



SCV
WATER

WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Meeting Begins at 5:30 PM

Members of the public may attend by the following options:

In Person

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Engineering Services Section
Boardroom
26521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

By Phone

Toll Free:
1-(833)-568-8864
Webinar ID: 161 267 6115

Virtually

Please join the meeting from your
computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1612676115>

Have a Public Comment?

Members of the public unable to attend this meeting may submit comments either in writing to ekang@scvwa.org or by mail to Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Committee members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be made available at the meeting, if practicable, and will be posted on the SCV Water website the following day. All correspondence with comments, including letters or emails, will be posted in their entirety.
(Public comments take place during Item 2 of the Agenda and before each Item is considered. Please see the Agenda for details.)

This meeting will be recorded and the audio recording for all Committee meetings will be posted to yourscvwater.com within 3 business days from the date of the Committee meeting.

Disclaimer: Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Board meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
(661) 297-1600

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Date: March 1, 2023

To: **Water Resources and Watershed Committee**
Piotr Orzechowski, Chair
William Cooper
Dirk Marks
Gary Martin

From: Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager *SC*

The **Water Resources and Watershed Committee** meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 5:30 PM at 26521 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 in the Engineering Services Section (ESS) Boardroom.** Members of the public may attend in person or virtually. To attend this meeting virtually, please see below.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency's Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 161 267 6115 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link <https://scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1612676115>**. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Committee using the call-in number or Zoom Webinar link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed or rescheduled but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is being provided as a convenience to the public and is not required. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in person.

Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Committee meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

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MEETING AGENDA

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. <u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u>	
2. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> – Members of the public may comment as to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Committee Chair, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.)	
3. * Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies between United Water Conservation District and SCV Water Agency	1
4. * Discussion of Staffing Considerations	13
5. Water Resources Director's Report	
* 5.1 Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report	17
5.2 Status of Water Supplies	
5.3 Staff Activities	
6. Sustainability Manager's Report	
6.1 Presentation of Conservation Long-Term Framework – AB 1668 and SB 606	
7. * Committee Planning Calendar	19
8. Adjournment	
* Indicates Attachment	
◆ Indicates Handout	

NOTICES:

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Mar 1, 2023

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Posted on March 1, 2023

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2023

TO: Water Resources and Watershed Committee

FROM: Ali Elhassan *AE*
Director of Water Resources

SUBJECT: Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies between United Water Conservation District and SCV Water Agency

SUMMARY

SCV Water staff seeks authorization to enter into an agreement to coordinate deliveries of State Water Project (SWP) water supplies between United Water Conservation District (UWCD) and SCV Water for purposes of recharging water into the Upper Santa Clara River Groundwater Basin and the Piru Groundwater Basin (Agreement). This Agreement is the latest example of SCV Water's and UWCD's desire to advance sound regional watershed wide policy through collaboration. The Agreement would provide coordinated ordering of SWP Article 21 water and other SWP supplies in such a manner that the beneficiary pays associated SWP costs.

DISCUSSION

Ventura County Watershed Protection District ("Ventura County") has contracted with the State of California's Department of Water Resources ("DWR") for a SWP water supply and holds a Table A amount of 20,000 acre-feet per year and UWCD is allocated 5,000 acre-feet of Ventura County's Table A amount. SCV Water has contracted with DWR for a SWP water supply and holds a Table A amount of 95,200 acre-feet per year. The agencies' service areas overlay adjacent groundwater basins; UWCD overlies the Piru Basin and SCV Water the Upper Santa Clara River Basin. Additionally, UWCD and Newhall County Water District, a predecessor agency to SCV Water, along with DWR and others, are parties to agreements regarding the release of native flood waters from Castaic Reservoir into Castaic Creek. These agreements provide for equitable distribution of native water and UWCD administers these agreements.

Building on past cooperative agreements, including an October 10, 2018 Memorandum of Understanding between SCV Water and UWCD, staff recommends entering into this Agreement. It is patterned after a similar two-year pilot program agreement with UWCD which was never utilized. The objective of the Agreement is to coordinate deliveries of SWP Article 21 and other SWP supplies into Castaic Creek for the purposes of enhancing natural recharge into the Upper Santa Clara River Basin and the Piru Basin. If the water is available at sufficient flow rates, it is anticipated that SCV Water and UWCD will place water orders with the DWR for SWP supplies such that approximately 75% would pass into the UWCD's basins and 25% would remain within SWC Water's basin. The Agreement provides for specific measuring/monitoring procedures to calculate losses and confirm benefits which may be improved and updated based on the actual data collected from the field during releases. Each party would be responsible for paying DWR its share of water released down Castaic Creek.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE

The parties agree that the coordination of water deliveries contemplated by the Agreement is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 because it will involve no change in the type of use or expansion of use of either UWCD's or SCVWA's existing infrastructure facilities. Rather, the coordinated water deliveries will involve the exercising of UWCD and SCVWA's existing contracted right to water provided by the SWP. The actions under this Agreement consist merely of the continued operation of UWCD's and SCVWA's existing facilities, and the parties agree that, based on their review, none of the exceptions to the use of CEQA exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the actions approved in this Agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

