecting to the Bureau of Reclamation not paying its fair share of the cost of removing the barriers that have also benefited the Central Valley Project.

4. Energy Report.

There was a very interesting report regarding DWR's energy policy after the year 2020. Graphs were displayed which demonstrate that solar energy generation peaks dramatically during the day, when the sun is out, but drops off dramatically during the early morning and evening hours. The generation of electricity from wind energy is erratic and unpredictable. Thus, there is an excess of "green" energy in the middle of the day, but the demand for green energy exceeds generation capability during the early morning hours and evening hours, when solar energy is not being produced. Thus, hydropower generation from the State Water Project is

extremely valuable during those peak demand times of the day, early in the morning and later in the evening. Furthermore, market prices change by the hour, and therefore the charges for green energy can be greatly increased during the early morning hours and late evening hours, when demands exceed supply. The excess green energy produced during the middle of the day creates “negative pricing” because green energy generation exceeds the demand. Thus, consumers can actually be paid for operating their facilities during the middle of the day. DWR is conducting a “flexible resources study” which will evaluate the following: (a) operation of pumping facilities during the daylight hours as much as possible, so as to take advantage of negative pricing; (b) generation of hydropower as much as possible during the early morning and evening peak demand periods, when the power can be sold at a premium; and (c) ways to operate the State Water Project so as to address the above considerations, as much as possible, while still delivering the water needed for the Project’s primary purpose of delivering water to the Contractors. It was noted that Cal-ISO is not adding certainty to the market design. DWR will also examine the use of variable speed pumps that can be used to slow down pumping during the morning hours and evening hours, when energy is expensive, and to ramp up the pumping during mid-day hours when favorable pricing exists.

5. General Manager’s Report.

Interim General Manager Stephanie Morris reported that the proposed permit for “California Water Fix” (the tunnels) is about to be submitted to the fish agencies. She also reported that the Independent Science Board for the Delta Stewardship Council has provided extremely negative comments on the draft EIR/EIS, asserting that the draft does not present a proposal that can even be considered. DWR has already submitted its response to those comments. DWR Director Cowin wants to move forward quickly with the creation of the Design and Construction Enterprise to proceed with construction of the tunnels. He hopes to have the Design and Construction Enterprise in place by the end of October. Stephanie also reported that there is a lot of activity on proposed State Water Contract amendments, both to extend the Contract and for participation in the Delta improvements. DWR is also preparing environmental assessments for those Contract amendments.

6. Business Process Update.

A report was provided regarding progress made this year in addressing business process objectives. A power point presentation was used, and a copy is attached to this memo. The topics included a report on the “California Water Fix” Contract amendment, the Contract extension amendment, the Sixth Amendment to the Tolling and Waiver Agreement, and DWR’s Capital Cost Reconciliation Project. Following that presentation, the Board convened in closed session to discuss Delta water rights litigation matters.

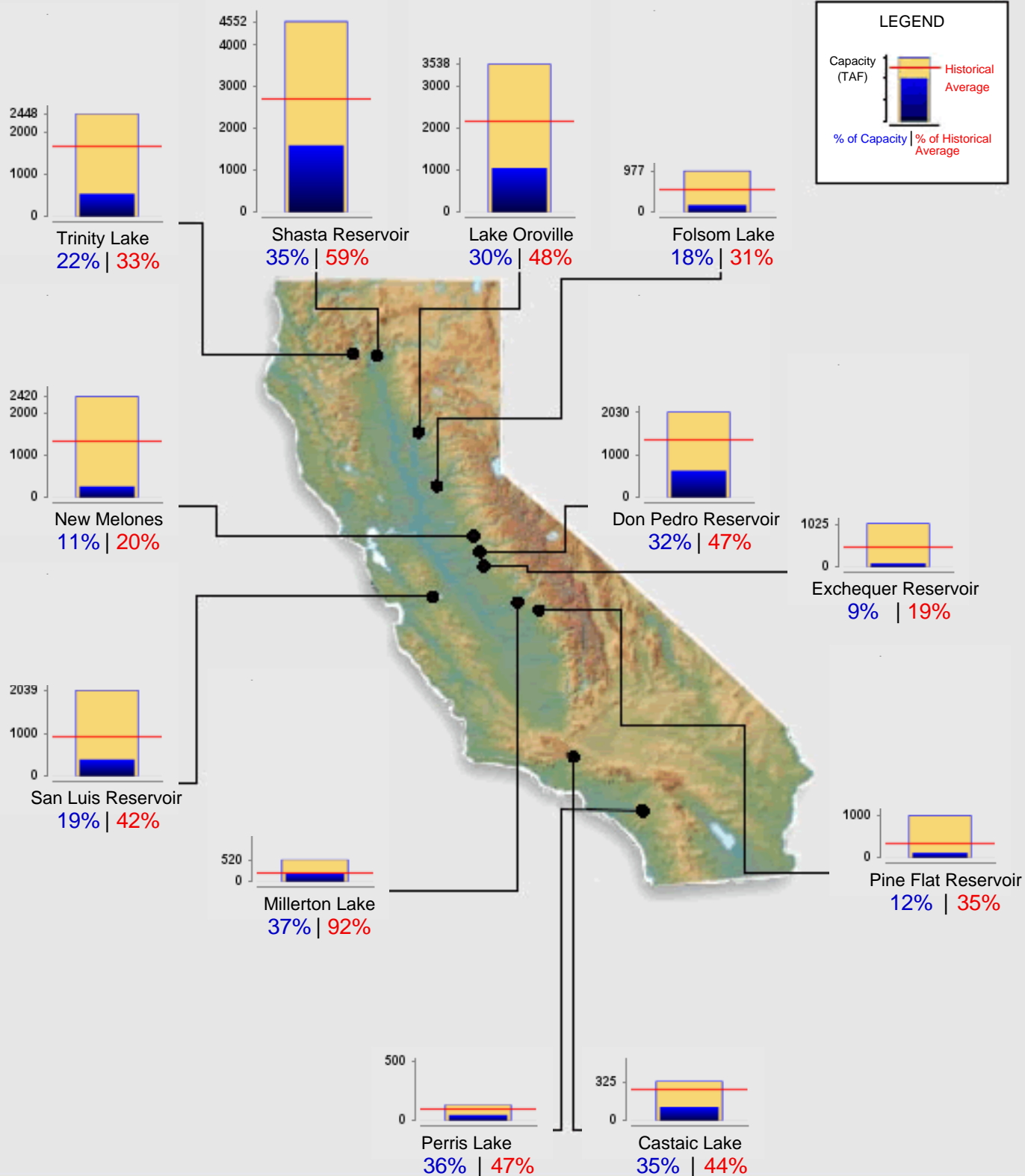
MICHAEL T. RIDDELL



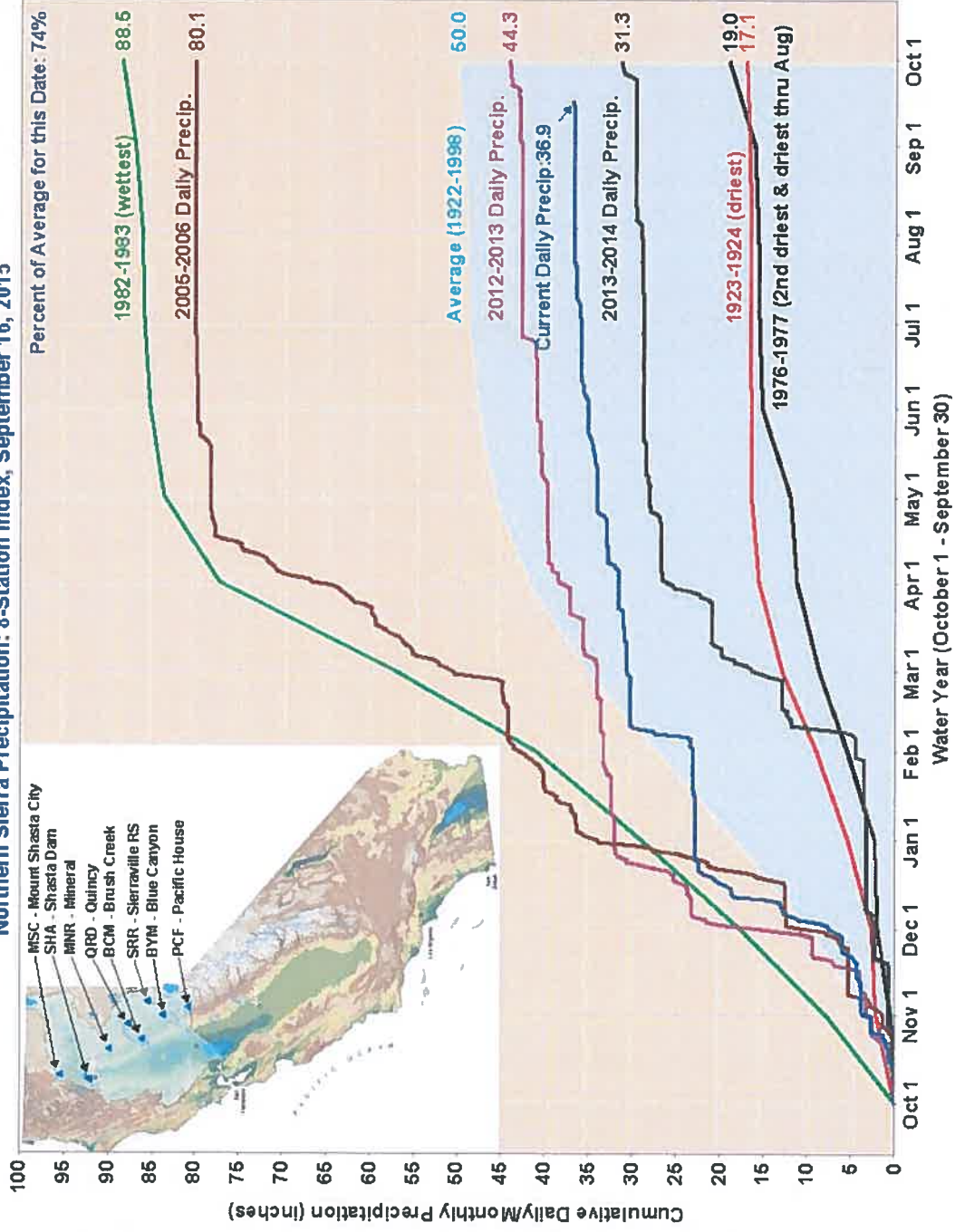
Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - September 30, 2015

