

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

MEETING WILL BE HELD **VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**
AT 3:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

Remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: [+1 469-998-7311, 418942414#](tel:+14699987311) or via the Web at: [Join the meeting now](#)

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MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the CAG relating to any non-agenda matter within the CAG’s jurisdiction. The time for public comment allotted for each individual shall not exceed three minutes.)
3. Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Membership Review
4. Well Registration and Metering Program
 - a. Facilitation Support Services Update from Stantec
5. 5-Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan Evaluation (Chapters 1 – 3)
6. Overview of Groundwater Management Responsibilities, Reporting Requirements, and Fees Within the Eastern Management Area ([Packet Pages: 3-49](#))
7. EMA GSA Initiatives Update
 - a. Potential for Consolidation/Streamlining of Annual Reports
 - b. Groundwater Extraction Fee
 - c. Other Proposition 68 Grant Initiatives
8. Grant/Financing Opportunities
 - a. IRWM Quarterly Grant Opportunities Newsletter ([Packet Pages: 50-58](#))
9. Future CAG Meeting Date/Time
 - a. Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:00 PM
10. CAG Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items
11. Future EMA GSA Board meetings
 - a. Thursday, July 23, 2026 4:00 PM
 - b. CAG Report-Out

12. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted prior to the meeting at ema-SantaYnezWater.org. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency at (805) 457-5065. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA)

2025 EMA GSA Rate Study
Draft Report – April 2025

Prepared by: Water Resources Economics, LLC



**Water Resources
Economics**

PROMOTING THE VALUE AND PRICE OF
WATER SERVICE

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April 22, 2025

Daniel Heimel
Executive Director
SYRVGB Eastern Management Area GSA
PO Box 68
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Subject: EMA GSA Rate Study Report

Dear Mr. Heimel,

Water Resources Economics, LLC (WRE) is pleased to submit this Rate Study Report to the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (SYRVGB) Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA). The goal of the study was to develop a five-year schedule of rates to fund the operations and administration of the EMA GSA under the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The resulting rates will allow the EMA GSA to sufficiently fund its operating cost requirements, meet its financial performance targets, and comply with cost-of-service principles over the study period. Our project team has a proven track record of developing fair and equitable rates for numerous public utility agencies in California over the past 25 years. We are confident in our ability to develop rates that satisfy the requirements of Proposition 218.

It has been a pleasure assisting the EMA GSA, and we appreciate the support provided by yourself, EMA GSA staff, and the Board of Directors during this study.

Sincerely,



Sanjay Gaur
Founder / President



Nancy Phan
Principal Consultant

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 EMA GSA BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted in the state of California in 2014, which provided a framework for local agencies to protect and conserve groundwater supplies. SGMA requires local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage groundwater basins through the development and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The goal of SGMA is to sustainably manage groundwater resources in California and to avoid overdraft of basins over a 20-year period.

The Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (SYRVGB or Basin) is made up of three management areas that are each governed by a separate GSA, one of which includes the Eastern Management Area (EMA GSA). The EMA GSA is governed by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between four member agencies: the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), the Santa Ynez Water Conservation District Improvement District Number 1 (ID No. 1), the City of Solvang, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

1.2 RATE STUDY OVERVIEW

The EMA GSA engaged Water Resources Economics, LLC (WRE) in September 2024 to conduct a study to develop a rate that funds the operations and administration costs of the EMA GSA. As part of the study, WRE assisted the EMA GSA with evaluating the available funding mechanisms for this rate, which includes:

1. Property-related fees, or Proposition 218 rates
2. Regulatory fees, or Proposition 26 exempt fees
3. Benefit assessments
4. Special taxes

Each funding mechanism has procedural and substantive requirements that are specific to that mechanism. Regulatory fees (Proposition 26 exempt fees) have limitations on types of costs that can be funded with fee revenues. Implementation of a benefit assessment requires a majority approval by all parcel owners within the GSA, weighted based on financial obligation of the parcel owner. The implementation of a special tax requires two-thirds voter approval.

Due to implementation feasibility, funding flexibility, and legal defensibility, EMA GSA staff and the Board of Directors have opted to evaluate a Proposition 218 rate to fund the operations and administration costs of the GSA. The EMA GSA intends to collect the proposed rate revenues through the County of Santa Barbara's property tax roll. This billing methodology reduces the administrative burden and cost for EMA GSA staff and helps ensure that customers pay their bills annually; however, revenues will be generated up to twice per year through the County.

1.3 PROPOSITION 218 REQUIREMENTS

Legal considerations relating to property-related rates in California focus heavily on Proposition 218, which was enacted in 1996 and is now reflected in Article XIII C and Article XIII D of the California Constitution. Proposition 218 states that “property-related fees and charges” (which include GSA rates) may not exceed the proportional cost of providing the service to the customer and may not be used for any purpose other than providing said service. The practical implication is that public agencies in California must demonstrate a sufficient nexus between the costs incurred by the agency to provide service and the rates charged to customers.

Proposition 218 also affects the rate adoption process by requiring agencies to hold a public hearing to adopt rates. The agency must mail public hearing notices to all customers no fewer than 45 days prior to the public hearing. The public hearing notices must clearly show all proposed rate changes, provide information on the public hearing date/time/location, and provide instructions on how customers may protest the proposed rate. If a majority of customers submit a protest, the proposed rate cannot be adopted.

1.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMERS

This report summarizes the data, analyses, processes, and results of the EMA GSA’s rate study. Some important information to keep in mind when reading the report includes the following:

- All study projections are based on the best available data as of April 2025.
- All table values are rounded to the nearest digit shown unless stated otherwise. However, all calculations are based on precise values. Attempting to manually recreate the calculations described in this report from the values displayed in tables may therefore produce slightly different results.
- Financial projections are on a fiscal year (FY) basis. For the purposes of this study, FY 2026 is the year starting July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

1.5 FINANCIAL DRIVERS

The main financial driver of the rate study is the need to develop a revenue generating rate to fund the EMA GSA’s operating and administration costs. The EMA GSA currently does not have a recurring source of revenue to fund these costs. Current costs of the system are funded through financial contributions from the EMA GSA’s member agencies, which must be paid back over time, and Proposition 68 grant funds, which are depleted at the end of FY 2026. The financial planning period for the study is from FY 2025 (current fiscal year) to FY 2030 (last year of rates). The financial components driving the proposed rates include:

- **Operating and administration costs**, equal to approximately \$2.4 million from FY 2025 to FY 2030.
- **Payback of member agency contributions plus interest**, equal to approximately \$459 thousand from FY 2027 to FY 2030.

- **Annual operating contingency** to mitigate some financial risk associated with decreased groundwater extractions or increased operating costs, equal to 20% of annual operating costs and totals approximately \$486 thousand from FY 2025 to FY 2030.
- **Operating reserve funding** to ensure adequate cash flow since the EMA GSA receives revenues up to twice per year as part of the County property tax roll, equal to 50% of operating costs each and ranges from approximately \$125 thousand in FY 2025 to \$290 thousand in FY 2030.

1.6 UNITS OF SERVICE

The units of service are also known as the basis for the EMA GSA's revenue generating rate. WRE worked with EMA GSA staff and the Board of Directors to evaluate several options to determine the most appropriate units of service to utilize as part of the rate calculation. The options evaluated during the study include:

- Total parcels in EMA GSA
- Total acreage
- Total irrigated acreage
- Total estimated groundwater extractions in acre-feet (AF)

Based on direction from the EMA GSA Board of Directors, the units of service used in this study are estimated groundwater extractions in AF. The five-year average of groundwater extractions is used to calculate the proposed rates to account for annual fluctuations in hydrologic conditions (wet years and dry years). However, estimated groundwater extractions for each year will be used to calculate the annual bills of each customer.

1.7 PROPOSED RATES

The proposed rates in this study were developed to meet the EMA GSA's financial obligations, fund an annual operating contingency as directed by the Board of Directors, and build an operating reserve over the study period from FY 2026 through FY 2030. **Table 1-1** shows the proposed EMA GSA rates by AF of groundwater extraction for the five-year period, with implementation starting in July of every fiscal year.

Table 1-1: Proposed EMA GSA Rates

Line	Fiscal Year	Effective Date	Proposed Rates
1	FY 2026	July 2025	\$39.50
2	FY 2027	July 2026	\$41.50
3	FY 2028	July 2027	\$43.60
4	FY 2029	July 2028	\$45.80
5	FY 2030	July 2029	\$48.10

2. FINANCIAL PLAN AND RATES

2.1 FINANCIAL PLAN METHODOLOGY

The purpose of a financial plan is to project revenues, expenses, cash flows, and reserve balances over a multi-year period to assess financial sufficiency and performance. The goal of the financial plan is to determine the amount of required rate revenue each year. For this study, the planning period is from FY 2024 through FY 2030. The key steps in developing a financial plan for the EMA GSA are below:

- **Revenue projections:** Annual revenues from rates and other miscellaneous sources are projected over the planning period. Since the EMA GSA does not currently have a revenue generating rate in effect, the first year of rate revenues in FY 2026 is calculated based on the rate revenue requirement.
- **Expense projections:** Annual expenses are projected over the study period, including those related to internal operations, legal, technical support services, and expenses funded by Proposition 68 grant funds.
- **Financial policy evaluation:** Key financial policies include operating contingencies and reserve balance targets. The EMA GSA currently does not have any adopted financial policies; all the financial policies described in this report are based on WRE recommendations and direction from the Board of Directors.

2.2 ESTIMATED GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION

The units of service used in this study are estimated groundwater extractions per year in AF¹. The five-year average of groundwater extractions is used to calculate the proposed rates to account for annual fluctuations in hydrologic conditions (wet years and dry years). However, estimated groundwater extractions for each year will be used to calculate the annual bills of each customer.

Table 2-1 shows the estimated groundwater extractions for the past five water years² and the five-year average, which is used to calculate the proposed rates in a later section of this report. The estimated groundwater extractions for municipalities, mutual water companies, and rural domestic customers were derived from the EMA GSA's annual reports.

¹ An acre-foot is a unit of volume equal to the volume over an area of one acre and the depth of one foot. This is approximately equal to 43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons.

² A water year is the year starting on October 1 and ending September 30.

Table 2-1: Five-Year Estimated Groundwater Extractions (AF)

Line	Water Year	Municipalities	Mutual Water Companies	Rural Domestic	Agricultural	Total
1	2020	1,880	957	307	11,812	14,956
2	2021	2,320	963	309	13,379	16,971
3	2022	2,516	969	311	13,264	17,060
4	2023	2,516	975	313	9,099	12,903
5	2024	2,076	981	315	9,436	12,808
6	5-Year Average	2,262	969	311	11,398	14,940

2.3 REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Revenues and expense projections over the study period were based on budget documents provided by EMA GSA staff. **Table 2-2** shows the financial assumptions utilized in the study. Interest income is calculated based on projected fund balances and a conservative interest rate of 1.0% (Line 2). All other non-rate revenues are non-inflated. The General expense inflationary assumption (Line 4) is equal to 3.0% and derived from the EMA GSA's budget documents. Interest rates for payback of member agency contributions (Line 5) are equal to 3.0%.

Table 2-2: Financial Assumptions

Line	Assumptions	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Revenues						
2	Interest Income	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
3	Expenses						
4	General Inflation	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
5	Member Agency Interest	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

Table 2-3 shows the revenues from member agency contributions (Line 1) and the expenses from the annual payback from the EMA GSA to the member agencies (Line 2). The EMA GSA's member agencies are projected to contribute \$400 thousand in FY 2025 to maintain adequate cash flow at the start of the study period prior to the implementation of a revenue generating rate. The EMA GSA will pay back the member agencies annually starting in FY 2027 and ending in FY 2030. The last year of the payback schedule includes the accumulated interest based on the initial contribution amount and the assumed interest rate (**Table 2-2**, Line 5).

Table 2-3: Member Agency Contributions and Payback Schedule

Line	Member Agency Funds	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Contributions	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	Annual Payback	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$159,258

Table 2-4 shows the projected revenues for the study period, excluding any revenue generated from the proposed rates developed as part of the study. Proposed rate revenues will be calculated and incorporated in a later section of the report. Member agency contributions are \$400 thousand in FY 2025 (**Table 2-3**, Line 1). SGMA grant reimbursements (Line 2) from Proposition 68 grant funding will equal the total SGMA grant expenses on the expense side. Interest income (Line 3) is calculated based on the projected reserve balances and the interest income assumption (**Table 2-2**, Line 2).

Table 2-4: Projected Revenues (Excluding Rates)

Line	Revenues	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Member Agency Contributions	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	SGMA Grant Reimbursement	\$392,168	\$676,672	\$193,335	\$0	\$0	\$0
3	Interest Income	\$0	\$0	\$1,878	\$2,842	\$3,009	\$3,050
4	Total	\$792,168	\$676,672	\$195,213	\$2,842	\$3,009	\$3,050

Table 2-5 shows the projected expenses for the study period which are derived from the budget planning documents provided by EMA GSA staff and projected using the General inflation factor (**Table 2-2**, Line 4). Expense categories include internal operations/expenses, legal, technical support services, and SGMA grant expenses. Note that the total SGMA grant expenses (Line 24) from FY 2024 to FY 2026 are equal to the total SGMA grant reimbursements (**Table 2-4**, Line 2) from FY 2025 to FY 2027.

Table 2-5: Projected Expenses

Line	Expenses	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Internal Operations/Expenses							
2	Executive Director	\$0	\$113,057	\$151,988	\$156,547	\$161,244	\$166,081	\$171,064
3	Program Administration	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$51,500	\$53,045	\$54,636	\$56,275
4	Bookkeeping	\$0	\$6,200	\$6,386	\$6,578	\$6,775	\$6,978	\$7,187
5	Annual Audit	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138
6	General Liability Insurance	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,180	\$6,365	\$6,556	\$6,753	\$6,956
7	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,093	\$1,126	\$1,159
8	Website Hosting	\$0	\$2,280	\$2,348	\$2,419	\$2,491	\$2,566	\$2,643
9	Member Agency Payback	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$159,258
10	Subtotal	\$0	\$128,537	\$242,932	\$350,220	\$357,727	\$365,459	\$432,681
11								
12	Legal							
13	General Counsel	\$0	\$60,000	\$61,800	\$63,654	\$65,564	\$67,531	\$69,556
14	Specialized Legal Counsel	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510	\$23,185
15	Subtotal	\$0	\$80,000	\$82,400	\$84,872	\$87,418	\$90,041	\$92,742
16								
17	Technical Support Services							
18	Hydrogeologic/Engineering	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$51,500	\$53,045	\$54,636	\$56,275
19	Annual Report	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,000	\$56,650	\$58,350	\$60,100
20	Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$106,500	\$109,695	\$112,986	\$116,375
21								
22	SGMA Grant Expenses							
23	Proposition 68 Grants	\$102,165	\$386,670	\$773,339	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
24	Subtotal	\$102,165	\$386,670	\$773,339	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
25								
26	Total	\$102,165	\$595,207	\$1,148,671	\$541,592	\$554,840	\$568,485	\$641,798

2.4 FINANCIAL POLICIES

Table 2-6 shows the recommended financial policies that were developed based on WRE recommendations and direction received from the EMA GSA Board of Directors.