A.3.2 - Maintain strong working relationships with local agencies (water agencies, special districts, city, and local governments)

C.2.1 - Ensure that SCV Water has full access to water supplies available to it under its SWP contract and other water supply agreements that rely on SWP conveyance to meet customer water demands and store water for reliability enhancement and dry year use

C.3 – Advance the integrated management of water resources

C.3.5 – Coordinate and analyze performance of water banking and exchange programs, local groundwater production and water conservation measures

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Each party would cover SWP cost in such a manner that the beneficiary pays, currently modeled at 25% SCV Water and 75% UWCD.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Resources and Watershed Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with United Water Conservation District to coordinate deliveries of State Water Project water supplies.

Attachment

**AGREEMENT
FOR THE COORDINATED DELIVERIES OF
STATE WATER PROJECT WATER SUPPLIES BETWEEN
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AND
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY**

This water delivery coordination agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into on _____, by and between United Water Conservation District ("UWCD") and Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency ("SCVWA"). UWCD and SCVWA may be referred to individually as a "party" and collectively as "the parties."

RECITALS

- A.** Ventura County Watershed Protection District ("Ventura County") has contracted with the State of California's Department of Water Resources ("DWR") for a State Water Project ("SWP") water supply and holds a Table A amount of 20,000 acre-feet per year. UWCD is allocated 5,000 acre-feet of Ventura County's Table A amount, and Ventura County has assigned administration of the Ventura County contract to the Casitas Municipal Water District; and
- B.** SCVWA has contracted with DWR for a SWP water supply and holds a Table A amount of 95,200 acre-feet per year; and
- C.** SCVWA and UWCD overlie adjoining groundwater basins located along the Santa Clara River; and
- D.** SCVWA and UWCD desire to coordinate and enhance the water supply reliability of their service areas and recognize that artificially recharging groundwater aquifers with supplemental water is an established method of enhancing regional water supply reliability; and
- E.** SCVWA and UWCD desire to coordinate delivery of some of their respective SWP water supplies from DWR for delivery into Castaic Creek; where each party will pay its portion of the benefit received from such water.
- F.** SCVWA desires to use Article 21 or potentially Table A or other SWP water to recharge the Upper Santa Clara River Groundwater Basin (Upper Basin); and
- G.** UWCD desires to use Article 21 or potentially Table A or other SWP water to recharge the Piru, Fillmore and other downstream Groundwater Basins (collectively Downstream Basins); and
- H.** SCVWA and UWCD desire to facilitate future water exchanges and transfers that would benefit both the Upper Basin and Downstream Basins, with such exchanges and transfers negotiated through separate agreements; and

- I. UWCD and Newhall County Water District, a predecessor agency to SCVWA, along with DWR, the County of Los Angeles and Newhall Land and Farming Company have entered into agreements regarding the release of native flood waters from Castaic Reservoir into Castaic Creek (“Native Water Agreement”). This Agreement is separate and distinct from the Native Water Agreement; and
- J. UWCD and SCVWA have determined that the delivery of SWP water provided for in this Agreement will involve no change in the type of use or expansion of use of either UWCD or SCVWA's existing facilities and is thus exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Now, therefore, incorporating the foregoing recitals herein, the parties agree to the coordinated delivery of their SWP water with the following terms and conditions:

- 1. **Definitions of Release Water:**
 - a. **State Water Project (SWP) Release Water:** SWP water supplies that the Parties desire to release to Castaic Creek for beneficial uses within their service areas and scheduled as described in this agreement.
 - b. **Additional Coordinated Water Supplies:** Water other than SWP Release Water for which the parties desire to coordinate releases to Castaic Creek. Such supplies may be acquired jointly or solely by the parties with such deliveries scheduled as described in this agreement.
- 2. **Term:** The term of this Agreement shall commence on _____, ("Effective Date") and shall terminate ten (10) years from the Effective Date unless renewed by mutual consent of the parties.
- 3. **Water Deliveries to Castaic Creek**
 - a. **Desired amount of SWP Release Water and Additional Coordinated Water Supplies:** SCVWA and UWCD desire to annually release on the order of 15,000 AF of SWP Release Water and/or Additional Coordinated Water Supplies. The actual amount will be agreed upon by both parties depending on hydrologic conditions and what type and quantity of release water is available. Neither SCVWA nor UWCD is committing in this Agreement to a certain amount of water to be released absent a subsequent written agreement on an amount, which may be done by letter signed by both parties General Manager.
 - b. **Point of delivery:** The point of delivery of SCVWA's and UWCD's water under this agreement shall be made into the recreation lagoon at Reach 30 (Castaic Lake).
- 4. **Scheduling of SWP Release Water and Additional Coordinated Water Supplies:** SCVWA and UWCD will endeavor to schedule the release of water in a manner to achieve an objective of 25% of the release benefitting SCVWA and 75% of the release benefitting UWCD. To achieve this objective, the timing of the release will be adjusted, and the proposed flow rate will be adjusted as necessary throughout the release to meet the intended distribution of

groundwater recharge. Each party will be responsible for the purchase of the actual amount of water that benefits their respective basins, and their proportion of water lost to evapotranspiration (ET) and to the lagoon. The distribution of flow and groundwater recharge will be determined in accordance with the attached monitoring plan (Appendix A). Parties may revise the above-mentioned percentage objective upon written consent of the parties.