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

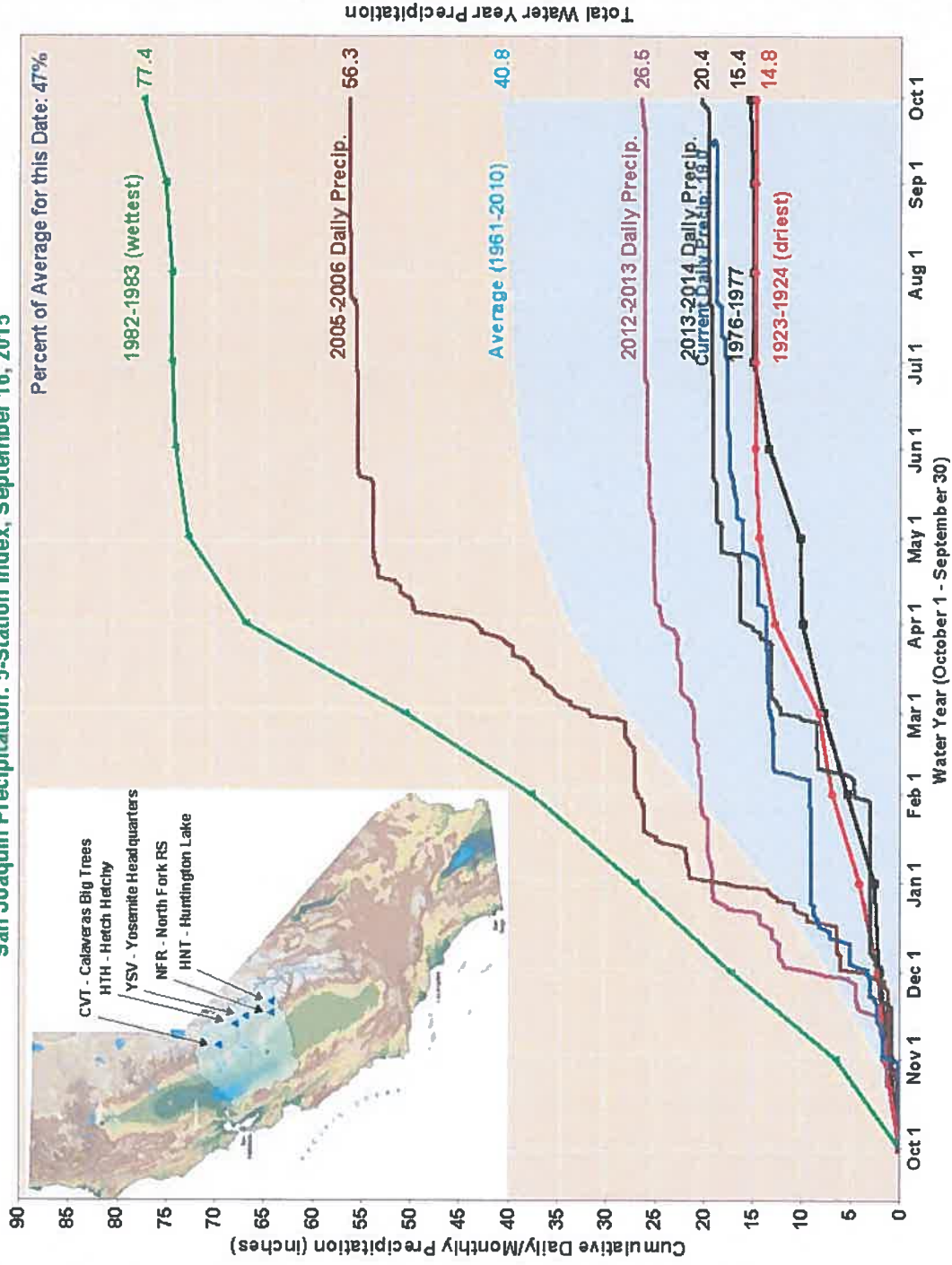


Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, September 16, 2015

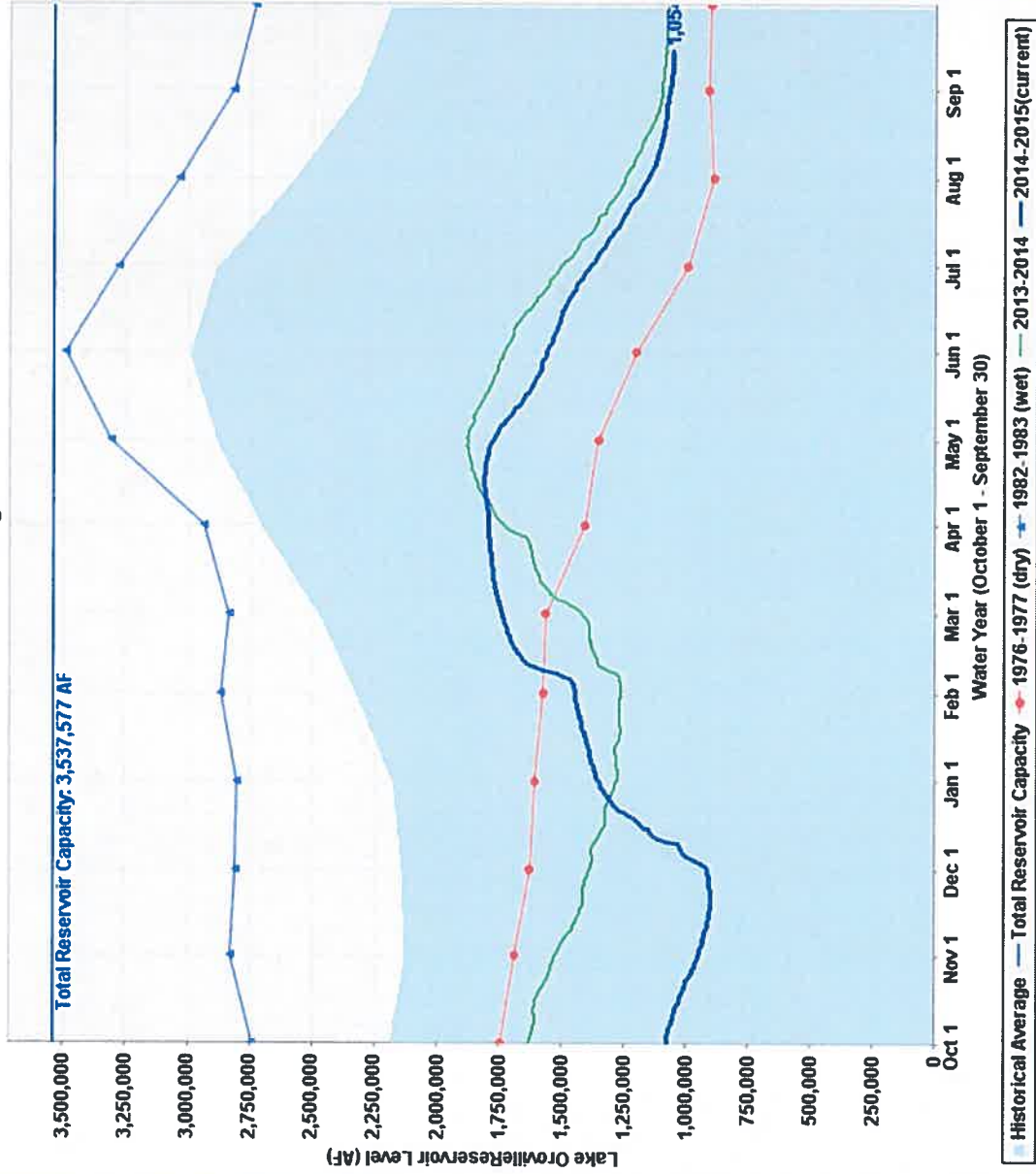


Total Water Year Precipitation

San Joaquin Precipitation: 5-Station Index, September 16, 2015



Lake Oroville Storage Levels





SWC FY 2015-16 BUSINESS PROCESSES OBJECTIVES

State Water Contractors
September 17, 2015



Business Process Goals

Mission		Improve Fundamental Management Controls of the State Water Project
Vision		Enhance the Fiscal Policies and Administrative Measures for Operation of the SWRDS
Goals:		Objective:
Financial Management	Responsibility	Financial Organization
	Transparency	Annual Financial Plan
	Controls	SWRDS Financial Committee
	Reporting	Financial / Managerial Reporting

Business Process Objectives (FY2015-16)

Priority 1	1. Contract Extension Amendment
	①. Financial Enhancements
	②. Reporting
	③. Implementation of Freeze-Go
	4. Cash and Financing Oversight
Priority 2	5. Actual & Job Costing Oversight
	6. Capital Projects & Financing Oversight
	7. Estimated Costs & Cost Recovery Oversight (Statement of Charges)
	8. Financial Audit & Dispute Oversight
	9. Davis-Dolwig Act Funding

State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

3

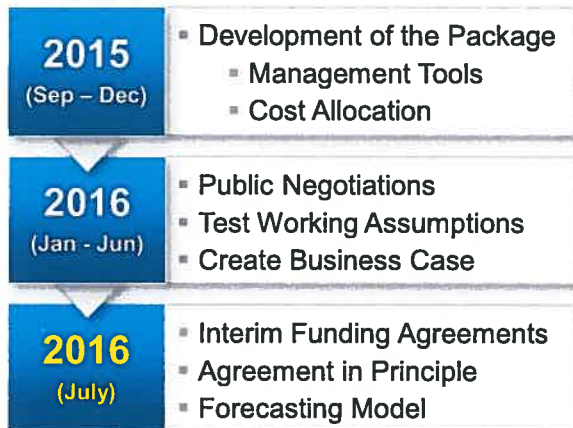
Financial Enhancements

California Water Fix (BDCP) Contract Amendment

Amendment Objectives:

1. Enhanced management tools for greater flexibility
2. Allocate SWP BDCP costs proportionate to benefits received
3. DWR: To ensure terms and conditions allow continued financially sound operations of the State Water Project

Timeline:



State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

4

Contract Amendment Under Development

- **Desired Outcome:**

1. Get all contractors to say "Yes"
2. Equitable, reasonable reflection of supply benefits received
3. Objective and transparent
4. Stable, no large unpredictable cost shifts
5. Simple to implement
6. Easily administered

- **Continued Discussions:**

1. Annual limitations on storage and replacement water
2. Appropriate application of a Use of Facilities Charge
3. Appropriate retroactive charges for permanent Table A transfers
4. Participation and Cost Allocation Methodology

State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

5

Financial Enhancements

Contract Extension Amendment – Key Principles



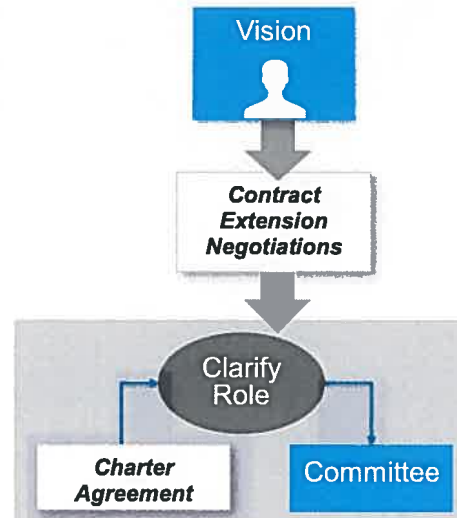
State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

6

SWRDS Finance Committee

- Reviewed written terms of Charter for the SWRDS Finance Committee
- Working with DWR to Clarify Role of the Committee



State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

7

Reporting Enhancements

Reporting Development Workgroup

Deliver
Affordable
Water

- Promote environment of accountability
- Instill confidence in the management of the utility
- Ensure a sustainable SWRDS for future generations

Hire Chief Financial
Manager (CFM)

Reporting Framework –
Communication Process

Single Point
of Authority

Increase
Customer
Confidence

Emphasize
Internal & External
Accountability

Solicit
Contractor
Input

State Water Contractors
Business Processes

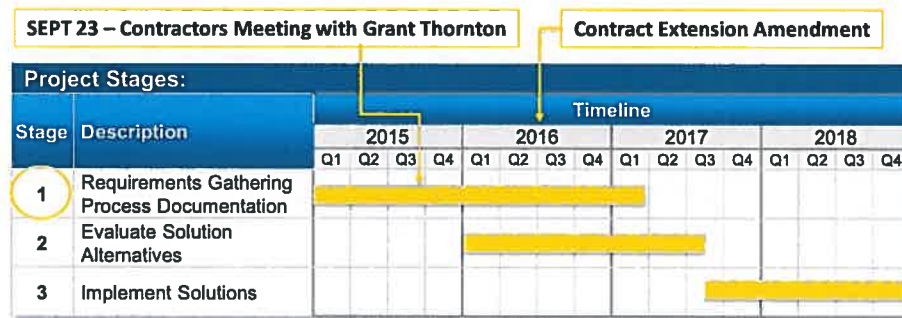
September 17, 2015

8

Financial Management Enhancement Project

Objectives for Stage 1:

1. Organization Readiness for Financial Management
2. Integration of Processes: State and SOC Budgeting Processes
3. Develop Tools for Producing Reports
4. Develop Integration Billing Approach: Historical and Pay-as-You-Go



State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

9

Audit and Dispute Oversight

- Tolling Agreement, 6th Amendment
 - 5th Amendment Expires: December 2015
 - Added Exhibit to Remove 132 Items From Protest Item List
- Status of 293 Protest Items on Master List:

Action Pending	DWR	Contractors	Completed
DWR Researching & Analyzing Findings (In-Process)	40		
DWR Review Pending	66		
DWR Denied - Does Not Concur with Findings		11	
DWR will Not Take Any Action		12	
Auditors Need to Confirm Findings Resolved		10	
Contractors Removing Findings		2	
Disagreement Whether Resolved		20	
Resolved and Included in Tolling Agreement			132
TOTAL	106	55	132

State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

10

Capital Cost Reconciliation Project

Issue 1:	Possible Errant Allocation of Bond Proceeds to Capital Facilities
Result:	Questionable Determination of Capital Repayment by Contractor for Capital Facilities
Solution:	Capital Cost Reconciliation Project
Impact 1:	<u>WSRB Surcharge Billing Error</u>
Impact 2:	Finalizing <u>Springing Amendment</u> Allocation of Debt Service Reserves/Refunds
Related 1:	Finalizing the <u>East Branch Enlargement Cost Allocation Methodology</u>

Task List:		2014			2015		
		Sep	Oct	Nov	Apr	May	Jun
1	Complete Capitalization Cost Reconciliation Project						
2	Update Historical 2000 – 2016 WSRB Surcharge: 2016 SOC or 2016 Rebill						
3	Discuss Implementation with Contractors						
4	Completion of Springing Amendment						

State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

11

FY2015-16 Business Processes Objectives

Objective	Description	Priority
Financial Enhancements	Coordinate with DWR on funding and financing options for a new conveyance facility and expanding water management tools within the SWP contract. Coordinate with DWR to develop billing and reporting system to implement Freeze-Go. Support Contractor's SWRDS Finance Committee objectives.	●
Reporting	Coordinate with Contractors to develop business requirements for SWP reporting. Coordinate with DWR for inclusion of requirements in Financial Management Enhancement Project, Stage 1-3.	●
Cash and Financing Oversight	Work with DWR to finalize the Project Cost and Debt Service Reconciliation, and determine options for Habitat Restoration funding	●
Job Costing Oversight (Actual Costs)	Provide oversight over DWR's actual expenditures compared to estimated costs	●
Implementation of Freeze-Go	Coordinate with DWR on the development of the To-Be design and solution alternatives for the implementation of the integrated approach to billing that can accommodate both current and future "pay-as-you-go" billing methodologies.	●
Future Capital Projects and Capital Financing Oversight	Develop a process to track, plan and prioritize all existing and foreseeable capital projects which are funded by the SWP Contractors	●
Cost Recovery/Statement of Charges Oversight (Estimated Costs)	Provide oversight over DWR's estimated costs and recovery of those costs through review of the future project cost projections, the Delta Water Charge calculation, and Rate Management Credits review	●
Financial Audit and Dispute Oversight	Work with Contractors and DWR to identify and resolve existing and potential protest items	●
Davis-Dolwig Act Funding	Work with Contractors and DWR to obtain credits for past recreation costs	○

State Water Contractors
Business Processes

September 17, 2015

12

**STAFF REPORT
TO
DESERT WATER AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

OCTOBER 6, 2015

**RE: ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATION PLANS FOR
NON-RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS**

Desert Water Agency has approved and is currently reviewing a number of alternative conservation plans posed by customers who are ordinarily confined by Ordinance No. 63 restrictions.

The plans allow for these customers to propose adjusted schedules for irrigation that still achieve 36% water reduction compared to 2013 use. Plans vary in approach and duration. All plans are reviewed by staff and approved by General Manager Dave Luker.

Attached is the list of alternative conservation plans and several examples of plans themselves.

