



**REGULAR MEETING 8:00 A.M. OPERATIONS CENTER - 1200 SOUTH GENE AUTRY TRAIL – 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 – March 15, 2016** **CIOFFI**
- 3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT** **KRAUSE**
- 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS – A. Executive – March 30, 2016** **CIOFFI**
- 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**
  - A. Water Use Violation – Civil Penalty Hearings **KRAUSE**
  - B. Request Authorization to Reallocate 2015/2016 Main Oversizing Budget **JOHNSON**
  - C. Request Authorization to Call for Bids for Constructing 1240 Booster Plant (Desert Palisade Development) **JOHNSON**
  - D. Request Approval to Begin Process of Advanced Refunding 2007 Certificates of Participation **KRIEGER**
  - E. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 1129 Nominating Kristin Bloomer for Special District Member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) **KRAUSE**
- 7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
  - A. State Water Contractors' Meeting – March 17, 2016 **RIDDELL**
- 8. PUBLIC INFORMATION** **HUDGENS**
  - 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
  - C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)  
Name of Case: Desert Water Agency vs. U.S. Department of Interior

**D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)

Name of Case: Mission Springs Water District vs. Desert Water Agency

**E. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 1.17 acre lot North of the Northeast corner of Sunrise Way and Mesquite Avenue,

APN No. 502-560-038

Agency Negotiators: Mark S. Krause, General Manager and Steven L. Johnson, Asst. General Manager

Negotiating Parties: Chris Thomsen, New Mesquite HOA

Under Negotiation: Price and terms of possible acquisition

**11. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

**12. ADJOURN**

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

**March 15, 2016**

DWA Board:	James Cioffi, President )	<b>Attendance</b>
	Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President )	
	Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer )	
	Patricia G. Oygar, Director )	
	Craig A. Ewing, Director )	
 DWA Staff:	 Mark S. Krause, General Manager )	
	Steve Johnson, Asst. General Manager )	
	Martin S. Krieger, Finance Director )	
	Sylvia Baca, Asst. Secretary of the Board )	
	Ashley Hudgens, Public Information Officer )	
	Irene Gaudinez, Human Resources Manager )	
 Consultant:	 Michael T. Riddell, Best Best & Krieger )	
	Robert Reeb, Reeb Government Relations )	
 Public:	 David Freedman, PS Sustainability Comm. )	
	Irene Hinkley, Desert La Palme HOA )	

17423. President Cioffi opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and asked everyone to join Vice President Stuart in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Pledge of Allegiance**

17424. President Cioffi called for approval of the March 1, 2016 Regular Board meeting minutes. **Approval of 03/01/16 Regular Board Mtg. Minutes**

Director Oygar moved for approval. After a second by Vice President Stuart, the minutes were approved as written (Director Ewing abstained due to his absence).

17425. President Cioffi called upon General Manager Krause to provide an update on Agency operations. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Krause stated that DWA sponsored a special award at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Palm Springs Unified School District's Science Fair. Vicki Petek, Public Information Associate helped judge the event held on February 24. The winner was Jamsheed Nasr, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader from Katherine Finchy Elementary. His project was "Green is Hot", which was based on

PS Unified School  
District's Science Fair  
Winner

comparing different types of artificial turf and real turf to determine which may reach a higher temperature.

**General Manager's  
Report  
(Cont.)**

Mr. Krause then announced upcoming community events that staff will be attending.

Upcoming Community  
Events

Continuing his report, Mr. Krause stated that increased conservation enforcement has led to 25 civil penalties observed by DWA representatives.

Conservation  
Enforcement

Mr. Krause noted that several well sites had new interior and exterior electrical panels installed. Other well sites interiors and exteriors were painted by a contractor.

Well Site  
Improvements

Mr. Krause stated that Hort Tech Landscaping recently cleared out trees, weeds and other plant life from the spreading basins. This clean-up has helped the Agency prepare the basins to receive water in the near future.

2016 Spreading Basins  
Clean-Up

Mr. Krause noted several meetings and activities he participated in during the past several weeks.

General Manager's  
Meetings & Activities

Concluding his report, Mr. Krause provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation of the canal damage at the State Water Project Pool 30 location.

Pool 30 Presentation

17426. President Cioffi noted the minutes for the March 10, 2016 Executive Committee were provided in the Board's packet.

**Committee Reports**  
Executive 03/10/16

17427. President Cioffi opened the meeting for public input.

Public Input

Irene Hinkley, Desert La Palme HOA, commented on the recent fine it was issued.

Irene Hinkley

President Cioffi suggested staff work with Ms. Hinkley on this matter.

There being no one else from the public wishing to address the Board, President Cioffi closed the public comment period.

17428. President Cioffi called upon Secretary-Treasurer Bloomer to provide an overview of financial activities for the month of February 2016.

**Secretary-Treasurer's  
Report – February  
2016**

Secretary-Treasurer Bloomer reported that the Operating Fund received \$1,288,245 in Water Sales Revenue and \$64,479 in Reclamation Sales Revenue. Included in the Miscellaneous Receipts is \$6,887 from the U.S. Forest Service (permit refunds from prior year). \$1,842,411 was paid out in Accounts Payable. Year-to-date Water Sales are

Operating Fund

11% over budget, Year-to-date Total Revenues are 11% over budget and Year-to-date Total Expenses are 7% under budget. There were 21,184 active services as of February 29, 2016, compared to 22,193 as of January 31, 2016.

Reporting on the General Fund, Secretary-Treasurer Bloomer stated \$310,967 was received in Property Tax Revenue. \$20,655 was received in Groundwater Assessments from private pumpers. \$682,206 was paid out in State Water Project charges.

General Fund

Regarding the Wastewater Fund, \$6,017 was received in Sewer Contract payments. There are a total of 75 contracts with 31 delinquent (41%). \$60,356 was paid out in Accounts Payable.

Wastewater Fund

17429. President Cioffi called upon Agency Counsel Riddell to present his request for authorization to execute informed written consent.

**Item for Action:**  
Request Authorization  
to Execute Informed  
Written Consent

Mr. Riddell stated that that DWR (Department of Water Resources) has filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board to approve an additional point of diversion on the Sacramento River, north of the Delta, to allow SWP (State Water Project) water be delivered through facilities that DWR hopes to construct for the transportation of water under the Delta pursuant to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The petition was prepared by DWR legal staff in-house. However, DWR now would like to engage an outside firm to assist DWR in the proceedings before the State Board on that petition. DWR has asked BB&K (Best, Best & Krieger) to assist in the proceedings before the State Board.

Mr. Riddell noted that BB&K serves as general counsel to DWA and to several other State Water contractors. BB&K believes that all of them support DWR in its petition. However, because DWA is either adverse or potentially adverse to DWR on other unrelated matters, BB&K would need informed written consents from DWR and from the State Water contractor clients that BB&K already represents in order to assist DWR in the proceedings before the State Board. DWR has informed BB&K that it is willing to sign any conflict waiver letter that may be requested to allow BB&K to continue representing its other clients as to matters in which DWR has an interest. Staff requests that the Board authorize the General Manager to sign an informed consent letter to allow BB&K to assist DWR in the upcoming proceedings before the State Board on its petition seeking approval of an additional point of diversion to accommodate the proposed Delta improvements, conditional on DWR also signing a comprehensive informed written consent that allows BB&K to represent the Agency as to any other matter in which DWR may be an adverse or interested party.

Director Ewing made a motion to authorize the General Manager to sign an informed consent letter to allow BB&K to assist DWR in the upcoming proceedings. Directory Oygard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Action Item:**  
(Cont.)  
Execute Informed  
Written Consent

17430. President Cioffi asked General Manager Krause to report on the February Water Use Reduction Figures.

**Items for Discussion:**  
February Water  
Production Comparison

Mr. Krause reported that the Agency and its customers achieved a 24.6 percent reduction during February 2016 compared to February 2013. He noted a calculation error for last month; the reduction was reported as 10 percent, but was actually 20 percent.

Concluding his report, Mr. Krause announced that the Public Information department has been changed to Outreach & Conservation department. Ms. Hudgens' title is now Outreach & Conservation Manager.

Outreach &  
Conservation  
Department

17431. President Cioffi called upon General Manager Krause to provide an update on the Lake Perris Seismic Remediation.

Lake Perris Seismic  
Remediation Update

Mr. Krause stated that the DWR Operations Maintenance & Engineering Committee have issued their Perris Dam, seismic remediation of embankment contract update for February 2016. He noted the highlights of the report are 44.8% of the work has been completed with 46.4% of the time elapsed. The contractor has resumed work on the left abutment haul road; however, a change order is expected regarding the delays and revised milestones. To date, there have been \$761,192 in change orders submitted. This amounts to 1% of the original contract. This amount does not include anticipated change orders resulting from work being performed on the left abutment haul road nor the quarry rock processing plant.

17432. President Cioffi asked Mr. Reeb to discuss his 2015/2016 Legislative Report.

2015/2016 Legislative  
Report

Mr. Reeb discussed the following items: Cal-ISO, New Assembly Speaker Rendon, AB2304, AB2389, SB20 (Public Goods Charge); and a Proposed Amendment to Prop 218. He noted that ACWA will be meeting on March 25 to discuss the Prop 218 amendment. Mr. Reeb will report back to the Agency on ACWA's position.

Director Ewing moved to approve recommendations listed in the 2015/2016 Legislative Report, including a not favor position on the Prop 218 amendment. Director Oygard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2015/2016 Legislative  
Report Approved

17433. Vice President Stuart noted he and Assistant General Manager Johnson attended the State of the City for Cathedral City.

**Directors  
Comments/Requests**

Directors' Event  
Attendances

Director Ewing announced he would be attending the One PS Picnic this Saturday.

17434. At 9:46 a.m., President Cioffi convened into Closed Session for the purpose of Conference with Legal Counsel, (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), ACBCI vs. County of Riverside, et al; (C) Existing Litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1), Desert Water Agency vs. U.S. Department of Interior; (D) Existing Litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1), Mission Springs Water District vs. Desert Water Agency; and (E) Real Property Negotiators, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, Property-APN 502-560-038, Agency Negotiators: Mark S. Krause, General Manager and Steven L. Johnson, Assistant General Manager, Negotiating Parties: Chris Thomsen, New Mesquite HOA, Under Negotiation: Price and terms of possible acquisition.

**Closed Session:**

- A. Existing Litigation – ACBCI vs. CVWD, et al
- B. Existing Litigation – ACBCI vs. Riverside County
- C. Existing Litigation – DWA vs. U.S. Dept. of Interior
- D. Existing Litigation – MSWD vs. DWA
- E. Real Property Negotiators

17435. At 10:32 a.m., President Cioffi reconvened the meeting into open session and announced there was no reportable action.

**Reconvene – No  
Reportable Action**

17436. In the absence of any further business, President Cioffi adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

**Adjournment**

---

James Cioffi, President

ATTEST:

---

Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

### APRIL 5, 2016

On March 21, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) increased our 2016 allocation of State Water Project (SWP) water for contractors from 30% to 45%. The allocation increase is made consistent with the current and projected hydrological conditions. This increased allocation percentage will result in 25,086 acre-feet for DWA and 62,258 acre-feet for CVWD for a combined total of 87,346. Table A deliveries to the valley will most likely not occur in 2016 unless the allocation is increased above 60%. However, MWD is currently making a 30,000 acre-foot delivery of CVWD Quantification Settlement Water (QSA) at the Whitewater turnouts. It is being delivered at a rate of 200 cfs with 175 cfs going through the Whitewater Power Plant and 25 cfs bypassing the plant. The amount may be increased to 35,000 acre-feet. The water delivery will cease short of a 30,000 acre-foot delivery on April 8, due to MWD increased water demands. Continued deliveries of this water may occur later in this year.

On March 17 at approximately 11:15 p.m., stand-by responded to a hit fire hydrant at Sunrise Way and Arenas Rd. The fire hydrant was damaged and had to be replaced. It is now back in service. The water ran through a fully open six inch opening for approximately 20 minutes. A police report was made and an Agency damage report was filled out.



On March 18 at approximately 1:50 p.m. construction responded to a hit fire hydrant on the North West corner of Camino Centro and Vereda Del Sur. This was a hit and run. Staff was able to replace the bolts and gasket and put the fire hydrant back into service. The water loss was through a six inch opening for approximately 20 minutes. A police report was filed.



On March 30 at approximately 1:40 p.m. staff responded to a hit fire hydrant at 67555 East Palm Canyon Drive (this was a hit and run). The fire hydrant had to be replaced and is back in service. A police report was made. The water loss was through a fully open 6 inch opening which ran for approximately 20 minutes.



## General Manager's Meetings and Activities

### Meetings:

- 3/16/16 Meeting with Bob Reeb and Eduardo Garcia and his staff regarding SGMA
- 3/16-3/17 Attended Delta Committee Meeting, Policy Dinner and Monthly SWC meeting in Sacramento
- 3/18/16 Workshop at Krieger & Stewart, Inc. with staff to learn about their update of our 2010 Urban Water Management Plan and this year's Ground Water Replenishment and Assessment Programs
- 3/21/16 Meeting of the State Water Project, Class 8 East Branch Contractors
- 3/21/16 Meeting with Special Districts to discuss LAFCO election
- 3/21/16 Coordination meeting between DWA, CVWD and MWD
- 3/22/16 Staff Meeting to Discuss Backup Facilities Charges and Service Installation Fees
- 3/23/16 Capital Improvement Budget Meeting
- 3/23/16 Meeting with Krieger & Stewart, Inc. to discuss options for rehabilitation of Recycled Water Filters
- 3/24/16 Meeting with New Mesquite HOA to discuss property transaction
- 3/25/16 Rate Study Kickoff meeting with NBS
- 3/28/16 Workshop at the RWQCB office on the Salt Nutrient Management Plan
- 3/29/16 Meeting with Arden Wallum
- 3/29/16 Meeting with CPV to discuss continuance of Conservation Programs
- Meeting with Parties involved with SGMA in the San Geronio Pass Sub-basin

### Activities:

- Estimate of cost to re-equip well 6 for remediation
- E-Billing
- Customer Use Report
- Recycled Water Reservoir Coating Failure
- Recycled Water Filter Rehabilitation
- Waterline Relocations for storm drain facilities.
- Whitewater Mutual Easement Developer Conflicts
- Whitewater Service Agreements and cost of service
- Recycled Booster Easement
- Rate Study
- Replenishment Assessment Charge
- Facility Backup Charge and Service Installation Charges

Follow-up Items:

**Question:** Does DWA hold any Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) for the Renewable Energy that it produces?

**Answer:** Yes. However, the Public Utilities Commission ruled that the credits for power generated from our hydros belong to the Power Utility holding the contract for purchase of the power. This means that all the REC's we have generated at the Whitewater and Snow Creek Power plants belong to Southern California Edison (SCE). Under our new SCE contracts we are compensated for the REC's in the price we are being paid for power.

We produce solar power REC's under a Net Meeting Agreement with SCE. Under the Net Metering Agreement we generate REC's which are worth approximately \$1 per megawatt hour. Under the Net Metering Agreement we own our REC's. However, they are the least valuable type of REC and we cannot sell them without going through a broker, and registering with the Western Renewable Energy Generator Information System (WREGIS). Increasingly RECs are being assigned unique ID numbers and tracked through regional tracking systems/registries such as WREGIS. This is a fairly complicated and expensive process and at a selling price of \$1/MWh the cost of the transaction would require all of the profit made from the sale. Additional general information of REC's is provided below.

- Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), also known as Green tags, Renewable Energy Credits, Renewable Electricity Certificates, or Tradable Renewable Certificates (TRCs), are tradable, non-tangible energy commodities in the United States that represent proof that 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity was generated from an eligible renewable energy resource (renewable electricity) and was fed into the shared system of power lines which transport energy.
- While traditional carbon emissions trading programs use penalties and incentives to achieve established emissions targets, RECs simply incentivize carbon-neutral renewable energy by providing a production subsidy to electricity generated from renewable sources.
- A green energy provider is credited with one REC for every 1,000 kWh or 1 MWh of electricity it produces. A certifying agency gives each REC a unique identification number to make sure it doesn't get double-counted. The green energy is then fed into the electrical grid, and the accompanying REC can then be sold on the open market. Use of the REC may include, but is not limited to, (1) use of the REC by an end-use customer, marketer, generator, or utility to comply with a statutory or regulatory requirement, (2) a public claim associated with a purchase of RECs by an end-use customer, or (3) the sale of any component attributes of a REC for any purpose. Once a REC is retired, it may not be sold, donated, or transferred to any other party. No party other than the owner may make claims associated with retired REC's.

- There are two main markets for renewable energy certificates in the United States - compliance markets and voluntary markets.
- For example, in California the law is 33% renewable by 2020, whereas New York has a 24% requirement by 2013. Electric utilities in these states demonstrate compliance with their requirements by purchasing RECs; in the California example, the electric companies would need to hold RECs equivalent to 33% of their electricity sales.
- Voluntary markets are ones in which customers choose to buy renewable power out of a desire to use renewable energy. Most corporate and household purchases of renewable energy are voluntary purchases. Renewable energy generators located in states that do not have a Renewable Portfolio Standard can sell their RECs to voluntary buyers, usually at a cheaper price than compliance market RECs.

**Question:** Why was there a significant increase in expenses at the Recycled Water Facility in February?

**Answer:** We have begun to lose a significant amount of filter media due to an inadvertent filter media bed disruption. This has required an extensive investigation to understand the problem and required us to supplement the filter media that is lost during filter operation (\$7,100 purchase).

There was a significant increase in chemical costs which can be attributed to the irregularity of the shipments and the coincidental shipment of many chemicals at once. The overall demand for chemicals has not increased and will average out to a normal cost over time (\$20,000 purchase).

Together these items account for \$27,100 of the \$28,960 increase difference between January and February expenses.

Additionally there was not a Solar Power Rebate Received (\$9,000 - \$10,000) to offset the expenses.

**Question:** What is the contingency amount provided for in the Lake Perris Dam Remediation Project?

**Answer:** The current approved charter for the dam remediation project has a total \$125.6M budget and includes \$5.6M Contingency.

**Minutes**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
March 30, 2016

---

**Directors Present:** Jim Cioffi, Joe Stuart

**Staff Present:** Mark Krause, Martin Krieger, Steve Johnson

**1. Discussion Items**

A. Review Agenda for April 5, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

The proposed agenda for the April 5, 2016 Regular Board meeting was reviewed.

B. Expense Reports

The February expense reports were reviewed.

C. Civil Penalty Hearing Procedures

Procedures for the hearing were reviewed. The following was decided:

1. The hearings will be conducted during Item 6-A on the April 5 agenda.
2. Photographic evidence will be displayed via projector and in the board report during the hearing for each petition.
3. Staff will present the details before each violation petition is heard.
4. If a petitioner cannot attend the hearing, their written petition will be read into the record and the board will make a ruling.
5. The proceedings will be audio recorded.