Releases to Castaic Creek performed per this Agreement shall not take place at the same time that native storm water is being released to Castaic Creek by DWR, unless agreed to in writing by the parties of the Native Water Agreement.

The parties agree to coordinate with Newhall Land & Farming, prior to a release to ensure that Newhall Land & Farming's river crossings are not adversely impacted.

- a. Quantification of Water Released to Castaic Creek:** SWP Releases and Additional Coordinated Water Supplies under this Agreement shall be delivered to Reach 30 (Castaic Lagoon) and will initially fill the Castaic Recreation Lagoon if it is not full, recharge the Upper Santa Clara River Groundwater Basin (underlying Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River) and flow as surface water past the Los Angeles County/Ventura County Line into the Piru Groundwater Basin. Additionally, a portion of Castaic Releases being conveyed through Castaic Creek will evaporate or be used by riparian vegetation. The forgoing losses shall be assigned to the parties based on the proportion of the water received by each. Because it is not practical to repeatedly measure evaporation and riparian uptake with great accuracy, it will be assumed that evaporation will be two acre-feet per day (the parties may undertake studies to refine the assumed evaporation amount).

Further, a portion of the release that percolate as recharge in the Upper Santa Clara River Groundwater Basin will later flow as underflow into the Piru Groundwater Basin. For the purposes of this Agreement, this is assumed to be 5% of the amount recharged into the Upper Santa Clara River Groundwater Basin (the parties may undertake studies to refine the inter-basin groundwater conveyance amount.) A sample calculation quantifying the distribution of benefits and losses between the parties is shown below:

Example:

- Total released at Reach 30: 10,000 AF
- Assume a 50-day release of 200 AF/day (100 cfs)
- Total measured surface flow released to the Piru Basin: 7,000 AF (see Appendix A for methodology)
- Total volume to fill Lagoon: 500 AF (50/50 split)
- Total release for evaporation/transpiration calculation: Total days released to creek = 9,500 AF at 100 cfs = 48 Days. Total ET volume = 48 days X 2 AF/day = 96 AF
- Additional 5% of underflow from upstream basins = $(10,000 - (7,000 - 500 - 96)) \times 0.05 = 120.2$ AF

Total flow to UWCD:

(7,000 AF measured into Piru Basin)

Evaporation Calculation = $(7,000 / 9,500) \times (96 \text{ AF}) = 70.7 \text{ AF}$

Lagoon Volume = $500 \text{ AF} / 2 = 250 \text{ AF}$

Underflow Benefit = 120.2 AF

Total = $7,000 + 70.7 + 250 \text{ AF} + 120.2 = 7,440.9 \text{ AF}$

Total flow to SCVWA:

Lagoon Volume = $500 \text{ AF} / 2 = 250 \text{ AF}$

Evaporation Calculation = $96 - 70.7 = 25.3 \text{ AF}$

Calculated Percolation = $10,000 - 7000 - 500 - 96 = 2,404 \text{ AF}$

Basin Underflow Loss = 120.2 AF

Total = $2,404 + 25.3 + 250 - 120.2 = 2,559.1 \text{ AF}$

In this example UWCD would be responsible for the purchase of 7,440.9 AF of SWP water and SCVWA would be responsible for the purchase of 2,559.1 AF of SWP water.

- b. Every fifth year of the agreement the parties will undertake a with and without analysis based on numeric modeling to determine if further refinement to the quantification is necessary to the underflow leaving the upper basin. Any refinements would need to be mutually agreed upon.
5. **Cost:** To the extent that the parties coordinate and deliver water under this Agreement, the parties shall each pay all costs associated with its water deliveries. The Parties shall coordinate any necessary corrections to DWR water delivery schedules so that the actual distribution of water quantities under this agreement are reflected in the payments. If DWR is unable or unwilling to make such adjustments, the party receiving a greater than billed quantity shall pay the other party for the SWP Variable Operation, Maintenance and Replacement costs for the additional water it received and the proportionate share of other acquisition if any. Additional cost will be incurred for the monitoring program described in the monitoring plan. Costs incurred in the monitoring of the flows will be distributed between the parties on an equal 50/50 basis.
6. Water acquired separately by the parties which they are unable to, or otherwise do not desire to coordinate releases to Castaic Creek are not subject to this agreement (“Non-Coordinated Water Supplies”). Parties may, in their sole discretion, determine rates and quantities for their own independent releases to Castaic Creek. If any party releases Non-Coordinated Water Supplies into Castaic Creek, then such party is responsible for the costs associated with payment for all such water released, regardless of the distribution of flows benefitting downstream basins. The parties agree that any releases of Non-Coordinated Water Supplies shall not interfere with SWP Releases or Additional Coordinated Water Supplies releases.
7. **Miscellaneous Provisions**

 - a. **Approvals:** The parties will cooperate and exercise best efforts to assist one another

in obtaining any approvals which are necessary to effect deliveries of SWP water under this agreement. UWCD shall submit requests to Casitas Municipal Water District for the Ventura County contract to schedule deliveries in accordance with this agreement.