The annual operating contingency (Line 1) is equal to 20% of operating expenses each year and is designed to mitigate some financial risk associated with decreased groundwater extractions compared to the five-year average (**Table 2-1**) or increased operating costs compared to the expense projections (**Table 2-5**). The annual operating contingency totals approximately \$486 thousand from FY 2025 through FY 2030.

The operating reserve target (Line 2) is equal to 50% of operating expenses and is designed to ensure that the EMA GSA has adequate cash flow throughout the year to pay for necessary expenses. Revenues from the proposed rates would be collected through the County property tax roll up to twice per year. The reserve target ranges from approximately \$125 thousand in FY 2025 to \$290 thousand in FY 2030.

Table 2-6: Recommended Financial Policies

Line	Financial Policies	Policy Targets
1	Operating Contingency	20% of operating expenses
2	Operating Reserve Target	50% of operating expenses

2.5 RATE REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

Table 2-7 shows the rate revenue requirement (or the revenue required from rate revenues) for the first year of proposed rates in FY 2026. The revenue requirements (or expenses) are equal to the expenses projected in FY 2026 (**Table 2-5**). The revenue offsets (or non-rate revenues) are equal to the non-rate revenues projected in FY 2026 (**Table 2-4**). Adjustments (Line 16) include some reserve funding, with the goal of meeting the operating reserve target (**Table 2-6**, Line 2) at the end of the five-year rate period. The revenue required from rates (Line 20) is used to calculate the first year of proposed rates starting in FY 2026.

Table 2-7: Proposed Rate Revenue Requirement (FY 2026)

Line	Rate Revenue Requirement	FY 2026
1	Revenue Requirements (Expenses)	
2	Internal Operations/Expenses	\$242,932
3	Member Agency Payback	\$0
4	Legal	\$82,400
5	Technical Support Services	\$50,000
6	SGMA Grant Expenses	\$773,339
7	Contingency	\$75,066
8	Subtotal	\$1,223,738
9		
10	Revenue Offsets	
11	Member Agency Contributions	\$0
12	SGMA Grant Reimbursement	\$676,672
13	Interest Income	\$0
14	Subtotal	\$676,672
15		
16	Adjustments	
17	Reserve Funding	\$43,048
18	Subtotal	\$43,048
19		
20	Revenue Required from Rates	\$590,114

Table 2-8 shows the proposed rate calculation for FY 2026. The revenue required from rates (Line 1) is equal to the rate revenue requirement for FY 2026 (**Table 2-7**, Line 20) and the units of service area based on the five-year average groundwater in AF (**Table 2-1**, Line 6). The proposed rate for FY 2026 (Line 3) is calculated by dividing the revenue requirement (Line 1) by the units of service (Line 2).

Table 2-8: Proposed Rate Calculation (FY 2026)

Line	First Year Rate Calculation	FY 2026
1	Revenue Required from Rates	\$590,114
2	5-Year Average Groundwater (AF)	14,940
3	Proposed Rate (\$/AF)	\$39.50

Table 2-9 shows the proposed revenue adjustments and rates for the entire study period. The proposed rate for FY 2026 is calculated based on the revenue requirement for that year (**Table 2-8**). The proposed rates for other years assume a revenue and rate adjustment of 5% per year after FY 2026. The proposed revenue adjustments were developed to meet the EMA GSA's financial performance metrics (operating contingency and reserve targets) and to smooth out rate impacts over the study period.

Table 2-9: Proposed Revenue and Rate Adjustments

Line	Fiscal Year	Revenue Adjustments	Proposed Rates
1	FY 2026	Calculated	\$39.50
2	FY 2027	5.0%	\$41.50
3	FY 2028	5.0%	\$43.60
4	FY 2029	5.0%	\$45.80
5	FY 2030	5.0%	\$48.10

Table 2-10 shows the proposed rate revenues for the study period based on the proposed rates (**Table 2-9**) and the five-year average groundwater extractions in AF (**Table 2-1**, Line 6). The five-year average of groundwater extractions is used to calculate the proposed rates to account for annual fluctuations in hydrologic conditions (wet years and dry years). However, estimated groundwater extractions for each year will be used to calculate the annual bills of each customer; therefore, the actual rate revenues may differ from the projections based on annual groundwater extractions.

Table 2-10: Proposed Rate Revenues

Line	Proposed Rate Revenues	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Proposed Rates (\$/AF)	\$39.50	\$41.50	\$43.60	\$45.80	\$48.10
2	5-Year Average Groundwater (AF)	14,940	14,940	14,940	14,940	14,940
3	Proposed SGMA Rate Revenues	\$590,114	\$619,993	\$651,367	\$684,234	\$718,595

2.6 CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS

Table 2-11 shows the cash flow projections and financial plan summary for the study period. Revenues (Lines 1-6) are derived from the proposed rate revenues (**Table 2-10**, Line 3) and the projected non-rate revenues (**Table 2-4**). Expenses (Lines 9-13) are derived from the projected GSA expenses (**Table 2-5**). The contingency (Line 14) is calculated based on the 20% contingency assumption multiplied by total expenses less the member agency payback (Line 10) and SGMA grant expenses (Line 13). Member agency paybacks are excluded since these are not ongoing costs. SGMA grant expenses are excluded since these are fully reimbursed.

The net cash flow (Line 17) is the difference between total revenues and expenses for each year of the study. A positive net cash flow means that the EMA GSA is adding to its reserves; conversely, a negative net cash flow means that the EMA GSA is pulling from its reserves to fund operating expenses.

Table 2-11: Proposed Cash Flow Projections

Line	Cash Flow Projections	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Revenues							
2	SGMA Rates	\$0	\$0	\$590,114	\$619,993	\$651,367	\$684,234	\$718,595
3	Member Agency Contributions	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4	SGMA Grant Reimbursement	\$0	\$392,168	\$676,672	\$193,335	\$0	\$0	\$0
5	Interest Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,878	\$2,842	\$3,009	\$3,050
6	Subtotal	\$0	\$792,168	\$1,266,786	\$815,207	\$654,209	\$687,242	\$721,645
7								
8	Expenses							
9	Internal Operations/Expenses	\$0	\$128,537	\$242,932	\$250,220	\$257,727	\$265,459	\$273,422
10	Member Agency Payback	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$159,258
11	Legal	\$0	\$80,000	\$82,400	\$84,872	\$87,418	\$90,041	\$92,742
12	Technical Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$106,500	\$109,695	\$112,986	\$116,375
13	SGMA Grant Expenses	\$102,165	\$386,670	\$773,339	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
14	Contingency	\$0	\$41,707	\$75,066	\$88,318	\$90,968	\$93,697	\$96,508
15	Subtotal	\$102,165	\$636,914	\$1,223,738	\$629,911	\$645,808	\$662,182	\$738,306
16								
17	Net Cash Flow	(\$102,165)	\$155,254	\$43,048	\$185,296	\$8,401	\$25,060	(\$16,661)

2.7 FUND BALANCE PROJECTIONS

Table 2-12 shows the projected reserve balances for the study period. The EMA GSA started FY 2024 with no reserves. The net cash flow (Line 2) is derived from the cash flow projections (**Table 2-11**, Line 17). Over time, the EMA GSA will build its reserves to meet its financial performance targets at the end of the study period.

Table 2-12: Proposed Reserve Balance Projections

Line	Reserve Balances	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Beginning Balance	\$0	(\$102,165)	\$53,088	\$96,136	\$281,432	\$289,833	\$314,893
2	Net Cash Flow	(\$102,165)	\$155,254	\$43,048	\$185,296	\$8,401	\$25,060	(\$16,661)
3	Ending Balance	(\$102,165)	\$53,088	\$96,136	\$281,432	\$289,833	\$314,893	\$298,232

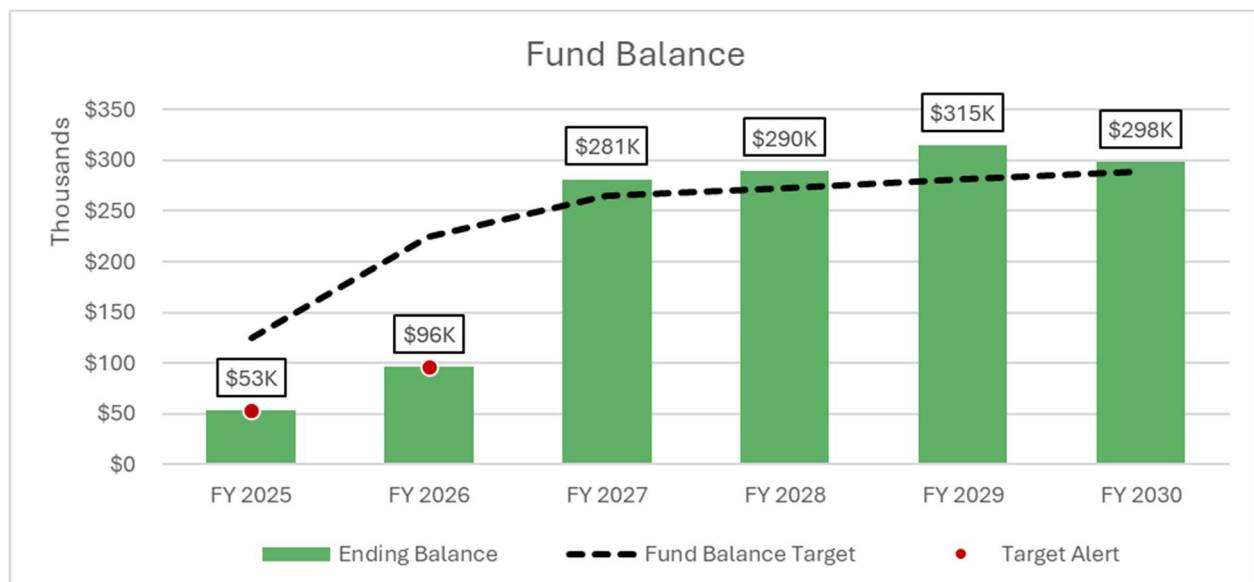
2.8 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Table 2-13 shows the financial performance based on the proposed financial plan and rates developed in this study. The ending reserve balance (**Table 2-12**, Line 3) is compared to the reserve balance target, which is equal to 50% of operating expenses in each year less member agency payback and SGMA grant expenses. The EMA GSA will not meet its reserve targets in FY 2026 as it starts to build its reserves over time but is expected to meet its reserve targets for all the following years.

Table 2-13: Proposed Financial Performance

Line	Financial Performance	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
1	Ending Balance	\$53,088	\$96,136	\$281,432	\$289,833	\$314,893	\$298,232
2	Reserve Balance Target	\$125,122	\$225,199	\$264,955	\$272,904	\$281,091	\$289,524
3	Meets Target?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Figure 2-1 shows the proposed fund balance projections. The green bars represent the ending balance (**Table 2-13**, Line 1) and the dashed line represents the reserve balance target (**Table 2-13**, Line 2). The EMA GSA will not meet its reserve targets in FY 2026 as it starts to build its reserves over time but is expected to meet its reserve targets for all the following years.

Figure 2-1: Proposed Fund Balance Projections

2.9 PROPOSED RATE SCHEDULE

Table 2-14 shows the proposed EMA GSA rates by AF of groundwater extraction for the five-year period, with implementation starting in July of every fiscal year. The proposed rates were designed to meet the annual financial obligations of the EMA GSA, fund an annual operating contingency of 20% as directed by the Board of Directors, and build an operating reserve equal to 50% of annual operating expenses each year by the end of the study period in FY 2030.

The five-year average of groundwater extractions is used to calculate the proposed rates to account for annual fluctuations in hydrologic conditions (wet years and dry years). However, estimated groundwater extractions for each year will be used to calculate the annual bills of each customer.

Table 2-14: Proposed EMA GSA Rates

Line	Fiscal Year	Effective Date	Proposed Rates
1	FY 2026	July 2025	\$39.50
2	FY 2027	July 2026	\$41.50
3	FY 2028	July 2027	\$43.60
4	FY 2029	July 2028	\$45.80
5	FY 2030	July 2029	\$48.10

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Rate Study Report – FINAL DRAFT

June 5, 2025

June 5, 2025

Mr. William J. Buelow
General Manager
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Subject: Groundwater Charge Rate Study Report – FINAL DRAFT

Dear Mr. Buelow:

Raftelis is pleased to provide this Groundwater Charge Rate Study report for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (District). This report includes a financial plan for fiscal year 2025-2026 (FYE 2026) through FYE 2030. From those plans and a cost-of-service analysis, groundwater rates for FYE 2026 have been developed.

The major objectives of the study include the following:

- Develop a financial plan to support financial sufficiency to meet operation and maintenance (O&M) costs and provide adequate reserves consistent with SYRWCD board policy.
- Conduct a cost-of-service study that is based on the District's costs.
- Calculate proposed, updated groundwater charge rates for FYE 2026.
- Conduct an analysis of the effects of the proposed rates on District groundwater producers; and
- Demonstrate that the amount raised by the proposed groundwater rates are necessary to reasonably cover the costs of the District's activities, and that proposed rates are allocated to District producers in a manner that bears a fair or reasonable relationship to the costs of serving them, consistent with Proposition 26 (Cal. Const., Art. 13C, § 1).

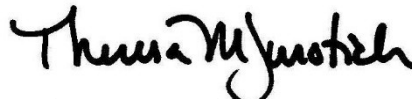
The report summarizes the key findings and recommendations related to the development of the financial plan and the development of the associated groundwater charge rates.

It has been a pleasure working with you, and we also appreciate your secretary's, Ms. Amber Thompson's, and the District engineer's and legal counsel's assistance during the course of the study.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sudhir Pardiwala.

Sudhir Pardiwala, PE
Senior Principal

A black ink signature of Theresa Jurotich.

Theresa Jurotich, PE
Manager

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Abbreviations & Acronyms

Terms	Descriptions
AF	Acre foot / Acre feet, 1 AF = 325,851 gallons
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FY	Fiscal Year (July 1st to June 30th)
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
Raftelis	Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board

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1. Executive Summary

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“District”) was formed in 1939. At the time of the District’s formation, investigations were under way to build another reservoir that would divert Santa Ynez River water from the watershed of the Santa Ynez River to the South Coastal Area of Santa Barbara County.