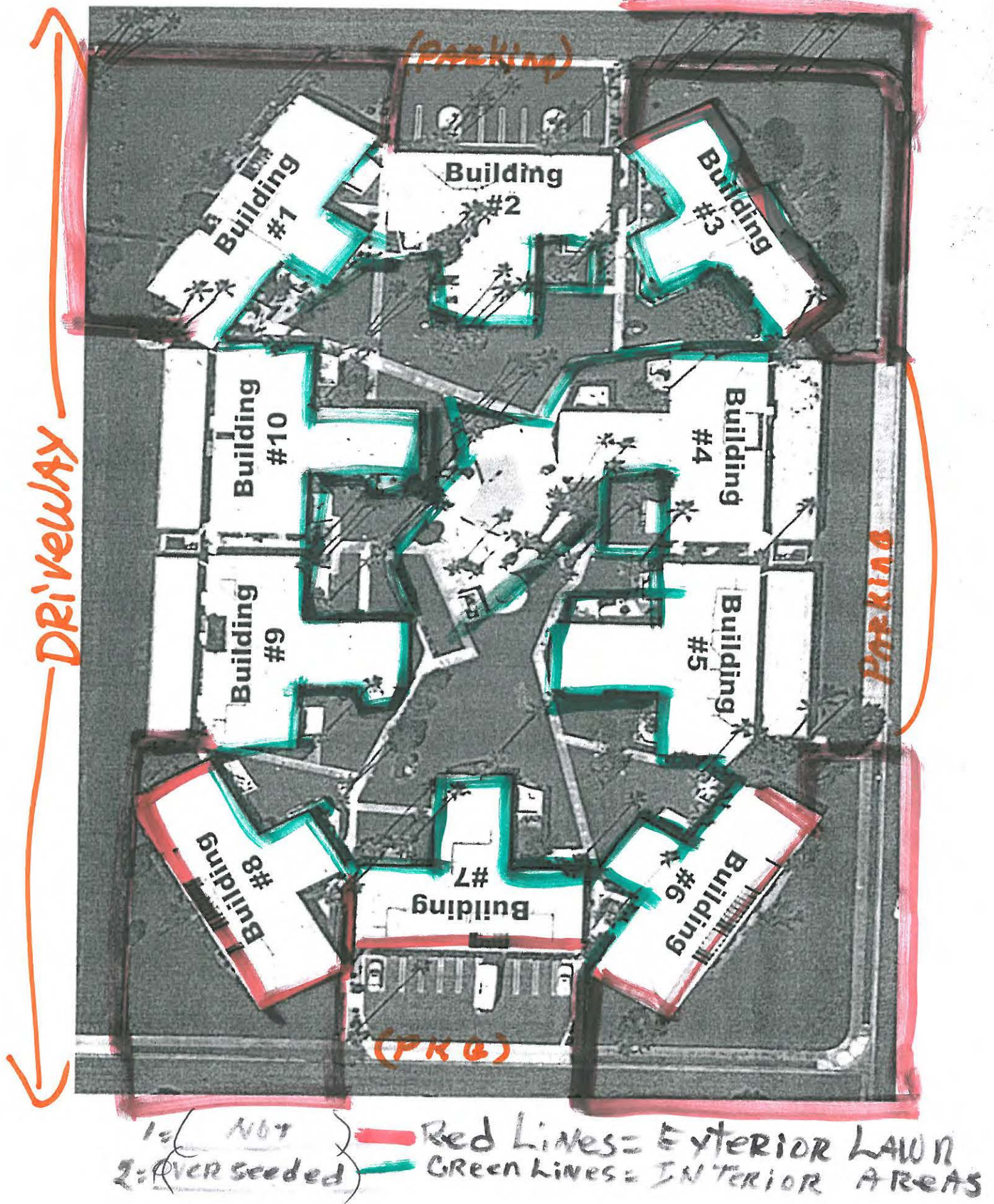
Alternative Conservation Plans

Organization	Status	Date Submitted	Plan Summary
O'Donnell Golf Club*	Approved	4/17/2015	Reduced daily watering to achieve required percentage saved.
Las Fuentes Inn and Gardens	Approved	4/24/2015	Shut off sprinklers to lawn, don't change linens and towels daily in order to run fountains.
Canyon View Estates - Golf Course	Approved	7/30/2015	Waters the golf course every other day, rather than residential Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule.
San Jacinto Village	Approved	9/16/2015	Shutting off water for most of October to scalp and turning it back on for daily water in late October (overseeding).
Firebird Estates*	Approved	9/21/2015	Cutting off water to exterior to allow for daily water use in interior areas (overseeding).
Sunrise East Homeowners Association	Under review	10/1/2015	Water has been cut off to exterior areas adjacent to the street to allow for a two week period of every day watering within watering time restrictions (overseeding).
Mesquite Canyon Estates	Under review	10/1/2015	Water has been cut off to exterior areas adjacent to the street to allow for a two week period of every day watering within watering time restrictions (overseeding).
Canyon View Condos HOA	Under review	10/1/2015	Water has been cut off to exterior areas adjacent to the street to allow for a two week period of every day watering within watering time restrictions (overseeding).
Tierra Hermosa	Under review	10/1/2015	Water has been cut off to exterior areas adjacent to the street to allow for a two week period of every day watering within watering time restrictions (overseeding).
Andreas Hills Phase IV	Under review	10/1/2015	Water has been cut off to exterior areas adjacent to the street to allow for a two week period of every day watering within watering time restrictions (overseeding).
Andreas Hills Phase V	Under review	10/1/2015	Water has been cut off to exterior areas adjacent to the street to allow for a two week period of every day watering within watering time restrictions (overseeding).

* Plan examples attached

Firebird Estates

2033 E. RAMON PALM SPRS. CA. 92264



----- Reply message -----

From: "Ann Lanari" <firebirdestates@aol.com>

To: "gogardening" <gogardening@aol.com>

Subject: landscape/reseeding

Date: Fri, Sep 18, 2015 2:42 PM

Ann,

Due to current water restrictions my suggestions for reseeding are as follows: Reseeding should be delayed.

Previous years reseeding has been done the 1st week of October, this year I would like to begin reseeding the 1st week of November. At the beginning of October the initiation of lowering the bermuda will begin with weekly mowings at progressively lower blade heights to prepare for reseeding of rye. At the same time irrigation will be reduced upwards of 50% over the course of the month. When reseeding begins I will need to irrigate during daylight hours for 5 days. This is where I need the watering restrictions to be waived due to the need for the grass to be kept hydrated during germination. Once the new grass begins to sprout I can once again begin to reduce irrigation back to what it is now and perhaps more depending on the weather.

Planting of seasonal flowers will be done once the 5 days mentioned above are over. They cannot be planted before this because of the reduction of water in preparation of reseeding.

As you can see there is no need to cut back exterior irrigation. We can reseed both the interior and exterior, but if the association wants to reseed only the interior lawns then there is no issue in accomplishing this with the current irrigation system and stations.

Thank You,
Gregorio Ortiz

Re: landscape/reseedi...

Aol1

Sep 20, 2015
7:52:09 AM

Subject: Re: landscape/reseeding

Date: Sat Sep 19 22:19:48 PDT 2015

From: Go gardening

To: firebirdestates@aol.com

Gregorio,

We do not intend to reseed all of the exterior as some may be converted to desert friendly design.

Ann C. Lanari

Mgmt Service

On September 18, 2015, at 2:15 PM, Go gardening
<gogardening@aol.com> wrote:

Gregorio,

The plan you submitted on 9/18/15 for reseeding effect., 11/1/15 certain area of interior lawns was approved by the board today...9/19/15.

The next step is to submit this plan to the DWA . I will do this on MONDAY FOR APPROVAL. You will be notified asap if they approved the reseeding program .

Thank you.

Ann C.

Lanari Mgmt. Service

Water Reduction Plan

5/12/2015

Project: O'Donnell Country Club

The purpose of the water plan is to meet water usage reductions required by state and local agencies mandated during drought conditions in California.

The methodology utilizes a water reduction estimation based on actual data collected from the project site. The water usage data below is based on water bills for the identified year. On the following pages data that reflects weather data collected at the site expressed in Evapotranspiration (ET.) ET is expressed in inches of water required by the turf for a healthy plant.

A monthly ET from the weather station is averaged into a daily ET for each month. Each Management group (Greens, Tees, Roughs, etc.) is separated and a daily projected flow run for the program is completed in the irrigation program which operates the system & then total gallons used is recorded. A subsequent project flow run with a lower percentage adjustment is completed to evaluate water savings at the reduced ET percentage. These savings are totaled and evaluated in relationship to the reduction goal. When the summary sheet is at zero the reduction has been met, when it is a negative number the reduction has been exceeded.

2013	
JAN	1,726 CCF
FEB	3,177 CCF
MAR	3,070 CCF
APR	5,948 CCF
MAY	8,295 CCF
JUN	11,039 CCF
	33,255 CCF

2013	84,345 CCF
TOTAL	63,090,060 Gal.
Useage	193.59 AcFt

2013	
JUL	11,150 CCF
AUG	11,424 CCF
SEP	8,396 CCF
OCT	3,987 CCF
NOV	11,279 CCF
DEC	4,854 CCF
	51,090 CCF

36%	30,364 CCF
Reduction	22,712,422 Gals.

O'Donnell Country Club

5/12/2015

Water Usage Estimates by Irrigation Program

Utilizing the central irrigation computer, usage estimates were calculated at 100% of ET and then with a program adjustment to decrease water applied to below the daily ET. The result in right column below is the estimated water savings by managing the irrigation program.

2013 FAIRWAYS		Monthly ETo	Daily ETo	Estimated Usage (day)	Estimated Monthly	PGM ADJ	Adjusted Daily	Adjusted Monthly	Monthly Reduction
January	31	2.67	0.09	36,529	1,132,399	100%	36,529	1,132,399	-
February	28	3.25	0.12	48,474	1,357,272	100%	48,474	1,357,272	-
March	31	5.85	0.19	78,688	2,439,328	70%	54,798	1,698,738	740,590
April	30	6.85	0.23	96,954	2,908,620	70%	66,741	2,002,230	906,390
May	31	8.19	0.26	108,893	3,375,683	65%	72,368	2,243,408	1,132,275
June	30	8.62	0.29	120,837	3,625,110	60%	72,368	2,171,040	1,454,070
July	31	8.02	0.26	108,893	3,375,683	65%	72,368	2,243,408	1,132,275
August	31	7.93	0.26	108,893	3,375,683	65%	72,368	2,243,408	1,132,275
September	30	6.69	0.22	96,260	2,887,800	65%	60,425	1,812,750	1,075,050
October	31	5.26	0.17	72,368	2,243,408	100%	72,368	2,243,408	-
November	30	2.99	0.10	42,157	1,264,710	100%	42,157	1,264,710	-
December	31	3.56	0.11	48,474	1,502,694	100%	48,474	1,502,694	-
Program: 6 Fairways					29,488,390	0		21,915,465	7,572,925

2013 ROUGHES		Monthly ETo	Daily ETo	Estimated Usage (day)	Estimated Monthly	PGM ADJ	Adjusted Daily	Adjusted Monthly	Monthly Reduction
January	31	2.67	0.09	29,553	916,143	40%	12,181	377,611	538,532
February	28	3.25	0.12	37,801	1,058,428	40%	14,452	404,656	653,772
March	31	5.85	0.19	61,137	1,895,247	40%	23,381	724,811	1,170,436
April	30	6.85	0.23	75,582	2,267,460	40%	29,662	889,860	1,377,600
May	31	8.19	0.26	84,467	2,618,477	35%	24,446	757,826	1,860,651
June	30	8.62	0.29	93,106	2,793,180	35%	31,933	957,990	1,835,190
July	31	8.02	0.26	84,467	2,618,477	35%	24,446	757,826	1,860,651
August	31	7.93	0.26	84,467	2,618,477	35%	24,446	757,826	1,860,651
September	30	6.69	0.22	71,654	2,149,620	40%	28,972	869,160	1,280,460
October	31	5.26	0.17	54,860	1,700,660	40%	22,994	712,814	987,846
November	30	2.99	0.10	31,567	947,010	40%	14,101	423,030	523,980
December	31	3.56	0.11	37,736	1,169,816	40%	14,519	450,089	719,727
Programs: 7 Roughs & 10 Tamarisk					22,752,995			8,083,499	14,669,496

O'Donnell Country Club

5/12/2015

Water Usage Estimates by Irrigation Program

Utilizing the central irrigation computer, usage estimates were calculated at 100% of ET and then with a program adjustment to decrease water applied to below the daily ET. The result in right column below is the estimated water savings by managing the irrigation program.

2013 Tees		Monthly ETo	Daily ETo	Estimated Useage (day)	Estimated Monthly	PGM ADJ	Daily % Red	Monthly % Red	Monthly Reduction
January	31	2.67	0.09	5,371	166,501	100%	5,371	166,501	0
February	28	3.25	0.12	7,053	197,484	100%	7,053	197,484	0
March	31	5.85	0.19	11,184	346,704	100%	11,184	346,704	0
April	30	6.85	0.23	13,840	415,200	85%	11,574	347,220	67,980
May	31	8.19	0.26	15,420	478,020	80%	12,379	383,749	94,271
June	30	8.62	0.29	17,072	512,160	80%	13,880	416,400	95,760
July	31	8.02	0.26	15,420	478,020	80%	12,379	383,749	94,271
August	31	7.93	0.26	15,420	478,020	80%	12,379	383,749	94,271
September	30	6.69	0.22	13,380	401,400	80%	11,365	340,950	60,450
October	31	5.26	0.17	10,088	312,728	100%	10,088	312,728	0
November	30	2.99	0.10	5,883	176,490	100%	5,883	176,490	0
December	31	3.56	0.11	7,011	217,341	100%	7,011	217,341	0
Program: #4 Tees					4,180,068			3,673,065	507,003

2013 Backups		Monthly ETo	Daily ETo	Estimated Useage (day)	Estimated Monthly	PGM ADJ	Daily % Red	Monthly % Red	Monthly Reduction
January	31	2.67	0.09	4,402	136,462	100%	4,402	136,462	0
February	28	3.25	0.12	5,592	156,576	100%	5,592	156,576	0
March	31	5.85	0.19	9,159	283,929	100%	9,159	283,929	0
April	30	6.85	0.23	11,025	330,750	100%	11,025	330,750	0
May	31	8.19	0.26	12,536	388,616	100%	12,536	388,616	0
June	30	8.62	0.29	14,005	420,150	100%	14,005	420,150	0
July	31	8.02	0.26	12,536	388,616	100%	12,536	388,616	0
August	31	7.93	0.26	12,536	388,616	100%	12,536	388,616	0
September	30	6.69	0.22	10,507	315,210	100%	10,507	315,210	0
October	31	5.26	0.17	7,972	247,132	100%	7,972	247,132	0
November	30	2.99	0.10	4,600	138,000	100%	4,600	138,000	0
December	31	3.56	0.11	5,436	168,516	100%	5,436	168,516	0
Programs: #5 Surrounds & 20 PG Surrounds					3,362,573			3,362,573	-

O'Donnell Country Club

5/12/2015

Water Usage Estimates by Irrigation Program

Utilizing the central irrigation computer, usage estimates were calculated at 100% of ET.