D. 2007 COP Refunding

A refunding summary for the 2007 certificates of participation was reviewed. The Agency issued certificates of participation in 2007 for \$26,860,000 and currently \$21,420,000 remains outstanding with interest ranging from 4% to 5%. Current bond interest rates are near historic lows which present an opportunity for the Agency to refinance the Certificates for a debt service savings.

**2. Other**

Future Executive Committee Meeting

Vice President Stuart asked to schedule the second Executive Committee Meeting in May at 10 a.m. on the 12th. Everyone agreed on this schedule.

**3. Adjourn**

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

**APRIL 5, 2016**

**RE: WATER USE VIOLATION – CIVIL PENALTY HEARINGS**

Starting after the March 1st board meeting, staff began issuing water use violations under the new ordinance; more than 80 violations have been issued. Recipients of the violations have 7 days to request a hearing in writing. Staff has received 4 such requests for a hearing on the violations. All 4 violations have hearings scheduled for today's board meeting.

The following is a summary of the procedure regarding the hearings as agreed upon by the Board Executive Committee.

Staff has provided the Board with the correspondence for each of the violations including photographic evidence. Photographs will also be projected during the hearing to provide the board and customer a common point of reference for discussion.

Staff will introduce each violation with a summary of the event. After the introduction the customer will be invited by the Board to speak concerning the violation. If the recipient of the violation is not present or does not wish to speak, staff will read the violation and the written petition into the record for board action.

Each petition will be discussed and voted on separately.

As a point of reference, Staff has notified Agency customers concerning water conservation regulations in several different ways:

**Recent Notifications**

1. Published the ordinance in the Public Record
2. Published the ordinance in the Agency Website
3. Social media outlets
4. KMIR, KESQ, KPCC, the Joey English Show
5. Desert Sun Valley Voice
6. Palm Desert Patch
7. Email to Palm Springs and Cathedral City Chambers
8. Emails to HOA in our contact list
9. Emails to high volume users

### Comprehensive Notifications – Since June 2015

1. Direct mail to all customers
2. Bill Inserts
3. Bill on envelope messaging
4. Billboards
5. Online advertising (KESQ)
6. Television advertising (Time Warner)
7. Social Media
8. Several public presentations on TV
9. Print and Radio Interviews
10. DWA and CVWD websites

**1. The Board of Directors Park Imperial Community Association – Kris Smith  
(HOA Board Member – Landscaping Committee)**

- a. On Friday March 4th, at approximately 2 p.m., a Desert Water Agency representative observed water use violations at said address and reported them.
  - i. Irrigating between the restricted hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
  - ii. Runoff from irrigation onto hardscape occurred.
- b. Fine amount \$100
  - i. Commercial
  - ii. First violation
- c. Reason for petition
  - i. Extenuating circumstances

## PARK IMPERIAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Professionally managed by



**Personalized  
Property  
Management**

68-950 Adelina Road  
Cathedral City, CA 92235  
Phone: (760) 325-9500  
Fax: (760) 325-9300

March 9, 2016

Desert Water Agency  
1200 S Gene Autry Trail  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

RE : FINE ON ACCOUNT # Vista Chino / Louise Dr Property

Dear Ashley Hudgens / PIO - DWA,

In response to your letter sent Mar 7, and received Mar 9, 2016 - the Park Imperial Community Association does request a hearing concerning a possible water use violation on March 4, 2016 - in advance of any imposition of a civil penalty.

We believe there were extenuating circumstances and welcome the opportunity to present them to the DWA. The small community at Park Imperial strives to be a good member of the Palm Springs community at large. We know quite well the challenges this extraordinary drought has placed on the Coachella Valley and the state of CA. Park Imperial regards the state's water Emergency Regulations seriously.

Kris Smith is an HOA Board member and Landscaping Committee point person. She is expected to be the person attending and presenting the information.

Thank you in advance,

For The Board of Directors  
Ron Doerr, Community  
PPM Manager / PICA

*AI called 3/17  
Messages not being  
accepted*

*Called - no ans. 3/21  
3/24*

**RECEIVED**

MAR 14 2016

**DESERT WATER AGENCY  
ENGINEERING**

James Cioffi, President  
Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Patricia G. Oygar, Director  
Craig A. Ewing, Director



Mark S. Krause, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers

Park Imperial Comm Assoc  
% Personalized Prop Mgmt  
68950 Adelina Rd  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

March 7, 2016

**RE: FINE ON ACCOUNT # Vista Chino / Louise Dr Property**

Dear Valued Customer:

Due to a water use violation observed and documented by a Desert Water Agency representative on March 4, 2016, you are being served with a complaint to impose a civil (monetary) penalty.

You have 7 days to request, in writing, a hearing on this violation. If you do request a hearing, you will need to come to the Agency and present information that refutes the alleged violation. If you do not request a hearing within 7 days of this complaint, the civil penalty of \$100.00 will be added onto your water bill.

You were cited for:

- *Outdoor irrigation shall be restricted to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.*
- *Runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.*

This is a violation of Desert Water Agency's Ordinance No. 65. For a first violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$100 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$50 for a single-family residential customer.

For a second violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$200 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$100 for a single-family residential customer.

For a third and each subsequent violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$500 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$250 for a single-family residential customer.

Failure to pay the civil penalty on your water bill may result in termination of water service. In addition, the Agency staff shall be authorized to discontinue water service for any violation of the Ordinance.

DESERT WATER



If you have any additional questions, please contact us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Hudgens', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ashley Hudgens

Public Information Officer

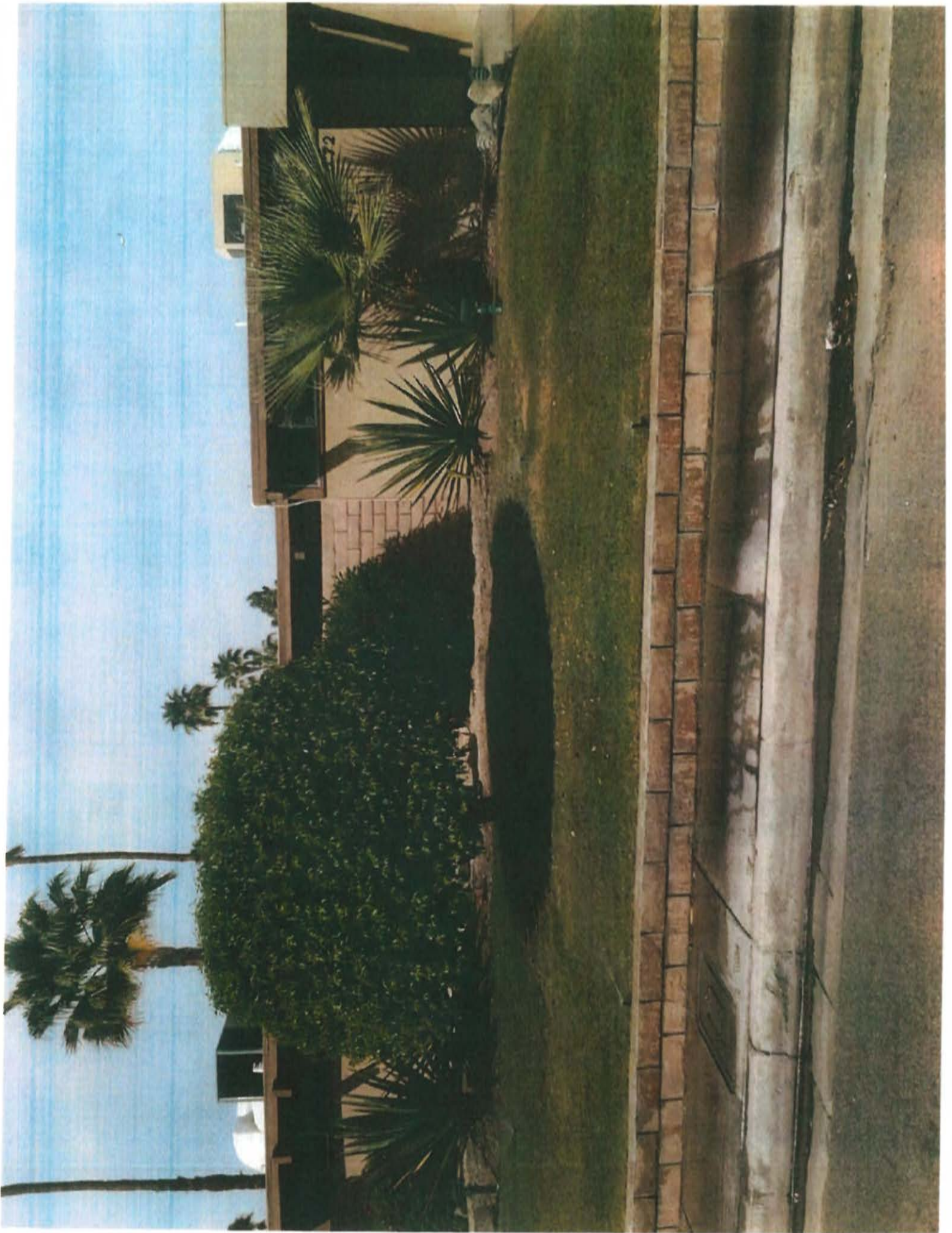
Desert Water Agency

*On behalf of General Manager Mark Krause*







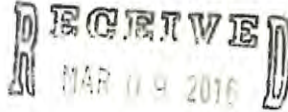


James Ciofi, President  
Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Patricia G. Oygur, Director  
Craig A. Ewing, Director



Mark S. Krause, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers

Park Imperial Comm Assoc  
% Personalized Prop Mgmt  
68950 Adelina Rd  
Cathedral City, CA 92234



BY: .....

March 7, 2016

**RE: FINE ON ACCOUNT # Vista Chino / Louise Dr Property**

Dear Valued Customer:

Due to a water use violation observed and documented by a Desert Water Agency representative on March 4, 2016, you are being served with a complaint to impose a civil (monetary) penalty.

You have 7 days to request, in writing, a hearing on this violation. If you do request a hearing, you will need to come to the Agency and present information that refutes the alleged violation. If you do not request a hearing within 7 days of this complaint, the civil penalty of \$100.00 will be added onto your water bill.

You were cited for:

- *Outdoor irrigation shall be restricted to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.*
- *Runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.*

This is a violation of Desert Water Agency's Ordinance No. 65. For a first violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$100 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$50 for a single-family residential customer.

For a second violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$200 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$100 for a single-family residential customer.

For a third and each subsequent violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$500 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$250 for a single-family residential customer.

Failure to pay the civil penalty on your water bill may result in termination of water service. In addition, the Agency staff shall be authorized to discontinue water service for any violation of the Ordinance.

## **2. Moya Y. Ervin, 3695 N. Video Road**

- a. On Thursday March 10th, at approximately 10 a.m., a Desert Water Agency representative observed water use violations at said address and reported them.
  - i. Irrigation was observed on a Thursday, a restricted watering day between the restricted hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
  - ii. Runoff from irrigation onto hardscape occurred.
- b. Fine amount \$50
  - i. Residential
  - ii. First Violation
- c. Reason for petition
  - i. Unhappy with Fine. Bob (DWA) said everything looked fine.

to: Lersent H2%

I'm very unhappy  
about the "FINE" u mailed  
me. I'm requesting a  
hearing on my  
"Violation" of \$50,000

Thank You  
Moya Ervin

---

P.S.

Cn~~e~~ 3/15/2016 11:00am

"Bob" Stop by from the  
H2% <sup>company</sup> He said everything  
looked good to him  
and is also up  
to part. ~~@@~~

Al called 3/21  
and let about  
hearing

James Cioffi, President  
Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Patricia G. Oygar, Director  
Craig A. Ewing, Director



Mark S. Krause, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers

Moya Y Ervin  
3695 N Video Rd  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

March 10, 2016

**RE: FINE ON ACCOUNT ; 3695 N Video Rd**

Dear Valued Customer:

Due to a water use violation observed and documented by a Desert Water Agency representative on March 10, 2016, you are being served with a complaint to impose a civil (monetary) penalty.

You have 7 days to request, in writing, a hearing on this violation. If you do request a hearing, you will need to come to the Agency and present information that refutes the alleged violation. If you do not request a hearing within 7 days of this complaint, the civil penalty of \$50.00 will be added onto your water bill.

You were cited for:

- ***Outdoor residential irrigation shall be restricted to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.***
- ***Runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.***

This is a violation of Desert Water Agency's Ordinance No. 65. For a first violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$100 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$50 for a single-family residential customer.

For a second violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$200 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$100 for a single-family residential customer.

For a third and each subsequent violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$500 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$250 for a single-family residential customer.

Failure to pay the civil penalty on your water bill may result in termination of water service. In addition, the Agency staff shall be authorized to discontinue water service for any violation of the Ordinance.



If you have any additional questions, please contact us.

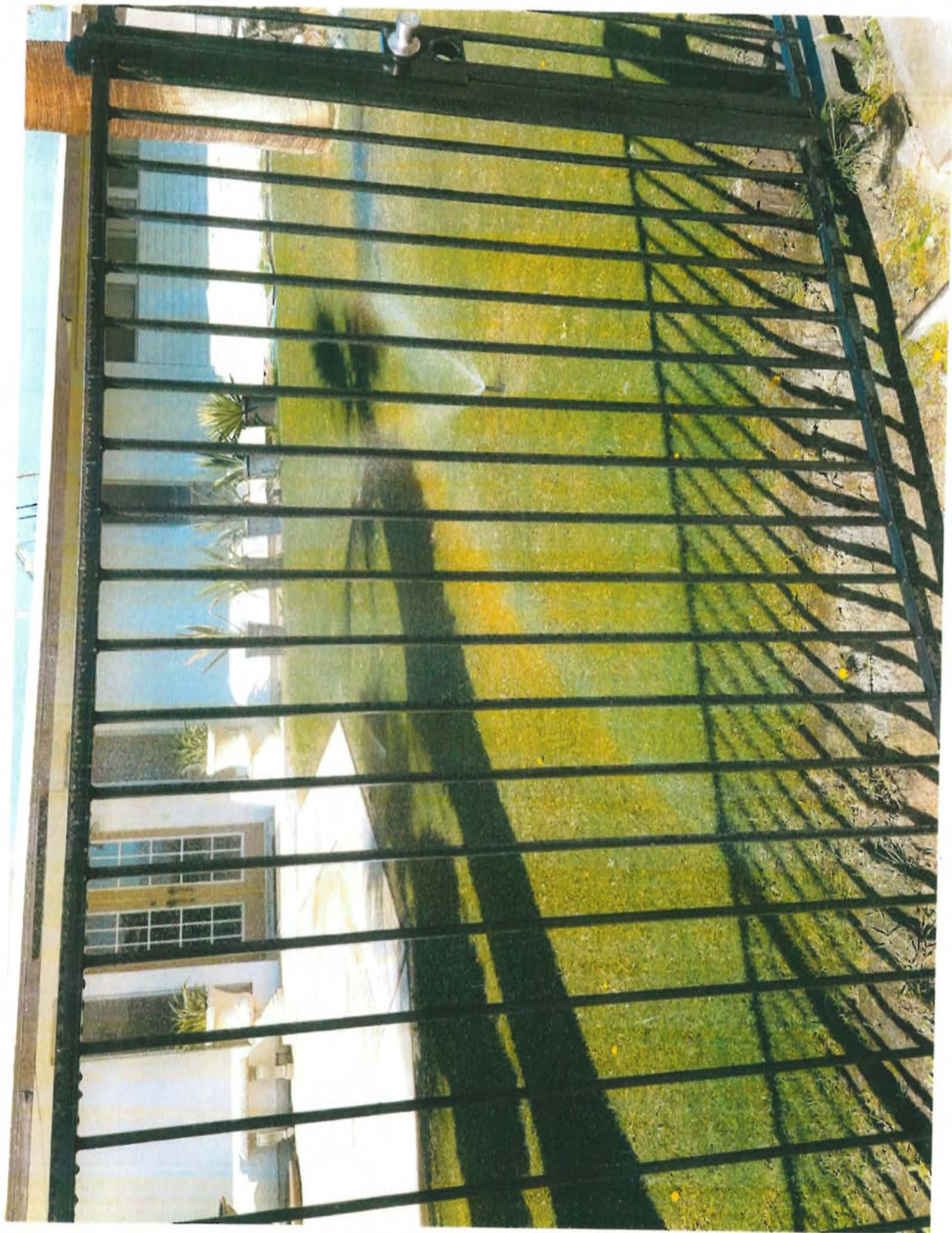
Thank you,

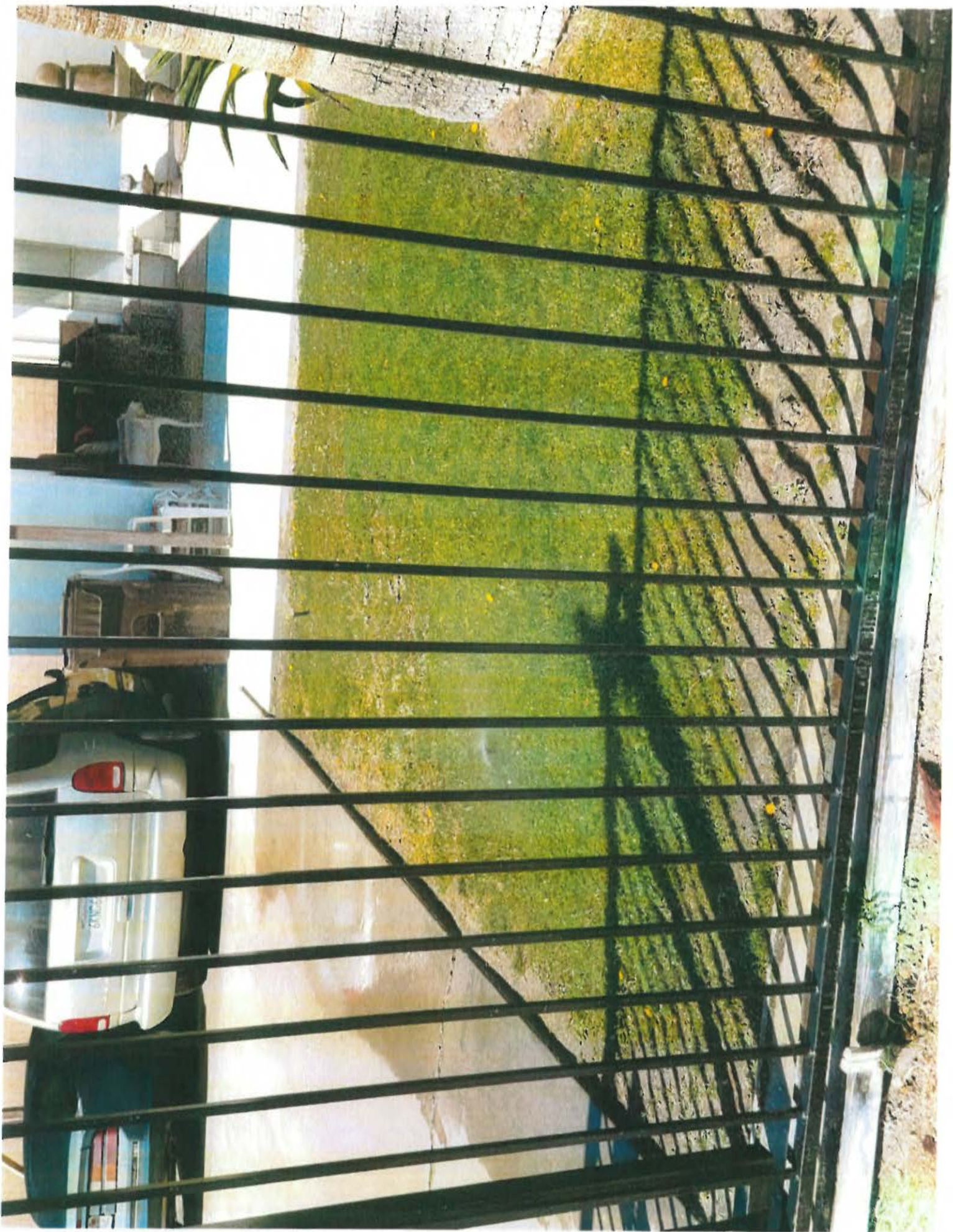
Ashley Hudgens

Public Information Officer

Desert Water Agency

*On behalf of General Manager Mark Krause*





### **3. Enieda Reboucas, 999 Cottonwood**

- a. On Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 11 a.m., a Desert Water Agency representative observed a water use violation at said address and reported it.
  - i. Irrigation was observed between the restricted hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- b. Fine amount \$50
  - i. Residential
  - ii. First Violation
- c. Reason for petition
  - i. Unfairly fined because she did not know about the restrictions.