The District was formed for the purpose of, among other things, making surveys and investigations of water supplies and resources, and protecting, conserving and augmenting water rights and supplies, within the District, including, but not limited to, Santa Ynez River and groundwater supplies. As proposed, the District’s boundaries include “the entire watershed of the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries below Gibraltar drainage basin and excepting portions of the government land. ... [The District] is limited to the watershed of the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries because [the] district represents a unit area in which the problems of control and conservation are intimately associated and must be considered and solved together.” (See, FACTS About The Proposed Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Organization Committee, (May 1939), p. 7).

The District’s boundaries cover approximately 180,000 acres of land in two discontinuous areas within the watershed and Santa Ynez River Vally Groundwater Basin, extending from Lake Cachuma to the Pacific Ocean. The Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) recognizes the District’s sphere of influence to be the entire Santa Ynez River Watershed and its tributaries (<https://www.sblafco.org/santa-ynez-river-water-conservation-map>).

The District is a California Water Conservation District formed pursuant to the Water Conservation District Law of 1931 (Wat. Code, §§ 74000 *et seq.*). Pursuant to Water Code sections 74508 and 75500, *et seq.*, the District is expressly authorized to impose groundwater charges within its boundaries, which the Legislature has declared to be in furtherance of District activities in the protection and augmentation of the water supplies for users within the District or a zone or zones thereof which are necessary for the public health, welfare, and safety of the people of this state. (Wat. Code, § 75521.) The District has, since 1979, levied groundwater charges on all public and private operators of groundwater-producing facilities registered within the District to help recover its costs, including the costs of protecting, augmenting, conserving, and enhancing water rights and water supplies within the District.

The Santa Ynez River, including associated younger alluvium riparian deposits, comprise one of the largest water supply sources within the District and Basin. Due to the geographic nexus that the Santa Ynez River provides through the entire District, the adjacent upland groundwater aquifers benefit from the District’s activities including the augmentation of surface water of the Santa Ynez River, including the alluvium, and protection against water exports to the South Coast. Without the protection, conservation, and augmentation of the Santa Ynez River source by the District through various activities, including the District’s continued advocacy for and making and coordination of releases of Santa Ynez River water downstream of Cachuma Project’s Bradbury Dam for beneficial uses within the District, including as provided in SWRCB WRO 2019-0148 and the 2002 Settlement Agreement between the District, Improvement District No. 1 and the Cachuma Conservation Release Board (“CCRB”), and the absence of alternative supplies to meet water demands within the District, there would be additional pumping of groundwater from the upland groundwater zones adjacent to the Santa Ynez River zones (Zones A and B). The combined sustainable yield of the upland

groundwater Zones C through F (17,000 AFY) are a fraction of the average annual flow of the Santa Ynez River (100,000 AFY). This is because most of the rainfall in the Santa Ynez River watershed occurs upstream of Cachuma Lake at higher elevations.

The District's activities that are performed by its staff, consultants, and legal counsel include but are not limited to the following:

- Investigate, forecast and report on surface water and groundwater conditions within the District, including, estimates of surface water use, and imported water purchased by contract; estimated groundwater use and volume of groundwater overdraft; and estimates of groundwater in storage, as required by and pursuant to Water Code section 75560 *et seq.*
- Determine the volume of groundwater needed to replenish dewatered storage in alluvial aquifers below Cachuma Project's Bradbury Dam. Plan, schedule, and administer the release of water from and downstream of the Bradbury Dam for the satisfaction and benefit of downstream water rights and water quality, including the timing, location, volume, and rate of flows needed to recharge the river alluvium and the Lompoc Plain for the Above Narrows Account ("ANA") and Below Narrows Account ("BNA"), as provided in State Water Resources Control Board Order No. WRO 2019-0148 and the 2002 Settlement Agreement, which describes in detail, the District's role to protect and augment water supplies within the District.
- Coordinate and provide advance warning to District constituents downstream of Bradbury Dam regarding impending storm operations minimizing potential damage to downstream assets along the lower Santa Ynez River.
- Review and contribute to the preparation of, and compliance with applicable biological assessments and opinions, including associated consultations, revisions, and replacements, for the protection of endangered species in the Santa Ynez River, in a manner that assures that downstream water rights and water quality in the basin and downstream of Bradbury Dam are augmented, conserved, and protected.
- Require, collect, record, and maintain records of individual groundwater producer's production within the District (since 1979) as part of its groundwater production reporting program.
- Levy and collect charges on groundwater production within the District to fund the District's operations.
- Provide technical and legal expertise to District's constituents to protect downstream water rights.
- Participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan process to promote regional water management strategies to ensure sustainable and reliable water supplies, including the protection of agriculture.
- Coordinate and support integrated watershed management within the Santa Ynez Basin, as a member agency of all three GSAs in the Basin, and as one of the largest and longest standing water-resource management agencies in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.
- Support all three GSAs' implementation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to achieve their respective groundwater sustainability goals. This includes providing groundwater production and other data to support GSA activities, as requested by the GSAs, and data collected by the District as part of its groundwater production reporting program.
- Develop and submit grant applications and administer over \$6.5M in grant funding as Grantee on behalf of the three GSAs to support SGMA activities in the Basin.

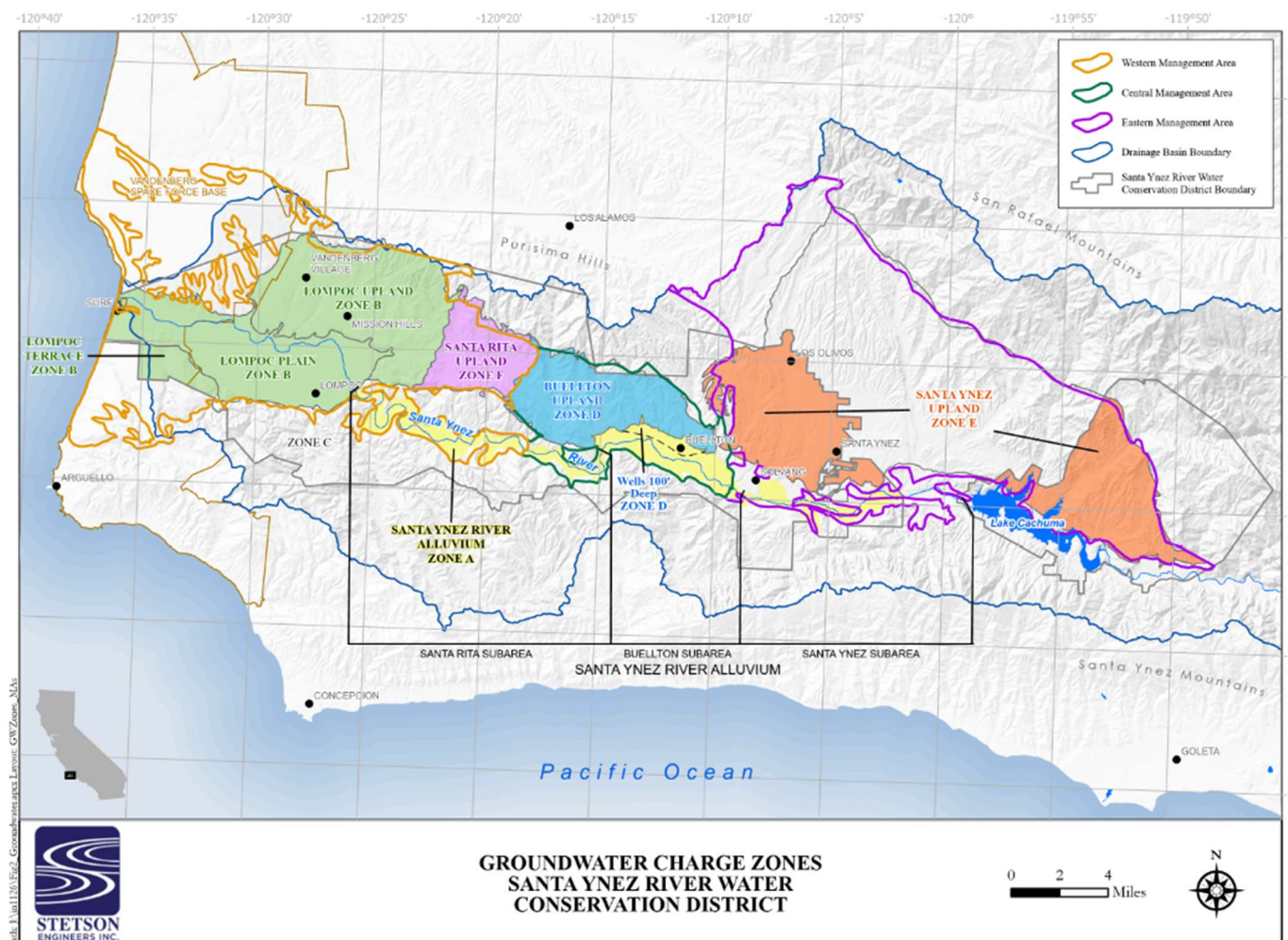
The District comprises two non-contiguous areas and encompasses approximately 180,000 acres that includes the cities of Lompoc, Solvang, and Buellton; the communities of Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, Santa

Ynez, and Los Olivos; two federal installations; and rural areas with agriculture and suburban development. Groundwater, as defined by Water Code section 75502, mostly occurs in the unconsolidated alluvial deposits of the Santa Ynez River and Lompoc Plain and in the older poorly consolidated deposits of the Santa Ynez Upland, Lompoc Upland, Buellton Upland, Santa Rita Upland, and Lompoc Terrace subareas. These subareas are defined as zones as follows:

- Zone A – District portion of the Santa Ynez River alluvial channel from San Lucas Bridge downstream to Lompoc Narrows
- Zone B – District portion of the Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Upland, and Lompoc Terrace groundwater subareas
- Zone C – All other portions of the District not included in Zones A, B, D, E, and F
- Zone D – District portion of the Buellton Upland subarea (including a portion of the groundwater aquifer extending under Zone A)
- Zone E – District portion of the Santa Ynez Upland subarea
- Zone F – District portion of the Santa Rita Upland subarea

The zones are shown in two dimensions in Figure 1-1, on the following page.

Figure 1-1: Groundwater Zones



The major objectives of this study include the following:

- Develop a financial plan to support financial sufficiency, meet operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, and provide adequate reserves.
- Conduct a water cost-of-service study that is based on the District's costs.
- Calculate proposed, updated water rates for Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) June 30, 2026 (FYE 2026).
- Conduct an analysis of the effects of the proposed rates on District groundwater producers; and
- Demonstrate that the amount raised by the proposed groundwater rates are necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the District's required activities, and that proposed rates are allocated to District producers in a manner that bears a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received, from the District's activities, consistent with Proposition 26 (Cal. Const., Art. 13C, § 1).

This report summarizes the rate study's 5-year financial plan and FYE 2026 rate development. The District intends to update this 5-year plan every year with a new 5-year projection so that the Board can maintain a 5-year outlook. However, the District's rates are set on an annual basis under Water Code sections 75500-75642.

1.1. Methodology

Raftelis and the District developed the proposed groundwater rates using cost-of-service principles set forth by the American Water Works Association M1 Manual titled *Principles of Water Rates, Fees and Charges*, with modifications to align with the requirements of California's Proposition 26 and related California law.

Raftelis worked with District staff to develop a financial plan by preparing detailed projections of revenue sources and expenditure items. The operating revenues and O&M costs estimates are based on projected groundwater pumping from the findings of Stetson Engineers' *Forty-Seventh Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District* dated March 3, 2025, as adjusted based on receipt of any amended pumping reports received after the publication of the report, current rates, and District staff estimates of revenues and costs. The financial plan projection shows that revenue adjustments in FYE 2026 – FYE 2030 are not needed to meet annual obligations and maintain reserves at the recommended levels, because the District does not anticipate continuing to loan the GSA's funds to cover SGMA costs after FYE 2026. However, as groundwater production changes the cost allocations may change, resulting in updated rates for FYE 2026. Additionally, property tax revenue was used to adjust groundwater charge rates as described below.

Raftelis calculated the District's revenue requirements for FYE 2026 and the resulting rates and structure.

1.2. Proposed Financial Plan and Revenue Adjustments

The financial planning model enables the District to set rates to generate sufficient revenue to meet its short-term obligations. Table 1-1 shows the proposed groundwater charge revenue adjustments for FYE 2026. The projected adjustments for FYE 2026 - FYE 2029 are shown for planning purposes only. The reductions in revenue adjustments are a result of

- Increased revenue from ad-valorem property taxes
- Increased groundwater production
- Reduced SGMA expenses for District
- Reduced loans to GSAs and sunseting after FYE 2026

- Higher starting fund balances

The resulting fund balances meet the District's targets.

Table 1-1: Proposed Revenue Adjustments

Date	Proposed/Projected Revenue Adjustment
July 1, 2025	-10.0%
<i>July 1, 2026</i>	<i>-7.0%</i>
<i>July 1, 2027</i>	<i>-7.0%</i>
<i>July 1, 2028</i>	<i>-7.0%</i>
<i>July 1, 2029</i>	<i>-7.0%</i>

Table 1-2 shows the projected financial plan based on the District's budgeted expenses, rate-based revenue under existing rates, and other non-rate revenue incorporating the proposed revenue reductions (Lines 2 - 6). Note that while rates go into effect at the beginning of the fiscal year, due to semi-annual billing and timing of payments, revenues under the adjustments are only realized for half of the fiscal year in the first year. Therefore, the Number of Months Effective, 'No. Mon. "Effective"' column shows 6 months instead of 12. Line 1 shows revenue from the current rates, assuming no change in rates. Line 7 shows the revenue adjustments each year. Other Revenues are shown in Lines 8 - 13. Line 8 shows projected property tax revenue. Line 9 shows a small amount of miscellaneous revenue. Line 10 shows revenue from the CMA for administrative support. Line 11 shows SGMA grant administration reimbursement. Interest revenues (Line 12) are based on budgeted numbers in FYE 2025 and FYE 2026 and then presumed to be 2.5 percent for the remaining fiscal years. Line 14 shows total projected revenues.