- b. **Other Costs:** This Agreement identifies the total costs of the water delivered under the terms of this Agreement. Neither party is responsible to the other for any costs other than those identified herein.
- c. **CEQA:** The parties agree that the coordination of water deliveries contemplated by the Agreement is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 because it will involve no change in the type of use or expansion of use of either UWCD's or SCVWA's existing infrastructure facilities. Rather, the coordinated water deliveries will involve the exercising of UWCD and SCVWA's existing contracted right to water provided by the SWP. The actions under this Agreement consist merely of the continued operation of UWCD's and SCVWA's existing facilities, and the parties agree that, based on their review, none of the exceptions to the use of CEQA exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the actions approved in this Agreement.
- d. **Liability:** Neither party hereunder shall be liable to the other party, nor subject to any claim, demand, causes of action, costs, expenses, loss, or damage or injury of any kind or any nature whatsoever in connection with the control, handling, use, disposal, or distribution of water supplied to the other party after such water has been delivered to the other party or its designee.
- e. **Notices, Confirmation and Communication:** Notices, confirmation and communication shall be in the form of emails, followed by written notice delivered personally or by U.S. mail or facsimile, and effective on the date of the first received to the following:

United Water Conservation District
Attn: Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
1701 N. Lombard Street, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030 | Telephone: (805) 525-4431
Facsimile: 805-525-2661
Email: mauriciog@unitedwater.org

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Attn: Matthew Stone, General Manager
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350 | Telephone: (661) 297-1600
Facsimile: 661-297-1610
Email: mstone@scvwa.org

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first above written.

United Water Conservation District

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.
General Manager

Matthew G. Stone
General Manager

Attachment:
Appendix A – Monitoring Plan for the Coordinated Deliveries of SWP between UWCD
and SCVWA

Appendix A – Monitoring Plan for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies Between United Water Conservation District and Santa Clara Valley Water Agency

This monitoring plan provides the methodology to determine the allocation of State Water Project water released from Castaic Lake in accordance with the agreement between Santa Clara Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) and United Water Conservation District (United). It is assumed that released water that flows past the USGS Station 11109000 ("Santa Clara River near Piru") will reflect the purchased water that benefits the groundwater basins that United overlies, and the water that percolates upstream of this USGS Station benefits the basins that SCVWA overlies. The gaging station is located on the Santa Clara River approximately 2.6 miles west of the Santa Clara Valley East basin-Piru basin boundary. It is 2.7 miles west of the Ventura-Los Angeles County line. The gage is located within SCVWA's boundaries and 0.25 miles east of United 's district boundaries. Released water that does not pass the gage is either percolated in the upstream groundwater basin, used to fill the Castaic Lake lagoon, or lost as evapotranspiration. This document describes the methodologies used to determine the benefit each agency receives from a release event.