3/17/16

Hello I'm writing the following regarding a letter recieved due to water use, I feel I've been unfairly blamed of our water usage.

We do our best to be self conscious of water to conserve it as much as possible and not let it go to waste.

I would love to set a hearing to see if these charges can be withdrawn as i am only now aware of such regulations and will do my part to conserve. Thank You for assiting and time in this matter.

Enieda Reboucas

Enieda Reboucas

# DESERT WATER



Date: 3/11/16 Time: 11:00 A.M. / P.M.

Address: 999 Cottonwood

## RE: COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL (MONETARY) PENALTY

Dear Valued Customer:

Due to a water use violation observed and documented by a Desert Water Agency representative today, you are being served with this complaint to impose a civil (monetary) penalty.

You have 7 days to request, in writing, a hearing on this violation. If you do request a hearing, you will need to come to the Agency and present information that refutes the alleged violation. If you do not request a hearing within 7 days of this complaint, the civil penalty will be added onto your water bill.

You have been cited for:

- ☐ *Unreasonable use of water (unnecessary runoff onto adjacent property and non-irrigation areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots and parking structures.)*
- ☒ *Outdoor irrigation during restricted days or times (Watering is only permitted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.)*
- ☐ *Other* \_\_\_\_\_

This is in violation of Desert Water Agency's Ordinance No. 65.

For a first violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$100 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$50 for a single-family residential customer.


For a second violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$200 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$100 for a single-family residential customer.

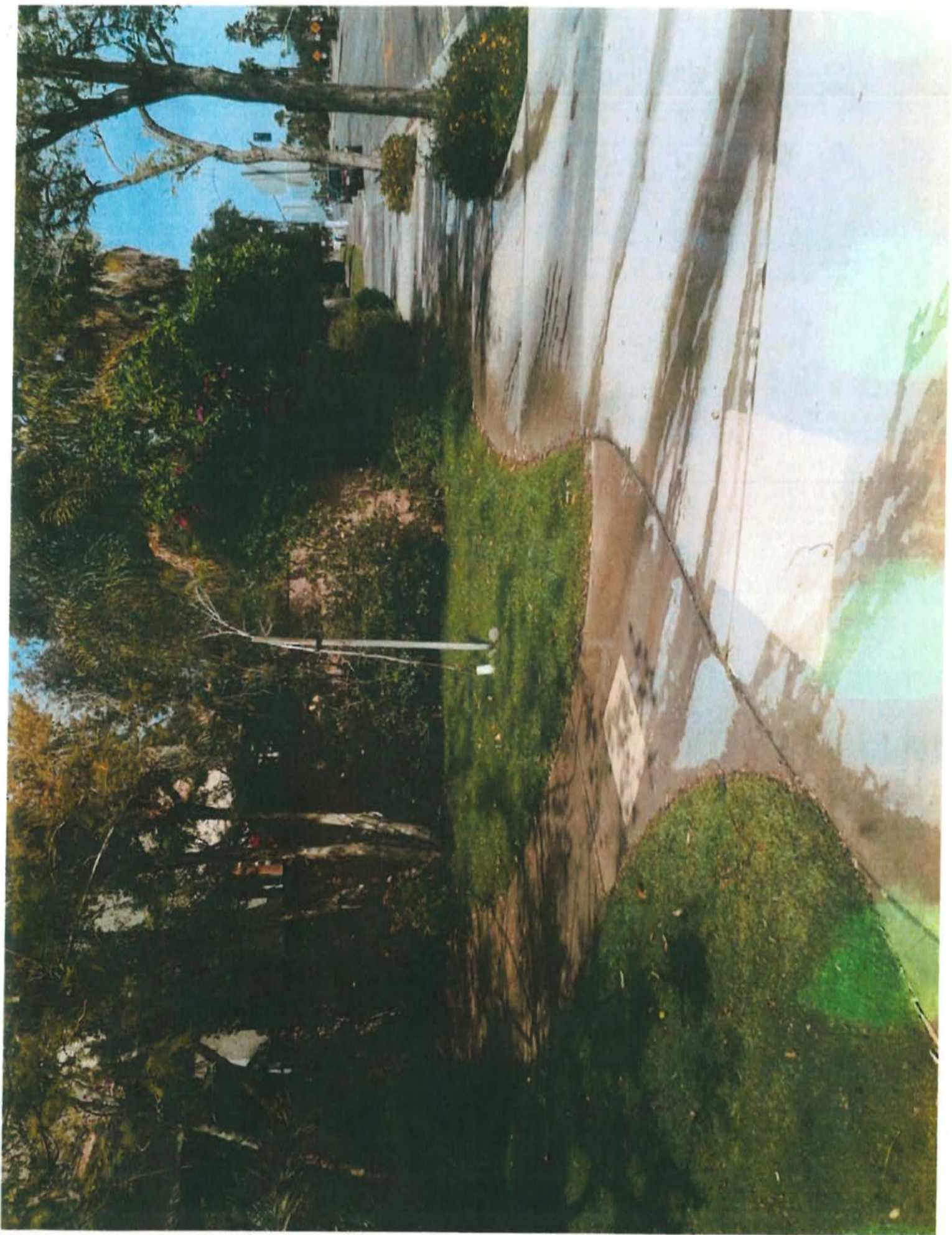
For a third and each subsequent violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$500 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$250 for a single-family residential customer.

Failure to pay the civil penalty on your water bill may result in termination of water service. In addition, the Agency staff shall be authorized to discontinue water service for any violation of the Ordinance.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us.

Thank you,

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Desert Water Agency  
On behalf of Mark Krause, General Manager









#### **4. Mike Keane, 575 E. Desert Holly Cir**

- a. On Tuesday March 15, at 7:23 a.m., a Desert Water Agency representative observed water use violations at said address and reported them.
  - i. Irrigation observed on a Tuesday, a restricted watering day between the restricted hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
  - ii. Runoff onto hardscape was observed.
- b. Fine amount \$50
  - i. Residential
  - ii. First Violation
- c. Reason for petition
  - i. None given

3/21/16

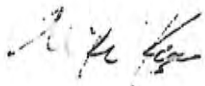
Mark Krause  
General Manager  
Desert Water Agency  
1200 South Gene Autry Trail  
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Dear Mr. Krause,

I would like to formally request a hearing regarding the fine placed on a  
575 E Desert Holly Circle.

I would appreciate it if you would please provide me a date and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Keane", written in a cursive style.

Mike Keane  
Home Owner

James Cioffi, President  
Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Patricia G. Oygur, Director  
Craig A. Ewing, Director



Mark S. Krause, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers

Michael Keane  
575 E Desert Holly Cir  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

March 15, 2016

**RE: FINE ON ACCOUNT# 575 Desert Holly Cir**

Dear Valued Customer:

Due to a water use violation observed and documented by a Desert Water Agency representative on March 15, 2016, you are being served with a complaint to impose a civil (monetary) penalty.

You have 7 days to request, in writing, a hearing on this violation. If you do request a hearing, you will need to come to the Agency and present information that refutes the alleged violation. If you do not request a hearing within 7 days of this complaint, the civil penalty of \$50.00 will be added onto your water bill.

You were cited for:

- ***Outdoor residential irrigation shall be restricted to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.***
- ***Runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures is prohibited.***

This is a violation of Desert Water Agency's Ordinance No. 65. For a first violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$100 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$50 for a single-family residential customer.

For a second violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$200 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$100 for a single-family residential customer.

For a third and each subsequent violation within any 12-month period, the civil penalty shall be \$500 for a multi-family residential, commercial or institutional establishment or \$250 for a single-family residential customer.

Failure to pay the civil penalty on your water bill may result in termination of water service. In addition, the Agency staff shall be authorized to discontinue water service for any violation of the Ordinance.

James Cioffi, President  
Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Patricia G. Oyar, Director  
Craig A. Ewing, Director



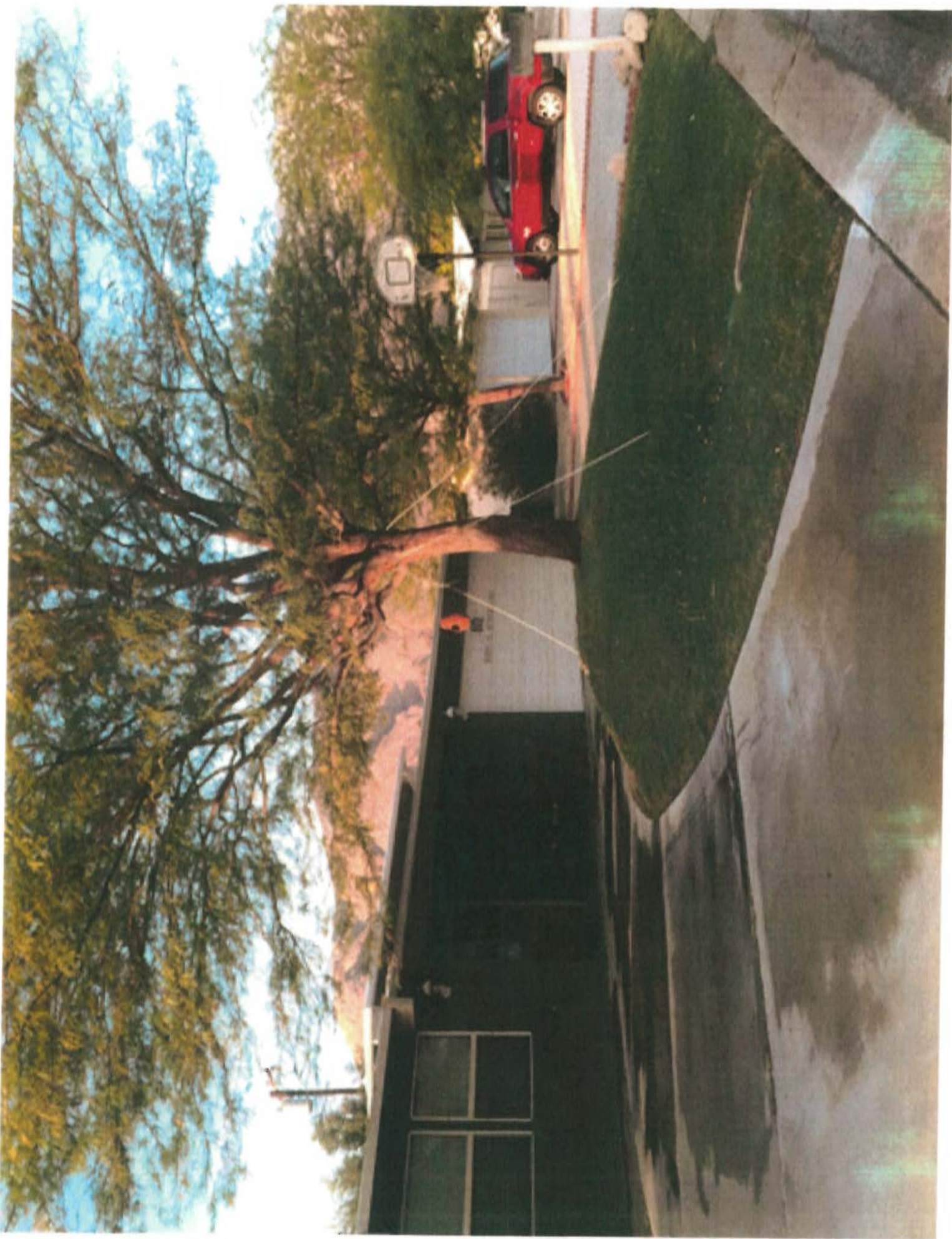
Mark S. Krause, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers

If you have any additional questions, please contact us.

Thank you,

Ashley Hudgens  
Public Information Officer  
Desert Water Agency  
*On behalf of General Manager Mark Krause*





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

**APRIL 5, 2016**

**RE: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO REALLOCATE 2015/2016 MAIN  
OVERSIZING BUDGET TO COVER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
MAIN RELOCATION WORK DUE TO CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
STORM DRAIN PROJECT**

On February 22, 2016, the City of Palm Springs notified Agency staff of a storm drain project within Hermosa Drive that is scheduled to start construction in July 2016 and will require the relocation of three water mains.

The estimated cost for Agency crews to relocate the three mains is \$100,000. Currently there isn't an allocation of funds for this work in the budget.

The 2015/2016 budget includes Work Order 15-699 for main oversizing participation. The budget amount for the work order is \$100,000.

Staff does not anticipate participating in a main oversizing project by June 2016, therefore, is requesting authorization by the Board to reallocate this budget to cover costs associated with the main relocation work to facilitate the installation of the City's proposed storm drain.

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

**APRIL 5, 2016**

**RE: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO CALL FOR BIDS FOR  
CONSTRUCTING ZONE 1240 BOOSTER PLANT (DESERT  
PALISADE TRACT)**

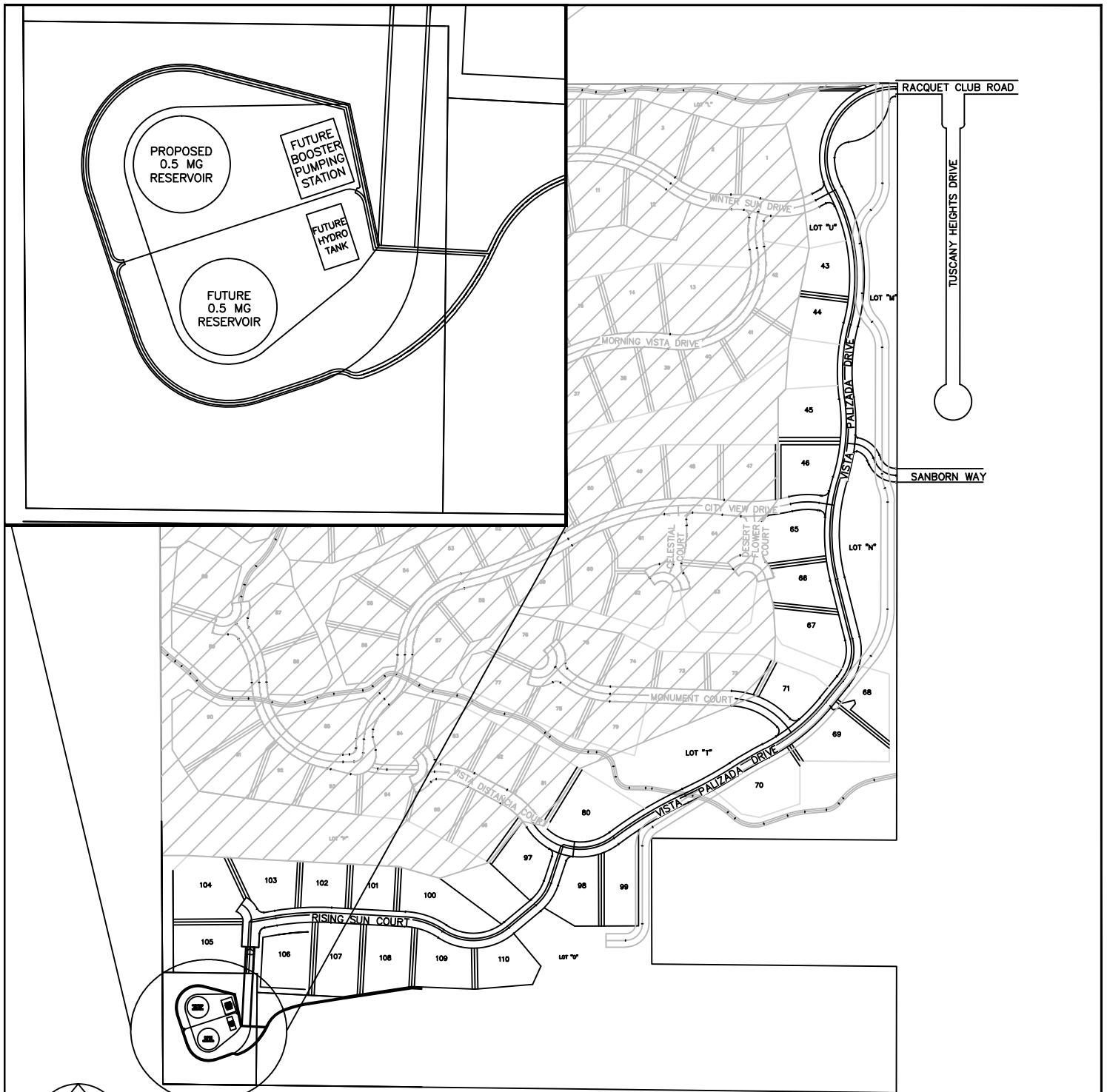
The 2015/2016 Capital Improvement Budget includes Work Order 15-150-B for the installation of Zone 1240 Booster Plant. This plant is located inside the Desert Palisade tract and will provide service to 54 lots of the 110 lots within the upper zone of the development.

The current budget amount for the work order is \$950,000 to include engineering, construction, inspection, and overhead costs. To date, \$61,800 has been spent on engineering design.

The original Engineer's construction cost estimate for the project was \$800,000. Recently, similar plants designed by Krieger & Stewart, Inc. (K&S) for other water districts have received bids at a higher cost than anticipated; therefore, staff asked K&S to evaluate the estimate for the project based on these bid amounts. After reviewing the figures, K&S's construction cost estimate for the project is \$1,130,000. Staff anticipates that the budget will need to be augmented due to the rise in construction costs and has added a preliminary budget augmentation in the amount of \$500,000 as part of the 2016/2017 budget. Upon receiving bids, staff will re-evaluate the augmentation amount.