Table 1-2: Projected Financial Plan Cashflow

No.	Cashflow			FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
1	Groundwater Rate Revenue Under Existing Rates			\$685,168	\$719,489	\$719,489	\$719,489	\$719,489	\$719,489
	Revenue Adjustments	% Adj.	No. Mon. "Effective"						
2	FY 2026	-10.0%	6		(\$35,974)	(\$71,949)	(\$71,949)	(\$71,949)	(\$71,949)
3	FY 2027	-7.0%	6			(\$22,664)	(\$45,328)	(\$45,328)	(\$45,328)
4	FY 2028	-7.0%	6				(\$21,077)	(\$42,155)	(\$42,155)
5	FY 2029	-7.0%	6					(\$19,602)	(\$39,204)
6	FY 2030	-7.0%	6						(\$18,230)
7	Total Revenue Adjustments			\$0	(\$35,974)	(\$94,613)	(\$138,354)	(\$179,033)	(\$216,865)
	Other Revenue								
8	SB County Property Taxes			\$400,000	\$412,000	\$424,360	\$437,091	\$450,204	\$463,710
9	Misc. Income			\$242	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
10	Administrative Support to GSA(s)			\$90,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
11	SGMA Grant Administration/Reimbursement			\$36,000	\$104,276	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12	Interest Income			\$90,000	\$75,000	\$67,091	\$74,401	\$78,294	\$77,608
13	Total Other Revenue			\$616,242	\$631,526	\$531,701	\$551,741	\$568,747	\$581,567
14	Total Revenue			\$1,301,410	\$1,315,040	\$1,156,577	\$1,132,876	\$1,109,202	\$1,084,191
	Operation & Maintenance								
15	Routine Operation			\$778,000	\$800,313	\$824,738	\$849,908	\$875,846	\$902,576
16	Special Studies			\$47,000	\$40,000	\$41,200	\$42,436	\$43,709	\$45,020
17	SGMA			\$35,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
18	Legal & Engineering								
19	General and Misc.			\$46,500	\$44,500	\$45,835	\$47,210	\$48,626	\$50,085
20	Annual G.W. Report			\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138
21	WR Decision (2019-0148)			\$6,000	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$44,558	\$45,895	\$47,271
22	Downstream Releases / Upper SYR Operations			\$16,000	\$74,500	\$76,735	\$79,037	\$81,408	\$83,850
23	Fisheries Issues/Hydrology			\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510
24	Contingency			\$30,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
25	Total Operation & Maintenance			\$998,500	\$1,131,313	\$1,138,118	\$1,170,889	\$1,204,657	\$1,239,451
26	GSA Loan & Repayment			(\$281,124)	(\$325,000)	\$302,173	\$302,173	\$142,735	\$53,110
27	Refund of Overpayment Due to Incorrect Reporting			\$59,902					
28	Net Income (Annual Surplus/(Deficit))			(\$38,116)	(\$141,273)	\$320,631	\$264,159	\$47,280	(\$102,151)
29	Beginning Balance			\$2,702,706	\$2,664,590	\$2,523,317	\$2,843,948	\$3,108,107	\$3,155,388
30	Ending Balance			\$2,664,590	\$2,523,317	\$2,843,948	\$3,108,107	\$3,155,388	\$3,053,237
31	Target Reserve (1)			\$2,390,000	\$2,485,907	\$2,500,541	\$2,515,622	\$2,531,161	\$2,547,173
32	Minimum Reserve			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

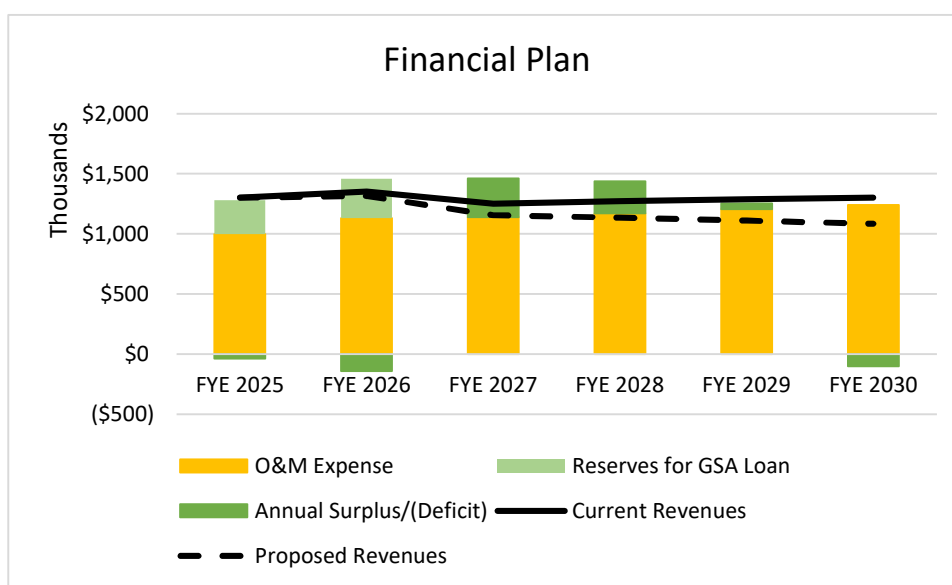
(1) Target Reserve = Min + 50% Operating Expenses excluding SGA-related costs.

Lines 15 – 25 summarize the O&M expense projections. Line 26 shows the projected GSA loan to the GSA's for their operational budgets and then the GSA's anticipated repayment of the loans. Lines 29 and 30 show the projected beginning and ending Investment Reserves fund balance, respectively. Line 31 shows the target reserve, which is the minimum reserve of \$2 million plus 50 percent of annual operating expenses excluding SGMA-related costs (Table 3-7). The minimum reserve is established by Board policy to cover emergencies and unexpected events, including potential litigation. The remainder of the reserve is recommended by Raftelis to provide working capital for the District's expenses, given the required semiannual billing. Revenue adjustments proposed in this financial plan are calculated to draw upon this reserve while still staying at or above target by the end of FYE 2030. Comparing Line 30 to Line 31 and Line 32 shows that the financial

plan is expected to maintain reserves at or above the target reserve requirements. The proposed financial plan supports financial sufficiency and solvency for the District to meet projected expenditures.

Figure 1-2 graphically illustrates the proposed operating Financial Plan – it compares the existing (current) and proposed revenues with projected expenses. The stacked bars show O&M expenses. The green bars above the X-axis show the net cash used to build up the reserves and the bars below the X-axis show the withdrawals from reserves to fund costs. The annual deficit shown in FYE 2025 and FYE 2026 is due mostly to the GSA loans, and the annual surplus in FYE 2027 through FYE 2029 is mostly due to the GSAs' repayment of the loans provided by the District. Then reserves are draw upon again in FYE 2030. Total revenues at existing and proposed rates are shown by horizontal black solid and dashed lines, respectively.

Figure 1-2: Projected Financial Plan



1.3. Proposed FY 2025-2026 Rates

1.3.1. Proposed Groundwater Charge Rates

Table 1-3 presents the current water rate and the proposed FYE 2026 water rate. While the overall revenue is projected to be sufficient for FYE 2026, changes in groundwater production as well as discretionary use of property tax revenues result in updated rates for each zone. The proposed rate is rounded up to the nearest ten cents to ensure adequate cost recovery.

Table 1-3: Current and Proposed Usage Rates, \$/AF

Rate	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Current	\$22.60	\$15.70	\$13.70	\$13.70	\$13.70	\$13.70
Proposed, FYE 2026	\$22.00	\$14.80	\$9.20	\$9.20	\$9.20	\$9.20

1.3.2. Average Producer Statement Impact

The average usage varies by zone, and therefore Table 1-4 through Table 1-6 illustrates the groundwater producer's statement impact for an average agricultural producer, an average special irrigation producer, and an average Other (non-agricultural) producer within each zone on the January 2025 statement. Average groundwater extraction per statement is based on FYE 2024 data from Stetson Engineers' *Forty-Seventh Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District* dated March 3, 2025, as adjusted based on receipt of any amended pumping reports received after the publication of the report.

Table 1-4: Average Agricultural Producer by Zone, FYE 2026 Statement Impact

Agricultural	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Average AF/Statement	35.2	49.1	0.3	11.9	6.5	15.8
Current Statement	\$795.52	\$770.48	\$3.67	\$162.98	\$89.18	\$216.69
Proposed Statement	\$774.40	\$726.31	\$2.47	\$109.45	\$59.89	\$145.51
Statement Change, \$	-\$21.12	-\$44.17	-\$1.21	-\$53.53	-\$29.29	-\$71.17

Table 1-5: Average Special Irrigation Producer by Zone, FYE 2026 Statement Impact

Special Irrigation	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Average AF/Statement	2.5	3.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0
Current Statement	\$56.45	\$50.62	\$1.79	\$4.10	\$0.70	\$0.00
Proposed Statement	\$54.95	\$47.71	\$1.20	\$2.75	\$0.47	\$0.00
Statement Change, \$	-\$1.50	-\$2.90	-\$0.59	-\$1.35	-\$0.23	\$0.00

Table 1-6: Average Other (Non-Agricultural) Producer by Zone, FYE 2026 Statement Impact

Non-Agricultural	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Average AF/Statement	8.2	17.9	11.7	5.4	5.1	1.6
Current Statement	\$184.90	\$281.23	\$159.88	\$74.60	\$70.30	\$21.27
Proposed Statement	\$180.00	\$265.11	\$107.37	\$50.10	\$47.21	\$14.28
Statement Change, \$	-\$4.91	-\$16.12	-\$52.52	-\$24.51	-\$23.09	-\$6.99

2. Legal Framework

Proposition 26, codified in the California Constitution as Article XIII C, was approved by voters in 2010 to require a supermajority vote to pass new taxes. Furthermore, Proposition 26 expanded the definition of “tax.” Under the new definition, a tax is any levy, charge, or action of any kind imposed by a local government. Any fees or charges that are not exempted in the language of Proposition 26 are considered taxes and subject to voter approval.

Under Proposition 26, local water agencies must demonstrate their fees and charges are not taxes by showing that they fall within one of the exceptions in Proposition 26, which include, among others, the following:

(e) As used in this article, “tax” means any levy, charge, or exaction of any kind imposed by a local government, except the following:

(1) A charge imposed for a specific benefit conferred or privilege granted directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the government of conferring the benefit or granting the privilege.

(2) A charge imposed for a specific government service or product provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of providing the service or product.

In order not to be considered a tax, Prop 26 requires that local agencies must demonstrate “that the amount is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor’s burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.”

The calculation of the rates and charges, proportional to the service received, in this study are not considered taxes under Proposition 26 because the costs bear a fair and reasonable relationship to the payor’s burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.

3. Financial Plan

Determining a district's revenue requirement is a key first step in the rate study process. Raftelis analyzed annual operating revenue under the status quo, operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses, and prudent reserve funding practices. This section of the report provides a discussion of the projected revenues, O&M expenses, reserve funding requirements, and the revenue adjustments needed to support fiscal sustainability and solvency.

3.1. Key Information Used in this Report

This report utilizes the following key information provided by the District:

- FYE 2025 estimated end of year operating costs and FYE 2026 operating budget
- Historical and forecast volume of groundwater production
- Historical groundwater charge rates
- Beginning reserve-fund balances as of FYE 2025
- Forecast SGMA costs and grant reimbursements FYE 2025 – FYE 2030. These cost projections assume that the GSAs will start loan repayments in FYE 2027 and finish repayment in FYE 2030.

3.2. Revenue from Current Groundwater Charge Rates

3.2.1. Current Groundwater Charge Rates

The current groundwater charge rates are on a volumetric basis per acre-foot (AF) and are shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Current rates (\$/AF)

Rate	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Current	\$22.60	\$15.70	\$13.70	\$13.70	\$13.70	\$13.70

3.2.2. Groundwater Production and Growth Assumptions

Table 3-2 shows the financial plan assumptions for groundwater production for FYE 2025 – FYE 2030, which is forecast to stay the same over the study period. The historical production for the five previous years is also shown. The historical and projected groundwater use comes from Stetson Engineers' *Forty-Seventh Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District* dated March 3, 2025, as adjusted based on receipt of any amended pumping reports received after the publication of the report.

Table 3-2: Historical and Projected Groundwater Production Per Year (AF)

Producer Class	FYE 2020	FYE 2021	FYE 2022	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	Projected*
Agriculture	35,148	33,258	31,673	29,985	29,127	29,125
Special Irrigation	11,004	12,834	13,286	11,836	11,294	11,290
Other	1,734	1,876	2,570	1,518	1,650	1,650
Total	47,886	47,968	47,528	43,339	42,071	42,065

* Projected for FYE 2025 - FYE 2030

3.2.3. Revenue Projections

The projected groundwater charge rate-based revenue for FYE 2025 is \$685,168 using a blended rate reflecting that the first statement of FYE 2025 is for production in the second half of FYE 2024 and is based on those rates and the second statement is for pumping during the first half of FYE 2025 and is based on the unit rates in effect in FYE 2025. For FYE 2026 – FYE 2030, the projected status quo annual rate-based revenue is \$719,489, using the current FYE 2025 rates by zone and the projected annual usage by zone (Table 3-2). With the proposed overall percent change in rate-based revenue (Table 1-1), the projected rate-based revenue decreases each year as shown in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3: Projected Groundwater Charge Rate-Based Revenue

	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Rate Rev.	\$683,514	\$624,876	\$581,134	\$540,455	\$502,623

Table 3-4 shows the projection of other revenues, which includes property taxes, reimbursement for GSA administrative support, reimbursement for SGMA Grant administration, and estimated interest income. Property taxes are estimated to increase at 3 percent per year from the FYE 2025 budget. Interest income is estimated at 2.5 percent.

Table 3-4: Budgeted and Projected Other (Non-Rate Based) Revenue

Line Item	FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
SB County Property Taxes	\$400,000	\$412,000	\$424,360	\$437,091	\$450,204	\$463,710
Administrative Support to GSA(s)	\$90,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Misc. Income	\$242	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
SGMA Grant Administration/Reimbursement	\$36,000	\$104,276	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest Income	\$90,000	\$75,000	\$67,091	\$74,401	\$78,294	\$77,608
Total	\$616,242	\$631,526	\$531,701	\$551,741	\$568,747	\$581,567

3.3. Operating and Maintenance Expenses

3.3.1. Operating Expense

Table 3-5 shows the estimated end of year (FYE 2025), budgeted (FYE 2026), and projected operating and maintenance expenses, which includes routine operations, legal, engineering, and contingency. Salaries and benefits are escalated at approximately three (3) percent per year from budget. General costs are escalated at three (3) percent per year from budget. The detailed O&M is included in Appendix A.

Table 3-5: Budgeted and Projected O&M Expenses

Line Item	FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Routine Operation	\$778,000	\$800,313	\$824,738	\$849,908	\$875,846	\$902,576
Special Studies	\$47,000	\$40,000	\$41,200	\$42,436	\$43,709	\$45,020
SGM	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Legal & Engineering						
General and Misc.	\$46,500	\$44,500	\$45,835	\$47,210	\$48,626	\$50,085
Annual G.W. Report	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138
WR Decision (2019-0148)	\$6,000	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$44,558	\$45,895	\$47,271
Downstream Releases / Upper SYR						
Operations	\$16,000	\$74,500	\$76,735	\$79,037	\$81,408	\$83,850
Fisheries Issues/Hydrology	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510
Contingency	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total Operation & Maintenance	\$998,500	\$1,131,313	\$1,138,118	\$1,170,889	\$1,204,657	\$1,239,451

3.3.2. Net Operating Expense

The District's plans to first use property tax revenues, SGMA grant administration revenue, and revenue from the District's GSA administrative support to cover SGMA-related costs and a portion of other general costs, as shown in Table 3-6. The remaining property tax revenue is used to offset the District's remaining operating costs as described below.