These areas are considered critical and have no proposed reductions.

2013 Greens		Monthly ETo	AVG Daily ETo	Daily Useage 100% ETo	Monthly Useage 100% ETo
Month	Days				
January	31	2.67	0.09	2,674	82,894
February	28	3.25	0.12	3,489	97,692
March	31	5.85	0.19	5,383	166,873
April	30	6.85	0.23	6,321	189,630
May	31	8.19	0.26	7,187	222,797
June	30	8.62	0.29	8,053	241,590
July	31	8.02	0.26	7,187	222,797
August	31	7.93	0.26	7,187	222,797
September	30	6.69	0.22	6,285	188,550
October	31	5.26	0.17	4,550	141,050
November	30	2.99	0.10	2,710	81,300
December	31	3.56	0.11	2,833	87,823
Programs: 1, 2, 3 Greens					1,945,793

2013 Clubhouse		Monthly ETo	AVG Daily ETo	Daily Useage 100% ETo	Monthly Useage 100% ETo
Month	Days				
January	31	2.67	0.09	1,486	46,066
February	28	3.25	0.12	1,857	51,996
March	31	5.85	0.19	2,956	91,636
April	30	6.85	0.23	3,499	104,970
May	31	8.19	0.26	3,924	121,644
June	30	8.62	0.29	4,349	130,470
July	31	8.02	0.26	3,924	121,644
August	31	7.93	0.26	3,924	121,644
September	30	6.69	0.22	3,441	103,230
October	31	5.26	0.17	2,649	82,119
November	30	2.99	0.10	1,561	46,830
December	31	3.56	0.11	1,857	57,567
Programs #21-24, #34					1,079,816

O'Donnell Country Club

5/12/2015

Water Plan Results

The results of the program percentage reductions are summarized below in relationship to the target reduction number.

36% Targeted Reduction	Gallons 22,712,422	CCF 30,364
<u>Estimated Savings</u>		
Fairways	-7,572,925	-10124
Roughs	-14,669,496	-19612
Backups	0	0
Greens	0	0
Club/CG	0	0
Tees	-507,003	-678
Reduction:	-37,002	-49

*When the Reduction number is zero the reduction has been met.
If the Reduction number is negative the target has been exceeded.*

**DESERT WATER AGENCY
MEDIA INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 2015**

DATE	PACKET PAGE	MEDIA SOURCE	ARTICLE
08/28/15	1	THE DESERT SUN	California Drought: Cities Cut Water Use 31% In July
08/28/15	2-4	LA TIMES	State Beats Water Saving Goals
08/28/15	5	PRESS ENTERPRISE	What A Drop! Water Savings Hit 31%
09/01/15	6	LA TIMES	Judge Sides With San Diego Board In Dispute With Metropolitan Water District
09/01/15	7	THE PUBLIC RECORD	Desert Water Agency Customers Reduced Water Use By 30 Percent In July 2015
09/01/15	8	THE PUBLIC RECORD	Colorful Yard Signs Communicate Conservation Efforts
09/04/15	9	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Eastern Municipal Tightens Water Usage Restriction
09/05/15	10-11	THE DESERT SUN	Valley Voice: California Water Fix Vital To Water Future
09/10/15	12	THE DESERT SUN	Broken Hydrant Floods Gene Autry After Car Crash
09/14/15	13-14	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Farmland Water Fight Nears End
09/14/15	15-17	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Hemet Targeted In State Conservation Enforcement
09/15/16	18-19	THE DESERT SUN	CA Drought: Desert Falling Behind On Water Conservation
09/15/15	20	THE PUBLIC RECORD	CVWD Approves Additional Conservation Funding
09/23/15	21-23	LA TIMES	Metropolitan Water District Aims To Build Plant To Recycle Sewage Into Drinking Water

DATE	PACKET PAGE	MEDIA SOURCE	ARTICLE
09/24/15	24-25	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Water, Sewer Rate Hikes Approved
09/30/15	26-29	THE DESERT SUN	Even In Drought, CA Water Rights Politically Toxic
09/30/15	30-31	THE DESERT SUN	Energy + Water Tour Takes Guests On Ride Across Valley

California drought: Cities cut water use 31% in July

Sammy Roth, *The Desert Sun*, August 28, 2015

After a strong performance in July, California cities are well on their way toward meeting Gov. Jerry Brown's mandatory 25 percent water cutback goal.

Urban areas slashed their water use 31.3 percent in July, besting the 27.3 percent savings they achieved in June. Record rainfall in parts of Southern California likely contributed to the July cuts, but state officials still lauded Californians for saving so much water amid scorching temperatures.

Statewide, more than 70 percent of all water agencies met or came within one percentage point of meeting their conservation targets in July. Just four water suppliers missed their target by 15 percent or more.

"We've got a lot of people hitting homeruns here. We've got a lot more people getting extra base hits," Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said in a conference call Thursday. "And we've got a few people who are striking out or can't find the ballpark."

Brown's mandate calls for an overall 25 percent reduction between June 2015 and February 2016. Cumulatively, cities reduced their consumption by 29.5 percent in June and July, relative to the same months two years ago.

Exceeding the 25 percent target early on is critical, because the potential for water savings is greatest in the summer. Due to high evaporation and low rainfall, water use peaks in the summer, meaning the easiest time to save is now.

Marcus called the July savings "a boatload of water."

"The percentages here are water in the bank for months where people tend to use less," she said.

Three of the Coachella Valley's six water providers met their water targets in July, led by the Coachella Valley Water District's 41 percent reduction. That was up from 21 percent in June, leading Cris Carrigan, the water board's chief of enforcement, to call the water agency "the comeback kid."

Picking up on Marcus' baseball metaphor, Carrigan said the Desert Water Agency has hit "a run-scoring double" so far. In June and July combined, the agency's customers cut their water use 35 percent, just shy of their 36 percent target.

"We're just asking them to do a little better," Carrigan said. "They're not going to be on my radar screen for compliance orders at that level."

But even though the Desert Water Agency is close, none of the Coachella Valley's six water providers have hit their conservation targets over June and July combined. Two of them — Indio and Mission Springs Water District — are more than 5 percent off the mark, and it could be difficult for them to make up the savings later.

The water board hasn't fined any water districts for non-compliance yet, but it's possible Mission Springs will receive a "conservation order" directing it to take specific actions to spur more savings. Water officials said they will issue nine such orders Friday. Mission Springs met its target in July, but it was one of just a handful of suppliers to whiff by 15 percent or more in June.

The city of Blythe, on the far eastern edge of Riverside County, was one of just four water agencies statewide to miss its target by 15 percent or more in July. Over the first two months of mandatory conservation, Blythe has cut its consumption by 15.9 percent compared to two years ago, far short of its 32 percent goal.

State Beats Water Saving Goals

Officials credit rare storms and stronger enforcement for July's 31% cut, which passed Brown's 25% target

By Bettina Boxall and Rosanne Xia. August 28, 2015

After Gov. Jerry Brown ordered a 25% reduction in urban water use statewide, regulators spent much of the spring chastising water districts for not conserving enough during California's stubborn drought.

Data released Thursday suggest the message is getting through.

Californians cut back their urban water use last month by nearly a third compared with July 2013, aided by rare summer storms and stepped-up local enforcement. And the number of water districts deemed to be severely out of step with the state's demands — those falling 15 percentage points or more short of their conservation goal — dropped sharply.

The 31% statewide reduction is even better than the 27% recorded in June, the first month the targets were in effect. And so far state officials have not needed to carry out their threat of stiff fines to get the attention of local agencies.

"The news is quite good," said Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. "We're very happy to see that Californians are showing they have what it takes to meet our water-savings goals."

But even with a drumbeat of El Niño forecasts suggesting a wet winter is ahead, the state board is not about to let up.

"Although an El Niño is forming, there is no guarantee that we'll receive the amount of precipitation that we'll need to beat the drought in the right places and of the right form," Marcus said. "We need rain and snow in the Sierra, especially the Northern Sierra to make a dent in this drought."

To attain the cuts Brown ordered in April, the state board assigned water districts individual targets requiring them to slash local consumption by as much as 36% compared with 2013 levels.

Last month's water savings were undoubtedly boosted by unusual summer rainfall in coastal Southern California, the state's population center. About a third of an inch of rain fell in downtown Los Angeles, breaking a record for July precipitation that had stood since 1886.

"It definitely had an effect," said Max Gomberg, the board's conservation program manager.

Compared with two years ago, L.A. residents trimmed July water use 21%, easily exceeding the 16% conservation target set by the state.

Statewide, the number of water suppliers that missed their water-savings goal by 15 or more percentage points dropped from 16 in June to four in July.

Of the more than 400 urban water suppliers in the state, the majority met or were within 1 percentage point of their assigned water-savings target.

“It really shows that the public gets it,” said Tim Quinn, executive director of the Assn. of California Water Agencies. “So are public water agencies. They are doing an amazing array of creative outreach. They’re using social media like they never had before. They’re partnering with other entities in ways they never had before.”

The state board is sending violation notices to agencies that continue to fall short of their targets by more than 5 percentage points. Regulators are requesting information about local conservation measures.

Water districts with inadequate programs or those that continue to significantly miss their targets will receive board orders requiring them to take additional actions, which could include more public outreach, fixing water system leaks or imposing stricter limits on outdoor watering.

The board has yet to issue any fines, though it can penalize agencies \$500 a day for failure to comply and can issue a cease-and-desist order carrying a \$10,000-a-day penalty for willful violations.

In some cases, “if we don’t see a marked improvement, we may issue fines,” said Cris Carrigan, the board’s enforcement chief.

The San Joaquin Valley town of Hanford was one of the four suppliers that performed the worst in July, according to the state board, missing their conservation target by 16%.

Lou Camara, Hanford’s public works director, attributed the shortfall to several factors. In the last two years, the city has allowed four smaller water systems with water quality problems to tap into its local supply. Water consumption by the city’s food processing plants could also be skewing the conservation data, he suggested.

Overall, Camara said, the city has taken a number of steps to save water, restricting outdoor residential sprinkling, letting local parks go brown and issuing more than 500 water-use violations so far this month.

The water district managed by the city of El Monte, which missed its conservation target by more than 22 percentage points in June, succeeded in hitting — and surpassing — its target in July.

City officials said the media and marketing campaigns from government agencies across the region made residents more aware of the need to conserve. The City Council also passed an emergency ordinance this month that further limits outdoor watering.

The restrictions went into effect immediately, so officials expect even greater savings next month. “I think we’re doing a good job,” City Manager Jesus Gomez said.

Under growing pressure from the state board, agencies across California have stepped up enforcement and raised water rates to slash use. In July, local districts issued 15,845 financial penalties, nearly 80% more than in June, according to state board data.

Brown's April order was the first mandatory cut in urban water use in California history. It is transforming the look of yards across the state. Many lawns that had remained conspicuously green during the first three years of drought are now straw-colored — or gone altogether.

Enticed by generous turf-removal rebates, Southern Californians are ripping out more than 150 million square feet of grass and putting in drought-tolerant plants.

Cities, barred from using drinking water to irrigate grass on street medians, have erected signs explaining the reason for the dried-up turf.

"Part of this change is permanent. And needs to be," Quinn said. "That's one of the things we need to take out of this drought — a very different attitude about how to use water in California. ... We can't count on El Niño."

Date: Aug 28, 2015; Section: Front Page; Page: A1

WHAT A DROP! WATER SAVINGS HIT 31%

Boy, can we shut it off. California cities cut water use by a combined 31 percent in July, jubilant officials announced Thursday. Here's an overview:

THE GOAL

Declaring that the state's four-year drought had reached crisis proportions after a winter of record-low snowfalls, Gov. Jerry Brown ordered cities to use 25 percent less water.

THE TREND

It's going the right direction. In June, the state conserved 27 percent, compared with the same period of 2013.

LOCAL CUTS

The Lake Hemet district cut use by 46.1 percent. The Temecula area's Rancho California district trimmed 42.7 percent. Coachella Valley users, former conservation laggards, cut 40.6 percent.

ELSEWHERE

San Diego used 29 percent less water. The San Jose Water Co. used 38 percent less. Fresno reported conserving by 31 percent.

A LITTLE

HELP

Record rainfall around Inland Southern California in July played a role in the savings, causing people to leave their sprinklers idle.

THE REACTION

"We have a movement in urban California," said Felicia Marcus of the State Water Resources Control Board. "This is the drought of the century."

COVERAGE: LOCAL 1



Judge sides with San Diego board in dispute with Metropolitan Water District

By Tony Perry, September 1, 2015

A judge Friday upheld his tentative ruling in favor of the San Diego County Water Authority in its bitter, multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Curtis E.A. Karnow affirmed his July ruling that the MWD owes the San Diego district \$188.3 million plus interest for overcharging it for water brought to San Diego under a purchase agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District.

MWD plans to appeal.

The water deal with Imperial Irrigation District involves the San Diego County district purchasing some of Imperial's mammoth share of the Colorado River in order to decrease its dependence on MWD.

To transport the water, San Diego needed to use the MWD's Colorado Aqueduct. The lawsuit involved San Diego's assertion that MWD overcharged for that service.

Karnow ruled that MWD was violating Proposition 26, passed by voters in 2010, that limited the amount the government can charge to the actual cost of the service being provided.

In a secondary issue, Karnow also agreed with San Diego that the MWD has under-calculated its "preferential rights" to buy water during a shortage.

Even as they declared victory, San Diego officials anticipated further disputes with the MWD.

"We will continue to need support from civic and business groups as we fight MWD's expected appeals and new strategies to overcharge this region," said Mark Weston, chairman of the San Diego County Water Authority's board of directors.