With authorization being granted today, the bid opening for the project will be held on May 10, 2016. Once the Agency has received the bid, staff will determine if a budget augmentation is required and will notify the Board at the May 17, 2016 meeting. Contract award is also scheduled at said meeting. If awarded, completion of work is scheduled for January 2017.

Staff requests authorization to advertise for bids for constructing the Zone 1240 Booster Plant.



## DETAIL MAP

NOT TO SCALE

### DESERT PALISADES RESERVOIR SITE

**DESERT WATER AGENCY**  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

**DWG. BY**  
SER

**APP'D BY**  
SLJ

**CHK'D BY**  
DT

**DATE**  
3/16

**REVISED**

**SCALE**  
N.T.S.

**PERMIT**

**W.O.NO.**  
05-570

**FILE NO.**

**SHEET**  
1 OF 1

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

**APRIL 5, 2016**

**RE: REQUEST APPROVAL TO BEGIN PROCESS OF ADVANCED  
REFUNDING 2007 CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION**

Staff has reached out to Hilltop Securities to explore the feasibility of Advanced Refunding (refinancing) our 2007 Certificate of Participation Issue (COP). With the bond market interest rates at historical lows, this is an opportune time to refinance our outstanding Certificates. The Certificates were issued for a 30 year term at a cost of \$26,860,000. We have approximately 21 years remaining in the amount of \$21,420,000. The purpose for refinancing is to reduce the Agency's debt service obligations.

If the Agency is able to refinance the Certificates it will result in savings of approximately \$240,000 per year and cumulatively in excess of \$5,000,000 over the remaining life of the Certificates. Attached to the staff report is a detailed memo from Hilltop Securities explaining the rationale & details of the process.

Staff requests board approval to begin the process of Advanced Refunding our 2007 Certificates of Participation. When the process is finalized, staff will present the final summary for board approval.

---

---

## MEMORANDUM

---

---

**TO:** MARTIN KRIEGER, DESERT WATER AGENCY  
**FROM:** TODD SMITH, HILLTOP SECURITIES INC.  
**SUBJECT:** REFUNDING SUMMARY FOR THE 2007 CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION  
**DATE:** 03/30/2016  
**CC:**

---

### INTRODUCTION

Desert Water Agency (the “Agency”) issued its 2007 Certificates of Participation (the “Prior Certificates”) to fund water system improvements for the Agency. The Prior Certificates were issued in an original par amount of \$26,860,000 and currently \$21,420,000 remains outstanding with interest rates ranging from 4% to 5%. The Prior Certificates are optionally callable (optional prepayment provisions) beginning on May 1, 2018 at par plus accrued interest to the call date.

Current bond market interest rates are near historical lows which present an opportunity for the Agency to refinance the Prior Certificates for debt service savings, which is referred to as a high to low refunding. If the Agency moves forward with the refinancing, the Prior Certificates will be refunded on an “Advance Refunding” basis. The proceeds of the 2016 Refunding Certificates will be used to purchase US Treasury obligations that will be deposited into an escrow account that will pay the debt service obligations on the Prior Certificates until the May 1, 2018 call date. Because the escrow is funded sufficiently to cover the debt service requirements on the Prior Certificates the Net Operating Revenue pledge is legally discharged and is subsequently pledged to the 2016 Refunding Certificates.

### REFUNDING AND ESTIMATED SAVINGS

The Prior Certificates have a remaining average coupon of a 4.56%, and with the refunding, the Agency can achieve borrowing costs right around 3%. It is this difference in borrowing costs that produce the savings. In addition, the Prior Certificates funded a cash debt service reserve fund of about \$1.7 million and we are proposing to bring this in as a source of funds to the refunding and replace the cash funded debt service reserve fund with an insurance policy known as a surety bond. Therefore the Agency does not have to borrow for the reserve fund which helps increase the annual savings that is achieved under the refunding of the Prior Certificates. Under this structure the annual savings to the Agency is estimated at about \$240,000 per year and cumulatively is in excess of \$5 million dollars over the life of the refunding. On a present value basis this equates to approximately \$2.2 million dollars which is 10.4%. The market savings benchmark municipalities often use is to achieve

a minimum PV savings threshold of 3%. This financing opportunity presents savings in multiples of this.

Current bond market conditions call for premium bond structures. This means that investors are looking for coupon rates higher than market yields and as a result the investor will pay the Agency a price greater than par for the certificates. This premium that is generated translates into a source of funds which means the Agency does not have to borrow as much in the refunding issue to satisfy the requirements to pay of the Prior Certificates. In numbers this means that there is \$21,420,000 currently outstanding but with the transfer in of the Prior Certificates' debt service reserve fund plus the premium received from investors the estimated par amount of the refunding is lower at \$18,900,000.

It takes about 90 to 120 days to execute and issue the refunding certificates and with the strong underlying credit rating of the Agency and strong liquidity this issue will come to market with very strong demand. Drought conditions and its effects on other water agency cash flows has had some impact on the investor side but we don't see the same issues here the Agency is performing and hitting its revenue targets.

I am available for questions if any should arise during your committee meeting. My number is 760.632.1347.

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

**APRIL 5, 2016**

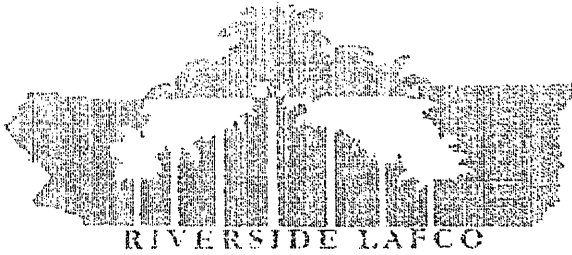
**RE: REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 1129**

Attached for the Board's review is Resolution No. 1129, supporting the nomination of Kristin Bloomer for the position of the Eastern Riverside County Special District Representative for LAFCO.

The Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) announced the nomination period for the appointment process of a Regular Member and an Alternate Member of the Riverside LAFCO (Attached). The nomination period is from March 29 and will close on April 29.

There will be two positions to be voted on: one position will be for the Special District Member from the eastern portion of the County, and the second position will be for an Alternate Special District Member from any district within Riverside County.

It is requested the Board adopt Resolution No. 1129 in support of Kristin Bloomer's nomination for the position of the Regular Special District Member.



Sent Via Certified Mail  
or Electronic Mail

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER  
AND AN ALTERNATE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER OF THE  
RIVERSIDE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

**To the Special District Selection Committee (Presiding Officers of Independent  
Special Districts of Riverside County):**

As you were recently notified (see attached letter), we are commencing the appointment process for a Regular Member and an Alternate Member of the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). I have determined that a physical meeting of the Special District Selection Committee (SDSC) is not feasible at this time. Therefore, selection proceedings will be conducted by mail. Specifically, the two positions are as follows:

Regular Special District Member-must be a board member from a district in the eastern portion of the County (any district with the majority of its assessed value east of the intersection of Interstate 10 and Highway 111).

Alternate Special District Member-must be a board member from any district with the majority of its assessed value within Riverside County.

Terms of LAFCO Members are four years and until appointment of a successor or reappointment of the incumbent. The term of this position will run until May 4, 2020.

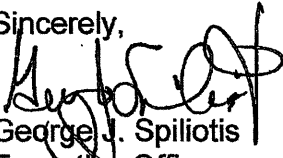
The nomination period for this position will begin on March 29, 2016 and will close on April 29, 2016. Any member of the Special District Selection Committee (presiding officer or an alternate board member designated by the governing body) may nominate a member of the legislative body of an independent special district board to fill the position, consistent with the geographic requirements noted above. Please submit nominations in writing on the nomination form accompanying this notice to the following address: Riverside LAFCO, 3850 Vine Street, Suite 240, Riverside, CA 92507. If you have provided us with an email address for your presiding officer or alternate and have received this notice by email, you may scan the completed form and email it to Elizabeth Valdez at [evaldez@lafco.org](mailto:evaldez@lafco.org). All nominations must be signed by the presiding officer of your district board of directors or designated alternate. Nominations do not require action by the district board of directors. **Nominations must be received in our office by 5 p.m., April 29, 2016.**

Following the nomination period, ballots and voting instructions will be sent to SDSC members. However, if only one candidate is nominated, that candidate will be deemed selected with no further proceedings. In order to expedite the ballot process, if you have

not already done so, please provide an email address to which we can send the presiding officer's ballot materials. You may email the information to Elizabeth Valdez at [evaldez@lafco.org](mailto:evaldez@lafco.org).

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



George J. Spiliotis  
Executive Officer

March 29, 2016

## NOMINATION FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Presiding Officer or alternate\* Name of District  
 hereby nominate(s) the following individual(s) for the position of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Special District Member of the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission - Eastern Area. The term of this position will run until May 4, 2020.**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Special District Member of the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission. The term of this position will run until May 4, 2020.**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I am the presiding officer of the above named district or alternate designated by the governing body\*.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*If an alternate has been designated by the governing body, please provide a resolution or minute order documenting the action.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1129**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE DESERT WATER AGENCY  
SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF KRISTIN BLOOMER  
AS THE SPECIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM EASTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
TO THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)**

**WHEREAS**, Desert Water Agency is a Special District in Riverside County served by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO); and

**WHEREAS**, LAFCO is a county-based planning agency responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local government boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, Kristin Bloomer has expressed an interest in serving on LAFCO; and

**WHEREAS**, Kristin has served honorably on the Board of Directors of the Desert Water Agency since 2015, and currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, Kristin has been a resident of Riverside County for twenty seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Kristin has served on numerous Boards and Commission, particularly as the Vice-Chairman of the Palm Springs Measure J Oversight Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Desert Water Agency believes that Ms. Bloomer is qualified to serve the Riverside Special District members well,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of Desert Water Agency supports and endorses the nomination of Kristin Bloomer as the Special District Representative from Eastern Riverside County to the Local Agency Formation Commission.

**ADOPTED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Cioffi, President  
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Board of Directors

March 17, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

**RE:** MARCH 16, 2016 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS AUTHORITY AND MARCH  
17, 2016 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE  
WATER CONTRACTORS, INC.

The March 16, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Water Project Contractors Authority was conducted in the SWPCA Board room located in the Senator Hotel in downtown Sacramento. The March 17, 2016 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 most significant topic of discussion at the SWPCA Board meeting was the status of the Delta habitat restoration projects. David Okita, now employed by DWR to oversee Delta habitat restoration, was present for a report to the SWPCA Board. Recall that the biological opinion for the Delta Smelt requires the restoration or creation of 8,000 acres of sub-tidal habitat in the Delta. The biological opinion required the restoration to be completed by the end of 2016, but the Federal regulatory agencies understand that the work cannot be completed by that deadline, and they have been willing to extend time so long as progress is made. DWR hopes to start a rehabilitation project on Prospect Island in 2018. Planning has already commenced for the Lower Yolo project, and work could begin in 2017, but there are still a number of policy issues that need to be resolved first.

SWPCA is a member of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, a joint powers authority created for the purpose of performing habitat restoration. SFCWA has been urging DWR to contract the restoration work out to other entities, in hopes that the work can be performed more quickly and less expensively. Thus far, everything has been done by DWR in

house, with little progress made. As reported in past memos, DWR has been considering the concept of requesting proposals from outside entities (private and public) to perform the work. The concept has been discussed at length with DWR legal staff and also with the California Department of General Services, which would have to authorize solicitation of proposals.

Since our last report on this subject, DWR has determined that it can legally negotiate directly with another governmental entity such as SFCWA to perform a project, without first requesting competitive proposals; and can concurrently solicit proposals from private entities to perform other projects. DWR has been drafting the form of RFP that it would use to solicit proposals from private parties, and it hopes to have the RFP out for responses by the end of March. The concept would be a “turnkey” contract with progress payments as milestones are met. DWR expects to receive at least two responses to its first RFP, and perhaps as many as five. Responses will be evaluated using a scoring system and must be “shovel ready” so that the projects can be completed quickly. If DWR does not receive sufficient responses, a second RFP may be circulated instead.

DWR is now also ready to negotiate agreements with public agencies for habitat restoration projects to be performed by those public agencies. This is perfect for SFCWA, since it already has a couple of projects that it would like to commence. The “Tule Red” project will be the prototype, as SFCWA has already commenced work on that project and has invested \$4 million in it already. DWR is working with the SFCWA attorneys to prepare the proposed form of agreement, which will then be taken to the Department of General Services for approval. The Tule Red project would provide 600 acres of habitat, and that project is already in the permitting process. If an agreement is executed with DWR for the performance of that project, in partial satisfaction of the requirements set forth in the biological opinion, the first progress payment by DWR would be significant, and would provide the funding necessary to continue work on other similar projects, thereby creating a revolving fund for the performance of such projects until the habitat restoration requirements set forth in the biological opinion have been satisfied. SFCWA is prepared to bring three or four additional projects to DWR for agreements, if a prototype agreement can be developed for the Tule Red project. Negotiation of an agreement with SFCWA means that the risk of participating in a RFP process is eliminated, and less “up front” funding is necessary. SWPCA anticipates possibly needing to collect a total of \$750,000 in “up

front” contributions from Contractors in order to get the process going, but it is possible that no up front funding will be necessary if an agreement is reached with DWR regarding the Tule Red project and a progress payment is made to SFCWA for that project.

One significant problem in all of this is in dealing with the Federal fish agencies on permitting issues. The Federal fish agencies apparently are understaffed, and it takes them a long time to process the required permits.

2. Stockton Ship Channel Aeration Facilities.

At the SWC Board meeting, the Board first took action on several action items. The first action item involved approval of an extension to an existing agreement with other entities to fund aeration facilities in the Stockton Ship Channel. In 2011, the State Water Contractors entered into a cooperative agreement with other affected entities to pay for aeration facilities installed in the channel to address water quality issues. The Regional Water Quality Control Board held the State Water Project partially responsible for water quality issues in the channel, along with other culprits. The main culprit, however, was the City of Stockton, which was discharging treated wastewater into the channel for disposal. Under the agreement, the SWC agreed to bear 16 2/3 % of the cost of installing and operating the aeration facilities to address the requirements imposed by the Regional Board. The cost was expected to be \$300,000 per year. However, the City of Stockton thereafter improved its wastewater treatment process, resulting in the discharge of higher quality effluent into the channel. As a result, water quality improved dramatically and the cost of operating the aeration facilities was reduced dramatically. The Contractors originally deposited \$300,000 as their share of the anticipated funding of the facilities for the initial term of the agreement. Of that amount, \$240,000 still remains on credit from the Contractors. The Board authorized executing an amendment to extend the agreement for another three years. The costs have been billed by DWR on the statement of charges sent to all affected Contractors.

3. Expansion of Cal-ISO.

Legislation has been introduced that would expand Cal-ISO beyond California and into neighboring states. The concept is being pushed by a private energy provider in Oregon, probably to gain access to the California transmission system without having to pay the

costs that others have already borne for the construction of that system. Cal-ISO welcomes the concept of expanding its authority into other states. However, that would dilute the authority that California currently has exclusively. The SWC would like to slow the process down in order to assess what the impact would be for the State Water Project. At this point, the Contractors estimate that the proposal would result in a 50% increase in the cost of transmission. There may be offsetting benefits that would reduce the net costs, but the SWC has not had an opportunity yet to evaluate the potential benefits. The proposal would provide greater access to renewable energy, and thus might provide a more cost effective way to accomplish California's green energy objectives, but the Contractors need to evaluate that. The SWC Board authorized the execution of a letter to Cal-ISO asking that the process be slowed down, so as to allow more time to evaluate the proposal.

4. Economic Analysis of California Water Fix.

The Board authorized an additional expenditure to hire economist Dr. Sunding from the University of California at Berkeley to perform some additional economic analysis of California Water Fix. The Contractors want to have some economic analysis of the value of increased capacity and the opportunity for additional water transfers, beyond the existing capability. Currently, under existing regulations, the Contractors have a narrow window of opportunity to effect transfers during the summer. Water can be transferred through the Delta approximately 35% of the time. Construction of the tunnels will increase water transfer capability to approximately 90% of the time. There will also be increased capability to transfer more water during wet years. The Contractors hope to quantify the economic value of that increased water transfer capability.

5. Bio-Acoustic Barriers in Georgiana Slough.

DWR is proceeding with a very expensive study of the effectiveness of "bio-acoustic" barriers in the Georgiana Slough to reduce the entrainment of young salmon. The barriers utilize underwater sound waves to deter the entry of salmon smolts. The anticipated cost of the study is approximately \$97 million. The study is being conducted in order to satisfy requirements set forth in the biological opinion for salmon. However, the Contractors believe

that the requirements of the opinion can be satisfied by significantly reducing the scope of the work to be done.

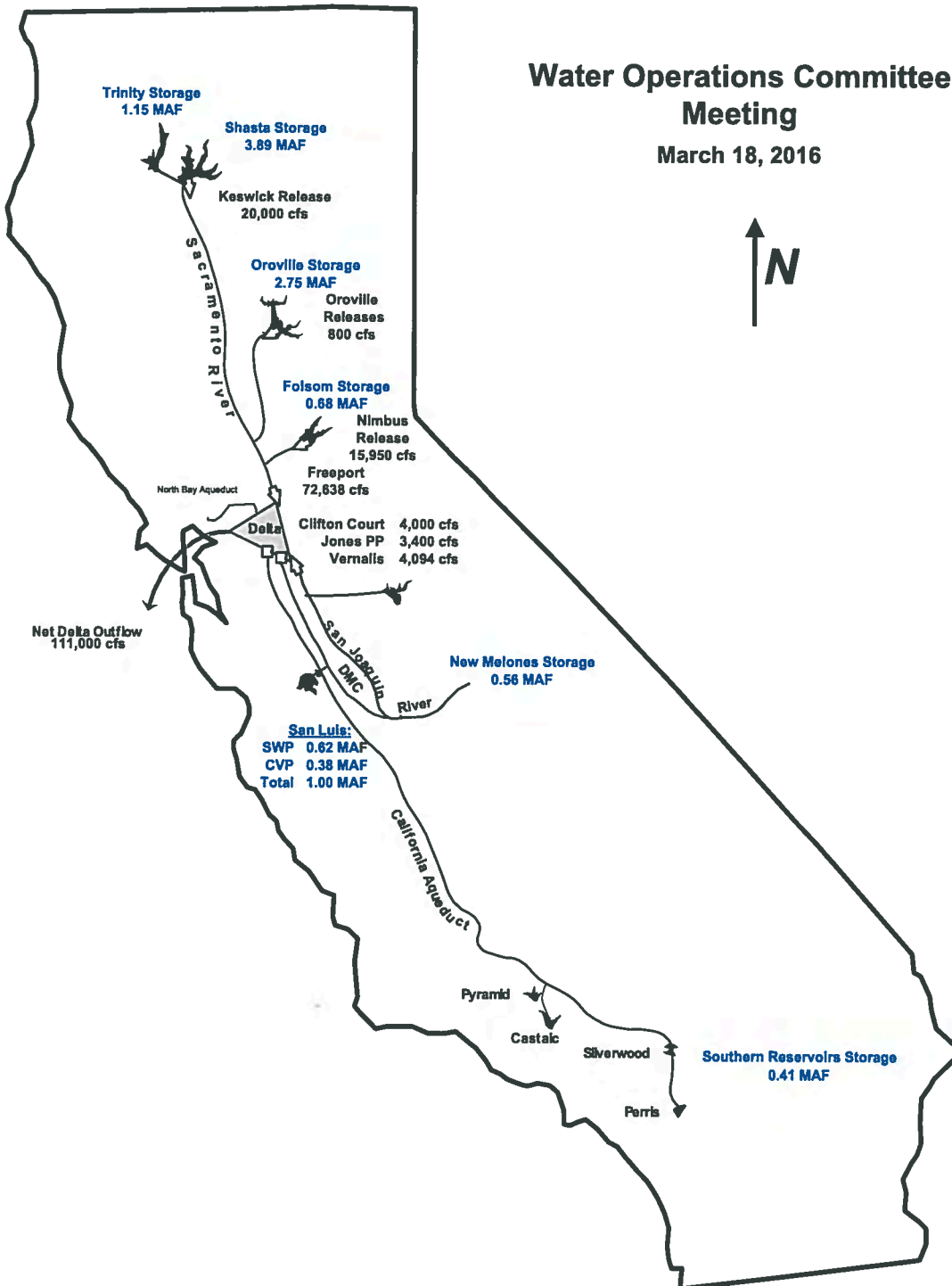
6. State Water Supply.