Table 3-6: Property Tax Revenue Use

Line Item	FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Property Tax Revenue	\$400,000	\$412,000	\$424,360	\$437,091	\$450,204	\$463,710
SGM Grant Administration/Reimbursement	\$36,000	\$104,276	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Administrative Support to GSA(s)	\$90,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Salary & Benefits for SGM-time	(\$90,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)
SGM Expenses	(\$35,000)	(\$35,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)
General & Misc.	(\$46,500)	(\$44,500)	(\$45,835)	(\$47,210)	(\$48,626)	(\$50,085)
Special Studies	(\$47,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$41,200)	(\$42,436)	(\$43,709)	(\$45,020)
Remaining Property Tax Revenue	\$307,500	\$396,776	\$327,325	\$337,445	\$347,868	\$358,604

Table 3-7 shows the net O&M expense projection after offsetting the costs shown in Table 3-6.

Table 3-7: Net O&M Expense Projection

Line Item	FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Routine Operation (Net Offset)	\$688,000	\$760,313	\$784,738	\$809,908	\$835,846	\$862,576
Special Studies (Net Offset)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SGM (Net Offset)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legal & Engineering						
General and Misc. (Net Offset)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual G.W. Report	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138
WR Decision (2019-0148)	\$6,000	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$44,558	\$45,895	\$47,271
Downstream Releases / Upper SYR						
Operations	\$16,000	\$74,500	\$76,735	\$79,037	\$81,408	\$83,850
Fisheries Issues/Hydrology	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510
Contingency	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Net Operation & Maintenance	\$780,000	\$971,813	\$1,001,083	\$1,031,243	\$1,062,321	\$1,094,346

3.4. Proposed Financial Plan and Revenue Adjustments

The proposed financial plan enables the District to set groundwater charge rates to generate sufficient revenues to meet its annual obligations. The plan shows the revenues that will be used to maintain an appropriate level of reserves, as set by the Board.

Table 3-8, on the following page, shows the proposed financial plan, based on the District's budgeted expenses and projected non-rate revenues. Note that while rates go into effect at the beginning of the fiscal year, due to semi-annual billing and timing of payments, revenues under the adjustments are only realized for half of the fiscal year in the first year. Therefore, the Number of Months Effective, 'No. Mon. "Effective"' column shows 6 months instead of 12. Line 1 shows revenue from the current rates. Line 7 shows the total revenue adjustments each year. Other Revenues are shown in Lines 8 - 13. Line 8 shows projected property tax revenue. Line 9 shows a small amount of miscellaneous revenue. Line 10 shows reimbursement of administrative support to GSA(s). Line 11 shows SGMA grant administration reimbursement. Interest revenues (Line 12) are based on budgeted numbers in FYE 2025 and FYE 2026 and then presumed to be 2.5 percent for the remaining fiscal years. Line 14 shows total projected revenues.

Lines 15 – 25 summarize the O&M expense projections. Line 26 shows the District's projected loan to the GSAs and the GSAs repayment of the loan. Line 27 shows a refund for overpayment due to incorrect reporting. Line 28 shows the net income, which are revenues less O&M expenses less capital plus the District's GSA loans and repayment. Lines 29 and 30 show the projected beginning and ending Investment Reserves fund balance, respectively. Line 31 shows the target reserve, which is the minimum reserve of \$2 million, as set by the Board, plus 50 percent of annual operating expenses excluding SGMA-related costs (Table 3-7). The minimum reserve is established by Board policy to cover emergencies and unexpected events, including potential litigation. The remainder of the reserve is recommended by Raftelis to provide working capital for the District's expenses, given the required semiannual billing. Comparing Line 30 to Line 31 and Line 32 shows that the proposed financial plan provides funds adequate to meet or exceed the target reserve requirements. The proposed financial plan supports financial sufficiency and solvency for the District to meet projected expenditures.

Table 3-8: Proposed Financial Plan Cashflow

No.	Cashflow			FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
1	Groundwater Rate Revenue Under Existing Rates			\$685,168	\$719,489	\$719,489	\$719,489	\$719,489	\$719,489
	Revenue Adjustments	% Adj.	No. Mon. "Effective"						
2	FY 2026	-10.0%	6		(\$35,974)	(\$71,949)	(\$71,949)	(\$71,949)	(\$71,949)
3	FY 2027	-7.0%	6			(\$22,664)	(\$45,328)	(\$45,328)	(\$45,328)
4	FY 2028	-7.0%	6				(\$21,077)	(\$42,155)	(\$42,155)
5	FY 2029	-7.0%	6					(\$19,602)	(\$39,204)
6	FY 2030	-7.0%	6						(\$18,230)
7	Total Revenue Adjustments			\$0	(\$35,974)	(\$94,613)	(\$138,354)	(\$179,033)	(\$216,865)
	Other Revenue								
8	SB County Property Taxes			\$400,000	\$412,000	\$424,360	\$437,091	\$450,204	\$463,710
9	Misc. Income			\$242	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
10	Administrative Support to GSA(s)			\$90,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
11	SGMA Grant Administration/Reimbursement			\$36,000	\$104,276	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12	Interest Income			\$90,000	\$75,000	\$67,091	\$74,401	\$78,294	\$77,608
13	Total Other Revenue			\$616,242	\$631,526	\$531,701	\$551,741	\$568,747	\$581,567
14	Total Revenue			\$1,301,410	\$1,315,040	\$1,156,577	\$1,132,876	\$1,109,202	\$1,084,191
	Operation & Maintenance								
15	Routine Operation			\$778,000	\$800,313	\$824,738	\$849,908	\$875,846	\$902,576
16	Special Studies			\$47,000	\$40,000	\$41,200	\$42,436	\$43,709	\$45,020
17	SGMA			\$35,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
18	Legal & Engineering								
19	General and Misc.			\$46,500	\$44,500	\$45,835	\$47,210	\$48,626	\$50,085
20	Annual G.W. Report			\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138
21	WR Decision (2019-0148)			\$6,000	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$44,558	\$45,895	\$47,271
22	Downstream Releases / Upper SYR Operations			\$16,000	\$74,500	\$76,735	\$79,037	\$81,408	\$83,850
23	Fisheries Issues/Hydrology			\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510
24	Contingency			\$30,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
25	Total Operation & Maintenance			\$998,500	\$1,131,313	\$1,138,118	\$1,170,889	\$1,204,657	\$1,239,451
26	GSA Loan & Repayment			(\$281,124)	(\$325,000)	\$302,173	\$302,173	\$142,735	\$53,110
27	Refund of Overpayment Due to Incorrect Reporting			\$59,902					
28	Net Income (Annual Surplus/(Deficit))			(\$38,116)	(\$141,273)	\$320,631	\$264,159	\$47,280	(\$102,151)
29	Beginning Balance			\$2,702,706	\$2,664,590	\$2,523,317	\$2,843,948	\$3,108,107	\$3,155,388
30	Ending Balance			\$2,664,590	\$2,523,317	\$2,843,948	\$3,108,107	\$3,155,388	\$3,053,237
31	Target Reserve (1)			\$2,390,000	\$2,485,907	\$2,500,541	\$2,515,622	\$2,531,161	\$2,547,173
32	Minimum Reserve			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

(1) Target Reserve = Min + 50% Operating Expenses excluding SGA-related costs.

Figure 3-1 graphically illustrates the proposed Financial Plan, which compares the existing (current) and proposed revenues with projected expenses. The stacked bars show O&M expenses. The green bars above the X-axis (\$0 line) show the net cash used to build up the reserves and the bars below the X-axis show the withdrawals from reserves to fund costs. The annual deficit shown in FYE 2025 and FYE 2026 is due in part to the District's loans to the GSAs. The annual surplus in FYE 2027 through FYE 2029 is due to repayment of the loans by the GSAs. Then reserves are draw upon again in FYE 2030. Total revenues at existing and proposed rates are shown by horizontal black solid and dashed lines, respectively. Current revenue from existing rates exceeds projected total expenses, which is the reason for the proposed revenue adjustment downwards.

Figure 3-1: Proposed Financial Plan

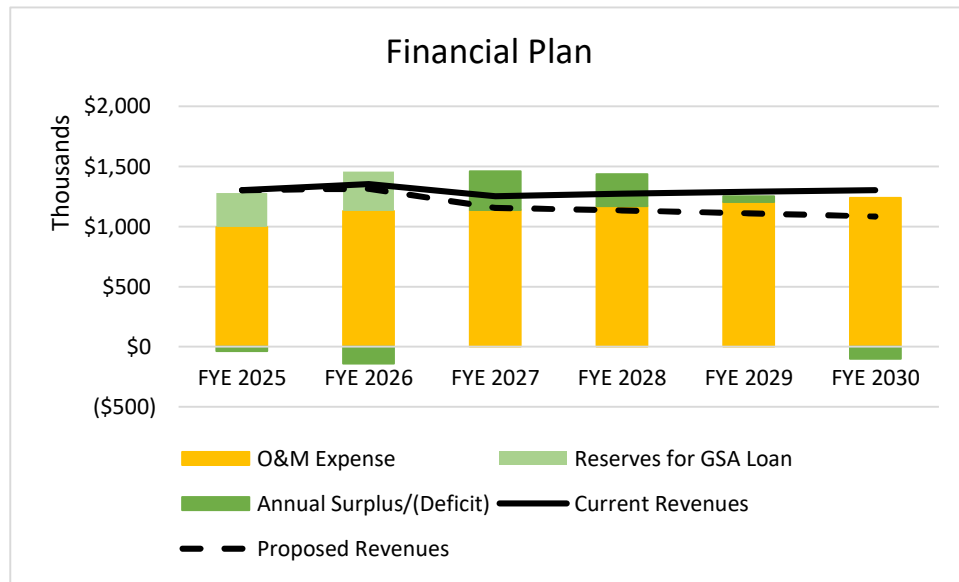
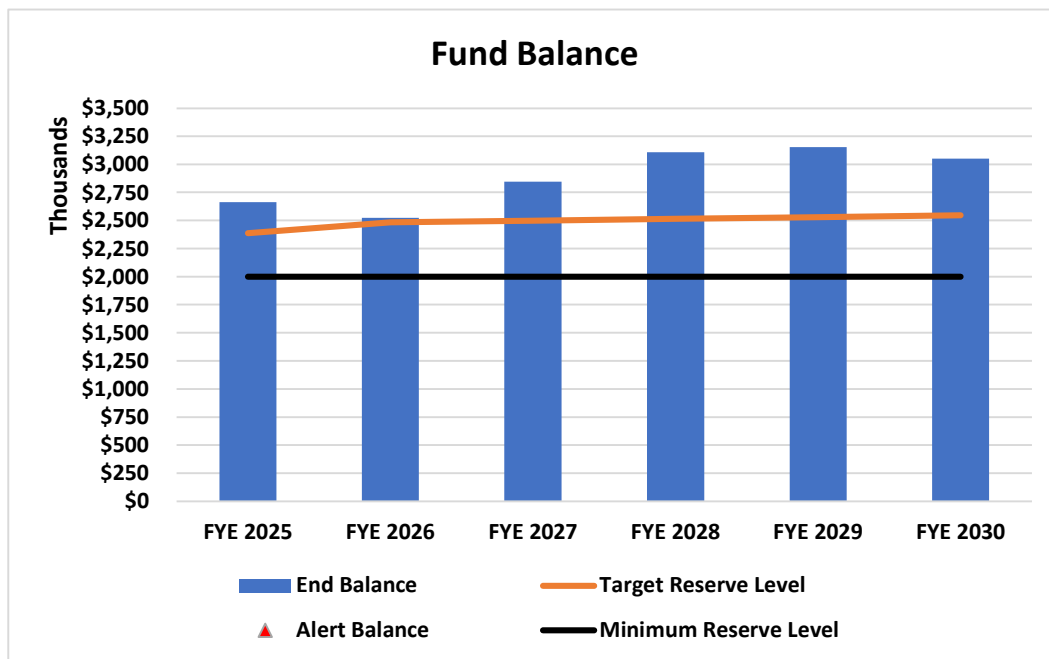


Figure 3-2 shows the projected investments fund balance. The black line shows the minimum reserve, and the orange line shows the target reserve. The blue bars show the projected ending cash balance. The fund balances are projected to be at or above the target reserve.

Figure 3-2: Projected Investments Fund Balance



4. Proposed Groundwater Charge Rates

4.1. Net Revenue Requirements

The costs to be allocated to the groundwater producers consist of the total revenue requirement less income received from other sources (net revenue requirements). Table 4-1 shows the development of the costs that must be recovered through the rate for FYE 2026. Raftelis calculated the revenue requirement using the FYE 2026 projections of O&M and capital expenses (which are \$0), shown in Lines 1 and 2. Note that Line 1 is net SGMA-related costs and matches the total in Table 3-7. Lines 4 – 7 show the other operating revenues available to offset some of the revenue requirement. The adjustments in Line 10 ensure the cost-of-service accounts for the annual cash balances. Note that these adjustments exclude the draw on reserves for the GSA loans as the GSAs will be repaying those loans. Line 11 shows the total revenue required from groundwater charge rates, calculated by adding Lines 3, 7, and 10.

Table 4-1: Net Revenue Requirements, FYE 2026

Net Revenue Requirement, Test Year				
No.	Line Item	Operating	Capital	Total
	Revenue Requirement			
1	Operations (Net SGM-related Costs)	\$971,813		\$971,813
2	Capital		\$0	\$0
3	Total Revenue Requirement	\$971,813	\$0	\$971,813
	Revenue Offsets			
4	Miscellaneous	(\$250)		(\$250)
5	Remaining Property Taxes	(\$396,776)		(\$396,776)
6	Interest Income	(\$75,000)		(\$75,000)
7	Subtotal Revenue Offsets	(\$472,026)		(\$472,026)
	Other Adjustments			
8	Transfer to Fund Balance	\$183,727		\$183,727
9	Annualized Rate Adjustment	(\$35,974)		(\$35,974)
10	Total Adjustments	\$147,752	\$0	\$147,752
11	Net Revenue Requirement	\$647,540	\$0	\$647,540

4.2. Rate Structure Analysis

Under the proposed allocation, only Zones A and B are charged for work related to water rights releases, including the work on biological and fisheries issues and work involved with all upstream reservoirs on the Santa Ynez River: Cachuma, Gibraltar, and Jameson Reservoirs.