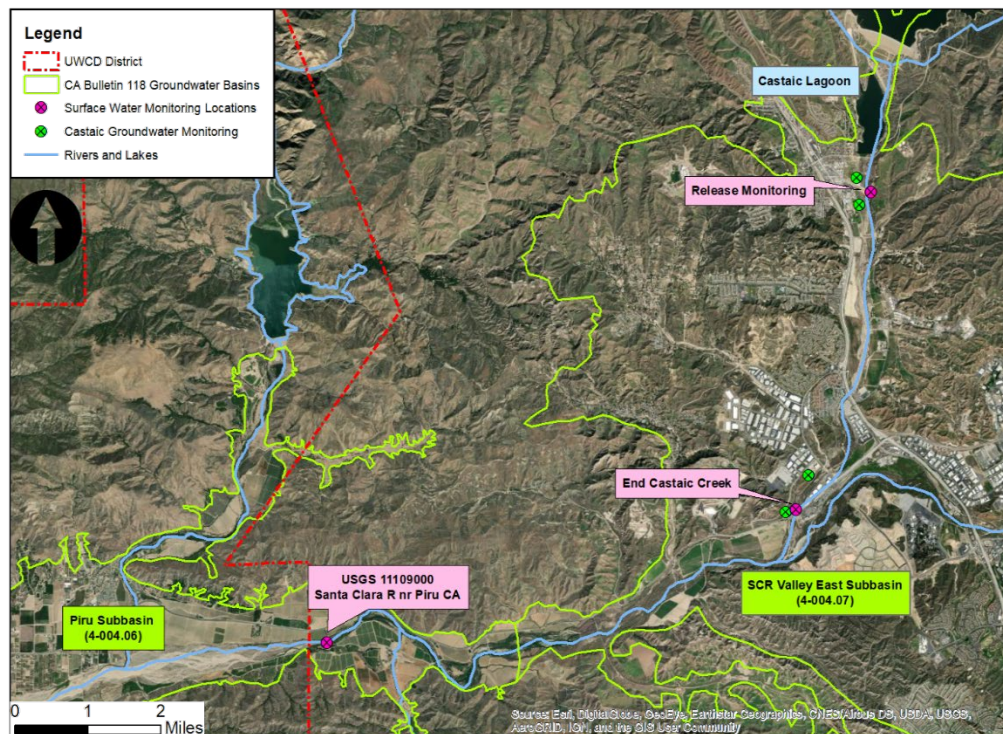


Figure 1. Streamflow monitoring points

It may be necessary to adjust release rates during a release event to meet the mutually agreed upon distribution of benefit between groundwater basins. The flow monitoring proposed in this document is intended to provide the information necessary to achieve this goal.

When possible, releases will be designed with a gradual ramp-up and ramp-down of flows within Castaic Creek. If the lagoon is not full when the release commences, lagoon stage will be monitored to determine how much water was required to fill the lagoon. Release monitoring will determine when the lagoon has filled, and flows start discharging to Castaic Creek. The total volume of water released from Castaic Lake before the lagoon starts to spill will be recorded, as the volume to fill the lagoon is an element in the agreement. If needed and if possible, a pressure transducer will be installed in the lagoon to limit the need for frequent field observations at this location.

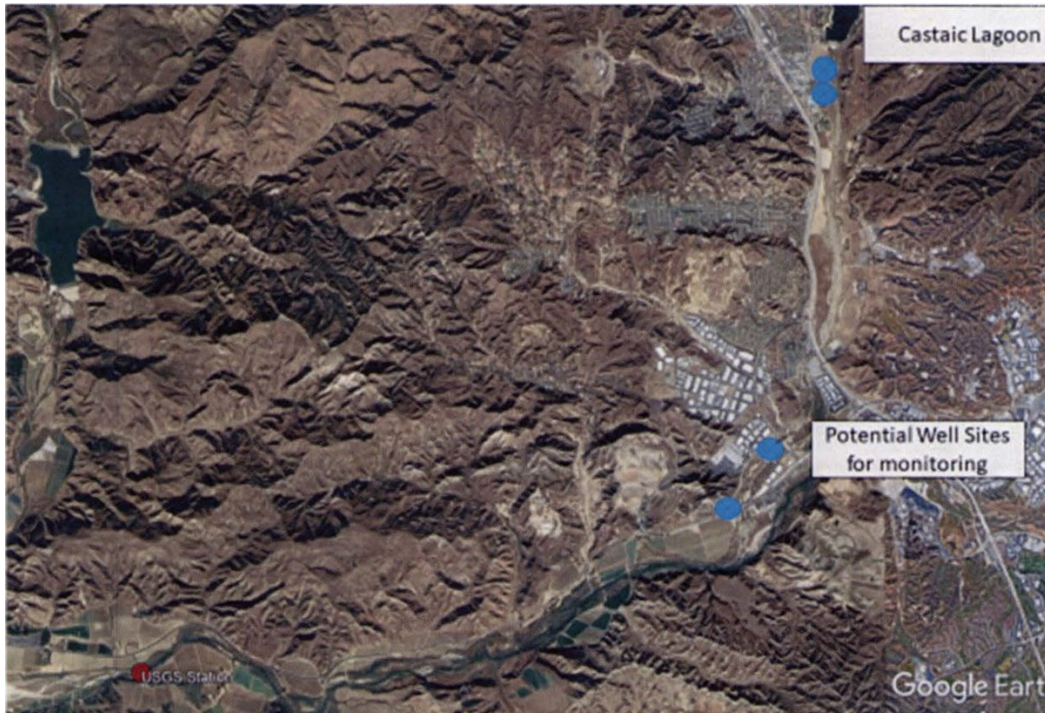


Figure 2. Potential well sites for monitoring

Flows in Castaic Creek will be monitored to address two objectives. The first objective is to determine the amount of water each party receives as recharge or flow to their respective basins. The second objective is to gain additional information on the surface water-groundwater relationships in the project area to help inform future operations and agreements.

In order to determine how much each party benefits from the release, stream discharge measurement will be conducted at two locations. Figure 1 shows the discharge measurements locations during the releases to Castaic Creek. The point labeled "release monitoring point" just downstream of Lake Hughes Road will be the point to verify the amount of water being released from Reach 30 to Castaic Creek. A measurement at this point will be conducted within the first two days of the release when the lagoon has filled, and flow is discharging to Castaic Creek. If the measured flow matches the reported release flow from DWR, then no additional flow measurements will be needed at this location, unless there is a substantial change in the rate of the release or if reported flows for the release appear to be incorrect based on other downstream measurements.