John Leahigh from DWR was present to provide a more positive report regarding the State's water supply. He began his report by referring to another "miracle" March. Since the last Board meeting in late February, precipitation has produced sufficient runoff to increase storage in Lake Oroville by approximately 1 million acre-feet. John stated that the inflows from the additional precipitation were continuing, and were expected to increase storage to the extent that it would begin encroaching in flood control space by the following weekend, and that storage in Lake Shasta was already encroaching into flood control space. Flows in the Sacramento River were high and water was actually being diverted into the Yolo bypass. John stated that Delta outflow was at 145,000 cubic feet per second. However, combined exports from the Delta were only at about 8,000 cubic feet per second, with about 4,500 of that being taken by the State Water Project and about 3,400 being diverted by the Central Valley Project. Regulations designed to protect endangered species were preventing the export of more than that. Total storage in the San Luis Reservoir was just shy of 1 million acre-feet, with about 600,000 acre-feet in the State's share. Thus, San Luis storage was only at about 56% of average, due to the restricted exports from the Delta. Leahigh stated that the snowpack in the northern Sierra was slightly above average for that date. The snowpack in the central Sierra was at approximately 95% of average, and the snowpack in the southern Sierra was at about 80% of average. In general, storage in the northern reservoirs was well above average, while storage in the southern reservoirs was well below average. Although not reported at the meeting, later that day DWR announced an increase in the allocation from 30% to 45%.

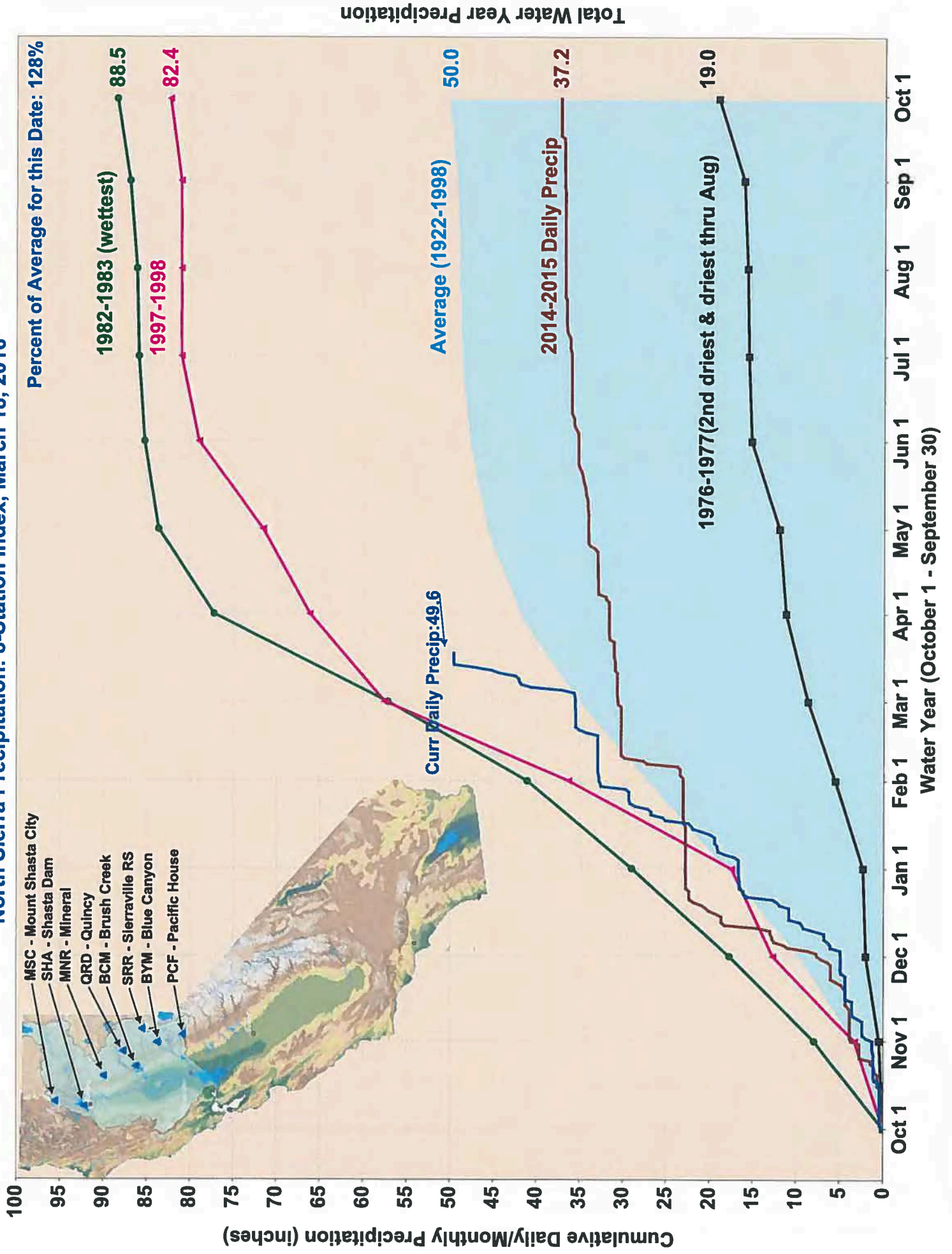
MICHAEL T. RIDDELL

# Water Operations Committee Meeting

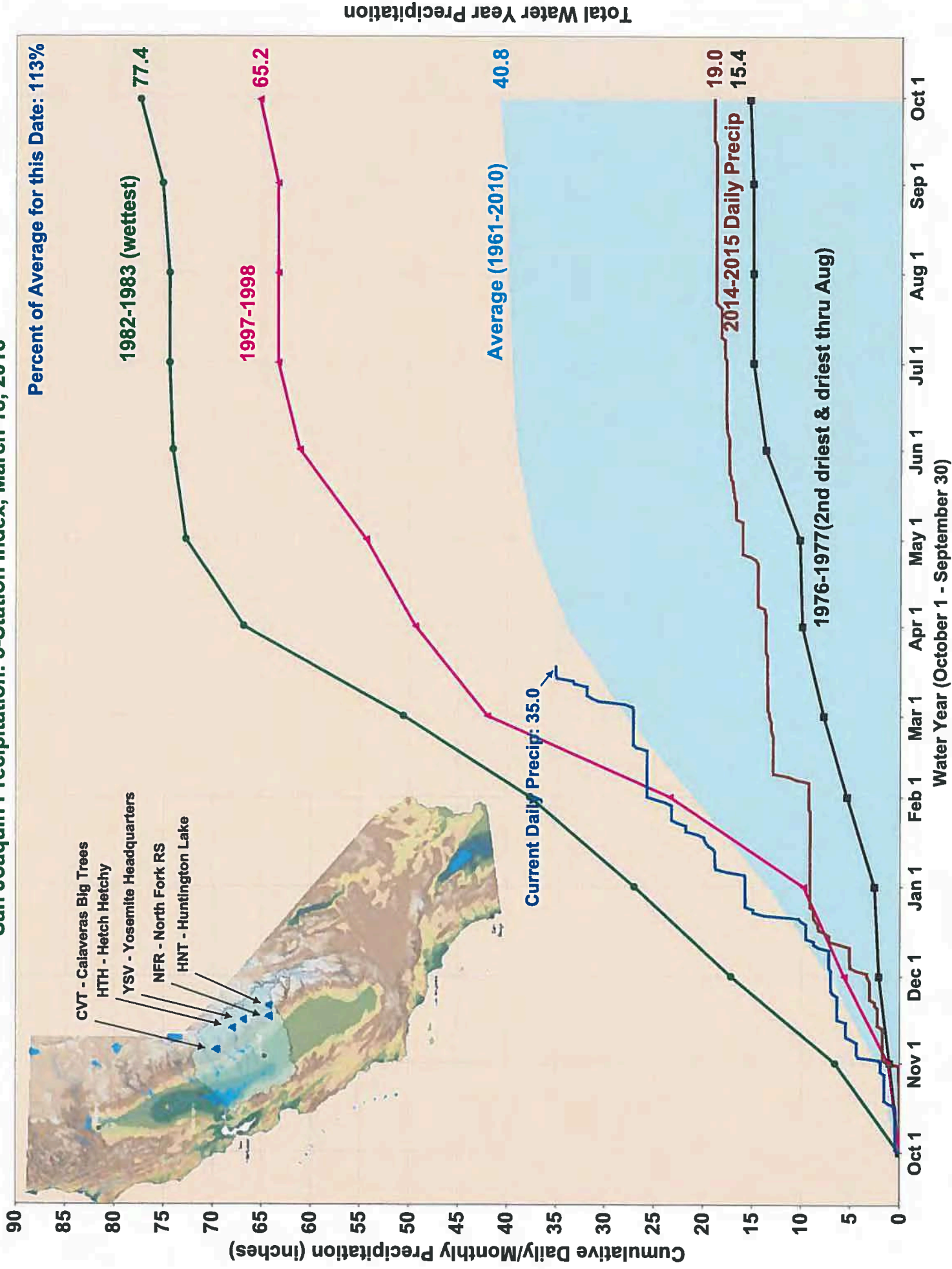
March 18, 2016



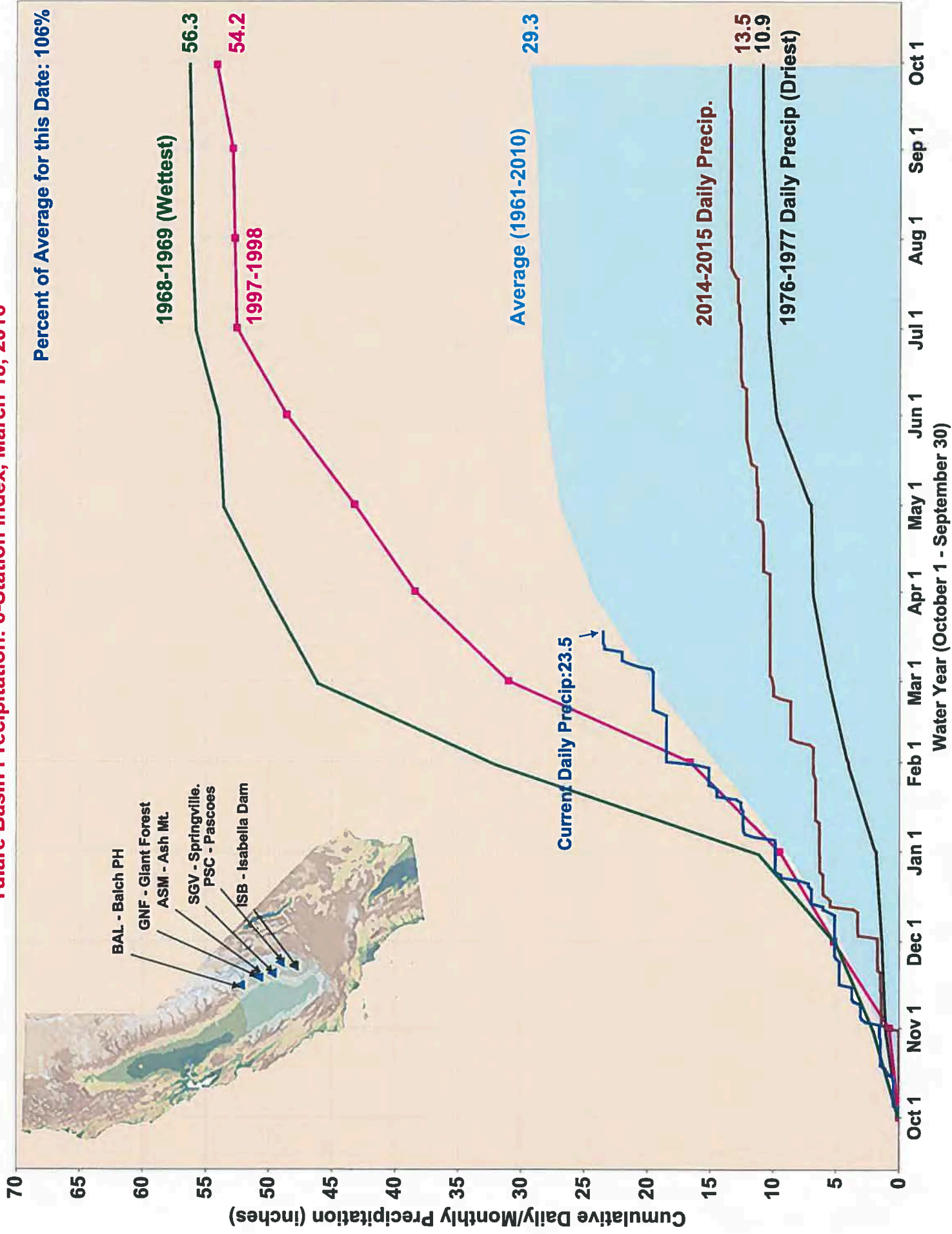
# North Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, March 18, 2016



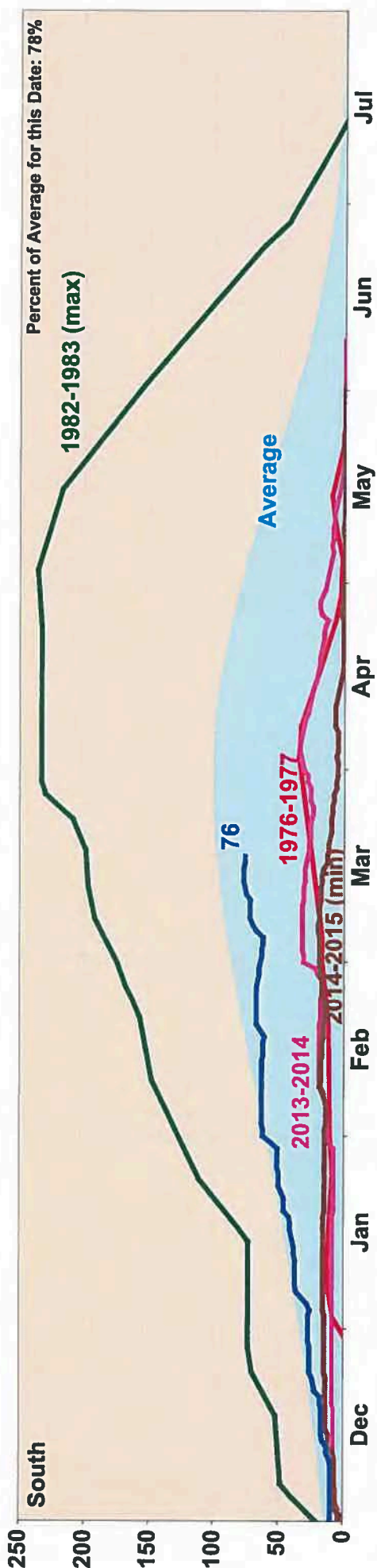
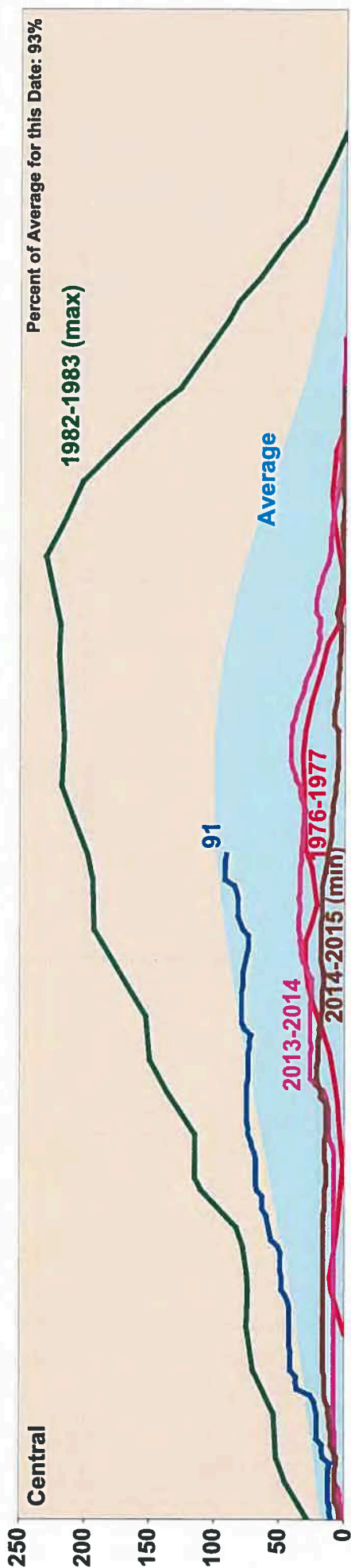
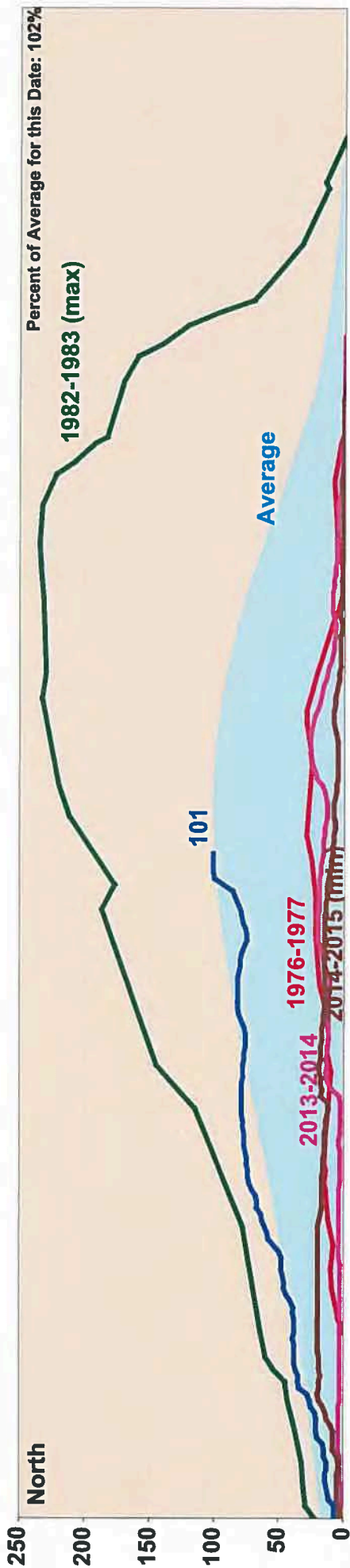
# San Joaquin Precipitation: 5-Station Index, March 18, 2016



# Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6-Station Index, March 18, 2016



California Snow Water Content, March 18, 2016, Percent of April 1 Average



Statewide Percent of April 1: 89%

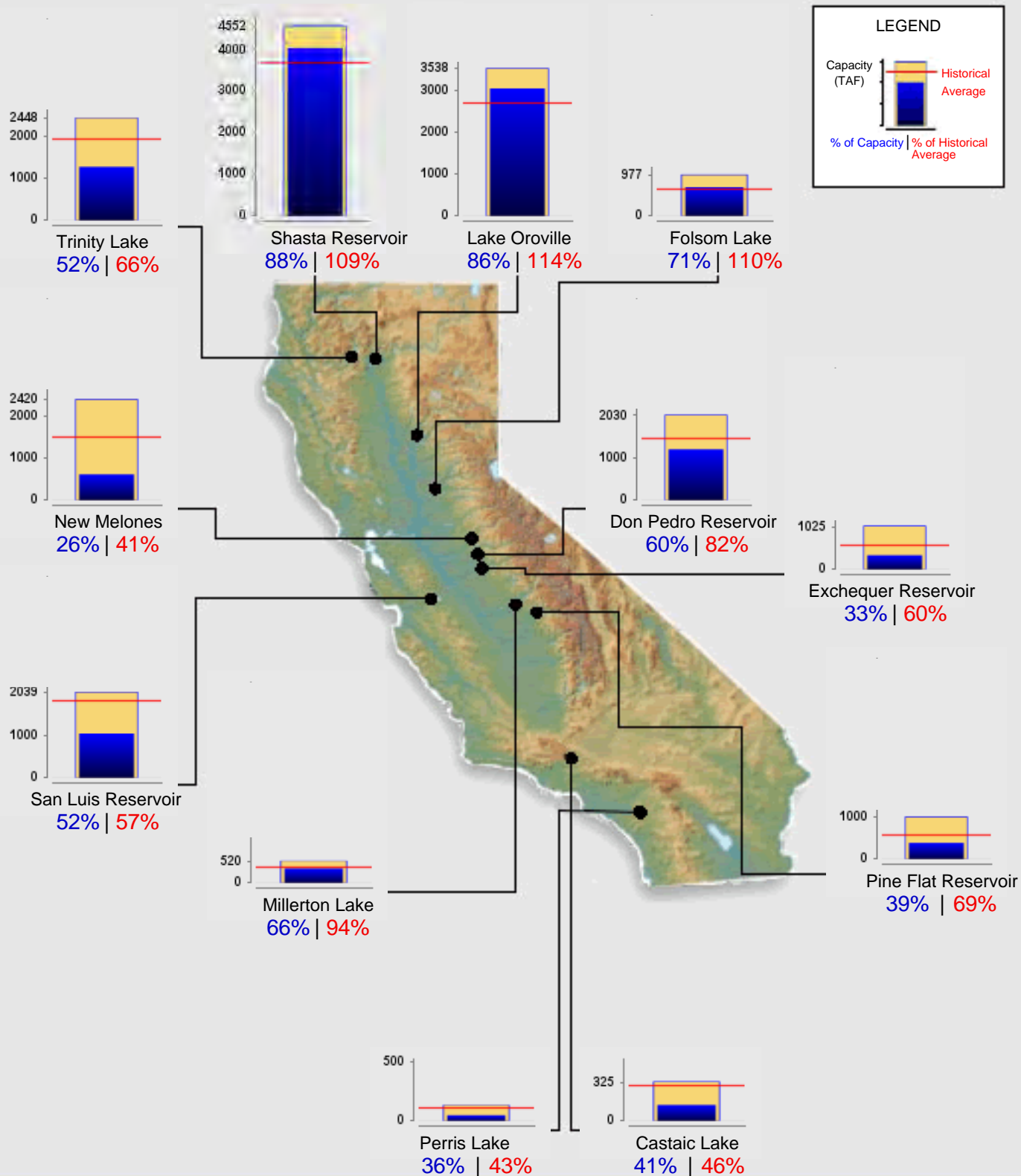
Statewide Percent of Average for Date: 91%



# Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - March 31, 2016

## CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



## DESERT WATER AGENCY MEDIA INFORMATION MARCH 2016

DATE	PACKET PAGE	MEDIA SOURCE	ARTICLE
02/26/16	1-2	PRESS ENTERPRISE	State Misses Monthly Target
02/27/16	3-4	LA TIMES	Names, Addresses of DWP Customers Who Received Turf Rebates Are Released
03/01/16	5	THE DESERT SUN	Wasting Water Could Cost You: Desert Water Agency Is Cracking Down
03/01/16	6	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Drought: Dry Spell Ate Away At California's Snowpack
03/01/16	7	CBS LOCAL 2	DWA Steps Up To Enforce Water Waste Restrictions
03/04/16	8	THE DESERT SUN	Valley Voice: DWA Toughens Water Enforcement Rules
03/08/16	9	THE PUBLIC RECORD	Coachella Valley Water District Addresses Questions About Lead In Drinking Water
03/12/16	10-11	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Worries Rising As A Vital River's Water Runs Low
03/14/16	12	LA TIMES	Drenched By 'March Miracle,' Northern California Reservoirs Inch Toward Capacity
03/19/16	13	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Water District To Expand Perris Pond
03/24/16	14-15	THE DESERT SUN	Coachella Valley Water District Wants First Rate Hike Since 2010
03/28/16	16-17	THE DESERT SUN	Water Issue Could Cost Coachella Millions Of Dollars
03/30/16	18-19	LA TIMES	State Snowpack Has Changed A Lot In The Last Year-As Have Californians' Attitude Toward Water
03/31/16	20	LA TIMES	Sierra Snowpack Shows Improvement, But Not Enough To Declare California's Drought Over

## State misses monthly water target

By JANET ZIMMERMAN, February 26, 2016

Between June 2015, when conservation became mandatory, and January, California residents saved 1.15 million acre-feet of water, which is equivalent to 374 billion gallons. That is 96 percent of the 1.2 million acre-feet goal the governor has set for the end of this month.

Californians are probably going to miss the governor's overall 25 percent water savings target, state officials announced Thursday, pointing to a drop in January conservation numbers and a warm February.

In January, residents cut use by 17.1 percent compared to the same period in 2013, the baseline. That brings the cumulative, eight-month total to 24.8 percent, falling shy of Gov. Jerry Brown's order for the first time since conservation became mandatory in June.

February numbers will be reported at the end of next month. They are expected to lag again because of the lack of rain and record temperatures in Southern California.

Despite the shortfall, officials with the State Water Resources Control Board celebrated the numbers and praised the effort during a call with reporters.

"We always knew it would end up being close to the wire," said Felicia Marcus, who leads the board tasked with carrying out Brown's mandate. "We're going to be close enough to 25 percent to declare victory and I think the governor will be very proud of what Californians have done."

Brown's spokesman, Evan Westrup, did not respond directly to the missed target, but called on communities to continue to do their part.

Lower conservation numbers are expected in winter, since there is less water use outdoors and fewer opportunities to save.

But at the same time, residents in January logged their lowest per-person daily use, 61 gallons, which indicates a drop in indoor water use, Marcus said. That's down from 67 gallons per-person, per-day in December.

"At this point, it's important to recognize Californians have done something really extraordinary. The disappointment is, 'oh gosh, we're so close'...but the gratitude is far greater than the disappointment," Marcus said.

El Niño could deliver much-needed spring storms, or it may not, meteorologists have said. While early winter storms did help replenish reservoirs and bring snowpack up to about 91 percent average for the date, they weren't enough to end the drought, Marcus said.

Emergency drought measures that followed the governor's 25 percent conservation mandate expired this month. More than 400 large water suppliers in the state were ordered to cut as much as 36 percent, based on past use.

Board members approved an extension of the regulations through Oct. 31, and agreed to give providers a break on how much they must save based on their climate, housing growth and development of new supplies starting in March.

Marcus said the climate, growth and supply development adjustments were not a mistake, even though the conservation has ebbed.

The adjustments will benefit Inland water districts, which protested the original regulations as unfair because they didn't take into account hot summer temperatures, housing density or the millions of dollars spent on recycling and other conservation efforts that were in effect before the state's 2013 baseline period.

The adjustments have yet to be decided. Under the state's formula, Riverside County's largest supplier, Eastern Municipal Water District in Perris, expects to drop from a 28 percent target to 20 percent.

"There's still a long way to go and those efforts need to continue," spokesman Kevin Pearson said.

The board will reconsider the regulation and water supplier targets in April and could make additional adjustments based on reservoir levels and snow pack totals, said Max Gomberg, the board's climate and conservation manager.

The board will continue enforcement actions against water suppliers that fall too far off their targets, said Matthew Buffleben, chief of the board's special investigations unit in the office of enforcement.

Since June, the board has issued hundreds of information and conservation orders and four civil fines of \$61,000 each to four suppliers. Beverly Hills paid its fine; Redlands, Indio Water Authority and Coachella Valley Water District are negotiating, he said.

## **Names, addresses of DWP customers who received turf rebates are released**

By Taylor Goldenstein, February 27, 2016

After a seven-month legal battle, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on Friday released the names and addresses of thousands of Los Angeles residents who received cash rebates for replacing their lawns.

Nearly three dozen Angelenos received rebates of \$10,000 or more, the data show. The largest single rebate among the nearly 3,400 Los Angeles residents who received a payout was \$25,000 for the owner of a single-family home in Brentwood.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and three other agencies had sued to keep the water district from disclosing the information to the San Diego Union-Tribune, a sister publication of the Los Angeles Times, citing privacy concerns.

L.A. County Superior Court Judge James Chalfant sided with the Union-Tribune last month, saying the public interest “clearly outweighs” the case for keeping it confidential, and signed his judgment Friday afternoon.

Union-Tribune attorney Kelly Aviles had argued that the public had a right to know how millions of dollars in public funds were spent, especially in order to examine the program for inefficiency and corruption.

“I’m happy that after a long, hard battle that we were finally able to get this information for the public,” Aviles said.

The MWD has said in court papers that it always intended to release the information about L.A. rebate recipients, and had already made public such information for recipients served by dozens of other member agencies.

The rebates were part of an unprecedented effort to encourage water conservation amid the historic drought. The agency set aside more than \$300 million to fund rebates for customers who replaced their lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping.

The program proved to be hugely popular. Early applicants with massive lawns in communities such as Rancho Santa Fe received rebates as high as \$70,000 before caps were put in place. With the funds now exhausted, MWD officials so far say they have no plans to fund a new round of turf rebates.

On Thursday, Chalfant agreed not to enforce his disclosure order for 10 days so more than two dozen police officers and prosecutors can decide whether to pursue legal efforts to keep certain information from becoming public.

If the 29 Los Angeles police officers, two Los Angeles deputy city attorneys and one L.A. County deputy district attorney do not intervene in the case, their addresses will be subject to release.

Aviles agreed to allow 11 Superior Court judges' addresses to be withheld, upon their request, to expedite the release of the records, though Aviles emphasized that she still believes the addresses are public record.

In recent weeks, the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents rank-and-file police officers, warned about the release of the DWP's turf rebate information, saying it does not want officers' home addresses published on the Internet.

Chalfant said the officers will have to show they have a specific threat or safety concern, rather than just a "generalized fear of harm."

"The California Supreme Court has said there must be a particularized showing of a safety need," he said. "It's not good enough to say, 'I'm a police officer, I work with gangs all the time, I wouldn't want the gang members to know where I live.' That's not good enough."

Chalfant added that there was "a major issue here of if they cared enough they would have intervened."

Lou Turriaga, a director with the Police Protective League, said the group is reviewing its options.

DWP attorney Tina Shim had told the judge that she needed time to notify elected and appointed officials that their names might be disclosed to give them time to respond.

"I'm not aware of any case where, at the trial court level, the agency had an obligation to contact everybody involved to see if they had a concern about their privacy," Chalfant said, adding that it was too late regardless. "What have you been waiting for? This lawsuit was filed last summer."

Shim declined to comment after court.



## **Wasting Water Could Cost You: Desert Water Agency Is Cracking Down**

Rather than issuing warning letters, officials now can issue fines.

Palm Desert, CA

By SUSAN C. SCHENA (Patch Staff) - March 1, 2016

**PALM SPRINGS, CA** - Faced with the most severe drought in decades, the Desert Water Agency's Board of Directors today adopted an ordinance that will make it easier to penalize property owners who aren't in compliance with watering restrictions.

Rather than sending several warning letters before issuing a fine, the agency now has the power to issue fines immediately when water wasting is observed, said DWA public information officer Ashley Hudgens.

"No more warnings means we can sufficiently address waste in the community," Hudgens told City News Service.

Fines for residential violations start at \$100, then increase to \$200 and then \$250 for every subsequent incident, she said. The fines can be issued daily, if needed. Business and multi-family properties in violation face fines of \$100, \$200 and \$500, which also can be doled out daily.

"Everyone needs to make sacrifices to save water," DWA board President Jim Cioffi said. "If you are wasting water or disregarding restrictions, you may now see a fine instead of a warning letter. We need our customers to know that we are taking water waste very seriously."

The agency wasted no time moving forward with fines, issuing three within a few hours of the vote to approve the motion, Hudgens said.

Besides fining customers who are observed violating water restrictions, DWA's new water waste enforcement action plan includes devoting more staff time to enforcement; deploying marked water efficiency enforcement vehicles; and reaching out to high water use customers.

"This charge from our board has given our team greater resources when looking for, documenting and citing water waste," DWA General Manager Mark Krause said. "We hope that enhanced enforcement encourages customers to make the right choices."

Currently, DWA customers -- those within a 325-square-mile area that includes parts of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs and outlying county areas -- are in compliance with state water reduction mandates, saving an average of 26 percent, when the governor's requirement was 25 percent. However, board members today noted that the savings remains lower than DWA's conservative target.

DWA has a Report Water Waste application for mobile devices. More details, including a list of watering restrictions currently in effect, are available at [www.dwa.org/restrictions](http://www.dwa.org/restrictions).

--City News Service

## **DROUGHT: Dry spell ate away at California's snowpack**

By JANET ZIMMERMAN, March 1, 2016

The Sierra Nevada snowpack that supplies almost a third of the state's water in the form of snow melt is at 83 percent of normal for the date, prompting water managers Tuesday, March 1, to call for continued conservation.

In an icy meadow at Phillips Station near Lake Tahoe, state surveyor Frank Gehrke plunged poles into snow banks to measure how much snow was lost to a February with record warm temperatures and little rain. It was part of the monthly snow survey by the state Department of Water Resources to gauge the spring runoff.

The findings were well short of the drought-buster winter that was hoped for.

"Right now, we're obviously better than last year but still way below what would be considered adequate for any reasonable level of recovery at this point," said Gehrke, chief of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program.

Last March, the snowpack was at a mere 19 percent of average for the date.

At the beginning of the rainy season, some predicted a monster El Niño system that could deliver 200 percent of normal precipitation in January, February and March. That clearly didn't happen.

But even a snowpack over 100 percent of normal would leave the state with a deficit, said Doug Headrick, general manager at the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water Department, a wholesaler that gets most of its supply from the State Water Project. "We are certainly not out of the drought," he said. "Thankfully there appears to be a line of storms approaching California and there is still hope that March and April will provide additional water to both Northern and Southern California."

The storm system is expected to deliver as much as 7 inches of rain in Northern California through Monday and as much as 30 inches of snow in the Sierra, National Weather Service forecasters said. Southern California could get at least several inches of snow in the mountains and 1 to 2 inches of rain in the valleys.

The storms follow on the heels of a scorching February that delivered temperatures in the 90s, and was the warmest at San Diego's International Airport since 1875, the National Weather Service reported.

Meteorologists had not made the determination for other areas, but records show that average temperatures in Riverside for the month were almost 9 degrees warmer than normal and rainfall was nearly 3 inches short of average.

Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin urged residents to continue conserving. Last April, Gov. Jerry Brown ordered a 25 percent cut in water use, a mandate that is still in effect.

NASA climatologist Bill Patzert was optimistic, however, saying the snowpack "is a lot better than it has been since 2011. The effects of El Niño are unpredictable, so there is still hope for a miracle spring, Patzert said. That's what happened during the El Niño of 1983, when more than 13 inches of rain fell in downtown Los Angeles during March and April, he said. Similar spring storms helped ease dry spells in 1991 and 1995.

"Don't throw in the towel yet," Patzert said. "We're in a long-term drought, so no matter what happens in March, it took many years to get into and it will take years to get out of."



## **DWA steps up to enforce water waste restrictions**

Patrick Edgell, Digital Content Director, Mar 01, 2016

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. –

The Desert Water Agency adopted a new ordinance to better enforce the water use restrictions during the California drought.

"Everyone needs to make sacrifices to save water. If you are wasting water or disregarding restrictions, you may now see a fine instead of a warning letter," said DWA Board President Jim Cioffi. "We need our customers to know that we are taking water waste very seriously."

According to the Board of Directors release, the new action plan will help streamline DWA's mandatory water conservation efforts. The new water waste enforcement plan includes:

- Fining customers who DWA observes violating water use prohibitions and restrictions
- Devoting more agency staff time to water waste enforcement
- Encouraging all agency representatives to be on the lookout for water waste violations
- Deploying marked water efficiency enforcement vehicles
- Reaching out to high water use customers

"This charge from our board has given our team greater resources when looking for, documenting and citing water waste," said DWA General Manager Mark Krause. "We hope that enhanced enforcement encourages customers to make the right choices."

DWA customers fell short of their water reduction mandate, saving only 10 percent in January 2016. Customers achieved savings of 40 and 30 percent during summer when annual use peaks. At 26 percent, DWA's cumulative savings is above the statewide average and the Governor's 25 percent mandate, but remains short of DWA's conservation target, officials said in the release.

You can report water wasters through DWA's app, which can be downloaded through iTunes or Google Play.



## Valley Voice: DWA toughens water enforcement rules

James Cioffi, Special to The Desert Sun 5:21 p.m. PST March 4, 2016

The much-anticipated "Godzilla" El Niño has not lived up to its expectations thus far, and California's usual stormy months are now behind us. As the very real impacts of severe drought drag on and drought fatigue appears to be contagious, our Board of Directors carefully weighed options to determine the best path toward increased conservation as we continue to fall short of the state's conservation mandate.

After much deliberation, our Board took formal action last week to enhance enforcement of Desert Water Agency's mandatory water use restrictions.