The Public Record

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

VOLUME 38 - EDITION #67

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

\$1.50 - PER SINGLE ISSUE

SERVING ALL OF THE DESERT CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

DESERT WATER AGENCY CUSTOMERS REDUCED WATER USE BY 30 PERCENT IN JULY 2015

Desert Water Agency (DWA) announced that the Agency and its customers achieved a 30 percent reduction in water use during July 2015 compared to the same month in 2013 – the baseline year used by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to measure statewide conservation achievements. To comply with Governor Brown's April 1 Executive Order to reduce statewide water use by 25 percent, the State Water Board imposed mandatory restrictions and assigned different mandatory conservation goals to each urban area based on per capita water use. The adopted regulations require urban areas with the highest per capita water use to achieve a mandatory 36 percent reduction, which includes much of the Coachella Valley. DWA thanks its customers' for their support and calls for their continued cooperation in achieving the community's mandated conservation goal.

Below is a statement from DWA general manager Dave Luker about DWA's July water use:

"We are grateful to our customers for their efforts. We believe last month's 40 percent reduction is indicative of our customers' willingness and ability to curtail their water use as well as the momentum we've gained in conserving water during this unrelenting drought. We know our customers are capable of achieving greater conservation gains, and we want to remind everyone in our community that we cannot take our foot off the pedal – not when we have a mandate to do more."

In addition to the mandatory water-use restrictions in effect in DWA's service area, the Agency provides a number of voluntary conservation programs that aim to drive meaningful, long-term results. DWA has installed more than 1,500 free Smart Irrigation Controllers to date. During the past year, the Agency's turf buy back program participants have replaced nearly a half million square feet of water-guzzling turf with water-efficient landscaping. A number of additional turf removal projects are currently in progress, and DWA plans to relaunch the Agency's turf buy back program later this summer. DWA is not accepting turf buy back applications at this time, and the program is not retroactive. DWA customers should not remove their turf until their project has been approved by the Agency. For more information on DWA's conservation programs, please visit www.dwa.org/conservation.

The Public Record

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

VOLUME 38 - EDITION #67

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

\$1.50 - PER SINGLE ISSUE

SERVING ALL OF THE DESERT CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

COLORFUL YARD SIGNS COMMUNICATE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is now offering free yard signs to customers who are proud of their conservation efforts and want to show them off in a fun way.

These signs are part of the district's aggressive public campaign to promote conservation in response to the State requiring CVWD to reduce overall water use by 36 percent each month compared to the same month in 2013. If goals aren't met, the district could face penalties of up to \$10,000 per day during the drought.

Two different designs are available depending on customers' conservation efforts. One sign is for those who are letting their grass go golden and the other is for those who have water-efficient landscaping or are in the process of installation. Spanish language signs are also available.

"These signs are a good way for residents to show off their efforts and to inspire others to make some changes in their own landscaping," said Heather Engel, CVWD director of communication & conservation. "Thanks to the conservation efforts of our customers, we reduced water use by 41 percent in July. We encourage everyone to keep up the good work so that we can continue meeting our conservation goals each month."

Signs are available for pick up from CVWD's Operations Building at 75525 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert.

Supplies are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit one per residential customer and three per HOA or large business. Residents have the option to return signs in good condition back to CVWD for reuse.

For questions about the signs, call (760) 398-2651 or visit www.cvwd.org/CVsaving36 for conservation tips.

Eastern Municipal tightens water usage restriction

District that failed to meet state mandates further reduces allotment.

BY ALEX GROVES

STAFF WRITER

Dead lawns may become more common around southwest Riverside County now that the Eastern Municipal Water District is asking homeowners to curtail outdoor watering even more.

On Wednesday, the water district's board voted to go to Stage 4b, which requires homeowners to reduce water usage by at least 30 percent or face higher prices. That stage will go into effect Sept. 16.

The water district took the action after it failed to meet state mandated cutbacks since June.

"We've fallen short of our compliance requirement for three straight months," said Eastern Municipal spokesman Kevin Pearson. "This is really put in place to meet that."

Eastern Municipal was asked to reduce its water usage by 28 percent from 2013 levels as part of a state effort to reduce water usage by 25 percent across California. The district's customers saved 15 percent in June, 27 percent in July and 18 percent in August.

Eastern Municipal isn't the only Inland water district to go to Stage 4b. Western Municipal Water District, which serves residences in parts of Murrieta and Riverside, did so on May 20.

Western Municipal is required to reduce water usages from 2013 levels by 32 percent each month until February.

Other districts are not ready to put harsher water restrictions in place.

"We don't have any plans to change our stage allocation at this time," said Bonnie Woodrome, a spokeswoman for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. She said customers cut usage during July by 33 percent from 2013 levels.

The Rancho California Water District is at Stage 4a as well, but recently lifted its restrictions on washing cars at home.

Pearson said a home with a 2,000-square-foot yard might normally use about 10 748-gallon units.

Under new EMWD regulations, customers are asked to use fewer than seven units, he said.

Those who keep within their allotment will pay the normal rate of \$3.28 per unit.

People who exceed it will have to pay the maximum of \$10.76 per unit.

Pearson said it may be unattractive, but people can keep their grass alive -- although stressed -- by limiting their watering to one or two times per week.

"But we don't want people killing their trees," he said. "If you have established trees and shrubs, that's fine. It's grass where we need to see savings."

CONTACT THE WRITER:

951-368-9693 or

agroves@pe.com

THREE THINGS TO KNOW

- Customers have to reduce water usage 30 percent from an established base rate for the size of their landscaping.
- Customers will have to pay \$10.76 per 748-gallon unit if they go over the quantity of water they're allowed.
- The water district recommends letting grass undergo stress by limiting watering to one or two times per week.

Valley Voice: California WaterFix vital to water future

David Luker, Special to The Desert Sun. September 5, 2015

As Californians, we have a long history of stepping up to solve problems. In response to Gov. Jerry Brown's call to cut statewide water use, Californians collectively cut urban water use by 31 percent in July.

There is no doubt that the Coachella Valley played a key role in this impressive achievement, responding overwhelmingly to the state's call for a hefty reduction in our regional water use.

In June, Desert Water Agency customers cut water use by a staggering 40 percent — and by 30 percent in July. This is no small feat, and our customers are to be commended for their hard work in responding to the serious statewide drought. Conservation is crucial in stretching our limited supplies through this drought. But, with all eyes on conservation and current water use, many have lost sight of the greater challenge at hand — securing water supply reliability for our children and their children.

Sustainable water management requires a diverse portfolio of projects. At the Desert Water Agency, we've invested in a number of innovative conservation, reclaimed and recycled water projects to stretch limited supplies. When allocations from the State Water Project are available, we actively replenish our region's groundwater basin, and our efforts have received statewide acclaim.

You know the old saying, "It takes money to make money." The same philosophy applies to sustainable water management. We cannot conserve, replenish, recycle or reuse what we don't have — it takes water to sustain water. But, in the Coachella Valley, we receive less than six inches of rain in an average year. Our community, our economy and the success of our local water management efforts depend on imported water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Here in the Coachella Valley, we swap our rights to that water in exchange for Colorado River water, which we use to replenish our groundwater basin. So, while an indirect connection, our future is directly tied to the reliability of that system moving water through the Delta.

While the Sierra Nevada is hundreds of miles away, the water flowing from those mountains is extremely important to our desert region, but there is a challenge. Snow melts and the water moves through the Delta via an outdated system of crumbling dirt levees to ultimately provide water for 26 million people from the Bay Area to Southern California. Antiquated infrastructure and environmental regulations prevent us from capturing water when it's available. A major storm or earthquake could disrupt the fragile system, cutting off water supplies for millions of people and resulting in devastating economic effects.

In short, it's in desperate need of a fix.

As Californians, even during non-drought years, we receive far less precipitation per capita than the rest of our fellow Americans. We have to be better at capturing, storing, transporting and maximizing imported supplies.

After nearly a decade of scientific research, public comment, and environmental analysis, state and federal leaders are advancing a plan, California WaterFix, to address the vulnerabilities in our water system.

California WaterFix — formerly known as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan — will modernize our existing system by building new pipelines that will move the State Project water safely underground

rather than through the deteriorating Delta. With climate change expected to cause prolonged periods of drought followed by intense storms, California WaterFix would also help water managers better plan for dry periods by allowing for the capture and transfer of more water during wet years.

Local water-saving efforts are crucial, but alone, they're not enough. The long-term security of our water resources depends on the long overdue upgrade of our state's primary water delivery system. Let's show our communities that we've learned from this drought and we're willing to make the necessary investments to secure our water supply and our economy for years to come. We must continue to move this plan forward.

Email David Luker, general manager of the Desert Water Agency, at desertwater@dwa.org.

Broken hydrant floods Gene Autry after car crash

Anna Rumer, The Desert Sun 7:28 p.m. PDT September 10, 2015

A broken hydrant spewed a geyser into the roadway of Gene Autry Trail Thursday evening after being hit by a car the driver of which was trying to avoid hitting another vehicle.

A silver SUV sheared off the hydrant just before 6:30 p.m., according to Palm Springs police, when the car in front of it stopped abruptly at the Mission Drive stop light. To avoid hitting that car, the driver of the SUV veered off to the side of the road and hit the hydrant. No injuries resulted from the crash.

After about 10 minutes, Desert Water technicians were able to staunch the flow to the hydrant. The amount of water that washed into the street won't be known until Thursday morning, they said.

Southbound traffic on Gene Autry Trail was reduced to one lane for about 30 minutes as police and firefighters blocked off the flooded lanes, but no significant traffic jams were caused by the crash.

[Print This Page](#)

Publication: Los Angeles Times; Date: Sep 13, 2015; Section: California; Page: B1

Farmland water fight nears end

BY BETTINA BOXALL

The federal government is poised to sign a settlement with the Westlands Water District that would resolve a decades-long legal fight over badly drained, tainted farmland on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

U.S. Interior Department officials on Friday told three Northern California congressmen that the department could sign the agreement as early as Tuesday.

"The deal is done. There is no more negotiation," said Rep. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), who was briefed on the settlement along with Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Stockton) and Rep. John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove).

McNerney and Huffman said Interior representatives did not show them a copy of the proposed settlement, but informed the three legislators that it was similar to a 2013 draft agreement.

Under the draft, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would be relieved of its obligation to provide drainage to several hundred thousands of acres of Westlands cropland. The district would permanently retire 100,000 acres of ill-drained fields and agree to a cap on water deliveries that amounts to 75% of its current contract amount. In return, the reclamation bureau would let Westlands off the hook for the roughly \$350 million the irrigation district owes federal taxpayers for construction of a portion of Central Valley Project facilities. The government would also lift limits on the size of Westlands farms eligible for subsidized water deliveries and give the district an open-ended water contract that did not require periodic renewal.

The Interior Department declined to discuss the matter. "No settlement has been finalized at this point in time and therefore we are unable to comment in greater detail," Kevin Thompson, the agency's deputy director of communications, said in an email.

In an interview, Tom Birmingham, Westlands general manager, said he did not know when Interior would sign the agreement, but added "I'm hopeful it will be very, very soon."

Birmingham said he expects the district board to approve the settlement. Once signed by Interior and Westlands, the agreement would go to Congress for approval.

Westlands is the biggest

— and most contentious — contractor in California's sprawling federal irrigation system. So a deal that changes the terms of its water contract and forgives its substantial debt will be heavily scrutinized.

"Westlands is going to get away with a lot here," McNerney contended.

Thanks to local geology and a high water table, the soil in a good portion of Westlands is loaded with mineral salts and selenium, a natural trace element. The salts are harmful to crops and when concentrated in field drainage, the selenium reaches levels that are toxic to wildlife.

After waterfowl in a wildlife refuge were poisoned by Westlands drain water in the 1980s, the reclamation bureau shut down the region's master drain. That led to decades of legal wrangling and ultimately a court order that the federal government was under legal obligation to provide drainage.

In 2007, the reclamation bureau proposed a \$2.7-billion project that would have permanently retired 200,000 acres of badly drained cropland and also called for treatment facilities to cleanse tainted drain water from other fields.

The high price tag doomed the proposal, spurring continued negotiations to settle the issue.

Under the pending settlement, Birmingham said, "the government will save in excess of \$2 billion ... will be indemnified against any liability resulting from the failure to provide drainage" and the district will assume responsibility to treat the drain water.

But environmentalists and others worry that changing Westlands' contract terms could give the district a firmer

hold on water deliveries from the environmentally troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. They also say the agreement won't end the vexing problem of tainted drainage that has long plagued the San Joaquin Valley's west side.

"They're clearly not solving the drainage problem and the broader impacts that have made that such a big deal for so long," Huffman said. "Westlands is not going to retire enough land. They're not going to commit to the kind of irrigation practices" outlined in the 2007 proposal.

"We're going to ask hard questions," he added. [bettina.boxall](#)

[@latimes.com](#)

Twitter: [@boxall](#)



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THE SAN LUIS Reservoir, part of the Central Valley Water Project, supplies the Westlands district.

Date: Sep 14, 2015; Section: Front Page; Page: A1

Hemet targeted in state conservation enforcement

The city is among the first cited for not meeting water savings targets.

BY JANET ZIMMERMAN

STAFF WRITER

Hemet's water department has been ordered by the state to beef up its conservation efforts or face fines of \$500 a day.

The city and eight other districts were named in the first round of enforcement orders from the State Water Resources Control Board because they were more than 15 percent off their mandated conservation targets in June, said Max Gomberg, the board's senior environmental scientist.

"These suppliers were the farthest off the mark," he said. "We don't think their conservation programs are really where they need to be."

Water departments in Yucaipa, Norco and Redlands also were well off their goals and are expected to be issued enforcement orders in the coming weeks, Gomberg said.

The water board set the targets in an effort to meet an average 25 percent cutback across California that was ordered by Gov. Jerry Brown in April. The conservation goals for each supplier range from 8 percent to 36 percent, based on past per-capita water use.

Hemet's goal is 32 percent. Residents achieved a 17 percent savings in June and 28 percent in July, bringing the two-month, cumulative total to about 23 percent.