The second monitoring point will be at the existing USGS gage 11109000 (Santa Clara River near Piru CA). This station is at the Las Brisas Bridge downstream of the Ventura County Line. During low flows, the USGS measures flows for rating adjustment on a monthly basis. Due to sandy channel conditions, the rating for this gage requires frequent corrections, even during low flow conditions. In order to obtain the level of accuracy needed to determine the distribution of flows in the agreement, flows will be measured at this gage on an as needed basis. It is expected that at least two measurements per week will be performed on both the ascending and descending limb of the release. Base flows in the Santa Clara River are assumed to be stable and will be estimated from recorded flows in the weeks preceding and following the release. Additional measurements may be needed if the release coincides with a storm that increases flows in the Santa Clara River. Once flows are stable, measurements can occur on a less-frequent basis if the increase in flows is tracking well with the USGS gaging station. If allowed, flows measured by the Agencies will be submitted to the USGS for rating its gage.

The second component of the monitoring program is designed to gain information on the surface water-groundwater interaction in the reach of Castaic Creek below Castaic Lagoon and above the confluence with the Santa Clara River, as groundwater elevations along this reach may influence percolation rates. This program will include the monitoring of groundwater elevations in the aquifer underlying Castaic Creek and measuring percolation in the stream reach above. Pressure transducers will be installed, or manual water levels measurements will be collected at key wells within the basin on a frequent basis throughout the release of water. The key wells proposed for monitoring are shown in Figure 2. The recommended number of wells for monitoring is at least four.

In addition to the flow measurements at Castaic Lagoon and Las Brisas Bridge described above, an additional location for stream flow measurement will be near the Highway 126 Bridge over Castaic Creek. This section of creek is located about 0.5 miles upstream of a perennial reach of the Santa Clara River. The flows monitored at this point are expected to correspond with the increase in flows at the USGS gage on the Santa Clara River, less base flow in the river. If the flows monitored at this point are accurately reflected in the flow monitoring at the USGS gage, this monitoring point may be discontinued until the end of the release. In the downstream groundwater basins, base flows usually increase after a release of water from a source upstream. These base flows are often generated by subsurface discharge from the up-gradient groundwater basin. If an increase in discharge is observed after the release, then these flows will be monitored as potential delayed discharge of released water to the downgradient basins. This information will inform future agreements on the subsurface discharge to each basin, and the length of time monitoring will continue following the end of the release.

The data gathered by the actions proposed in this monitoring plan will be summarized in a brief report that will present the data obtained from the monitoring actions and the calculations for the distribution of flows. Additional digital data may be archived for both Agencies, such as the continuous flow measurements from the USGS station and the pressure transducers and manual water level measurements in the study area. This report shall be generated no less than one month after the release has ended and influence of the release is no longer observed in base flows of the Santa Clara River downstream of Castaic Creek.

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2023
TO: Water Resources and Watershed Committee
FROM: Steve Cole
Assistant General Manager *SC*
SUBJECT: Discussion of Staffing Considerations

SUMMARY

Staff will be presenting a report on consideration of additional staffing needs for the Water Resources and Sustainability departments. Staffing requests are proposed to be included in the two-year FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 budgeting process.

DISCUSSION

Staff has reviewed department staffing needs and determined that the Agency would benefit from some additional staff. The needs and benefits for the different requested positions are detailed below.

Water Resources

Administrative Technician (1 Position, FY 23)

Since SCV Water's formation, the Water Resources, Sustainability and Outreach Department has had two administrative support personnel. There have been changes that have driven the need for additional support. One is the new regulatory requirement of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the corresponding formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GSA has necessitated significant staffing requirements specific to the area of administrative support, including existing Department staff providing the duties of Board Secretary for the GSA. A second major area driving the need is SCV Water's investment in grant procurement and administration. One of the historical administrative support staff was promoted to Management Analyst II and is performing significant duties as it relates to grant procurement and administration. This investment in more aggressively pursuing funding has resulted in the acquisition of over \$20 million in grants to the SCV Water service area in the last 2 years. SCV Water plans to continue increasing its efforts to pursue additional funding and the Management Analyst II will have additional responsibilities in managing the grants received to ensure compliance with the terms of the agreements. The new Administrative Technician will fulfill the administration duties required by the department and has been fully offset by grant awards received.

Sr. Water Resources Specialist (1 Position, FY23 Mid-Year)
Water Resources Specialist (1 Position FY24)

The Water Resources group is engaging in projects and policy initiatives that require expanding existing knowledge in water resources management to address issues including groundwater modeling, groundwater storage and recovery, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and managing of aquatic environments. This work will also allow the agency to identify and address new challenges in water quality and climate change that we currently rely on consultants to evaluate. These positions will perform technical activities, initiatives and functions intended to ensure regulatory compliance (SGMA) and long-term sustainability of the region's water resources programs identified by SCV Water and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). These positions will represent a new class in the department focusing on specific areas of expertise including Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Aquatic Biology, and Environmental Science. Staff anticipates working on the development of the new class specifications towards the end of FY 2022/23.