Our agency cannot completely immunize our community against drought fatigue, but we've increased the likelihood that violations will be cited, and fines will be issued in place of repeat warning letters. We got creative and leveraged our field crews to help with water waste enforcement, and we expect the streamlining to lead to an increase in violations, followed by an increase in conservation.

DWA will not be able to catch every water waste violation in our community. But, those with a lead foot receive more speeding tickets than those who drive the limit. People and businesses that disregard the restrictions run the greatest risk of receiving a fine. We're deploying vehicles marked with our new water efficiency enforcement signage, and we hope that the visible increase in enforcement and DWA's presence in the community will encourage customers to, once again, step it up and follow the rules.

Our Board believes the majority of our customers are following the restrictions, and we've taken this action on their behalf. For those who have taken steps to adjust irrigation schedules and modify water use, it's frustrating to drive around town and see sprinklers running in the middle of the day. We don't want to be the water police, but we've fallen short of our conservation mandate for several consecutive months, and it simply isn't fair to ask our rule-abiding customers to cut back even more if they have neighbors who are using water without regard for the restrictions or fear of a fine.

Our customers do have a conservation mandate that they must collectively achieve during the next several months, and to get there, everyone needs to make sacrifices and contribute. But looking at the bigger picture, the important benefits of conservation go beyond the need to achieve the state's mandate. It is important that our customers recognize the role they play in sustaining and managing our region's groundwater supply.

Decades ago, our valley's water managers engineered a cutting edge, impactful approach to groundwater management that has become a model for programs nationwide. We continue to do our part every day, carefully monitoring and replenishing the basin. But, we can't do it alone.

Our customers also play a valuable role in the careful, long-term sustainable management of our region's water supply. Every gallon saved is another gallon invested. We would love to see our customers commit to using water efficiently throughout their lifetimes.

In the last decade, our customers have made great strides toward reducing water use. Thanks to their efforts combined with the region's long-term, sustainable management, our local supply is in great shape despite the record-breaking five-year drought.

# The Public Record

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015

VOLUME 38 - EDITION #19

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

\$1.50 - PER SINGLE ISSUE

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

## COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ADDRESSES QUESTIONS ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

The news out of Flint, Michigan, about extremely high levels of lead in the drinking water may raise concerns about whether a similar problem could occur here. Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) customers can be confident that such a scenario is unlikely:

"CVWD tests drinking water for lead in accordance with all state and federal drinking water requirements, including US EPA's Lead and Copper Rule," said Steve Bigley, director of Environmental Services for CVWD. "Delivering high quality water is our highest priority and CVWD customers can be assured that these tests show there is no lead problem in their drinking water."

There are two key factors contributing to the Flint situation. First, the city's new water source has a different water quality that was not adjusted to protect the coating that forms inside the pipes that deliver tap water. Secondly, water systems like those in Flint were built long ago when lead pipes were still used and as the coating inside the pipes is dissolved by the new water supply some of the lead is being leached into the tap water.

CVWD uses groundwater for all of its drinking water. The water CVWD delivers to homes and businesses provides the right amount of coating inside water pipes due in part to minerals containing calcium that occur naturally in local groundwater. This helps prevent a similar situation from occurring here.

In addition, CVWD has no lead service lines or pipes in its system. The only presence of lead in the service area is in the plumbing of homes and businesses. Solder used on copper plumbing installed before 1986 (the year lead solder was banned) and a variety of older faucets and brass fixtures can contain lead. CVWD's extensive water quality testing program includes regular visits to homes with copper pipes and lead solder to test the water coming out of the faucet. The results of these tests show no problem like what occurred in Flint exists here. This can be attributed to a consistent groundwater supply that forms a natural mineral coating in local water pipes and plumbing fixtures.

For more information, please read CVWD's Annual Review and Drinking Water Report.

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.

Date: Mar 12, 2016; Section: Front Page; Page: A1

# Worries rising as a vital river's water runs low

Inland area relies heavily on the withering, over-allocated Colorado.

By AARON ORLOWSKI and JANET ZIMMERMAN

## STAFF WRITERS

For the past five years, as the drought drained California's water sources and depleted its reservoirs, Southern California water managers have relied increasingly on the region's largest out-of-state water source: the Colorado River.

The river feeds the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct, which ends at Lake Mathews in Riverside County. The aqueduct is managed by the Metropolitan Water District of Los Angeles, a wholesaler that supplies 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to the Inland region and beyond.

But the Colorado River Basin is suffering its own drought, in its 16th year, and flows on the river are at their lowest in a century of record-keeping.

If the Lake Mead reservoir on the river sinks much more, a shortage condition would be declared and deliveries will be reduced.

"Shortages are coming. It's really not a question of if, but when," said Bill Hasencamp, manager of Colorado River water resources for Metropolitan Water District, which supplies water for 19 million people in Southern California. "Is there a way to collectively live within our lower needs?"

Experts warn that consumers could see steadily rising water rates if conservation efforts and a series of planned reservoirs, recycling and other projects don't produce a better balance of availability and demand in Southern California.

## LION'S SHARE OF SUPPLY

The lifeblood of the Southwest, the Colorado is the most litigated and politically contentious river in the country. It supplies water to seven states and Mexico.

The river starts high in Colorado's Rocky Mountains as melting snowpack. It wends out of the mountains and is joined by tributaries originating in Wyoming and New Mexico. It drops through dusty southern Utah and the canyons of northern Arizona, past the neon lights of Las Vegas and Hoover Dam at Lake Mead. In Mexico, it dries to a trickle beyond Morelos Dam before reaching the Gulf of California.

Toward the end of the river's run, along the Arizona-California border, the aqueduct with two reservoirs and five pumping stations diverts water to the Coachella and Imperial valleys and elsewhere in Southern California. In years such as 2014, when northern supplies are cut back and the State Water Project delivers as little as 5 percent of requested water, the Colorado River makes up the lion's share of deliveries.

Between the 1940s and 1990s, plentiful Colorado River water allowed Southern California to boom. Today, many problems call into question whether the region can continue to rely on the river's flow. Climate change is likely to constrict it, and political factions continue to squabble over how to divide an ever-shrinking flow.

The South Coast region, which includes the western portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties, cut water use by 18 percent between June 2014 and January 2016. During the same period, the Colorado River region, which includes the hotter, drier parts of the two Inland counties, reduced usage by 28.6 percent, according to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board.

To ensure reliable delivery of water in the face of lower rainfall across the West and the possibility of reduced imported supplies, water managers in those areas are seeking new sources and capturing storm water runoff to recharge groundwater.

## NEW SOURCES SOUGHT

Metropolitan Water District also is pursuing new water sources, including a recycling plant in Carson and agreements to get water from farmers who fallow their fields. Each new source increases costs for ratepayers.

For 16 years, drought has wracked the Colorado River system. Water managers forecast an 18 percent chance a shortage will be declared in 2017, which will yank back supplies for Arizona and Nevada. Those odds rise to 52 percent in 2018 and even higher for 2019.

## **WON'T BE FIRST**

California is unlikely to keep its first-in-line position for Colorado River water, experts say, because it's politically untenable to cut other states' allocations to near-zero while leaving California untouched.

In 2000, because of several wet years, Lake Mead was essentially full. Now, bone-white, sun-bleached cliff sides loom over the reservoir, and exposed rings show the water level has plummeted 12 stories.

Even in years of average snowfall, Lake Mead will continue to empty because, in 1922, the seven states that use its water allotted themselves more water than comes down the river in a typical year.

At the time, water negotiators assumed that about 16.5 million acre-feet would be available annually. They gave 7.5 million acre-feet to the Upper Basin states – Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico – and another 7.5 million acrefeet to the Lower Basin states – California, Arizona and Nevada. Later, in 1944, they added 1.5 million acrefeet of water for Mexico into the agreement.

The problem was the decades prior to 1922 "happened to be the wettest period in the last 500 years, by quite a bit. It was an outlier," said David Meko, a professor at the University of Arizona, who has done historical reconstructions of Colorado River flows using tree-ring data. "They couldn't have picked a worse time for allocating the water."

Modern estimates peg the river's flow at about 14.9 million acre-feet, or about 1.5 million acre-feet of water less than currently promised.

For decades, not all the states took their full share, so the over-allocation of the river didn't pose a problem. California, which is allocated 4.4 million acre-feet, was able to take 5.2 million acrefeet. That changed in the late 1990s when population growth caused Nevada and Arizona to demand their full allocations, and Arizona began storing some of its excess water in the ground.

In 2003, an agreement slashed California's water supply. Metropolitan Water District, which had been using water unclaimed by others, took the brunt of the hit.

So the urban water agency ramped up water transfer agreements, paying agricultural districts money to fallow fields or install more efficient irrigation equipment in exchange for water.

"When you have a lot of water and people need water, you become the obvious solution to their problems," said Tina Shields, the Colorado River resources manager at Imperial Irrigation District, an agricultural district.

## **EFFECT OF WARMING**

In coming years, farms and cities alike will have to grapple with further squeezes on water supply caused by climate change.

As the West's mountains warm, experts predict snowpack will melt earlier in the spring and surge into reservoirs, where water evaporates more quickly. Higher temperatures also raise the atmosphere's capacity to absorb moisture, meaning that more moisture is drawn out of soil, plants, rivers and reservoirs.

All told, scientists predict a 3 to 4 percent drop in runoff per degree of warming, said Jeff Lukas, a researcher at the Western Water Assessment, a federal partnership with the University of Colorado, Boulder. So, if the planet warms by nearly 4 degrees by 2050, what many scientists consider a conservative estimate, runoff in the Colorado River could decrease as much as 15 percent.

"That puts us in a state of chronic to moderate drought relative to historic conditions," Lukas said.

But experts aren't sure how a hotter, drier climate ultimately would affect Colorado River flows and when it might happen. That's partly because they have only 50 years of good data on the river.

Gus Goodbody, a water supply forecaster for the Colorado River at the National Water and Climate Center, said: "The reality is, we haven't been here long enough to understand how the fluctuations naturally occur here."

## **CONTACT THE WRITER:**

jzimmerman@pe.com

## Drenched by 'March Miracle,' Northern California reservoirs inch toward capacity

Joseph Serna, March 14, 2016

A series of storms pushed California's biggest reservoir past its historical average for mid-March this weekend and put the second largest one on track for doing the same by Monday afternoon, officials said.

Together the Lake Shasta and Lake Oroville reservoirs have the capacity to hold more than 8 million acre feet of water and after a wet weekend in Northern California, they were 79% and 70% full, respectively, by Monday morning, according to the state Department of Water Resources.

Some people have referred to the recent series of powerful storms that have dumped rain and snow on the Sierra as the "March Miracle."

The storms filled Lake Shasta above its average for this time of year and by 2 p.m. Monday, Lake Oroville could surpass its historic average, said DWR spokesman Doug Carlson. Lake Shasta is the state's largest reservoir.

"It's happened a little quicker than I personally thought," Carlson said. "It would appear the [seasonal storms] have really achieved what they historically do, which is deliver a lot of rainfall to the mountains."

Neither reservoir has reached its historical average in nearly three years, data show.

"I don't know if people here will be dancing in their cubicles when [Oroville] hits the historic average, but it will be the first time it's done that for the duration of the drought. That is reason to be joyous," Carlson said.

According to the National Weather Service, it rained nearly a foot in El Dorado County and more than nine inches in Shasta County between Friday and Monday mornings. Since March 1, the Shasta reservoir has received more than 16 inches of rain.

On March 6, Lake Oroville saw its biggest single-day rise in 12 years, DWR reported.

If the soggy month continues, both reservoirs could actually fill to the brim by April, officials say. Neither reservoir has been full since about the beginning of the drought, officials said.

The Shasta reservoir would need about 1 million acre feet more of rain to hit its capacity.

"It's possible that it could fill if the wet pattern continues...it's on track to at least get to average storage" for that time of year, said Shane Hunt, a spokesman with the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which monitors the Shasta reservoir.

After four years of drought, even hitting a 15-year historical average for a reservoir in California is a sign of progress, experts say.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction, but it's not a panacea. We're not saved," Hunt said. "We dug a pretty big hole in a lot of spots."

Date: Mar 19, 2016; Section: Local Extra - Southwest; Page: SB2

# BRIEFLY

## **WATER DISTRICT TO EXPAND PERRIS POND**

PERRIS Eastern Municipal Water District is expected to break ground this month on the Trumble Road Recycled Water Pond Expansion project, which will increase seasonal recycled water storage capacity.

The pond will be just north of an existing recycled water pond on Trumble Road in Perris, adjacent to Eastern's headquarters.

The \$11.2 million project is the agency's first to be paid for in part by the California-voter approved Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The project will take about one year to complete, according to the district.

– Craig Shultz



## Coachella Valley Water District wants first rate hike since 2010

Sammy Roth, March 24, 2016

Faced with an expensive pollution mandate and a strained groundwater aquifer, the Coachella Valley's largest water provider is considering its first residential rate hike since 2010.

Under the proposal from Coachella Valley Water District staff, homes that stay within their water budgets would see an average bill increase of about \$6 per month starting this July. Excessive water users — including people who decide to keep their lawns covered in grass, despite the desert climate — could pay hundreds of dollars more per month.

Many water wasters are already paying temporary drought surcharges, designed to help the Coachella Valley meet Gov. Jerry Brown's 25 percent emergency conservation mandate. The permanent rate increases are designed to promote lasting conservation. The Coachella Valley pumps more water from its underground aquifer than it puts back in, which threatens the long-term sustainability of the desert's primary water source.

"We're hoping that because of the drought, a lot of behavior has changed, or at least people are more sensitive to the issue, that they need to conserve," Coachella Valley Water District general manager Jim Barrett told the Desert Sun's editorial board earlier this week. "And that's really what we're trying to promote with these revisions, is greater conservation so that ultimately we have better sustainability of the aquifer."

The rate hike would also help pay for the agency's costliest-ever infrastructure project: treatment plants to remove a carcinogen known chromium-6 from the region's groundwater. The plants are expected to cost \$250 million up front and \$8 million annually once built. Chromium-6, a heavy metal, was made famous by the 2000 film "Erin Brokovich," which chronicled groundwater contamination in the Mojave Desert town of Hinkley.

Coachella Valley water managers disputed the science behind California's 10-parts-per-billion chromium-6 standard, which state health officials adopted in 2014. They also argued it would be prohibitively expensive to remove the chemical from the local aquifer, where it occurs naturally. Their protests fell on deaf ears.

"We tried visits with legislators, visits with the governor's office, visits with the Department of Public Health," Barrett said. "We did everything we thought we could do, short of filing a lawsuit against the state, to say that the chromium-6 standard was not reasonable."

The rate hike would need to be approved by the water district's board of directors, which is expected to vote in June. Agency staff are proposing additional rate hikes every year through 2020, although the board will only vote on the first year of increases for now. The district is holding several workshops to get feedback from the public, the first of which was Thursday in Palm Desert. Another is scheduled for Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Coachella.

"I recognize this isn't going to be popular. But there are a lot of things that have brought us to this point, and we can't put it off any longer," Barrett said at Thursday's workshop, noting the increase would also pay for maintenance and infrastructure projects that have been delayed since the recession. Even with the hike, he said, most homes would still pay less for water than customers of every other local water agency, except the Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company.

Several desert residents objected to the rate hikes at Thursday's workshop. One of them, Thousand Palms resident Gary Burns, called the proposal "outrageous."

"What are you going to do about people who are on fixed incomes?" he asked. "Where am I going to go? Am I going to go start collecting pop bottles? How is it going to go with my water bills?"

The biggest chunk of the rate hike would be an increase in the fixed charge that all homes pay, regardless of how much water they use. For the typical single-family home, the fixed charge would increase from \$7 to \$11.30 per month. For apartments and other multi-family residences, the charge would increase from \$7 to \$12.90. That money would mostly go toward the chromium-6 treatment plants.

The rate hike proposal would also raise the actual price of water, with the goal of encouraging conservation, district officials say.

Homes currently pay for water in five tiers, with water getting more expensive as residents use more of it. Water use in the lowest tier — designed to cover indoor use — costs \$1.01 per CCF, and water use in the highest tier costs \$4.48 per CCF. Under the new rates, the cheapest water would get slightly cheaper (\$0.95 per CCF) and the most expensive water would get more expensive (\$6.13 per CCF). One CCF is equal to about 748 gallons.

The proposal would also reduce the amount of water homes can use before they end up in the higher tiers.

The district calculates a "water budget" for each home, which is supposed to cover indoor use and outdoor irrigation. Homes that live within their budgets stay within the first two cost tiers.

Right now, water budgets are calculated so that homes can cover their entire outdoor landscapes with grass, without leaving the first two tiers. The new budgets would allow for grass on just 50 percent of outdoor areas, with the other 50 percent assumed to be covered by desert-friendly landscaping. Homes that keep all-grass lawns would move into the higher tiers much faster, and pay a lot more as a result.

"We're trying to send a message: Use what you need, but recognize you're going to pay for what you use," Barrett said. The district expects four-fifths of homes to be able to stay within their budgets, he added.

The Coachella Valley Water District has already been levying drought surcharges on excessive water users who exceed their budgets, or who haven't cut back substantially over the last year. The district's board raised those fees in November after homes and businesses consistently failed to meet the state's 36 percent cutback mandate for the area. Since the mandate took effect in June, the district's customers have cut back by 24.6 percent compared to the same months in 2013. It's unclear whether the water district's board will eliminate the drought surcharges if and when it raises rates.

The agency's sales are down about \$10 million this fiscal year because people are using less water, although it's made up for that shortfall with \$13.5 million in drought surcharges, Barrett said. Officials say the extra money has gone toward \$6.7 million in spending to support conservation, including a popular grass removal rebate.

The State Water Resources Control Board fined the water district \$61,000 in October, saying it was one of four water agencies statewide — out of more than 400 — that had consistently failed to promote conservation. But the district might not have to pay the fine. After months of negotiations with the state, Barrett said Thursday, it looks like the agency will be allowed to spend the money locally on "conservation education."

The Coachella Valley Water District serves 318,000 people, spread across Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta and some unincorporated areas. It's also in the process of considering rate or fee increases for commercial customers, large water users like golf courses that pump groundwater from private wells, and farmers who use Colorado River water.

## Water issue could cost Coachella millions of dollars

Anna Rumer, The Desert Sun, March 28, 2016

The presence of a metallic element that at high levels has been linked to kidney and liver damage in Coachella's drinking water could cost the city millions of dollars a year as it works to comply with new state regulations.

In 2014, the California Department of Public Health approved a maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per billion for chromium-6 in drinking water, making it the only state to regulate the specific chromium compound. All five of the Coachella Water Authority's wells have chromium-6 levels slightly above the state standard.

While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency doesn't have a maximum contaminant level for chromium-6 specifically, it does require that any level of chromium in drinking water must fall below 100 ppb.

The city was given three main options for a system at a City Council study session on Wednesday, each of which will eventually cost about \$2.5 million annually — about 12 percent of the city's 2016 budget if staff members are unable to secure competitive grant funding for the project. Each option offers different levels of up-front, maintenance and contracting costs, but will take the city's chromium levels below the recently established state limits.