In the state edict, the city has been directed to consider new rates, add a drought surcharge, expand conservation programs for commercial and institutional customers and audit at least seven of those accounts per month, identify the highest water users, implement a leak detection program and hire two people to help with enforcement and conservation.

Many of the recommendations already were in the works before the state stepped in, said Kristen Jensen, Hemet's public works director.

HEMET EFFORTS

The City Council is considering switching from bimonthly to monthly bills so customers can better track their usage, and Hemet may raise water rates effective Oct. 1.

Next year, the city hopes to implement allocation-based water budgets that are determined by the amount of landscaping and number of residents per home, Jensen said.

The city doesn't have its own rebate program, but gives away aerators to reduce faucet flow, as well as ground moisture sensors and hose shutoff nozzles. Each May, the water department holds a low-flow toilet exchange for residents.

"We will be ramping up our commercial outreach as our commercial customers consume approximately 40 percent of the water produced," Jensen said.

City staff will visit hotels and restaurants to help them comply with current water restrictions, which include not serving water to customers who don't request it and offering an option to hotel guests that their linens not be changed daily, she said. Parks already are struggling because they have had their water reduced by 40 percent in the past three months, Jensen said.

August use, which will be reported to the state Tuesday, is down by more than 30 percent from the same month in 2013, the yardstick the state uses to gauge conservation, she said. New weather-sensing irrigation equipment has been installed in parks, and Jensen said she is confident the city will reach its goal in the next month or two.

Reaching the goal may help the city avoid having to meet the state's edict to hire one full-time and one part-time employee to enforce outdoor water restrictions and promote conservation, Jensen said. Having to add employees would increase costs that would be passed on to customers, she added.

Hemet's conservation mandate "is an incredibly high target that does not take into account factors unique to our service area or customer base. The area we service has a large population of senior citizens and folks on fixed incomes that already conserve out of financial necessity, so there is not a lot of 'excess' usage to conserve.

We also have a very low percentage of residential landscapes in our service area, which means the bulk of conservation residentially will be indoor use for many," she said.

Providers could face fines if they are "lackluster" in implementing the orders, said Gomberg.

A supplier willfully violating a conservation order would be subject to a \$10,000-a-day penalty.

"The focus is on making sure they're bringing their conservation programs up to a level of staffing, resources and commitment that should help bring the conservation savings up," he said.

OTHERS FACE ACTION

The next round of orders probably will include Redlands, Norco and the Yucaipa Valley Water District because they were more than 5 points off their 36 percent conservation targets in July, Gomberg said.

Joe Zoba, general manager at the Yucaipa district, said his agency has been focused on long-term savings.

The district has given away about 400 weatherbased irrigation controllers since May, which has helped those customers cut use by 40 percent from 2013 consumption, he said.

The district also is planning to expand its recycled water program. Next week, the board will consider a \$400,000 contract to connect more customers to the system, including church es, a school, a senior housing complex and a nursery. The expansion would save about 4 million gallons of water per month, Zoba said.

The district also holds four community meetings per month on conservation, is hiring 11 staff members and is considering a drought surcharge and new rate structure, he said.

But ultimately, it's the weather that drives the numbers, Zoba said.

"I'm anticipating our numbers in September and unless we get a quick cool spell, we're going to be far from our 36 percent mandated reduction," he said.

Norco water officials could not be reached for comment.

Redlands spokesman Carl Baker said the city took additional steps last month in an effort to meet the conservation goal. Among them: studying water budget-based rates, buying newspaper ads reminding the public of restrictions, hiring two water-waste investigators, installing water efficient landscaping at city fire stations and securing grants to expand the rebate program.

"We have been very rigorous in our conservation efforts," Baker said. "We are in regular contact with the state and open to any further efforts to achieve what is a very aggressive target."

STATE CRACKS DOWN

The State Water Resources Control Board issued the first round of enforcement orders to nine suppliers in California who were farthest off their conservation targets. The state can order suppliers to consider rate changes, implement drought surcharges, hire conservation personnel, beef up outreach programs and conduct water-use audits. Failure to comply carries a \$500-a-day fine. Enforcement orders went to:

Cities

Adelanto California City Hanford Hemet Livingston

Water districts

Indian Wells Valley Water District in Ridgecrest

Mission Springs Water District in Desert Hot Springs

Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District in Phelan

Rainbow Municipal Water District in Fallbrook

Rate change hearing

The Hemet City Council will consider water and sewer rate increases at a public hearing at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at the City Hall council chamber, 450 E. Latham Ave.; cityofhemet.org If approved, the new rates would take effect Oct. 1. A monthly bill for an average single-family home would go from \$44.18 for nine units of water to \$52.73 for 6.1 units, which reflects the 32 percent reduction ordered by the state.

STATE CRACKDOWN

The Hemet water department is under an order by the State Water Resources Control Board to increase its water-conservation efforts because it failed to meet its target of 32 percent savings. Three other Inland districts are expected to receive similar enforcement orders in the coming weeks for not meeting their conservation goals, a state official said.

	State-mandated conservation target	June savings	July savings	Two-month cumulative savings
Hemet	32%	17%	28.2%	22.6%
Redlands	36%	28%	20.5%	24.3%
Merced	36%	28%	23.8%	25.9%
Yucaipa	36%	22%	28.0%	25.0%

SOURCE: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

STAFF GRAPHIC

CA drought: Desert falling behind on water conservation

Sammy Roth, The Desert Sun, September 15, 2015

All six Coachella Valley water agencies failed to meet their state-mandated conservation targets in August, and it will be increasingly difficult for them to make up lost ground in the coming months.

Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company led the way by cutting water use 30 percent, six percentage points shy of its goal. Mission Springs Water District brought up the rear with a 17 percent reduction, far short of its 28 percent target.

"It's good, but it's not good enough," Myoma Dunes general manager Mark Meeler said. "I'm a little disappointed in our customer base, because their consumption considerably increased in August...We've got a lot of very green lawns out there."

More troubling than the August numbers alone is that the Coachella Valley is building up a serious conservation deficit. Gov. Jerry Brown's mandatory conservation order, issued in April in response to California's historic drought, requires cumulative cuts in urban water use from June through February.

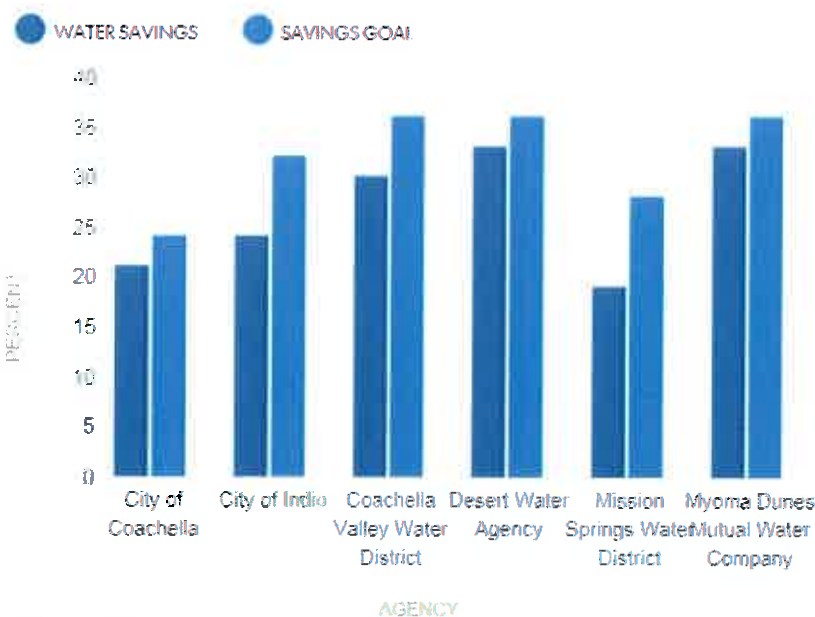
After three months, none of the valley's six water agencies is on track to meet its target.

DESERT WATER USE

Gov. Jerry Brown's conservation mandate called for cumulative water reductions between June and February. Here's a breakdown of how much each of the valley's six water agencies cut overall from June through August, compared to their state-mandated targets.

DESERT WATER USE

Gov. Jerry Brown's conservation mandate called for cumulative water reductions between June and February. Here's a breakdown of how much each of the valley's six water agencies cut overall from June through August, compared to their state-



Experts have stressed that exceeding the targets in the early months is critical, because the potential for water savings is greatest in the summer. Due to intense heat and low rainfall, water use peaks in the summer, meaning the easiest time to save is now.

Desert Water Agency general manager Dave Luker acknowledged that reality, saying in an email that local residents will have to “work even harder” to save water during the winter. Homes and businesses served by the agency managed a 29 percent cutback in August, short of their 36 percent target.

“As summer heat fades, the need to conserve will not,” Luker said.

Water agencies that don’t meet their goals could eventually face fines of up to \$10,000 per day, although the State Water Resources Control Board hasn’t issued any fines so far. The water board has, however, ordered some poorly performing water agencies to take additional steps to encourage conservation.

Last week, for instance, officials ordered the Mission Springs Water District— which serves Desert Hot Springs — to immediately study the feasibility of adding a “drought surcharge” to water bills. Mission Springs has also been required to encourage its highest water users to save more.

Coachella Valley Water District customers slashed consumption by 27 percent in August. But at a meeting of the district’s board of directors last week, board President John Powell Jr. was optimistic the agency will ultimately achieve its 36 percent target.

Powell noted that desert residents usually overseed their grass starting in October, meaning there’s still a lot of room for savings over the next few months. State officials are comparing water consumption this year to the same months two years ago.

“One hundred percent overseeding, for anyone in our district who chooses to do that — it’s going to be expensive,” Powell said, referring to the agency’s penalty fees for excessive water use.

Coachella residents cut back by 21 percent in August, missing their 24 percent target. Berlinda Blackburn, the city’s environmental compliance manager, said officials have identified Coachella’s largest water users — mostly businesses — and will be trying to help them save more.

Indio residents cut their water use 22 percent in August, missing their target by a whopping 10 percentage points.

The Public Record

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

VOLUME 38 - EDITION #7

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

\$1.50 - PER SINGLE ISSL

SERVING ALL OF THE DESERT CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

CVWD APPROVES ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION FUNDING

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) board of directors approved an additional \$1.5 million in funding for conservation programs.

The additional funding will allow customers to be able to receive turf removal rebates through approximately Dec. 1, 2015. When funds are depleted, applications will be held and then considered for approval beginning July 1, 2016.

"Our customers have made a strong commitment to water conservation during this time of statewide drought," said Heather Engel, director of Communication & Conservation for the district. "This additional funding will help our customers continue these significant and important efforts toward conservation."

CVWD already had committed \$3.2 million for conservation programs in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Since July 1, 2015, CVWD has approved more than 5 million square feet of turf conversion projects at a rebate amount of \$1 per square foot. When those projects are completed, approximately 11 million square feet of turf will have been removed through the program since 2008.

Research shows that converting from spray-irrigated turf to desert-friendly, drip-irrigated landscapes reduces outdoor water use by 70-80 percent. A properly designed and maintained desert-friendly landscape also eliminates run-off to adjacent properties, reduces street and building exterior maintenance costs, and reduces landscape maintenance costs.

The demand for CVWD's turf rebate and other conservation programs has been high as the public has responded to the combination of extreme drought in California, Gov. Jerry Brown's statewide drought emergency declaration, the CVWD board of directors' Resolution for mandated water-use restrictions and drought penalties, and CVWD's increased public outreach efforts.

As a result of the conservation efforts, CVWD customers used 27 percent less water in August 2015 when compared to the same month in 2013. Customers had previously used 41 percent less in July and 21 percent less in June when compared to the same months in 2013. The average reduction over the three-month period is 30 percent.

The state is requiring CVWD to reduce overall residential water use by 36 percent each month when compared to the same month in 2013 or face penalties of up to \$10,000 per day. Customers will need to stay 36 percent below the outdoor water budget each month to avoid penalties.

For additional information about CVWD's current water-use restrictions, drought penalties and conservation programs, visit www.cvwd.org.

The Coachella Valley Water District is a public agency governed by a five-member board of directors. The district provides domestic and irrigation water, agricultural drainage, wastewater treatment and reclamation services, regional stormwater protection, groundwater management and water conservation. It serves approximately 108,000 residential and business customers across 1,000 square miles, located primarily in Riverside County, but also in portions of Imperial and San Diego counties.

Los Angeles Times

Metropolitan Water District aims to build plant to recycle sewage into drinking water

Coastal communities in California flush hundreds of billions of gallons of treated sewage into the Pacific Ocean each year. Above, urban runoff water flows into a pond at the Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. (Don Bartletti / Los Angeles Times)

By Matt Stevens and Monte Morin, September 23, 2015

For more than 80 years, the Metropolitan Water District has paved the way for Southern California's epic growth by securing water from hundreds of miles away.

This week, the mammoth agency said it wants to invest closer to home in what would be one of the world's largest plants to recycle sewage into drinking water.

The plan would thrust Los Angeles County to the forefront of a small but growing number of areas embracing "toilet to tap" technology to meet the water needs of their residents. It comes after four years of drought that have sparked questions about the long-term reliability of some water supplies.

For the MWD, its expanded involvement in water recycling is also a powerful statement that Southern

"This is the new reality of water in California," said Mark Gold, associate vice chancellor for environment and sustainability at UCLA. "If anything, this drought has demonstrated that you'd better have a diversified water portfolio or you're not going to survive very well."

Now, 58% of L.A. County's water is imported, while 38% comes from groundwater sources, according to a UCLA study. Only 4% comes from recycling, and high processing costs have until recently limited its appeal to water providers.

The agency would partner with Los Angeles County sanitation districts to create the facility.

In a committee meeting Monday, MWD staff presented the framework of a plan to purify and reuse as much as 168,000 acre-feet of water a year — enough to serve about twice that number of households for a year.

Doing so would require the MWD to build a treatment plant and delivery facilities and comply with environmental regulations — a process that could take more than a decade.

Officials did not specify a projected cost, but similar endeavors elsewhere have required about \$1 billion. They want the board to authorize a \$15-million "demonstration project" in Carson as early as November. Funding could come from water revenue, state loans and grants, and possibly from a water bond passed by voters last year.