Sustainability & Water Conservation

Water Conservation Specialist II – Limited Term Duration (1 Position, FY23)

The Agency Sustainability group currently has three (3) Water Conservation Specialist and one (1) Sustainability Manager. This additional position is needed to assist the Sustainability & Water Conservation group with compliance with the new water conservation legislative mandates contained in AB 1668 and SB 606. Significant conservation program revisions to achieve the new mandates over the next several years are anticipated. These will include increases in Water Conservation Program services and participation and the development of a new Water Sustainability Strategic Plan designed to achieve the new mandates. The position is requested as a limited term duration to give flexibility as the depth and scale of program requirements are not fully known at this time. The updated Strategic Plan will inform the staffing resources necessary for the longer term.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

A.6.1 Lead the development of the groundwater sustainability plan for the watershed

C.1.5 Monitor climate change science and public policy. Incorporate climate change impacts on water demand and supplies into long-term plans and programs to maintain reliable and sustainable water supplies

C.3.1 Lead the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for the Santa Clarita Valley

C.4.6 Develop equitable conservation/demand management programs to meet current and upcoming regulatory measures

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Water Resources:

Administrative Technician – Salary Range \$69,450 - \$84,575

Sr. Water Resource Specialist – Salary Range \$137,448 - \$167,460

Water Resources Specialist – Salary Range \$124,632 - \$151,836

Sustainability and Conservation:
Water Conservation Specialist II – Salary Range - \$97,680 – \$118,992

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Resources and Watershed Committee consider staff's recommendation for additional staff for the Water Resources/Sustainability and Conservation groups. No action requested at this time. Staffing requests will be included in the two-year FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 budgeting process.

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 23, 2023

TO: Water Resources and Watershed Committee

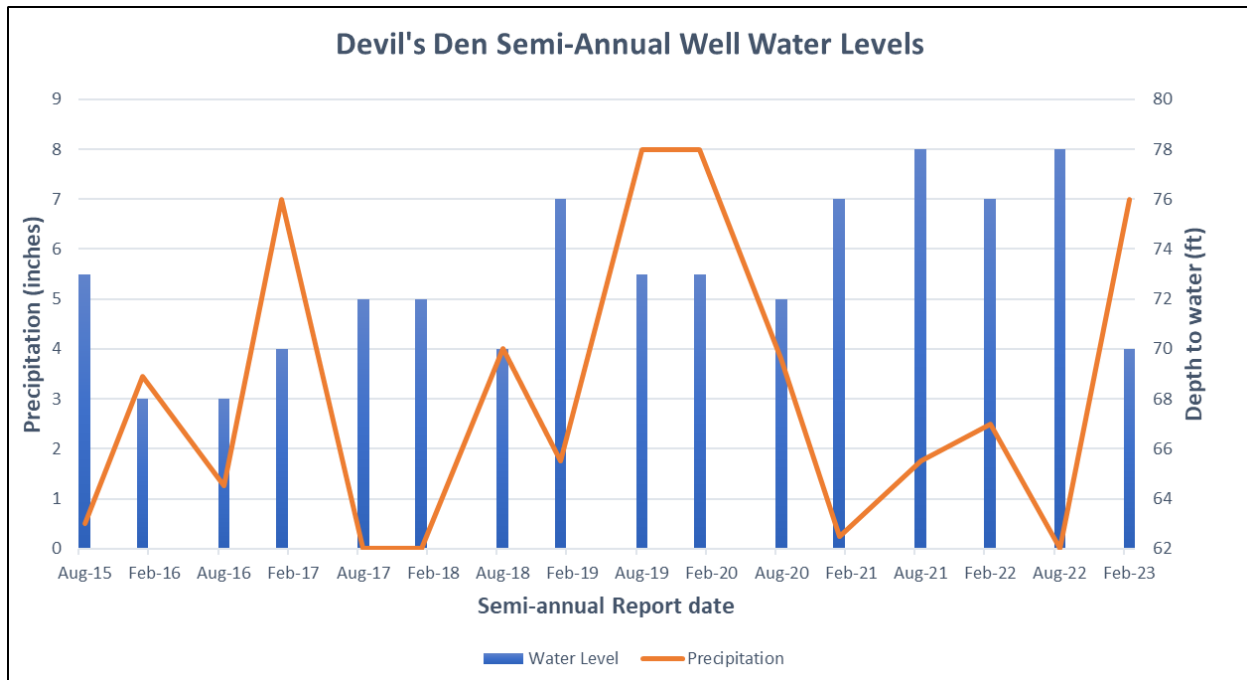
FROM: Ali Elhassan *AE*
Director of Water Resources

SUBJECT: Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report (July 2022- December 2022)

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

SCV Water’s Devil’s Den property encompasses 8,656 acres in Kern and Kings Counties. The Devil’s Den Water District is an existing entity, although its State Water Project (SWP) contract rights of 12,700 Acre-Feet (AF) have been transferred to SCV Water. A summary of activities at the Devil’s Den property during the last six months of 2022 are as follows:

1. Groundwater levels are checked bi-annually at the north end of the property to monitor the potential effects of groundwater pumping by neighboring agriculture operations. Current water levels as of a February reading are approximately 70 feet below ground surface elevation. This reflects an increase of 8 feet in the test wells water level over the last six months. Prior to 2010, typical static water levels were approximately 70 feet. Due to this drastic change in depth to water compared to other reports, we think there may be an issue with the monitoring well or that it may have possibly collapsed due to sediment found in the test water. We will start monitoring the levels every month for the foreseeable future to make sure readings are accurate.