On Sept. 14, Gov. Jerry Brown extended the deadline for water agency compliance by five years in order to allow cities to get the resources together to make the appropriate changes.

Since then, several water agencies statewide have filed lawsuits against the state, claiming that the chromium-6 standards are unnecessary and costly. Because of the pending litigation, City Manager Dan Martinez said he was concerned that if the city made the decision to install a system that is costly up front, it could end up stretching its budget for something that ends up being unnecessary.

"The reason we're (in this situation) is because of a political decision that created an arbitrary level where the very science is in question," he said. "That's a really tough decision and it's kind of a judgment call."

Mayor Steve Hernandez said while it's tempting to put off planning for the future with the lawsuits in mind, the city has to move forward with the system as if they didn't exist.

"In some ways, that's operating in a world of hypotheticals and wishful thinking," he said. "Our task is comply with the law is, so until it changes, we need to comply with the law."

Two of the main three options given to the City Council can be seen in the way the Coachella Valley Water District and the Indio Water Authority updated their systems after their wells were also found to have chromium-6 levels outside the state's acceptable range. The other is a hybrid of the two systems.

City staffers recommended the system most similar to the CVWD's, as it has the lowest up-front costs, but the council agreed that after their experience with the rate hikes of their contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, they would ultimately want a system that depended less on outside contractors.

"I'd like for us to be sovereign quite honestly," Councilman Manuel Perez said. "If we can afford that over the course of time ... to ensure that we are successful."

The city has to be in compliance by the start of 2020, but has to get busy applying for grants and creating an engineering plan.

Once the city discovers whether it received the grants, it will determine if water rates will have to increase.

Options for the city's filtration system will be brought to a regular City Council meeting in the near future, Hernandez said, where he hopes to receive more feedback from the residents whose water will be affected.

"I don't want us to operate in a vacuum here," he said. "We need to somehow figure out how to engage with the community ... because the impact at the end of the day on our residents' bills is significant."

*Anna Rumer covers the Eastern Coachella Valley for The Desert Sun. She can be reached at (760) 285-5490, [anna.rumer@desertsun.com](mailto:anna.rumer@desertsun.com) or on Twitter @AnnaRumer.*

## State snowpack has changed a lot in the last year — as have Californians' attitude toward water

Matt Stevens, March 30, 2016

One year ago Friday, Frank Gehrke hiked out to Phillips Station and stuck a tube onto a tuft of brownish-green grass. There was no snow, but Gehrke had quite an audience.

A gaggle of reporters and even Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) had assembled at the outpost 90 miles from Sacramento to watch Gehrke work and bear witness to the severity of [California's drought](#).

What followed was a historic executive order from Brown that required a statewide 25% cut in urban water use and set in motion a fundamental rethinking about how Californians use the precious resource.

On Wednesday, when Gehrke hikes out to the field again, he'll have something to measure. But the snow situation isn't the only thing that's changed in a year. Californians have largely risen to Brown's challenge and begun to transform their relationship with water — even as they prepare for another hot, dry summer.

"It's really important to recognize that people in California have done something extraordinary," State Water Resources Control Board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus said when announcing that the state would come close to meeting Brown's 25% mandate. "I think the governor will be very proud."

All along, officials have emphasized the importance of capitalizing on the crisis to thrust California's antiquated water policies and systems into the 21st century. The drought emergency has reminded many local agencies that relying on a single source of water can be risky, so they have expedited plans to diversify their portfolios.

Los Angeles is racing to cut its purchases of imported water in half by 2024 and has developed a "master plan" to capture more rainwater. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California announced its intention to invest in a massive plant in Carson capable of turning sewage into drinkable water. And in the coming months, West Basin Municipal Water District is expected to release a report outlining plans for a desalination plant in El Segundo.

Meanwhile, a long-planned proposal to change the way water is transported through the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta is still undergoing a lengthy environmental review.

Water providers, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, have revamped their rate structures to encourage conservation, even as they grapple with a controversial court ruling that dictates how they can calculate costs.

"It's a modest start," said Stephanie Pincetl, director of UCLA's California Center for Sustainable Communities. "You can't know in advance if there's a sea change.... We just can't give up."

Brown's April 1 order came after several previous actions meant to bolster the state's water supply and blunt the drought's effects. His initial call for Californians to voluntarily cut their water use by 20% had largely fallen on deaf ears. So, leveraging a barren field as his backdrop and a statewide snowpack that had plummeted to its lowest level in centuries, Brown unleashed the state's first mandatory drought restrictions.

The 25% reduction in urban water use stood as one cornerstone of the executive order; a statewide initiative to replace 50 million square feet of lawn with drought-tolerant landscaping was another.

In February, state regulators announced that Californians had cut their water consumption by 24.8% over a span of eight months and saved more than 1.1 million acre-feet of water.

Thanks in part to a \$340-million boost in turf rebate funding from the Metropolitan Water District, officials say the Southland alone removed 121 million square feet of turf from January 2014 to January 2016.

Meanwhile, state employees were working behind the scenes to update rules related to watering landscapes — another requirement of the executive order. In July, the California Water Commission approved changes that effectively limit how much grass can be planted outside new homes and all but ban grass in landscapes of new commercial, industrial and institutional buildings.

By June, Californians named water and drought as the most important issue facing the state, according to a survey by the Public Policy Institute of California. About 70% of adults said water supply in their part of the state was a "big problem."

Although a survey this month showed fewer people still held those views, Mark Baldassare, president of the Public Policy Institute, said the issue has unusual "staying power."

"A lot of people are still concerned," he said. "This is an issue that a few years ago was not on people's radars at all."

Statewide conservation has slowed in recent months as Northern California has enjoyed El Niño-fueled rain and snow. But officials say the drought is not over.

"One year of average rainfall [will] not offset four years of record-breaking drought and heat," said Gareth Lacy, a spokesman for Brown. "No one knows what the future will bring, and we must continue to prepare for the possibility of another dry year."

In a nod to improved hydrology, Marcus' water board approved modest changes to the state's emergency drought that will allow suppliers to save slightly less water than they were previously required to.

The latest version of the regulation expires in October but could be modified after water board staff members analyze the state's snow situation.

"Right now we're at halftime, and we have a decent score on the board," Marcus said in a recent interview. "We're having a party for being barely average for this time of year in a couple of big reservoirs ... but it's not great."

Experts say this drought — which Marcus likened to "the wake-up call of the century" — has been particularly punishing because it has been unusually hot. 2014 had the highest statewide average temperature in more than a century, state officials said. 2015 came in second.

The warming conditions have not been good for the snowpack, which usually reaches its peak around April 1, officials say. As temperatures warm, the snowpack melts and runs off into the state's reservoirs, providing California with about 30% of its water.

On Tuesday the water content of the statewide snowpack stood at 87% of average for the day — far better than the 5% showing a year ago but still less than officials would like.

"Conditions aren't suddenly flipped on their head when we get a little bit of rain," said Doug Carlson, a spokesman for the Department of Water Resources. "The big picture is not rain.... The big picture is weather and climate. We most likely have lived into a new normal."

[matt.stevens@latimes.com](mailto:matt.stevens@latimes.com)

## Sierra snowpack shows improvement, but not enough to declare California's drought over

Matt Stevens, March 31, 2016

In a symbolic moment in California's slow but steady drought recovery, a state surveyor on Wednesday found several feet of snow in the same Sierra Nevada meadow that was bare and brown just a year ago.

The depth of the snowpack was declared to be just below average, a huge improvement from last year, but still far from enough to declare the drought over.

Around 11 a.m., Frank Gehrke, chief of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program, thrust a long silver tube into Phillips Station's renewed, robust snowpack and, minutes later, told gathered reporters that there was more than 58 inches of snow on the ground.

That snow held 26 inches of water content, he said, just short of average for the date.

Last year was bleak. This year is better. See how California's snowpack has improved amid ongoing drought  
"A big improvement compared to last year," Gehrke said, "but not what we had hoped for."

The Phillips Station measurement — which officials said was 97% of average — provides data for just one location and therefore is considered more symbolic than definitive. The results from the station about 90 miles east of Sacramento are not necessarily representative of statewide conditions, officials say.

Water officials prefer to use the electronic readings taken remotely at about 100 stations across the Sierra Nevada for a more accurate assessment. The latest readings, taken Wednesday around 8:30 a.m. showed that the water content held by the state's snowpack was about 24 inches, or 87% of normal.

Though still below average now, the snowpack was in infinitely worse shape a year ago. On April 1, 2015, the statewide snowpack's water content was just 5% of normal — the lowest ever recorded and the worst in hundreds of years. Data suggested that on average there was one inch of water hidden in the snow, but there was no snow at all on the Phillips Station field.

"This was a dry, dusty field last year," Gehrke said, adding that Wednesday's snowpack "seems good because it's so much better than last year."

Snowpack is important to California's hydrology because when it melts, the water feeds into the state's reservoirs; those reservoirs, in turn, send water to farmers in the Central Valley and to urban dwellers in Southern California. In normal years, it supplies about 30% of the state's water needs.

The annual April 1 measurement is telling, officials say, because the snowpack traditionally peaks around that time.

Gov. Jerry Brown was on hand for last year's April 1 snowpack measurement to unveil a historic executive order requiring a 25% reduction in urban water use statewide — the first such mandatory measure in California history.

There were no dramatic announcements Wednesday. An advisory from Brown's office sent early in the day said the governor was out of the state.

State snowpack has changed a lot in the last year — as have Californians' attitudes toward water  
Asked whether California was still in a drought, Gehrke hedged.

"We're barely average. It stops that downward slide," he said. "Now we're clearly looking at next year, and there are no reliable indicators of what next year will bring."

## DESERT WATER AGENCY

### PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

**March 2016**

#### **Activities:**

03/1/16-03/31/16	Vicki Petek conducted 28 Turf Buy Back post-conversion and follow-up inspections.
03/01/16	Ashley Hudgens was interviewed by KMIR about water restriction enforcement.
03/02/16	Ashley Hudgens was interviewed by KPCC 90.3 about water restriction enforcement.
03/03/16	Ashley Hudgens was interviewed on the Joey English radio show about water restriction enforcement.
03/03/16	Ashley Hudgens was on a live conservation segment with KESQ on water restriction enforcement.
03/10/16	Ashley Hudgens was on a live conservation segment with KESQ on groundwater management.
03/11/16	Ashley Hudgens attended the CAI luncheon.
03/12/16	DWA provided the water trailer to the Chalk Art Festival.
03/15/16	Ashley Hudgens attended and presented to Cathedral City Rotary on the drought and conservation.
3/16/16	Ashley Hudgens was on a live conservation segment with KESQ on Colorado River imports.

#### **Public Information Releases:**

March 1, 2016 - Desert Water Agency Steps up Water Waste Enforcement

#### **Water Conservation Reviews:**

Deepwell Condos  
Fairways Condos  
Greenhouse Condos

Indian Canyon Gardens  
Palm Springs Villas  
P.S. Unified School District (9)

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.

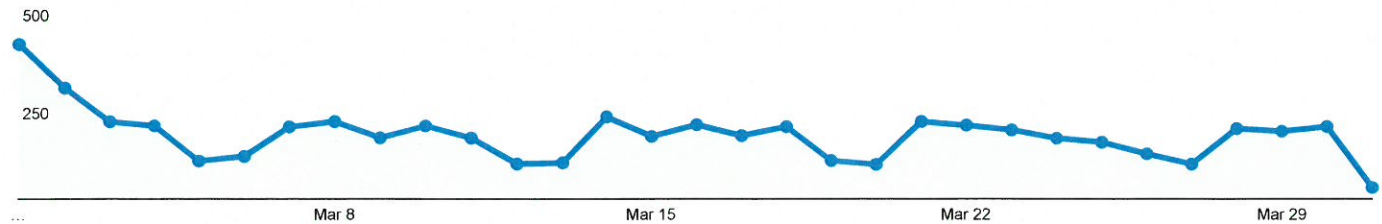
## Audience Overview

Mar 1, 2016 - Mar 31, 2016

All Users  
100.00% Sessions

### Overview

Sessions



Sessions

5,090

Users

4,101

Pageviews

11,478

Pages / Session

2.26

Avg. Session Duration

00:01:50

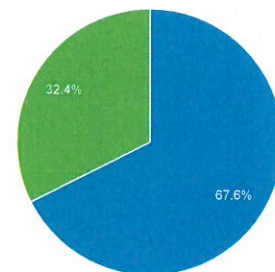
Bounce Rate

50.86%

% New Sessions

67.58%

New Visitor Returning Visitor



Language	Sessions	% Sessions
1. en-us	3,881	76.25%
2. (not set)	956	18.78%
3. en-ca	117	2.30%
4. en-gb	47	0.92%
5. en	13	0.26%
6. bg	10	0.20%
7. ko-kr	8	0.16%
8. zh-tw	7	0.14%
9. zh-cn	5	0.10%
10. c	4	0.08%

**Desert Water Agency**  
Public Services

**DON'T DISMISS THE DROUGHT**

**Check your watering schedule today**

[www.dwa.org/restrictions](http://www.dwa.org/restrictions)

**IRRIGATION SCHEDULE**

SUN MON TUES WED THU FRI SAT

BEFORE 7:00 A.M. OR AFTER 7:00 P.M.

Contact Us

Liked

Message

**Desert Water Agency**  
**Facebook Analytics**  
**March 2016**

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
03/30/2016 2:06 pm	Sierra snowpack shows improvement - but not enough to end the			254	26 9	
03/30/2016 9:36 am	Good to know! Less maintenance time = more water savings. Wi			81	3 2	
03/28/2016 9:05 am	Wind advisory! You know what that means - no sprinklers.			19	0 0	
03/25/2016 9:43 am	The stop sign isn't the only thing that would make you brake in fro			140	16 3	
03/24/2016 9:22 am	What do kids, water conservation and rubber ducks have in co			307	7 9	
03/21/2016 9:24 am	Don't let water blow away in the wind - skip sprinklers.			53	2 4	
03/16/2016 8:30 am	We'll be there. Stop by and say hello!			20	0 0	
03/17/2016 3:50 pm	Allocations for State Water Project were increased again today.			271	5 4	
03/17/2016 2:18 pm	TRAFFIC ALERT (3/17 @ 2:15 p.m.): a leak has forced closure of			105	6 1	
03/16/2016 3:26 pm	Stop by the water wise leak workshop at Coachella Valley Water			17	0 0	
03/16/2016 2:19 pm	Take a look at this update on snow pack.			267	18 3	
03/16/2016 9:05 am	Desert Water Agency customers saved 25% in February. Our cum			284	5 8	
03/15/2016 10:06 am	Good question: will CA ease conservation goals as reservoirs refill			242	8 8	
03/14/2016 2:47 pm	TIME CHANGE NOTE: please change your irrigation timers too.			138	1 2	
03/14/2016 1:44 pm	Are you chasing down ideas for #FixALeak? Running toilet			286	9 11	
03/11/2016 5:17 pm	I spy rain! Turn off those sprinklers.			308	16 24	
03/10/2016 8:36 am	Spending ten minutes can save you big time! #FixALeak.			57	4 2	
03/09/2016 4:53 pm	Remember to water ONLY Monday, Wednesday and Friday before			14	0 1	
03/08/2016 10:43 am	Did you know that you can adopt a tree through the Palm Springs			372	10 10	
03/07/2016 3:43 am	In case you missed it: DWA Board President Jim Cioffi was featur			539	38 10	
03/07/2016 8:03 am	Wind, rain and thunder, oh my!			206	15 2	
03/04/2016 9:15 am	Here's hoping for a rainy March to make up for the dry February.			70	2 1	
03/01/2016 12:01 pm	Today, DWA's Board of Directors adopted an ordinance to increas			154	13 2	



## Desert Water Agency Facebook Analytics March 2016

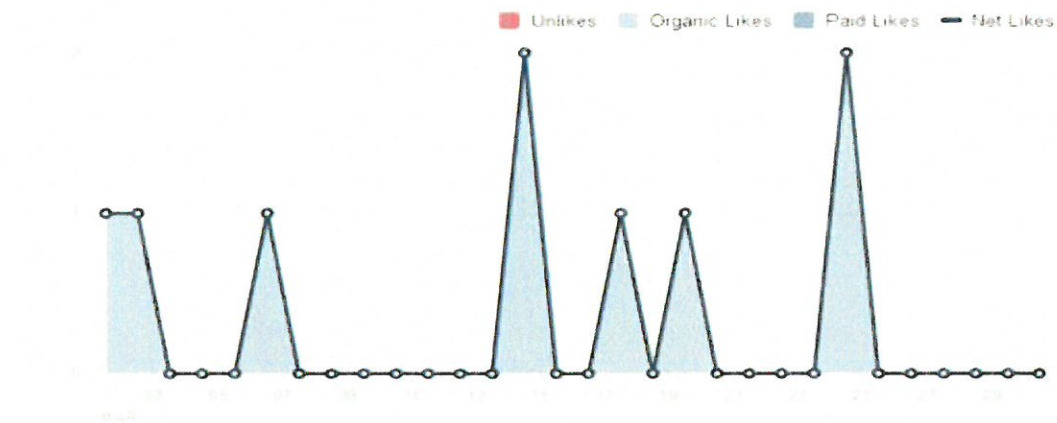
Total Page Likes as of Today: 816



**BENCHMARK**  
Compare your average performance over time  
Total Page Likes

### Net Likes

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



**BENCHMARK**  
Compare your average performance over time  
Unlikes  
Organic Likes  
Paid Likes  
Net Likes

**WANT MORE LIKES?**  
Create an ad to get more people to like your Page

[Promote Page](#)

### Where Your Page Likes Happened

The number of times your Page was liked, broken down by where it happened



**BENCHMARK**  
Compare your average performance over time  
Uncategorized Desktop  
On Your Page  
Page Suggestions  
Uncategorized Mobile



## Desert Water Agency Twitter Analytics March 2016

### 28 day summary with change over previous period



Mar 2016 · 30 days so far

#### TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

##### Top Tweet earned 842 impressions

Will CA ease conservation targets? My magic 8 ball says: Outlook good  
[sacbee.com/news/state/cal](http://sacbee.com/news/state/cal)

👤 ❤️

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

##### No new followers in March

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

[Learn more about using Cards on Twitter](#)

##### Top mention earned 21 engagements



89.3 KPCC

@KPCC · Mar 2

@DWAwater's new ordinance steps up conservation enforcement [kpcc.com/1ORXIGF](https://kpcc.com/1ORXIGF)  
[pic.twitter.com/QzZTSppCMr](https://pic.twitter.com/QzZTSppCMr)



👤 ❤️

[View Tweet](#)

##### Top media Tweet earned 209 impressions

DWA customers saved 25% in Feb. Overall savings is 26.5%

Still have to meet 32% requirement

[#DontDismissTheDrought](#)

[pic.twitter.com/CJQJ8R3sHb](https://pic.twitter.com/CJQJ8R3sHb)



👤 ❤️

[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 people

[Get started](#)

#### MAR 2016 SUMMARY