Treated and purified sewage water can cost as much as \$900 an acre-foot to produce and distribute, compared with \$1,400 for imported water.

Robert Ferrante, assistant chief engineer at the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, said the proposal would go before his executive board next month.

But critics of the plan said Tuesday that the details are too fuzzy to move forward so fast, and that delving into recycled water production may not be MWD's place.

See the most-read stories this hour >>

"We have no clear-cut information yet about whether the program makes economic sense," said Keith Lewinger, an MWD board member representing the San Diego County Water Authority. "We are not sure why Metropolitan wants to be involved. That's not the business model we've had."

Coastal communities in California flush hundreds of billions of gallons of treated sewage into the Pacific Ocean each year. In the last couple of decades, however, water managers have attempted to recycle some of this water for human use.

So-called purple pipe systems take sewage that has been filtered and cleansed and use it to irrigate crops, parks and golf courses — but not as drinking water.

Potable reuse systems, on the other hand, use a variety of methods to purify water that has already been processed at a sewage treatment facility. The end result of this toilet to tap process is a liquid that is cleaner than most bottled waters and intended for human consumption.

As drought places an increasing strain on traditional sources of drinking water, water managers have looked to expand water recycling systems and thereby increase local water supply. (Recycled water has been used to replenish Los Angeles County aquifers for years, but on a smaller scale.)

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has directed the Department of Water and Power to reduce by half its purchase of imported drinking water by 2024. He has also called for an "integrated water strategy that increases local water supplies and that improves water security."

Officials in Orange County say their Groundwater Replenishment System — which can treat as much as 100 million gallons a day — will eventually be able to purify 130 million gallons a day for reuse. They say it is the largest such system in the world.

MWD officials hope that in about a decade, their proposed treatment plant would produce 150 million gallons a day.

In recent years, the MWD has paid a subsidy to water providers that clean or recycle some of their local supply.

"Met has always been very supportive of water recycling," MWD Assistant General Manager Debra Man said in an interview. "This takes it to the next level."

The MWD and a partnership of two dozen county wastewater agencies — known as Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County — have been working together on feasibility reports and pilot studies since 2010, according to documents outlining the proposed recycling project.

Ferrante, the sanitation districts engineer, said that roughly 40% of the sanitation agency's treated sewage is recycled in one way or another. Increasing that percentage has proven difficult however.

"This is a great new source of water for Southern California," Ferrante said. "But you can't put all your eggs in one basket. There's no one answer to sustainability. It's not just desalination, it's not just conservation, it's not just recycling and it's not just turf removal. It's a combination of all those things."

Officials said they could launch the demonstration at the sanitation districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson about 20 months after the project is approved. The treatment processes would be perfected on 1 million gallons of water a day while officials conduct additional studies and develop a financing plan, according to an MWD memo.

Experts have raised concerns about waters of varying chemistries mixing in aquifers.

A study published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* found that when highly purified wastewater was stored in an Orange County aquifer, the water caused arsenic to escape from clay sediments in a way that water filtered in naturally did not.

The solution, according to Stanford University researchers, was to add calcium to the purified water before adding it to the aquifer.

Gold said there will be "enormous obstacles" ahead, such as figuring out where to store all the groundwater, who has rights to which aquifers and garnering political support for the project across the MWD board.

"But this is so sorely needed," he said, "we have to figure out how to make it work."

Date: Sep 24, 2015; Section: Local Extra - East; Page: EB1

WATER, SEWER RATE HIKES APPROVED

Hemet customers will begin paying more for services on Oct. 1.

BY CRAIG SHULTZ

STAFF WRITER

Customers who receive water and sewer services from the city of Hemet will start paying more next month – and paying more often.

The City Council voted 5-0 Tuesday to increase water rates 19 percent Oct. 1, with another 19 percent increase in March, a 4 percent increase Jan. 1, 2017, and 3 percent hikes each successive January through 2020, while sewer rates will almost double in the next three years.

The billing cycle will transition to monthly from the current every-othermonth for residential customers .

The increases are the first for water since 2008 and sewer since 2006, and Public Works Director Kris Jensen said while increases were pondered in the past, "I don't think the timing was right."

She blamed the delay on high turnover in City Hall, where there have been eight permanent or temporary city managers since the last rate hikes.

"It takes awhile to get a rate study," Jensen said. "Staff has been pushing it for years."

Councilman Robert Youssef said the city probably should have increased costs earlier.

"Had we raised the rates at incremental periods, (the increase) probably wouldn't be as bad as it is now," he said.

The new rates have been debated for almost a year, and the proposal was adjusted four times, in part due to state conservation regulations and a court ruling calling tiered rates illegal.

Now, every city water customer – about 9,700 connections in a 5.25-square-mile service area, extending generally from Menlo Avenue south to Stetson Avenue, and from Sanderson Avenue east to San Jacinto Street – will pay a flat monthly fee based on the size of the customer's meter and a per unit cost of water used.

Hemet residents who are served by the Eastern or Lake Hemet municipal water districts are not affected by this increase. Those agencies raised their rates earlier this year.

Under state law, water departments can't charge more than the cost of water and operations. Jensen said the city was fortunate to have a large reserve in the water fund to cover costs since the last increase.

The city received 47 formal protests against the rate hikes, well short of the 4,500 that were necessary to table the increases. Five people spoke out against the proposal at the meeting.

Water bills currently are staggered, with about half the residential customers paying each month. Commercial customers pay monthly. City officials said putting everyone on monthly cycles will make it easier for customers to pay two smaller bills and also make it easier to track usage.

"We're trying to look for a way to soften the blow," Jensen said.

Monthly billing will not take effect immediately, Jensen said, adding that a consumer education program will precede any change. The new rates will remain in effect through the drought. The city has the option to charge less if drought conditions ease.

CONTACT THE WRITER:

951-368-9086 or

cshultz@pe.com

Hemet residents living outside the boundaries are served by Eastern or Lake Hemet municipal water districts and are not subject to city fee hikes.



STAFF GRAPHIC

Hemet fees

Current: Average Hemet water bill is \$44.18 per month. New Hemet water and sewer fees, effective Oct. 1 Basic charge: \$23.05 Consumption rates: \$4.85 per 748 gallons* Estimated average water bill: \$52.64 Fees, effective March 1: Basic charge: \$24.95 Consumption rates: \$6.25 per unit* Estimated average water bill: \$63.08

* Drought rates. Costs could go down if drought conditions ease

Sewer rates

Current: \$4.22 monthly Oct. 1: \$5.75 monthly March: \$7 monthly January 2017: \$7.50 monthly January 2018: \$8 monthly Note: Eastern Municipal Water District water customers who pay city sewer fees would pay an additional fee that would rise from \$3.32 monthly to \$4.84 without any other proposed increases.



Even in drought, CA water rights politically toxic

Sammy Roth, The Desert, *September 30, 2015*

It was the worst drought in California's history.

Reservoirs hit new lows as a historically dry year was followed by the driest year ever recorded. Forty-seven of the state's 58 counties declared drought emergencies, and officials urged Californians to flush their toilets less and let their lawns go brown. Central Valley farmers pumped more groundwater than usual to make up for lost rainfall.

Facing a crisis, Gov. Jerry Brown decided it might be time to tackle a thorny political subject: water rights.

Brown established a commission to review water rights law, saying in an executive order that existing law "includes impediments to the fullest beneficial use of California's water." The group started crafting recommendations: Give state officials stronger authority to cut off illegal or unsustainable water use. Ditch the "use it or lose it" mentality that discourages conservation. Make it easier for people to temporarily trade their water rights to willing buyers.

Then it rained. A lot.

It was 1978.

"The drought was over, and those recommendations got put on the shelf," said Richard Frank, an environmental law professor at the

Nearly 40 years later, most experts agree that California's water rights system is still a mess. A web of outdated laws and antiquated attitudes, they say, actively hinders the state's ability to ensure everyone has enough water — a problem that will only get worse as climate change makes severe water shortages more likely.

It's no secret why lawmakers haven't taken action: Water rights are a third rail of California politics.

The state's longest-standing rights holders — especially upstate farmers, but also cities and water agencies — have long resisted even the smallest changes to a system that has benefited them for a century. As it stands, rights holders can take water from rivers and streams with little oversight, and little scrutiny of how much they're taking. State officials don't have an efficient way of forcing the most senior rights holders to cut back in times of scarcity.

Even during the current drought — which has generated unprecedented political will for bold water initiatives — lawmakers haven't touched water rights. Voters approved a \$7.5 billion water bond, and legislators passed a bill that will regulate groundwater for the first time. But surface water rights are apparently still off limits.

"Everybody with senior water rights has a huge interest in keeping the system exactly the way it is, even if it means hurting other people — which it does," said Thomas Holyoke, a water politics expert at California State University, Fresno. "Everybody is retreating into the corners they have, and arming themselves legalistically to defend what little water they still have."

"We can change the water rights system, but that's just going to reallocate the scarcity to somebody else. It's just going to create a different set of have-nots," said Chris Scheuring, an attorney for the California Farm Bureau Federation. "It's the underlying scarcity that needs to be addressed."

Advocates for the agriculture industry reject most criticisms of the current system, which they say does its job well. The real problem, they say, is that the state doesn't have enough water to go around, a problem that can only be solved through desalination, dams, wastewater recycling, and other methods to increase supply.

A broken system

More than half a dozen independent experts interviewed for this article proposed similar fixes for California's water rights system. They all started with the same premise: Lawmakers can't dump the current system and start from scratch, for reasons both practical and political.

"We're not going to throw water rights out. We're going to fiddle around the margins," said Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based think tank.

One of the biggest problems with the current system, experts say, is a glaring lack of oversight.

Junior rights holders — who established their claims after 1914 — are required to report how much water they're using just once a year. Senior rights holders have to report once every three years, although that will soon change to once a year. Loopholes in reporting requirements make it difficult for the State Water Resources Control Board to know how much surface water is being used overall, and therefore how much water is being stolen.

"We have a surprisingly bad handle on how much water actually is used, by whom, at what point, and for what," said Holly Doremus,

That information gap makes it difficult for state officials to force water users to follow the rules. And even if they had comprehensive data, it's not clear how much authority they would have to enforce existing water rights.

The water rights system is based on seniority. When water is scarce, state officials are supposed to require junior water users to cut back first, starting with those who established their claims most recently. Senior rights holders — who staked their claims before 1914 — are only supposed to be affected during the most serious droughts.

"It works fine when there's plenty of water, but the conflicts start bubbling up as shortages become more severe," said Thomas Howard, executive director of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The water board started cutting off supplies for junior rights holders last year, as the drought deepened. Then in June of this year, it ordered some senior rights holders to stop taking water, for just the second time in state history. (Coachella and Imperial Valley farmers, who use water from the federally controlled Colorado River, weren't affected.)

Several senior rights holders immediately sued the water board, arguing the state has no authority over pre-1914 water rights. The lawsuits reflected what UC Davis' Frank described as an "odd laissez-faire attitude" that has long defined California water politics: a deeply ingrained belief that water rights are sacred, not to be infringed upon.

"A lot of the water users are screaming bloody murder, as if it's an intrusion upon their First Amendment rights," Frank said. "State constitutional provisions are very clear on this, that water is a public resource and that all private parties can do is obtain a right to use it. They don't own the water."

Farm bureau attorney Scheuring rejected that interpretation of California law, saying it ignores the history of water in the West, not to mention the economic activity that permanent water rights have made possible.

"The physical molecules...belong to the people of the state of California, and therefore any user can't destroy those molecules, can't send them to the moon, can't make them unavailable to the public in any long-term way," Scheuring said. "However, the right to use water...is very much a private right. It's defined that way in California law, it's been that way for 150 years. It's just like land."

State officials have fended off the legal challenges from senior rights holders, but their ability to enforce water rights effectively is far from clear. In other Western states, officials can quickly force rule-breakers to stop taking

water, said Michael Hanemann, a UC Berkeley professor who specializes in environmental and resource economics. But in California, the water board has to go through a complicated legal proceeding first, and success isn't guaranteed.

"That's a little like not having traffic lights, but having a camera and summoning you to trial after the event, based on the camera," Hanemann said.

Fighting over fixes

For water experts, the solution to those problems is simple: Lawmakers should require rights holders to report their water use more frequently and more consistently, and they should give the state water board stronger enforcement authority. Short of that, they say, state officials should more aggressively assert their authority to monitor and manage California's surface water, with confidence that their tracking and enforcement actions will stand up in court.

Howard, the state water board's executive director, agrees the water rights system is broken. The problem isn't that his agency doesn't want to do a better job, he said — it's that lawmakers haven't given it enough funding to do so.

"I'd like to see everything measured, and I'd like to see all those things put together with proper enforcement. But those are very labor intensive activities," Howard said. "It takes a lot of people and a lot of time."

"If there was a strong desire by the people of the state of California to have a functioning water rights system, you'd have the resources in place to make those things happen," he added. "There isn't a strong political desire."

Many experts also say California should make it easier for rights holders to transfer their water to other users, at least temporarily. That would allow more farmers to lease water to other users during severe shortages, without having to worry about losing their water rights long term — a legitimate fear under current law.

Some farmers would be open to easier transfers. But they'd probably fight hard against another idea popular among water experts: developing a new system for allocating water to the environment.

Setting aside water for "environmental" purposes might be the most contentious issue in state water politics. For decades, farmers, environmental groups, and government agencies have fought over how much water should be kept in rivers, streams and estuaries across Northern California and the Central Valley, to ensure healthy ecosystems and help endangered species like the Delta smelt survive.

California is legally required to protect the environment, and the Endangered Species Act mandates protection for fish like the Delta smelt. But water users who depend on rivers and streams have fought to take more water from those sources, arguing that state officials are unfairly prioritizing fish over people.

"You've got debates with a number of folks saying no, the water rights system should just be applied until every last drop in the river is gone," said Ellen Hanak, director of the Water Policy Center at the Public Policy Institute of California, a San Francisco-based think tank.