The proportion of the charge for the work related to water rights releases between Zones A and B is based on the average annual delivery of water rights releases since the SWRCB Water Rights Order 89-18. From 1990-2022 (33 years), the average yearly water rights releases delivered to Zones A and B were 4,438 and 1,761 acre-feet per year, respectively. Therefore, Zones A and B will be charged 72% and 28%, respectively,

for all work by the District related to water rights releases. Stetson, the District’s consulting engineer, has recommended this methodology as a reasonable way to allocate the costs of work between Zones A and B.

The costs for all other work by the District, excluding the costs of work funded with non-rate revenue as described herein, will be shared proportionally among all the zones because all such work benefits all the zones. The District’s operations benefit all users in proportion to the amount of water they draw from their wells. Therefore, we have created zonal rates but have not set separate rates based on the class of producer. However, the District is starting a labor analysis to better understand and quantify the time spent addressing specific zonal issues. Therefore, in future analyses, labor-related costs may be allocated based on the labor analysis instead of pumping.

Raftelis believes that the above allocations bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the benefits received from the District’s activities relative to those zones, consistent with Proposition 26. The District’s overall management of water resources in the Santa Ynez River watershed secures a reliable supply of water from surface water and groundwater sources, which benefits all users in all zones.

4.3. Calculating Rates

Once the revenue requirement is known, the costs need to be allocated to the zones. Table 4-2 shows how each of the O&M cost categories are allocated. For all activities except those related to water rights releases and contingency, the cost allocation is based on the projected usage in FYE 2026 (Table 3-2) based on the findings and determinations in Stetson Engineers’ *Forty-Seventh Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District* dated March 3, 2025, as adjusted based on receipt of any amended pumping reports received after the publication of the report. For activities related to water rights releases, the cost allocation is based on the average water rights deliveries from 1990-2022 (33 years) based on Table 6 in the Stetson report. Contingency is allocated like the sum of the net O&M costs.

Table 4-2: Net O&M Cost Allocation

Line Item	Allocation Method	A	B	C	D	E	F
Routine Operation	% of Total Use	27%	49%	2%	6%	11%	4%
Legal & Engineering							
Annual G.W. Report	% of Total Use	27%	49%	2%	6%	11%	4%
Downstream Releases / Upper SYR Operations	% of Water Rights Releases	72%	28%	0%	0%	0%	0%
WR Decision (2019-0148)	% of Water Rights Releases	72%	28%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Fisheries Issues/Hydrology	% of Water Rights Releases	72%	28%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Contingency	Like Net O&M	34%	46%	2%	5%	9%	3%

Table 4-3 applies the allocations shown in Table 4-2 to the FYE 2026 net O&M costs shown in Table 3-7. The table also shows the resulting allocation of net O&M costs to each zone; the allocation of net O&M costs in Zones C, D, E, and F between Zones C, D, E and F; and the allocation of Zone A and B net O&M costs between Zones A and B.

Table 4-3: Net O&M Costs Allocated to Zones

Line Item	Total	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Routine Operation	\$760,313	\$206,413	\$375,593	\$18,978	\$45,639	\$82,601	\$31,089
Legal & Engineering							
Annual G.W. Report	\$25,000	\$6,787	\$12,350	\$624	\$1,501	\$2,716	\$1,022
Downstream Releases / Upper SYR Operations	\$74,500	\$53,640	\$20,860	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
WR Decision (2019-0148)	\$42,000	\$30,240	\$11,760	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fisheries Issues/Hydrology	\$20,000	\$14,400	\$5,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contingency	\$50,000	\$16,895	\$23,115	\$1,063	\$2,557	\$4,628	\$1,742
Net O&M	\$971,813	\$328,375	\$449,278	\$20,666	\$49,696	\$89,945	\$33,852
Allocate Like Net O&M	100%	34%	46%	2%	5%	9%	3%
Allocation Zones C - F Only	100%			11%	26%	46%	17%
Allocation Zones A - B Only	100%	42%	58%				

Table 4-4 shows the net revenue requirement allocated to the zones. Miscellaneous, interest income, and other adjustments are allocated proportionally to the total costs allocated to each zone (Table 4-3). At the District Board's direction, property tax revenue not already used to directly offset O&M costs has been allocated on a discretionary basis, as opposed to being allocated like net O&M (see Allocate Like Net O&M in Table 4-3). Approximately 35 percent of property tax revenue offsets have been allocated in proportion to the Zones C – F allocation shown in Table 4-3). The remaining 65 percent of property tax revenue offsets have been allocated to Zones A and B in proportion to the Zones A and B allocation shown in Table 4-3 to result in a decrease in the water unit rate for those zones. The above allocation results in a greater decrease in unit rates to Zones C through F than would have been the case if property tax revenue offsets had been allocated like net O&M. Such allocation of remaining District non-rate revenue partially offsets the impact of the proposed new GSA SGMA charges imposed on extractions of groundwater in Zones C through F, where the unit (i.e., per acre-foot) rates of GSA extraction charges will be substantially higher than in the other two zones where groundwater is extracted.

Table 4-4: Allocation of Net Revenue Requirement

Unit Cost of Service, Test Year	Total	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Operations	\$971,813	\$328,375	\$449,278	\$20,666	\$49,696	\$89,945	\$33,852
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$971,813	\$328,375	\$449,278	\$20,666	\$49,696	\$89,945	\$33,852
Revenue Offsets							
Miscellaneous	(\$250)	(\$84)	(\$116)	(\$5)	(\$13)	(\$23)	(\$9)
Remaining Property Taxes	(\$396,776)	(\$102,170)	(\$176,565)	(\$12,564)	(\$30,213)	(\$54,683)	(\$20,581)
Interest Income	(\$75,000)	(\$25,342)	(\$34,673)	(\$1,595)	(\$3,835)	(\$6,942)	(\$2,613)
Other Adjustments	\$147,752	\$49,925	\$68,307	\$3,142	\$7,556	\$13,675	\$5,147
Net Revenue Requirement	\$647,540	\$250,704	\$306,231	\$9,644	\$23,191	\$41,973	\$15,797

Table 4-5 shows the unit cost-of-service based on dividing the net revenue requirement allocated to each zone (Table 4-4) by the projected groundwater production in FYE 2026 (Table 3-2) based on the findings and determinations in Stetson Engineers' *Forty-Seventh Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply*

Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District dated March 3, 2025, as adjusted based on receipt of any amended pumping reports received after the publication of the report. The unit cost is rounded up to the nearest ten cents for simplicity and revenue sufficiency.

Table 4-5: Unit Cost-of-Service, FYE 2026

Unit Cost of Service, Test Year	Total	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Net Revenue Requirement	\$647,540	\$250,704	\$306,231	\$9,644	\$23,191	\$41,973	\$15,797
Test Year AF	42,065	11,420	20,780	1,050	2,525	4,570	1,720
Unit Cost, \$/AF		\$22.00	\$14.80	\$9.20	\$9.20	\$9.20	\$9.20

4.4. Proposed Groundwater Charge Rates (\$/AF)

Table 4-6 presents the current rate and the proposed rate for FYE 2026. The proposed rates are rounded up to the nearest 10 cents for ease of administration. Proposed FYE 2026 rates are less than Current FYE 2025 rates for all zones.

Table 4-6: Current and Proposed Rates, \$/AF

Rate	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Current	\$22.60	\$15.70	\$13.70	\$13.70	\$13.70	\$13.70
Proposed, FYE 2026	\$22.00	\$14.80	\$9.20	\$9.20	\$9.20	\$9.20

4.5. Projected Revenues Under Cost-of-Service Rates

Table 4-7 shows the revenues under the current rates based on the FYE 2026 projected groundwater production and the revenues using the proposed rates. The percentage decrease in total revenues is slightly less than the proposed revenue adjustment shown in the financial plan (Table 3-8) due to rounding the rates.

Table 4-7: Projected Revenues Under Cost-of-Service Rates, FYE 2026

Zone	Estimated Usage AF	Current Rate \$/AF	Revenue Under Current Rates	Proposed Rate \$/AF	Revenue Under Proposed Rates	Percent Increase/Decrease
Zone A	11,420	\$22.60	\$258,092	\$22.00	\$251,240	-2.7%
Zone B	20,780	\$15.70	\$326,246	\$14.80	\$307,544	-5.7%
Zone C	1,050	\$13.70	\$14,385	\$9.20	\$9,660	-32.8%
Zone D	2,525	\$13.70	\$34,593	\$9.20	\$23,230	-32.8%
Zone E	4,570	\$13.70	\$62,609	\$9.20	\$42,044	-32.8%
Zone F	1,720	\$13.70	\$23,564	\$9.20	\$15,824	-32.8%
Total	42,065		\$719,489		\$649,542	-9.7%

4.6. Producer Impact Analysis

Table 4-8 through Table 4-10 illustrate the producer statement impact for an average agricultural producer, an average special irrigation producer, and an average non-agricultural producer within each zone on the

January 2026 statement. The average groundwater production per statement is based on FYE 2024 production data from Stetson Engineers' *Forty-Seventh Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District* dated March 3, 2025, as adjusted based on receipt of any amended pumping reports received after the publication of the report.

Table 4-8: Average Agricultural Producer by Zone, FYE 2026 Statement Impact

Agricultural	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Average AF/Statement	35.2	49.1	0.3	11.9	6.5	15.8
Current Statement	\$795.52	\$770.48	\$3.67	\$162.98	\$89.18	\$216.69
Proposed Statement	\$774.40	\$726.31	\$2.47	\$109.45	\$59.89	\$145.51
Statement Change, \$	-\$21.12	-\$44.17	-\$1.21	-\$53.53	-\$29.29	-\$71.17

Table 4-9: Average Special Irrigation Producer by Zone, FYE 2026 Statement Impact

Special Irrigation	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Average AF/Statement	2.5	3.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0
Current Statement	\$56.45	\$50.62	\$1.79	\$4.10	\$0.70	\$0.00
Proposed Statement	\$54.95	\$47.71	\$1.20	\$2.75	\$0.47	\$0.00
Statement Change, \$	-\$1.50	-\$2.90	-\$0.59	-\$1.35	-\$0.23	\$0.00

Table 4-10: Average Other (Non-Agricultural) Producer by Zone, FYE 2026 Statement Impact

Non-Agricultural	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F
Average AF/Statement	8.2	17.9	11.7	5.4	5.1	1.6
Current Statement	\$184.90	\$281.23	\$159.88	\$74.60	\$70.30	\$21.27
Proposed Statement	\$180.00	\$265.11	\$107.37	\$50.10	\$47.21	\$14.28
Statement Change, \$	-\$4.91	-\$16.12	-\$52.52	-\$24.51	-\$23.09	-\$6.99

APPENDIX A:

O&M Detail



O&M Budget and Projection Detail		FYE 2025	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Internal Operations / Expenses							
Employee Salaries	Salaries	\$440,000	\$453,519	\$467,454	\$481,817	\$496,621	\$511,880
Payroll (SS and Medicare)	Benefits	\$29,000	\$38,122	\$39,293	\$40,500	\$41,745	\$43,027
Employee Benefits	Benefits	\$40,500	\$48,676	\$50,172	\$51,714	\$53,303	\$54,940
Retirement Plan Contributions	Benefits	\$30,500	\$31,746	\$32,722	\$33,727	\$34,763	\$35,832
Outside Services	General	\$5,500	\$6,500	\$6,695	\$6,896	\$7,102	\$7,315
Office Expense	General	\$55,000	\$49,400	\$50,882	\$52,408	\$53,981	\$55,600
Director Fees	General	\$6,500	\$23,000	\$23,690	\$24,401	\$25,133	\$25,887
Travel & Training	General	\$12,000	\$30,500	\$31,415	\$32,357	\$33,328	\$34,328
Annual Audit	General	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510
Insurance & Worker's Comp	General	\$26,000	\$27,300	\$28,119	\$28,963	\$29,831	\$30,726
Dues and LAFCO Fees	General	\$6,000	\$6,300	\$6,489	\$6,684	\$6,884	\$7,091
Groundwater Charges Program	General	\$106,000	\$65,000	\$66,950	\$68,959	\$71,027	\$73,158
Miscellaneous	General	\$1,000	\$250	\$258	\$265	\$273	\$281
Legal							
General & Misc.	General	\$26,500	\$28,000	\$28,840	\$29,705	\$30,596	\$31,514
Downstream Releases / Upper SYR Operations	General	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,575	\$2,652	\$2,732	\$2,814
WR Decision (2019-0148)	General	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$30,900	\$31,827	\$32,782	\$33,765
Fisheries Issues	General	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,150	\$5,305	\$5,464	\$5,628
Employment/HR	General	\$6,000	\$2,500	\$2,575	\$2,652	\$2,732	\$2,814
Groundwater Program	General	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,210	\$7,426	\$7,649	\$7,879
Engineering/Environmental							
General & Misc.	General	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,210	\$7,426	\$7,649	\$7,879
Annual GW Report	General	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,750	\$26,523	\$27,318	\$28,138
Downstream Releases Operations	General	\$15,000	\$70,000	\$72,100	\$74,263	\$76,491	\$78,786
Upper SYR Operations	General	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,060	\$2,122	\$2,185	\$2,251
WR Decision (2019-0148)	General	\$1,000	\$12,000	\$12,360	\$12,731	\$13,113	\$13,506
Fisheries Hydrology	General	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,883
Special Studies	General	\$47,000	\$40,000	\$41,200	\$42,436	\$43,709	\$45,020
SGM Expenses	No Inflation	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Contingency	No Inflation	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total O&M		\$998,500	\$1,131,313	\$1,138,118	\$1,170,889	\$1,204,657	\$1,239,451

IRWM Quarterly Funding Email

From Mariana Villalovoz <mvillalovoz@dudek.com>

Date Tue 4/21/2026 5:22 PM

Cc Jane Gray <jgray@dudek.com>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide sensitive information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Greetings all,

We hope this email finds you well. Below you will find a list of grants, including a brief overview of each grant opportunity, links to additional grant information, and important dates. Please let us know if you have any questions!



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) 2025-2026 – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program assists public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. Program Guidelines amended by the State Water Board on January 21, 2026.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.html

Emergency Drinking Water Needs/Cleanup & Abatement Account Programs - State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) was created by California Water Code Sections 13440–13443 to provide grants for the cleanup or abatement of a condition of pollution when there are no viable responsible parties available to undertake the work. California Water Code Section 13442 authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to utilize CAA funds to address an urgent drinking water need. This includes needs due to drought, contamination, or other eligible emergencies.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/urgent_water_needs.html

County-wide and Regional Funding Program – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The State Water Resources Control Board has funding available from various sources within the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program to fund drinking water projects for counties and eligible partners that address drought-related and contamination issues. Although we have several programs already in place, we have identified gaps for regional programs that address the needs of households served by state small water systems and domestic wells throughout the state.

The Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) does not award funding directly to households, and available DFA funding to address emergency needs of state small water systems and domestic wells can't be implemented on an immediate basis. One key goal of this program is to award funding to counties or their partners to enable them to setup programs proactively, based on anticipated needs, and therefore be ready to respond promptly when urgent needs arise.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/funding_solicitation.html

Proposition 1-Water Recycling – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Application closes on 6/30/27

The purpose of the funding is to provide technical and financial assistance to local agencies for the construction of water recycling projects that promote the beneficial use of treated municipal wastewater in order to augment fresh water supplies in California.

[Proposition 1 – Water Recycling - California Grants Portal](#)

Closed April 17, 2026. Dudek will monitor.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) administers a competitive grant program for small water storage and groundwater storage projects, authorized by Section 40903 of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (2021), Public Law 117-58. Reclamation administers the Small Surface and Groundwater Storage Program (Small Storage Program) to enhance water storage opportunities for future generations in support of the Department's priorities. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Reclamation supports stakeholder efforts to stretch scarce water supplies and avoid conflicts over water in the 17 western states, Alaska, and Hawaii.

[Opportunity Listing - Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects \(Small Storage Program\)](#)

WaterSMART Applied Science Grants for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026— United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

The objective of this NOFO is to invite eligible non-Federal entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on applied science projects (Project) to improve access to and use of hydrologic data, develop and improve water management tools, improve modeling and forecasting capabilities. Results from these projects will be used by water managers to increase water supply reliability, provide flexibility in water operations, improve water management, and support nature-based solutions. Project results must be readily applicable by managers—resulting in tools and information that can be used to support: water supply reliability, water delivery management, water marketing activities, drought management activities, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, water rights administration, ability to meet endangered species requirements, watershed health, conservation and efficiency, support for nature-based solutions and other water management objectives. In general, under this NOFO, Reclamation will provide funding for applied science projects to develop or improve hydrologic information, water management tools, modeling and forecasting capabilities, and improve nature-based solution decisions. Results from these Projects will be used by water managers to increase water supply reliability, provide flexibility in water operations, and improve water management.

[Applied Science Grants | Bureau of Reclamation](#)

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2024 — United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

The WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects NOFO provides funding for water conservation and efficiency projects, water management and infrastructure improvements, and river and watershed restoration projects and nature-based solutions that provide significant ecological benefits, have been developed as part of a collaborative process, and help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. Nature-based solutions are sustainable environmental management practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience. This NOFO also prioritizes projects that provide benefits to multiple water use sectors.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/353621>

WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects — United Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

Through the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program (Title XVI), authorized by P.L. 102-575 in 1992, Reclamation provides financial and technical assistance to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. Water recycling is a tool in stretching the limited water supplies in the Western United States. Title XVI projects develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reuse, thereby improving efficiency, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply. These projects provide growing communities with new sources of clean water which increases water management flexibility and makes our water supply more reliable. Through the Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, Reclamation will provide up to 25 percent (%) Federal cost share, with no per-project Federal funding maximum, to water recycling projects that have a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million. Large-scale water recycling projects will play an important role in helping communities develop local, drought-resistant sources of water supply by turning currently unusable water sources into a new source of water supply that is less vulnerable to drought and climate change.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350116>

WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and 2026— United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's (Department) Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects (AERP) provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to restore and protect aquatic ecosystems in support of the Department's priorities. Through AERP, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and other entities as they study, design and construct aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and result in an improvement to the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration or improved fish passage. Restoring and connecting aquatic ecosystems offers wide-ranging benefits for both communities and the environment. Functioning aquatic and wetland ecosystems provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife, improve water quality, store excess carbon, help mitigate the impacts of drought and flood events, and support water supply resiliency for multiple uses.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/357615>

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I for Fiscal Year 2025— United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

Through the CWMP, Reclamation provides funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. By providing this funding Reclamation promotes water reliability and cooperation between stakeholders to reduce conflict, facilitate solutions to complex water issues, and stretch limited water supplies. Applicants eligible to receive an award as a New Watershed Group include states, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation, water districts, water conservation districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations. To be eligible, applicants must also (1) be sponsoring the development of a New Watershed Group, (2) significantly affect or be affected by the quality or quantity of water in a watershed, and (3) be capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources. Applicants eligible to receive an award as an Existing Watershed Group include states, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation, water districts, water conservation districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations. To be eligible, applicants must also Be an Existing Watershed Group, which meets the definition of a watershed group as described above in Section A.3. Notice of Funding Opportunity Objectives and is legally incorporated as a non-profit entity; be a participating entity in an Existing Watershed Group; or be a fiscal sponsor of an Existing Watershed Group. Applicants (except non-profits organizations) must also be located in one of the following states or territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358088>

Technical Assistance to Tribes for Fiscal Year 2025 — United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), through the TAP, provides financial and technical assistance to federally recognized Indian Tribes. The TAP establishes cooperative working relationships, through partnerships with Indian Tribes, to assist Tribes as they develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources. The objective of this NOFO is to invite federally recognized Indian Tribes to submit proposals for financial assistance for projects and activities that develop, manage, and protect tribal water and related resources. There is no requirement for a non-Federal cost-share contribution; however, partnering and collaboration is encouraged.

[Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes Fiscal Year 2025 — United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), through the TAP, provides financial and technical assistance to federally recognized Indian Tribes. The TAP establishes cooperative working relationships, through partnerships with Indian Tribes, to assist Tribes as they develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources, and mitigate the adverse impacts of drought. The objective of this NOFO is to invite federally recognized Indian Tribes to submit proposals for financial assistance for projects and activities that develop, manage, and protect tribal water and related resources. There is no requirement for a non-Federal cost-share contribution; however, partnering and collaboration is encouraged.

[Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 — United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice.

The objective of this NOFO is to invite States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. Proposed projects that are supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized. Award ceiling is \$100,000.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350845>

Watershed Resilience Program-California Department of Water Resources

This Notice of Funding Opportunity and closing date are paused and under review until further notice, will be updated in early 2026.

The Watershed Resilience Implementation Grant Program, funded by Proposition 4, will support projects that improve water resilience and adaptation across California. A tentative schedule plans for outreach efforts to begin in late 2025. This program aims to help communities build stronger, more sustainable watersheds to better handle climate challenges.

[Watershed Resilience Program](#)

Water Desalination Grant Program-California Department of Water Resources

This Notice of Funding Opportunity has been suspended. Dudek will monitor.

The Water Desalination Grant Program is funded by Proposition 1 and Proposition 50. The California Department of Water Resources provides grants to local agencies for the planning, design, and construction of projects to desalinate naturally-occurring brackish and ocean water for potable water supply. It also provides grants for pilot, demonstration, and research projects.

[Water Desalination Grant Program](#)



Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

Under federal and state law the primary purpose of the CWSRF Program is to provide financing for eligible projects to restore and maintain water quality in the state. The SWRCB also seeks to reduce the effects of climate change and to promote sustainable water resources for future generations. These objectives must be cost-effective and complement both the federal and state criteria and the policy goals of the State Water Board.

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\) Program - California Grants Portal](#)

Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFP) Planning Grant – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The WRFP Planning Grant will generally cover 50% of the planning costs to develop a recycled water feasibility study. Generally, all costs necessary to determine the feasibility of using recycled water and to select an alternative to offset or augment the use of fresh/potable water from state or local supplies may be eligible for the planning grant. The maximum grant amount is established by the State Water Resources Control Board in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan, or as otherwise limited by the State Water Resources Control Board. A disadvantaged community (DAC) or severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) may receive 100% of the eligible planning costs up to the maximum

established by the State Water Resources Control Board. The grant maximum has been \$150,000 in previous years. Applications for WRFP Planning Grants are accepted continuously, and there is ample funding available. Applicants should submit an application including a Plan of Study, which will be used to determine the costs eligible for grant funding.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/water_recycling/

Rural Community Development Program (RCD) Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems Training and Technical Assistance Project— United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

No new information. Dudek will monitor.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services announces the availability of approximately \$11million in Rural Community Development (RCD) discretionary grant funds. RCD funds must be used to provide training and technical assistance to: Increase access for low-income families to water supply and waste disposal services, preserve affordable water and waste disposal services in low-income rural communities, increase local capacity and expertise to establish and maintain needed community facilities, increase economic opportunities for low-income rural communities by ensuring they have basic water and sanitation, utilize technical assistance to leverage additional public and private resources, and promote improved coordination of Federal, state, and local agencies and financing programs to benefit low-income communities.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355619>



environmental justice/disadvantaged communities

Native American Preparedness Tribal Grant – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Tribal Preparedness Grant is part of the Office of Spill Prevention and Response Program and supports California Native American tribes in preparing for and enhancing emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts while protecting their ancestral lands and communities from oil spills. Eligible applicants include Tribal Government.

[Native American Preparedness Tribal Grant - California Grants Portal](#)

Explore the Coast Overnight – California Coastal Conservancy

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Conservancy's Explore the Coast Overnight Program was created to expand opportunities for all Californians to stay overnight at the coast, particularly individuals and youth from low- and middle-income households, communities of color, at-risk or underserved populations, and others that face barriers to accessing the coast. The goals of the Explore the Coast Overnight Program include helping improve existing and develop new lower-cost coastal accommodations; ensuring that new or renovated coastal accommodation projects are available to all Californians, in particular low- and middle-income Californians and organizations that serve under-resourced communities; supporting innovative pilot projects; creating and preserving a variety of lower-cost coastal accommodations; and maintaining and increasing the stock of lower-cost coastal accommodations along the California coast.

The Conservancy provides grant funds for the planning, design, permitting, and/or construction of lower-cost coastal accommodation projects that advance the goals and priorities of the Explore the Coast Overnight Program.

[Explore the Coast Overnight - California Grants Portal](#)

The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program (SAFER) – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

In 2019, Senate Bill (SB) 200 established the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) Fund to address funding gaps and provide solutions to water systems, especially those serving DACs, to address both their short- and long-term drinking water needs. The SADW Fund is one of several funds that are part of the larger SAFER Program.

[The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program \(SAFER\) - California Grants Portal](#)

Tribal Management Grant Program – Indian Health Service (IHS)

Forecasted Opportunity

The purpose of this program is to enhance and develop health management infrastructure and assist Tribes and Tribal Organizations (T/TO) in assuming all or part of existing IHS programs, functions, services, and activities (PFSAs) through a Title I Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contract and assist established title I ISDEAA contractors and Title V ISDEAA compactors to further develop and improve management capability. In addition, Tribal Management Grants are available to T/TOs under the authority of 25 U.S.C. 5322(e) for the following:

1. Obtaining technical assistance from providers designated by the T/TO (including T/TOs that operate mature contracts) for the purposes of program planning and evaluation, including the development of any management systems necessary for contract management, and the development of cost allocation plans for indirect cost rates.
2. Planning, designing, monitoring, and evaluating Federal programs serving T/TOs, including Federal administrative functions.

[Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

FY 2024 Tribal EMPG Program— Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

No new information. Dudek will monitor.

The purpose of the EMPG Program for Federally Recognized Tribes in California (FY 2024 Tribal EMPG) is to assist federally-recognized tribes in preparing for all hazards. Funds provided under this Program must be used to support activities that effectively contribute to the tribe's capability to prevent, prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, whether natural or man-made.

No new information. Dudek will monitor.

The Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans announces the availability of Fiscal Year 2025 funds for community-based projects for the Environmental Regulatory Enhancement (ERE) program. The ERE program provides funding for the costs of planning, developing, and implementing programs designed to improve the capability of tribal governing bodies to regulate environmental quality pursuant to federal and tribal environmental laws.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355798>



habitat restoration/environment

Inland Wetlands Conservation – Wildlife Conservation Board

ROLLING APPLICATIONS

The Inland Wetlands Conservation Program (IWCP) was created to assist the Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) in its mission to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated habitats. The CVJV, a partnership of twenty two public and private organizations and agencies, has identified through its Implementation Plan, specific goals to increase migratory bird populations. The Inland Wetland Conservation Program (IWCP) jurisdiction matches that of the Central Valley Joint Venture and includes most of the watershed of the Central Valley. The Implementation Plan and the IWCP, however, continue to focus on the Central Valley floor, which extends approximately 400 miles from Red Bluff in the north to Bakersfield in the south and encompasses the following nine basins: Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yolo, American, Suisun Marsh, Delta, San Joaquin, and Tulare.

Eligible activities under this program include:

- Acquisition of land or water for wetlands or wildlife friendly agriculture
- Acquisition of conservation easements
- Restoration of public or private lands
- Enhancement of existing degraded habitats

Eligible recipients for grants under this program include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governmental agencies
- State agencies
- Federal agencies

[Inland Wetlands Conservation - California Grants Portal](#)

Riparian Habitat Conservation – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (Program) was created in 1991 by legislation ([Senate Bill 906](#)) and is generally funded through the state's Habitat Conservation Fund. The Program's basic mission is to develop coordinated conservation efforts aimed at protecting and restoring California's riparian ecosystems. Riparian systems look and function differently across the state but possess some common ecological and hydrological characteristics such as fish and wildlife habitat, water storage, flood control, nutrient cycling, water quality protection, and recreational and economic benefits.

Riparian projects include, but are not limited to:

- Restoring riparian vegetation and re-establishing floodplain connectivity.
- Active or passive restoration that may include an element of invasive plant removal and control.
- Installing wildlife-friendly fencing along a riparian corridor to manage livestock and reduce impacts to streams or riparian vegetation.
- Reconfiguring degraded or incised streams to restore natural hydrology and encourage reestablishment of native riparian habitat.
- Planning, design, and environmental clearance for riparian restoration.

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Riparian>

Public Access – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Public Access Program is one of the original Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) programs established in 1947. Initially the Public Access Program worked with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to support projects focused on the protection and development of public access areas and the promotion of hunting and fishing opportunities. Over time, the WCB's authority expanded to new partners, and today the Public Access Program provides planning and implementation funds to support wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. Fundable activities and infrastructure include but are not limited to: multi-lingual interpretive signs, trails, ADA parking and restrooms, community outreach, and development of interpretive programs.

[Public Access - California Grants Portal](#)

Oak Woodlands Conservation – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Oak Woodlands Conservation Program offers landowners, conservation organizations, cities and counties, an opportunity to obtain funding for projects designed to conserve and restore California's oak woodlands. While the Program is statewide in nature, it provides opportunities to address oak woodland issues on a regional priority basis. The Program is

designed to help local efforts achieve oak woodland protection. More importantly, this Program provides a mechanism to bring ranchers and conservationists together in a manner that allows both to achieve that which is so valued - sustainable ranch and farming operations and healthy oak woodlands.