2. Currently there are no cattle being grazed on the Devil's Den site due to grazing feed running out back in late fall 2022 and the herd being sold. Due to the winter rains, Rolling Hills Farms plans to bring between 300 and 400 cattle onto the property starting mid-winter.
3. The agricultural lease between Rolling Hills Farms (RHF) and SCVWA will conclude on December 31, 2026.
4. Rolling Hills Farms continues mechanical weed control in areas of the property where cattle are not being grazed, such as fence lines and roadsides.
5. The property received approximately 1.5" of rain between July 2022 and December 31, 2022, and an additional 5.5" of rain in January 2023.
6. Rolling Hills Farms used only a limited amount of groundwater over the second half of 2022 due to the lack of infrastructure to deliver water to crops and crop selection.
7. Rolling Hills Farms plans to install dryland crops to take advantage of the current soil moisture. As of this report, RHF is planting 600 acres of barley, 100 acres of oats, 90 acres of a barley, wheat and oat combination crop and 30 acres of alfalfa which will need to be irrigated using groundwater to survive. The dryland crops will also require additional rain to be successful as the current moisture levels are not adequate to carry the crops to completion. RHF has no plans on using groundwater to irrigate these crops, but may be interested in purchasing SWP water from SCV Water if available depending on cost.
8. Staff has initiated a contract with Thomas Harder & Co. to provide hydrogeological consulting services to evaluate the sustainable yield of the Devil's Den Water District and has requested an additional scope of work to evaluate water quality of the groundwater. This report should be finalized around March 1, 2023.
9. Staff has initiated a contract with Provost & Pritchard for the review and analysis of potential revenue sources from the use of Devil's Den Assets. The report is nearly complete and is awaiting the Thomas Harder & Co. report to finalize and should be completed in mid-March.

RGV



**WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHED COMMITTEE
AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR FY 2022-2023**

**ITEM NO.
7**

July 5, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Wiley Canyon Mixed-Use Development

July 13, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the First Year of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Upper Santa Clara River Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

July 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Status of Recycled Water Program

August 2, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the First Year of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

August 10, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the WaterSmart Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program and Execute a Grant Agreement with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Studies
 - Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

August 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Apply for Grant Funding Under the WaterSmart Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program and Execute a Grant Agreement with the

September 14, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Shadowbox Studios Development
2. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park
3. Update on Water Operating Plan and Water Conservation Response Actions
4. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Update on Water Resiliency Plan Initiative Activities
 - Status of Water Supply and Water Banking Programs
5. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

October 12, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Shadowbox Studios Development
2. Water Resources Director Report:
 - Status of Water Supply and Water Banking Programs
3. Sustainability Manager Report:

- Status of Drought Response and Performance
- Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

October 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Approving the SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Shadowbox Studios Development
2. Update on Water Operating Plan and Water Conservation Response Actions

November 9, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Introduction of New Water Resources Director
2. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park
3. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing SCV Water Agency to Apply for and Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the SCV-GSA with the California Department of Water Resources for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant
4. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Staff Activities
5. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

November 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park

December 14, 2022 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Submit an Application for a Proposition 1, Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant and Execute a Grant Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

December 20, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing SCV Water Agency to Apply for and Execute a Grant Agreement on Behalf of the SCV-GSA with the California Department of Water Resources for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant

January 3, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the General Manager to Submit an Application for a Proposition 1, Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant and Execute a Grant Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources

January 11, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

February 8, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Presentation of GoldSim Model
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Presentation on Completed Water Conservation and Education Experience Design

March 8, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies between United Water Conservation District and SCV Water Agency
2. Discussion of Staffing Considerations
3. Water Resources Manager Report
 - Devil's Den Semi-Annual Report
 - Status of Water Supplies
4. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Presentation of Conservation Long-Term Framework – AB 1668 and SB 606

March 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Coordinated Deliveries of State Water Project Water Supplies between United Water Conservation District and SCV Water Agency

April 12, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adoption of Sustainability Action Plan
2. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting Recycled Water Rules and Regulations
3. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a MOU with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water District to Fund Planning Costs for a Portion of the Proposed Phase 2 Proposed High Desert Water Bank
4. Discussion of FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 Water Resources Operating Budget and Minor and Major Capital
5. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation
 - Status of Water Supplies
6. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance
 - Update on Conservation Activities and Performance

May 2, 2023 Regular Board

1. Recommend Adoption of Sustainability Action Plan
2. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting Recycled Water Rules and Regulations
3. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a MOU with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water District to Fund Planning Costs for a Portion of the Proposed Phase 2 Proposed High Desert Water Bank

May 17, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Adopting a Resolution Authorizing Creation of a Standby Charge for the Tesoro Del Val Annexation Area
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance

June 6, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

1. Recommend Adopting a Resolution Authorizing Creation of a Standby Charge for the Tesoro Del Val Annexation Area

June 14, 2023 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supplies
2. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Status of Drought Response and Performance