State officials should set firm baselines for how much water needs to be kept in rivers and streams, then incorporate those baselines into existing water rights allocations, Hanak said. Similarly, Frank believes a public agency or private environmental group should be put in charge of acquiring water rights on behalf of the environment.

Those kinds of conversations are non-starters with the agriculture lobby, which says fish already have enough water — more than enough, in fact.

"The environmentalists have long had ambitions to reform or change water rights to reallocate water to the environment. We certainly don't want to play into our own demise on that," Scheuring said.

It's possible the farm lobby would oppose more limited changes to the water rights system, too, including enhanced reporting requirements and stronger enforcement mechanisms. After all, who's to say small changes now wouldn't lead to more sweeping reforms down the road?

"Everybody is terrified of moving to anything else, because nobody has any idea of what the alternative system would be," Holyoke said. "They're afraid they would lose out under the new system."

Looking forward

One of the members of Brown's 1977 water rights commission was a Tulare County rancher, Ira Chrisman. He wrote a short dissent that appeared at the end of the commission's report, criticizing the group for not examining ways to increase water supplies to meet the state's growing needs.

"The value of an adequate supply for agriculture, the State's largest industry, should not be underestimated," Chrisman wrote, nearly four decades ago. "Certainly the good health of agriculture impacts significantly upon the financial sector as well as upon the financial integrity of California."

Today, farm advocates still say the best way to deal with scarcity is to produce more water, not to change the way water rights are managed. As far as they're concerned, the system has worked as intended during the ongoing drought: Farmers have fallowed their fields as supplies have dried up, and many of them have leased water to urban areas.

"I haven't heard one water user all over the state say the system hasn't worked," said David Guy, president of the Northern California Water Association, which advocates for farmers and rural communities, among others. "When you sit in an ivory tower, everything looks different, doesn't it? For somebody who has to roll up their sleeves and make it work, it works."

Any legislative effort to change the water rights system would no doubt draw the attention of Assemblymember Henry Perea, a moderate Democrat with outsized influence on state politics. Perea, who represents some of Fresno and much of the surrounding farmland, led the group of Assembly Democrats who helped sink Gov. Jerry Brown's call for a 50 percent cut in oil consumption earlier this year.

Perea said he's open to making the water rights system work better — but only after policymakers tackle a more fundamental conversation about how California allocates its water.

Right now, about 50 percent of the state's water goes toward environmental purposes, with 40 percent being used by agriculture and 10 percent going to cities. Before making changes to water rights, Perea said, lawmakers need to ask themselves whether those numbers make sense.

"I think it's a conversation that must be had. We have to consider whether the existing use of our water is an appropriate one," he said. "I think it would be a very uncomfortable conversation. I think there would be splits within the Democratic constituencies."

Lawmakers should also look for new opportunities to store water in dams and groundwater reservoirs, Perea said.

"Once we look at those conversations, then, if we need to, we can talk about water rights," he said. "Once you start talking about changing water rights, you're really talking about a generational shift. That is such a monumental task — and it's so critical that we get it right — that I think we should start from an understanding of where we are today before we go making such dramatic changes."

UC Berkeley's Hanemann thinks lawmakers will eventually take up water rights reform. While it might not happen during the current drought, he said, California is likely to confront an even worse drought soon enough, thanks to climate change.

"This is like a smoker realizing he should give up smoking, but postponing it a little bit longer," Hanemann said. "It's like Augustine saying, 'Oh lord, make me chaste — but not right away.'"

Energy + Water tour takes guests on ride across valley

Xochitl Pena, *The Desert Sun*, September 30, 2015

Two valley water agencies pulled back the curtain on their operations to show curious folks how they funnel water to about 170,000 customers in the Coachella Valley while at the same time managing the precious resource amid a historic drought.

The six-hour tour Wednesday led by Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District served as the kick-off for the two-day Southern California Energy + Water 2015 Summit. The bus was filled with about 50 residents, construction and environmental consultants, those working in the water and energy industry, and media members.

"This is a resource that needs to be managed. It's not a mineral to be mined. It isn't a vein of gold. Although, for all intents and purposes in the desert, you might as well treat water like it's gold," said Robert Keeran, a multimedia specialist with the Coachella Valley Water District.

"Without it we have nothing and we realize that so we are doing our due diligence to maintain and continue to see this resource is here for not only for this generation but generations to follow."

The tour started at the Desert Water Agency Solar Facility along Dinah Shore Drive in Palm Springs. With a total of 4,500 solar panels generating a megawatt, it is estimated that over its lifetime, the facility will save the agency about \$4 million.

Lani Miller and her husband George Gust, retired Palm Springs residents, decided to take the tour because they consider themselves environmental activists. Miller had a notebook on hand and could be seen scribbling away throughout the tour.

"We're wanting to learn more, wanting to find out the issues, how energy and water overlap and where some public input and democratic input is needed," Miller said.

To help do their part, the couple has decreased water usage by about 73 percent over the past four months. What helps is using graywater, essentially used water from the shower, to quench their tour-worthy garden.

"We're aggressive water conservers," Miller said.

At the first stop, everyone had the opportunity to see where a vast majority of the water served in the Coachella Valley comes from. DWA's water well site pumps water from about 650 feet below the surface. A small amount of chlorine is added though for disinfectant before it gets to customers.

Ashley Hudgens, the public information officer with Desert Water Agency explained that the underwater aquifer has helped maintain the area and provide water even during the drought.

"We are definitely not in an urgent situation like other places in California, like the Central Valley for example," she said. "However, the state still requires us to save."

The state mandate for CVWD and DWA is 36 percent — the highest being asked of any agency in the state, Hudgens said.

The bus then made a stop at the Whitewater Canyon Hydroelectric Plant in Whitewater, to show guests how DWA uses Colorado River Aqueduct water to generate renewable energy. Next on the agenda was the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Basin near Desert Hot Springs to see where the Colorado River percolates into the groundwater table.

What surprised Palm Springs resident David Freedman during the tour was "the lack of water in the percolation and recharge basins." It's like "the lights are on but nobody is home," he added.

Freedman serves on the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission and sits on its water conservation and rebuilding/solar sub committees as well.

"I thought it was my duty to come out and see more about the physical plants we have and hear from DWA and CVWD. What are they doing to conserve water and deal with the drought we have?" he said.

The tour then headed west to the Wastewater Reclamation Plant 10 in Palm Desert, which is where CVWD treats wastewater and turns it into recycled water. The district recycles more than 2 billion gallons of wastewater each year that is then blended with Colorado River water and delivered to golf courses.

The tour continued further east traveling through picturesque fields of bell peppers, basil and dates near Mecca and Thermal.

A stop at the Ion-Exchange Plant showed guests one of three CVWD plants that remove naturally occurring arsenic and chromium-6 from the water before it gets to homes and businesses.

The final stop was at the Coachella Canal near Thermal. Sitting on a plateau, much of the valley could be seen, including the Salton Sea in the far distance. And with much of the tour sites outdoors underneath a searing sun, there were plenty of caps and wide-brimmed hats being worn, and some tour guests longing for more drinking water.

John Annala, a high school chemistry teacher at Twentynine Palms High School, wants to expose his students to more water issues and get them interested in water related fields after graduation.

"I'm looking to bring back some information to the students about what's going on in the valley and in their local area about what we're doing to conserve water and new technologies," he said. "They're so isolated in Twentynine Palms they don't get a lot of exposure to stuff like this."

DESERT WATER AGENCY

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2015

Activities:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9/3/15 | Ashley Hudgens did a radio interview with Joey English on conservation issues. |
| 9/14/15 | President Ewing was interviewed by CBS/KESQ on conservation numbers and restrictions. |
| 9/18/15 | Ashley Hudgens did a radio interview with EZ 103.1 Morning Coffee with Dan on conservation issues. |
| 9/24/15 | Ashley Hudgens presented a conservation update at the One PS neighborhood lunch. |
| 9/25/15 | Ashley Hudgens and Aaron Carlsson visited and gave information to local businesses that will be affected by the Indian Canyon Drive main line replacement. |
| 9/29/15 | Vicki Petek gave a drought update presentation to the Palm Springs Sunup Rotary Club. |
| 9/30/15 | DWA and CVWD hosted a bus tour as part of the SoCal Energy + Water Summit. |

Public Information Releases:

Water Conservation Reviews

Fairways Condos
NOIA Building
Ramada Inn & Resort
Lowe's Palm Springs

Tahquitz Court Apts.
Villa Roma
Wessman Development

Water Conservation Reviews are annual mailings sent to large water users. The Reviews include a 5-year consumption report, facility map, and information brochures. The purpose is to help customers save water by summarizing their consumption, and offering suggestions for reducing usage. Occasionally, after viewing, the recipient may contact DWA for assistance in the form of a Mobile Lab Evaluation.

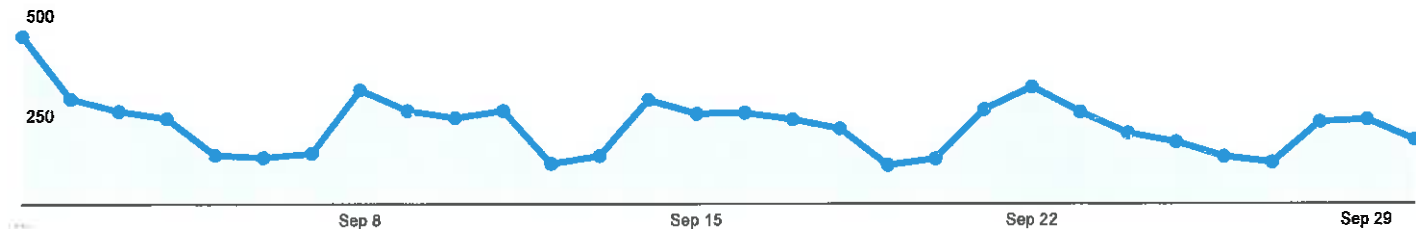
Audience Overview

Sep 1, 2015 - Sep 30, 2015

All Sessions
100.00%

Overview

Sessions



Sessions

5,829

Users

4,412

Pageviews

12,806

Pages / Session

2.20

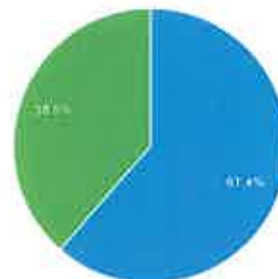
Avg. Session Duration

00:01:59

Bounce Rate

51.69%

New Visitor Returning Visitor



% New Sessions

61.42%

Language	Sessions	% Sessions
1. en-us	4,649	79.76%
2. (not set)	994	17.05%
3. en	48	0.82%
4. en-gb	33	0.57%
5. en-ca	15	0.26%
6. es	13	0.22%
7. ko-kr	10	0.17%
8. zh-cn	10	0.17%
9. c	7	0.12%
10. de	6	0.10%



Desert Water Agency Facebook Analytics September 2015

09/24/2015 10:07 am		Come to Desert Garden Community Day on October 17! CV Water			91		3		
09/23/2015 7:15 am		Dog days of summer are behind us! Turn down your sprinkler timers			44		2		
09/22/2015 7:45 am		Your old toilet may be a water hog. Is it time to upgrade? New efficient			525		22		
09/18/2015 6:00 pm		Thanks to Sunny 103.1 FM and Dan McGrath for having us on the a			50		0		
09/17/2015 9:00 am		Are you thinking about overseeding/reseeding? We encourage you to			254		40		

Only show posts shared in the Facebook app

1W 1M 1Q

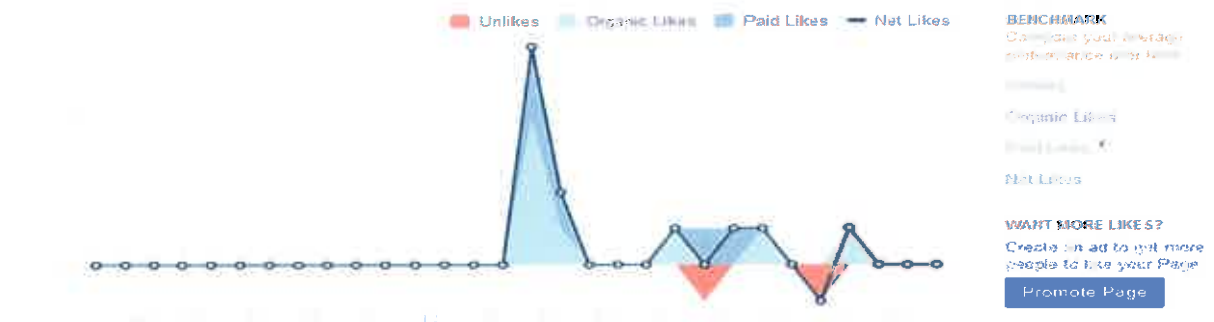
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 9/30/2015

Total Page Likes as of Today: 557



Net Likes

Net likes shows the number of new likes minus the number of unlikes.





Desert Water Agency Twitter Analytics September 2015

September 2015 • 29 days so far...

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 1,300 impressions

Still reeling with excitement over yesterday's video shoot with PSHS football CHAMPIONS! @PSHSAD .@PSHSUPDATES pic.twitter.com/o2HY5I3vth



135 ★ 13

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

No new followers in September

Grow your audience and deliver your content to more people on Twitter.

[Learn more about increasing your followers](#)

Enrich your Tweets with Twitter Cards

Using Twitter Cards gives you greater insight into your URL clicks, app installs, and Retweets.

Top mention earned 1,300 impressions



Skip Descant

@TDSskip · Sep 29

Despite the drought, you'll still see some re-seeding in some parts of Palm Springs: desert-sun.com/story/news/201... @DWAwater @MyDesert

135

[View Tweet](#)

Top media Tweet earned 532 impressions

In need of a more efficient toilet? Apply for a rebate today! \$100 per toilet, 2 per household. pic.twitter.com/8QuTeMmij4



135

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

Get your Tweets in front of more people

Promoted Tweets and content open up your reach on Twitter to more than 1.2 billion people.

[Get started](#)

SEPTEMBER 2015 SUMMARY

Tweets

7

Tweet impressions

6,958

Profile visits

331

Mentions

8

New followers

8