[Oak Woodlands Conservation - California Grants Portal](#)

Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program was created by Assembly Bill 2421, and signed into law in 2018 becoming effective immediately. The Program was created for the purpose of recovering and sustaining populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/monarch-butterfly-and-pollinator-rescue/>

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program was created by AB109, which amended the Budget Act of 2017 to provide local assistance through the Wildlife Conservation Board for conservation projects focusing on resilience to projected climate impacts. These projects must be consistent with the State's climate adaptation strategy (Safeguarding California Plan), contribute to the carbon sequestration goals of AB 32, and support WCB's Strategic Plan. In addition, projects will be consistent with other statewide plans and priorities, including the California Water Action Plan and California State Wildlife Action Plan 2015 Update. Program funding is directed toward projects that:

- Protect and restore ecosystems on natural and working lands to provide climate change adaptation and resilience for wildlife.
- Assist natural and working lands managers in implementing practices that provide climate adaptation and resilience.
- Increase carbon sequestration in natural and working lands, and provide additional social, economic, and environmental benefits, or "co-benefits"

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/climate-adaptation-and-resiliency-2/>

Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passage – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Program is seeking proposals for planning or implementation projects that construct, repair, modify, or remove transportation infrastructure or water resources infrastructure improving passage for wildlife or fish. Additional consideration will be given for projects that restore or enhance wildlife mobility or fish passage across barriers whose impacts on migration have been increased by drought conditions.

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/wildlife-corridor-and-fish-passage-2/>

Cleanup, Remediation, and Watershed Enhancement Funding Opportunity – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

ROLLING APPLICATION

Through this grant program, CDFW is looking to fund projects to enhance watersheds/environments impacted by illegal cannabis cultivation. Projects should focus on planning, cleanup/remediation, or implementation. Projects could look to reduce environmental contaminants and waste associated with cultivation practices. Projects could be completed on private or public land. Projects that enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity are eligible for funding.

[Cleanup, Remediation, and Watershed Enhancement Funding Opportunity - California Grants Portal](#)

Habitat Enhancement and Restoration – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

When the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) was created by the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947, it was authorized to acquire and restore California lands to protect wildlife values and provide wildlife-oriented public access. The Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program (HERP) was WCB's first program and incorporated all restoration projects until other WCB programs were initiated in 1990. HERP continues to support a wide variety of restoration projects that fall outside WCB's other mandated programs. HERP projects are distributed throughout California and all habitat types. Broad categories of HERP projects include, but are not limited to:

- Habitat restoration (e.g., coast, wetland, grassland)
- Wildlife corridors
- Fisheries enhancements (e.g., fish ladders, barrier removal)

[Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - California Grants Portal](#)

Wildlife Corridors – Nature Based Solutions – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

ROLLING APPLICATION

This grant provides funding for connectivity planning and implementation projects consistent with the State Wildlife Action Plan, the state's efforts on connectivity, and the Fish Passage Annual Legislative Report or efforts to allow fish and wildlife the freedom to roam in California by accelerating fish and wildlife corridor projects.

[Nature Based Solutions – Wildlife Corridors - California Grants Portal](#)

Stream Flow Enhancement – California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The following are funding priorities for the stream flow enhancement projects:

- Implementation projects resulting in measurable increases in stream flow
- Acquisition projects resulting in permanent or long-term in-stream flow dedication
- Projects that are focused on a watershed or regional approach
- Projects in critical watersheds for salmonids
- Projects that help to complete previously funded projects
- Projects that evaluate stream flow conditions and stream responses to other stream flow enhancement projects

Funded projects are also consistent with the objectives and actions outlined in the California Water Action Plan, with the primary focus on enhancing flow in streams that support anadromous fish; support special-status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. From 2016-2021, the SFEP has granted approximately \$134 million in funding to 128 projects.

[Stream Flow Enhancement - California Grants Portal](#)

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Applications are due 12/31/26.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce funding opportunities under the 2025 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation) for projects that lead to process-based restoration, enhancement, or protection of anadromous salmonid habitat. Proposal applications will be accepted for the types of projects listed below, subject to the funding program criteria. Priority 1 Projects are those that restore, enhance, or protect salmonid habitat in anadromous watersheds through implementation or design projects that lead to implementation. Approximately 65% of the PCSRF grant award will fund Priority 1 Projects. Priority 2 projects are those that support implementation projects through watershed-scale planning and effectiveness monitoring. Funding support is based on availability. Priority 3 Projects are those that support implementation projects through planning, outreach, and/or education. Approximately 10% of the PCSRF grant award will fund Priority 3 Projects. Proposals for FRGP programmatic permit required effectiveness monitoring are ineligible.

[Fisheries Restoration Grant Program \(2026\) - California Grants Portal](#)

Partners for Fish and Wildlife FY 25 – United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Closed on 9/30/2025. Dudek will monitor.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program helps private landowners restore and protect habitats for fish and wildlife. It offers both technical assistance and financial support, mainly through cooperative agreements. The PFW Program has over 250 staff working in all 50 states and territories. They work together with project partners and stakeholders in key areas for conservation and set habitat goals. These focus areas guide the program on where to direct resources for conserving important habitats for federal trust species. The Program also has strategic plans that help determine which projects receive funding. Since it began in 1987, the PFW Program has successfully assisted many landowners. When choosing projects, the Program aims to support specific priorities set by the Administration and Secretary of the Interior. All projects will promote the goals of the Program, the Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These goals focus on increasing biological diversity and are based on sound scientific principles. Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW Program are required to contact a local Program office BEFORE developing or applying by visiting our website.

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358381>



Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program – California Ocean Protection Council (OPC)

ROLLING APPLICATION: Deadlines are June 26, 2026; September 11, 2026.

The SB 1 Grant Program aims to provide funding for sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning to help prepare communities for the impacts of climate change. While many jurisdictions have advanced planning already underway or complete, many others have yet to begin comprehensive planning or assessments. The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) aims to address this need by offering funding for a range of SLR planning activities. These fall into the following categories: Track 1: SLR Adaptation Planning (Phase 1: Pre-planning, Phase 2: Data Collection, Phase 3: Planning); Track 2: SLR Implementation Projects (Phase 4: Project Implementation). Applicants that are eligible to apply for this SB 1 Grant Program opportunity consist of local governments, regional governments, and federally recognized tribal governments. Organizations or consultants who apply on a government's behalf may be considered, however, explicit support and collaboration between the organization and government must be provided within the application (via Letter of Support).

<https://www.opc.ca.gov/sb-1-funding/>

Active Transportation Program – California Transportation Commission

ROLLING APPLICATION

The Active Transportation Plan include, but are not limited to, increasing the proportion of trips accomplished by walking and biking, increasing the safety and mobility of non-motorized users, advancing efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhancing public health, and providing a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of users including disadvantaged communities. Since its inception, the Active Transportation Program has funded over 800 active transportation projects across the state benefiting both urban and rural areas. More than 400 of the funded projects are Safe Routes to Schools projects and programs that encourage a healthy and active lifestyle throughout students' lives. In addition, every cycle has seen more than 85% of funds going towards projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities throughout the state. Nonprofits, public agencies, and Tribal governments are eligible to apply.

<https://catc.ca.gov/programs/active-transportation-program>

Cost Share for Federal Funding Opportunities Clean Hydrogen Program – California Energy Commission (CEC)

ROLLING APPLICATION

This funding opportunity is available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis, Manufacturing, and Recycling. The Clean Hydrogen Program was created to implement projects to demonstrate or scale-up hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, or end use. Projects must be in California and cannot supplant or result in duplicative offset credits or other forms of compliance credits. Public, tribal, and public entities are eligible to apply.

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2023-05/gfo-22-903-cost-share-federal-funding-opportunities-clean-hydrogen-program>

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program – California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

Draft guidelines released, solicitation anticipated.

Extreme heat will impact every community in California and is a public health, climate resilience, and social equity problem. Climate change is causing more frequent and severe consecutive, unusually hot days and nights – known as extreme heat events. The effects of extreme heat vary widely across regions, communities, and even adjacent neighborhoods. Some areas accustomed to hot temperatures are experiencing very hot conditions while other areas that have been historically cool are experiencing warmer temperatures. The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (EHCPR) has released draft guidelines for its second round of funding. This round (Round 2) is supported by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and Proposition 4. The program aims to fund and support local, regional, and Tribal efforts to reduce the impacts of extreme heat.

[Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program - Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation](#)

Proposition 4 Offshore Wind Port Development Program – California Energy Commission (CEC)

Solicitation anticipated, public comment period ending on May 22, 2026.

The Proposition 4 Offshore Wind Ports Development (POPD) Program can provide up to \$475 million in grants to publicly owned ports for specified activities supporting the development of offshore wind generation, including:

- Expansion of port infrastructure to accommodate large vessels that service offshore wind equipment.
- Upgrades to port facilities.
- Construction of publicly owned port facilities to support offshore wind.

The CEC must prioritize projects that can show matching funds or that are located at staging and integration ports that have released a notice of preparation pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act process on or before February 29, 2024.

[Proposition 4 Offshore Wind Port Development Program | California Energy Commission](#)



Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks (RUST) Grant – State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

ROLLING APPLICATION

Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks (RUST) grants are available to assist small business underground storage tank (UST) owners and operators in financing up to 100 percent of the costs necessary to upgrade, remove, or replace project tanks to comply with the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25284.1, 25292.05, 25292.4, 25292.5, or 41954. Please note that removal-only projects are now eligible for RUST grants. Grants are available for between \$3,000 and \$70,000 to eligible UST owners/operators. An additional \$140,000 in RUST grant moneys above the \$70,000 maximum is available for remote public fueling stations for the purpose of removing and replacing a single-walled UST. Grant applicants must be a UST owner and/or operator and meet all of the following requirements: (i) The applicant is a small business that employs fewer than 20 full-time and part-time employees, is independently owned and operated, and is not dominant in its field of operation; (ii) The grant applicant's principal office and its officers must be domiciled in California; (iii) The facility where the project tank is located was legally in business retailing gasoline after January 1, 1999. All of the tanks owned and operated by the grant applicant are subject to compliance with Health and Safety Code chapter 6.7 and implementing regulations. The facility where the subject tank is located has sold, at retail, less than 900,000 gallons of gasoline annually for each of the two years preceding the submission of the grant application. The grant applicant meets either of the following: (i) The grant applicant is in compliance with Health and Safety Code sections 41954 and 25290.1, 25290.2, 25291, or subdivisions (d) and (e) of section 25292; (The facility must provide a current UST permit, a current Permit to Operate, and proof of EVR compliance as evidence of compliance with the permit compliance requirements.) or (ii) The grant applicant meets the requirements for a waiver from the RUST grant permit compliance requirements. (The project is for removal-only and the grant applicant does not qualify for a RUST loan.)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/rust.html

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant Program – California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

ROLLING APPLICATION

The RLF Grant Program provides grants to help nonprofits, tribal entities, and local governments who are not potentially liable under CERCLA Section 107 assess or clean up brownfields that they own. DTSC accepts applications continuously, subject to fund availability.

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/revolving-loan-fund-rlf-program/>

Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) Program – California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

ROLLING APPLICATION

DTSC's CLEAN Loan Program provides low-interest loans for property owners, developers, community groups, and local governments to investigate, cleanup, and redevelop abandoned and underutilized urban properties. Loans are used for the cleanup or removal of hazardous materials where redevelopment is likely to have a beneficial impact on the property values, economic viability, and quality of life of a community.

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/clean-and-iscp-programs/>

Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program – Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank)

ROLLING APPLICATION

ISRF loans can fund a wide variety of projects, including water and wastewater treatment plant upgrades or construction, venue or airport construction, or street repair and upgrades. ISRF financing is available in amounts ranging from \$1 million to \$65 million with loan terms for the useful life of the project up to 30 years.

<https://ibank.ca.gov/loans/infrastructure-loans/>

Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Application closes on May 31, 2026.

The Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Program is a federally funded grant program that allows California to provide local and rural fire departments with minor firefighting, training, communications, and safety equipment for their volunteer firefighters. The VFC Program is not intended for major equipment purchases (fire engines, vehicles, etc.) or capital repairs. The VFC Program has a 50/50 match provision, which requires the applying department to be able to meet the intended grant award, dollar for dollar. Awards for departments are set at a minimum of \$500 with a maximum of \$20,000. Amounts may be adjusted based on the grant funding available.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-protection/cooperative-efforts>

Arts and Youth – California Arts Council (CAC)

Applications due on May 12, 2026.

The Arts and Youth program is rooted in the CAC's belief that arts learning and engagement should be available to all young people in California. Providing access to meaningful, culturally responsive arts experiences helps youth develop a greater sense of self, deepen their connection to their communities, and make meaningful connections across histories and cultures. By participating in the arts, youth gain the knowledge, skills, and understanding to actively take part in creative processes, projects, and pursuits throughout their lifetimes as culturally literate, engaged citizens.

The CAC acknowledges that barriers to access are compounded by factors such as socio-economic status, geographic isolation, gender identity, racial identity, cultural identity, digital divide and disability and is committed to addressing these barriers in order to achieve greater equity. The Arts and Youth program expands meaningful arts participation and learning in diverse settings and contexts for infants, children, and youth ages 0-25 by prioritizing programs that directly bridge barriers to access and participation.

<https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs/>

Impact Projects - California Arts Council (CAC)

Applications due on May 12, 2026.

Impact Projects supports arts organizations for collaborations between California-based artist(s) and community members to address a community-defined need. Projects must use artistic practices to impact social issues affecting their communities, including but not limited to systemic marginalization, incarceration/justice systems, arts learning, poverty/economic disparity, health disparities, accessibility for people with disabilities, housing insecurity, violence, food insecurity, cultural/social justice, intergenerational/multigenerational learning, veterans' issues, immigrant/refugee/asylum seeker/migrant issues, LGBTQIA+ issues, environmental sustainability, and climate change/natural disasters/climate refugee issues.

<https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs/>

General Operating Support - California Arts Council (CAC)

Applications due on May 12, 2026.

This grant supports the well-being of California's cultural vitality by helping sustain a robust and diverse arts workforce and infrastructure. Funds may be used to support any eligible expenses associated with the general operations of an arts or cultural organization, including but not limited to rent, utilities, and staff salaries. Applying for this grant does not restrict an organization from applying for other CAC project-based grants. General Operating grants are intended to support the applicant organization in carrying out its mission. Funding is not intended to support a specific project.

<https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs/>

State-Local Partners - California Arts Council (CAC)

Applications due on May 12, 2026.

The State-Local Partners (SLP) program provides general operating support and technical assistance for county-designated local arts agencies. The purpose of the program is to foster cultural development on the local level through a partnership between the State and the counties of California. A local arts agency is defined as the official county-designated organization that supports arts and cultural activity in service to individuals and communities throughout an entire county. Local arts agencies provide financial support, services, and/or other programming to a variety of arts organizations, individual artists, and the community. A local arts agency can be a unit of local government or a nonprofit organization.

<https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs/>